

# SLIPPERY ROCK STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We, the students of Slippery Rock University in order to provide a representative self-government; to strive to advance, support, and advocate on behalf of the students; to preserve, protect, and defend the rights of student members and create positive change, instilling a sense of community and fostering an environment where students can freely share their ideas, do hereby establish The Slippery Rock Student Government Association.

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

##### **Section 1. Name**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Slippery Rock Student Government Association, hereinafter referred to as “SRSGA”.

##### **Section 2. Membership**

- A. Any student who pays the Student Activity Fee and is a full-time student shall be a member of the SRSGA.

### ARTICLE II

#### POWERS OF SRSGA

**Section 1.** All powers of the SRSGA Senate shall be derived from this document and the official recognition of Slippery Rock University

**Section 2.** Through the SRSGA Senate, in accordance with Act 188 of 1982 and within the confines of the Memorandum of Understanding, the SRSGA shall have the power to:

- A. Allocate, in coordination with SRSGA, Inc., funds and revenue generated from the collected and investment of the Student Activity Fee and from any auxiliary enterprises of the SRSGA.
- B. Recognize student organizations and activities for the purpose of allocation and said funds.
- C. Act as an advocacy group for the students of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in order to ensure them a healthy academic and social environment.
- D. Provide such services to the student body as deemed necessary by the Senate or in accordance with State or Federal Law.
- E. Be the student representation to the administration and to the Trustees.

**Section 3.** The powers of SRSGA shall be executed by the Executive Board, the Senate and by any Committee that the Senate provides with such powers.

## ARTICLE III

### SRSGA SENATE

#### Section 1. Powers of the Senate

- A. The Senate shall have the power to create and publish any standing rules to describe and carry out the functions and responsibilities of its committees, officers, and members.
- B. The Senate shall enact such policies as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the Constitution.
- C. The Senate shall have the power to override any and all SRSGA Presidential veto actions with a two-thirds affirmative vote.

#### Section 2. Senate Composition

- A. Two (2) commuter senators
- B. Two (2) resident hall senators
- C. Four (4) College of Business senators
- D. Four (4) College of Education senators
- E. Four (4) College of Engineering and Science senators
- F. Four (4) College of Health Professions senators
- G. Four (4) College of Liberal Arts senators
- H. Seven (7) at-large senators
- I. One (1) transfer senator
- J. One (1) veteran senator
- K. One (1) international senator
- L. Four (4) first-year senators
- M. Four (4) graduate senators
- N. One (1) athlete senator

#### Section 3. Election of Senators

- A. The members of the Senate shall be elected by general election according to the positions established in Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution.
- B. The election of Representatives to the Senate shall be conducted according to the Senate Bylaws.
- C. The Representatives, with the exception of the First-Year Senators, shall be elected during the Spring Semester on a date determined by the Senate.
- D. The term of office shall commence the last formal SRSGA Senate meeting held in the spring semester, through the final SRSGA Senate meeting of the following academic year.

#### Section 4. Duties of the Senators

- A. All members shall abide by their duties set forth in the Senate Bylaws.

## ARTICLE IV

### SRSGA EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### Section 1. Executive Powers

- A. The executive power shall be vested in the President of the SRSGA.

**Section 2. SRSGA Executive Officers:**

- A. President
- B. Vice President of Financial Affairs
- C. Vice President of Campus Outreach
- D. Vice President of Internal Affairs
- E. Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs
- F. Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)
- G. Speaker of the Senate
- H. Parliamentarian

**Section 3. Election of Executive Officers**

- A. The election of Executive Officers shall be conducted according to the Senate Bylaws.
- B. The Executive Officers shall be elected during the Spring semester on a date determined by the Senate, no later than its second meeting of the Spring Semester.
- C. Candidates for Executive Office shall not be prohibited from competing for a seat in the Senate in addition to that office. If the candidate wins both positions, they shall forfeit the Senator position in favor of the Executive Office position, in which case the candidate receiving the second highest vote total for the Senate position shall become the elected Senator.

**Section 4. Duties of the Executive Board**

- A. Shall execute all directives passed by the President and the Senate.
- B. Shall report to the SRSGA on all matters pertinent to their duties.
- C. Shall be responsible for helping all newly elected members with the transition into their offices, including but not limited to providing all information, instruction, and all related matters regarding corporation contract, union and non-union employees.
- D. Each Executive Officer shall abide by their duties set forth in the Senate Bylaws.

**ARTICLE V****RESIGNATION, DISMISSAL, AND IMPEACHMENT****Section 1. Resignation**

- A. All Senators and Executive Board Officers reserve the right to resign from their position with the submission of a Letter of Resignation to the SRSGA, which becomes effective immediately unless otherwise stated in the Letter of Resignation.
- B. Any member who voluntarily resigns their position shall not be permitted to reapply for a position until after the next formal Senate meeting.

**Section 2. Dismissal**

- A. Senators and Executive Officers shall be subject to dismissal if they fail to conform to the rules of the SRSGA.
- B. The Dismissal procedures shall be outlined in the Senate Bylaws.
- C. All Senators and Executive Officers shall have the opportunity to appeal their dismissal through a process outlined in the Senate Bylaws.

**Section 3. Impeachment**

- A. Any Executive Officer or Senator can be impeached for conduct that is detrimental towards SRSGA.

- B. Impeachment proceedings can only begin with the submission of Articles of Impeachment.

## ARTICLE VI

### THE JUDICIARY BRANCH

#### Section 1: Purpose and Limitations

- A. This article herein establishes a Judicial Branch of the SRSGA, hereinafter referred to as the Judiciary, which will investigate all alleged Senator and Executive Board misconduct for the purpose of determining the truth of any allegations through investigations and hearings as well as recommending appropriate sanctions to the Senate at Formal Meetings.
- B. Misconduct shall be defined as violation of the ideals and expected actions of SGA (Student Government Association) members as outlined in the SRSGA Constitution, SRSGA Bylaws, Election Policy, Finance Policy, and all other documents confirmed by the Senate at any Formal Meeting.
- C. A Judiciary investigation is not necessary for sanctioning misconduct. However, all misconduct allegations and sanctions proposed and moved by the Senate that have not been investigated by the Judiciary can be referred to the Judiciary by a simple majority vote of the Senate during debate and discussion.
- D. All recommendations from the Judiciary require a vote of the Senate at any Formal Meeting to take effect.

## ARTICLE VII

### VACANCY

#### Section 1. Presidential Vacancy

- A. In the event the President is unable to serve as Chairperson and preside over a formal Senate meeting, the Speaker of the Senate shall preside in the President's absence.
- B. In the event the Speaker of the Senate is unable to serve in the President's absence to chair the formal Senate meeting, the order of succession shall be as follows:
  - i. Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs
  - ii. Vice President of Financial Affairs
  - iii. Vice President of Campus Outreach
  - iv. Vice President of Internal Affairs
  - v. Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)
- C. If the President can no longer fulfill their duties or is removed from the position, the position shall be filled through a university special election.
- D. Until a new President is elected, the Executive Board of the SRSGA shall assume the duties of the President.

#### Section 2. Executive Officer Vacancy

- A. If a vacancy occurs in an Executive Board Officer position it shall be filled by anyone who qualifies for an Executive Board position.

- B. The position shall be filled during the formal Senate meeting that follows the official date of vacancy.

**Section 3. Senator Vacancy**

- A. In the event of a senator vacancy, the position shall be filled following the procedures outlined in the Senate Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**STUDENT'S RIGHTS AND REFERENDUM**

**Section 1. Free Association**

- A. The students of Slippery Rock University reserve unto themselves the right to freely associate and form organizations to pursue social, political, educational or other such endeavors.
- B. Such organizations must have official Slippery Rock University recognition to use the Slippery Rock University name, facilities, and other University privileges granted to University recognized groups.

**Section 2. Student Organizations**

- A. Student organizations may access funds generated by the Student Activity Fee after the funds have been allocated by the SRSGA pursuant to its procedures unless otherwise stipulated by the SRSGA Senate.
- B. The SRSGA of Slippery Rock University retains the right to recommend, to suspend, or revoke the recognition of any organization for due cause.
  - i. Due cause shall be defined as misappropriation of funds, violation of established SRSGA policies, violations of the SRU Code of Conduct, violations of State Law, or infringements of the rights of others.
  - ii. The SRSGA recognizes the Constitutional rights of all clubs and organizations.

**Section 4. Referendum**

- A. The Student Body of Slippery Rock University has the right to submit an initiative as follows:
  - i. The student body may present a petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the student body to the SRSGA President,
  - ii. Within two (2) weeks after the SRSGA President has received the petition, he or she shall present it to the Senate for vote to adopt the petition or reject the petition.
  - iii. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Senate at the referendum will cause the petition to take into effect.
  - iv. The petition shall take effect and become mandatory if no action is taken by the Senate.
  - v. The failure of the President to present the petition to the Senate within two (2) weeks of receipt of the same shall be grounds for impeachment or other discipline in the sole discretion of the Senate.

**ARTICLE IX**

**MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Formal Meetings**

- A. Shall be held regularly to conduct official business of the SRSGA.
- B. Shall be open to all members of the SRSGA, faculty and staff of Slippery Rock University, and any other person invited by the President.
- C. Formal SRSGA Senate meetings will be run according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

**Section 2. Special Meetings**

- A. Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the President, the Executive Officers, or by petition of fifty percent (50%) or more of Senators.
- B. The Senate shall be notified at least twenty-four (24) hours before such a meeting is held.

**Section 3. Quorum**

- A. A quorum shall be a majority of the Senate membership.
- B. Official business of the Senate can only be conducted if there is a quorum at all times during the meeting.
- C. In the absence of a quorum, the Senate may recess only for a period not to exceed 45 minutes in an attempt to gain quorum.
- D. Failing to regain quorum, the Senate must adjourn and reschedule the meeting.

**ARTICLE X****AMENDMENT****Section 1. Constitutional Amendments Procedure**

- A. A majority vote of the SRSGA Senate for consideration, after having been moved and seconded, will automatically table the amendment until such a time as the Rules and Policy Committee can hold public hearings.
- B. Hearings shall be held within two (2) scheduled meeting dates and must be advertised to the student body.
- C. After said public hearings, the results of the public hearing must be presented by the Rules and Policy Committee to the Senate. The Senate shall then vote on the amendment.
- D. The amendment must pass by a 2/3rds majority of the Senate to be approved.

**Section 2. Student Body**

- A. The student body has the right to veto the amendment if a petition that contains the signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the student body of Slippery Rock University.
- B. The student body has the right to amend this Constitution in the same way listed in Article VIII, Section 4.

**ARTICLE XI****RATIFICATION**

## **Section 1. Ratification Procedures**

- A. For this Constitution to be ratified it will require the two-thirds (2/3rd) affirmative vote by the entire senate.
- B. The President of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania will need to approve this Constitution after the Senate.

### **Amendments:**

3/28/2016: Changed Position Title “Vice President of Student Life” to “Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs”

3/28/2016: Article VI, Section 6.1(b) changed “Leadership and Scholarship Fund” to “vending machine commissions”

3/28/2016: Article VI, Section 6.1(c) removed “through the Compass Leadership Program or National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) and replaced with “advisor approved”

3/28/2016: Article IX, Section 9.3(a) inserted “SRU Code of Conduct”

3/28/2016: Article IX, Section 9.4 renumbered (c) and (d)

12/5/2016: Article VIII, Section 8.1 changed “most votes” to “majority vote”.

12/5/2016: Article VIII, Section 8.2 changed “before the application can be submitted” to “before vacancy can be filled”.

12/5/2016: Article VIII, added Sections 8.4, 8.5 (a-d), and 8.6 (a)

12/5/2016: Article III, added Section 3.11 (a-d) 2/12/2018: Article II, Section 2.1(f-h) addition and renumbered to include SRSGA Executive Board Position, “Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion”

2/12/2018: Article IV Section 4.2(f) added “Social Justice Committee”

2/12/2018: Article VI Section 6.7(a&b) inserted duties of the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion

12/9/2019: Constitutional Amendments to remove and renumber Articles/Sections for the purpose of creating Senate Bylaws

3/7/2022: Article III Section 2 updated to add four (4) College of Health senators and reduce At-Large senators by four (4) for a total of eight (8) At-Large senator positions.

3/20/2023: Change the name from At-Large Commuter Senator to Commuter Senator.

3/20/2023: Change the name from College of Environment and Science Senators to College of Engineering and Science Senators.

3/20/2023: Change the name from College of Health Senators to College of Health Professions Senators.

3/20/2023: From 8 At-Large Senators to 7 At-Large Senators.

3/20/2023: Change the name from Freshmen Senator to First-Year Senator.

3/20/2023: Add 1 Athlete Senator Position.

3/20/2023: Change the name from Freshman Senator to First Year Senator.

3/20/2023: Change the name from Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion to Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

3/20/2023: Change the name from Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion to Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

# SLIPPERY ROCK STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## SENATE BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### COMMITTEES

**Section 1:** All Standing and Ad-hoc Committees are subordinate to the Senate and the decisions reached in committees shall be subject to Senate approval unless otherwise stipulated within the Constitution of SRSGA.

#### **Section 2: Standing Committees**

- A. The Standing Committees for SRSGA shall be as follows:
  - i. Financial Affairs Committee
  - ii. Rules and Policies
  - iii. Campus Outreach
  - iv. Student and Academic Affairs
  - v. Internal Affairs Committee
  - vi. Social Justice Committee
- B. The Vice Presidents and Parliamentarian will chair the committees that their position requires.
- C. All Co-Chairs of such committees shall be selected by the chair from a Senator selected to serve on that committee.

#### **Section 3: Ad-hoc Committees**

- A. Ad-hoc committees shall be established as may be necessary and convenient for the SRSGA through a majority vote at any Formal meeting.
- B. Any voting member, or the President, may propose the creation of an ad-hoc committee at any SRSGA Formal meeting through a motion.
- C. The Chair of ad-hoc committees must be nominated during a Formal meeting and confirmed with a majority vote.

### ARTICLE II

#### DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



### **Section 1: President**

- A. Serve a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week. Fifteen (15) of these hours must be office hours while the remaining five (5) may consist of time working on SRSGA related business, which must be approved by the SRSGA advisor.
- B. Represent SRSGA at all times.
- C. Attend one (1) Slippery Rock Borough meeting per month.
- D. Attend one (1) Slippery Rock Township meeting per month.
- E. Has the ability to veto any and all legislation passed by the Senate.
- F. Address PASSHE on issues the SRSGA may be discussing and lobbying for the betterment of Slippery Rock University students.
- G. Serve as a voting member of The Board of Directors for SRSGA, Inc.

### **Section 2: Vice President of Financial Affairs**

- A. Serve a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week. Nine (9) of these hours must be in office hours while the remaining three (3) may consist of time working on SRSGA related business, which must be approved by the SRSGA advisor.
- B. Oversee the internal financial records of the SRSGA office.
- C. Serve as a voting member of The Board of Directors of SRSGA, Inc.
- D. Schedule a meeting before the budgeting process begins with each organization that plans to receive a budget for the following year.

### **Section 3: Vice President of Campus Outreach**

- A. Serve a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week. Nine (9) of these hours must be in office hours while the remaining three (3) may consist of time working on SRSGA related business, which must be approved by the SRSGA advisor.
- B. Attend meetings with appointed individuals from the Public Relations Office as well as the University Advancement Office, as needed.
- C. Develop a Marketing Plan within the guidelines of the SRSGA Marketing Policy and approved by the SRSGA President as well as the SRSGA Advisor.

### **Section 4: Vice President of Internal Affairs**

- A. Serve a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week. Nine (9) of these hours must be in office hours while the remaining three (3) may consist of time working on SRSGA related business, which must be approved by the SRSGA advisor.
- B. Serve as the chief administrative officer in coordination with the SRSGA President in assuring the functions and duties of SRSGA are appropriately met.
- C. Coordinate and submit to all appropriate parties, including the Senate for approval, the minutes of all meetings of the Senate and SRSGA Executive Committee.
- D. Create a fundraiser that will allow involvement from all Senators and executive board members at least once per office term.

### **Section 5: Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs**

- A. Serve a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week. Nine (9) of these hours must be in office hours while the remaining three (3) may consist of time working on SRSGA related business, which must be approved by the SRSGA advisor.

- B. Attend regular meetings with the Deans of each College of the Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.
- C. Address any academic issues a student brings to the Student Government Association.
- D. Evaluate campus safety and work to improve the areas deemed lacking.

#### **Section 6: Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)**

- A. Serve a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week. Nine (9) of these hours must be in office hours while the remaining three (3) may consist of time working on SRSGA related business, which must be approved by the SRSGA advisor.
- B. Address concerns of the student body as they pertain to subject matter related to Diversity Equity, Inclusivity, and Belonging (DEIB) and Social Justice.
- C. Manage a yearly project promoting advocacy for various student groups and organizations on campus

#### **Section 7: Speaker of the Senate**

- A. Serve and post a minimum of five (5) office hours per week.
- B. Shall serve as the Senate Representative to the Executive Committee.
- C. Hold informal Senate meetings.
- D. Coordinate all SRSGA Senate sponsored resolutions regarding matters of relevant interest to the Student Body and its representative student government.

#### **Section 8: Parliamentarian**

- A. Serve and post a minimum of five (5) office hours per week
- B. Keep the SRSGA President advised on the proper parliamentary procedure at all SRSGA meetings.
- C. Advise members of the Senate when requested.
- D. Responsible for all Constitutional Open Forums.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **DUTIES OF SENATORS**

##### **Section 1: General Senator Responsibilities**

- A. All senators, excluding the Graduate Senators, must complete a minimum of three (3) office hours per week.
- B. All senators, excluding the Graduate and Athlete Senators, must serve on a minimum of one SRSGA Standing Committee.
- C. All senators must attend all Formal and Informal meetings of the SRSGA unless otherwise excused.
  - i. See Article 7 Section 1 of this document for the dismissal policy.
- D. All senators excluding the graduate senators will be required to attend 2 diversity events for the semester. All senators excluding the graduate senators will include this in their

office unit report once completed. In addition to attending 2 diversity events, all senators will be provided one supplemental training

### **Section 2: College Senator Duties**

- A. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Dean of their respective college along with the Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs.

### **Section 3: At-Large Senators**

- A. Shall represent the SRSGA as a student representative on one of the President of the University's commissions. More than one senator may sit on a commission.
  - i. Shall be appointed to commissions by the SRSGA President

### **Section 4: Transfer Senators**

- A. Shall attend monthly meetings with Transfer Admissions.

### **Section 5: Commuter Senators**

- A. Shall attend monthly commuter breakfasts.

### **Section 6: International Senator**

- A. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Associate Vice President of Global Engagement along with the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB).

### **Section 7: Residence Hall Senators**

- A. Shall attend weekly Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS) meetings.

### **Section 8: Graduate Senators**

- A. Shall maintain the Graduate Senator Email and be responsible for monitoring the email and responding to questions on a schedule they determine.
- B. Shall facilitate conversation with constituents regarding areas of concern and upcoming university events.
  - i. Shall be assigned to communicate with and inform multiple graduate programs (e.g. on-campus and online and/or degree program) of relevant information.
  - ii. Shall work collaboratively to identify issues pertaining to this student population, strategize potential solutions, and discuss ideas with the SRSGA.

### **Section 9: First-Year Senators**

- A. It shall be the duty of First-Year Senators to represent Slippery Rock Student Government Association (SRSGA) at their respective House Council meetings

### **Section 10: Veteran Senators**

- A. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Director of the Office for Inclusive Excellence
- B. Shall attend monthly meetings with the President of the Student Veterans of America

### **Section 11: Athlete Senator**

- A. Shall be elected for one semester (Fall Representative or Spring Representative) to align with the Athlete's off-season.
  - i. Only the Athlete Senator elected for their specific semester will have voting rights during Formal and Special meetings of the SRSGA.
- B. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- C. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Head Coaches of SRU NCAA recognized sports teams.
- D. Shall attend monthly meetings with the SRU Athletic Director.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ELECTIONS**

#### **Section 1: The SRSGA Elections Commission**

- A. The SRSGA Elections Commissioner shall be the Parliamentarian, unless the Parliamentarian is running for an office.
  - i. In the event the Parliamentarian runs for office, the SRSGA President shall appoint a student to be the Elections Commissioner, who shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
- B. The SRSGA Elections Commission shall consist of an additional four (4) members who are members of the Senate and who will not be running for any other elected office.
  - i. These members will also be ratified by the Senate upon a majority vote.
  - ii. There shall also be one (1) advisor whom the Committee shall select.

#### **Section 2: Election Rules**

- A. Prior to each election, it shall be the duty of the SRSGA Elections Commission to publish all rules and dates relating to the elections of the SRSGA Senators and Executive Board Members.
- B. The elected Executive Officers of the SRSGA shall be the positions established in Article IV, with the exception of Parliamentarian and Speaker of the Senate.
  - i. Parliamentarian is appointed by the President and confirmed by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of the Senate.
  - ii. Speaker of the Senate is elected by the Senate with a majority vote.

#### **Section 3: Executive Officer Qualifications**

- A. In order to run for an Executive Officer position, members:
  - i. Must attain a status of first semester sophomore (Sophomore 1) by the beginning of the Fall Semester
  - ii. May not participate in a study abroad program while in office for more than twenty-eight (28) days
  - iii. May hold a student teaching position
  - iv. May hold an internship

- v. Must be in their second (2) full semester at Slippery Rock University before their term of office commences.
- vi. Must disclose to the student body, before being elected or voted on, any prospective or current executive position(s) in any other campus organization(s).
- vii. Must be a full time student as defined by Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
- viii. Must attended two (2) SRSGA Senate meetings and one Financial Affairs Committee meeting prior to the announcement of election winners
- ix. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 and must maintain the cumulative GPA of 2.75 while in office.

#### **Section 4: Senate Qualifications**

- A. In order to run for a Senate position, members:
  - i. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must maintain the cumulative GPA of 2.5 while in office.
  - ii. Must attend one (1) Senate meeting prior to the announcement of election winners
  - iii. May not participate in a study abroad program for more than twenty-eight (28) days while in office
  - iv. May hold a student teaching position
  - v. May hold an internship

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **MEETINGS**

##### **Section 1: Formal Meetings**

- A. The Vice President for Internal Affairs shall notify all SRSGA members of all scheduled and special meetings.

##### **Section 2: Informal Meetings**

- A. The Speaker of the Senate shall run and schedule all informal meetings.

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **FINANCES**

##### **Section 1: Financial Policies**

- A. All policies pertaining to the SRSGA finances shall be contained in the SRSGA Financial Policies.

## ARTICLE VII

### DISMISSAL, IMPEACHMENT, AND VACANCIES

#### Section 1: Dismissal Procedures

- A. The Speaker of the Senate and/or Vice President of Internal Affairs shall, upon three documented and unexcused failures of a Senator to fulfill their required duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, inform the Internal Affairs Committee of said failure(s).
- B. The Advisors shall, upon three documented and unexcused failures of an Executive Board member to fulfill their required duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, inform the Internal Affairs Committee of said failure(s).
  - i. Should the person failing to fulfill their duties be the Vice President of Internal Affairs, then the matter shall be taken up by the Co-Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee.
- C. The Internal Affairs Committee shall set a time for a hearing to determine the validity of the complaint, no later than two weeks after receiving said notice.
  - i. Should the dismissal process begin at the end of the Fall or Spring semester, the hearings must take place no later than two weeks into the next semester unless the person being investigated for dismissal is no longer a sitting member by that time.
  - ii. Upon setting the time of the hearing, the Internal Affairs Committee shall inform the Senator or Executive Board member of the time, location, and date of the hearing no later than 48 hours in advance.
  - iii. This hearing shall be private, consisting of only voting members of the SRSGA who sit on the Internal Affairs Committee and the person in question.
    - a. Exceptions to those allowed to attend can be made at the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Affairs.
  - iv. At such hearing, the Senator or Executive Board member shall have the opportunity to present witnesses and evidence.
- D. The Internal Affairs Committee shall present its findings and any recommendations to the Senate at the next Formal meeting after the hearing, regardless of its conclusions. The Senate shall then decide whether or not to support the committee's recommendation by a 2/3rds affirmative vote or impose another sanction based upon the facts presented.
- E. Any Senator or Executive Board member aggrieved by the decision is afforded the right to appeal the decision to the Senate at any formal meeting of the Senate. The Senate may reinstate any Senator or Executive Board member dismissed through this process with a two-thirds (2/3<sup>rd</sup>) affirmative vote.

#### Section 2: Impeachment

- A. The Articles of Impeachment, consisting of a description of the alleged impeachable offense and reference to how it violates the Constitution and/or Bylaws, shall be submitted to the SRSGA advisors, President, and the Speaker of the Senate.
- B. Upon the filing of Articles of Impeachment, the President shall direct the Internal Affairs Committee to hold a hearing to determine the validity of the complaint and to recommend to the Senate whether dismissal is warranted. If the President is the subject of the Articles of Impeachment, the Speaker of the Senate shall direct the Internal Affairs Committee to hold a hearing.
  - i. This hearing shall take place no later than two weeks after the Internal Affairs Committee receives the direction to hold a hearing.
  - ii. Should the Articles of Impeachment be submitted at the end of the Fall or Spring semester, the hearings must take place no later than two weeks into the next semester unless the person being charged is no longer a sitting member by that time.
  - iii. Upon setting the time of the hearing, the Internal Affairs Committee shall inform the Senator or Executive Board member of the time, location, and date of the hearing no later than 48 hours in advance.
- C. At such hearing, the Executive Board Officer or Senator shall have the opportunity to present witnesses and evidence.
- D. The Internal Affairs Committee shall present its findings and recommendations to the Senate who shall decide whether or not to support the committee's recommendation by a 2/3rds affirmative vote or impose another sanction based upon the facts presented.
- E. Any Executive Board Member or Senator aggrieved by the decision of the Senate is afforded the right to appeal the decision to the Senate at a formal meeting of the Senate. The Senate may reinstate the dismissed Senator with a two-thirds (2/3<sup>rd</sup>) affirmative vote.

### **Section 3: Senator Vacancies**

- A. If a Senator's position becomes vacant the following proceedings shall be followed:
  - i. Any student that meets the previous election's requirements for the position of Senator shall be able to apply through submitting an application to the Vice President of Internal Affairs.
  - ii. The student will then be brought forth before the entire Senate for the purpose of determining the student's qualifications for office.
  - iii. The student shall become a Senator upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the Senate.

### **Section 4: Executive Officer Vacancies**

- A. If an Executive Officer's position becomes vacant the following proceedings shall be followed:
  - i. The person who the Vice President made as Co-Chair for their committee shall, upon vacancy, become the interim Chairperson of that Standing Committee.
  - ii. Any student that meets the previous election's requirements for the Executive Board position shall be able to apply through submitting an application to the Vice President of Internal Affairs.
  - iii. The student will then be brought forth before the entire Senate for the purpose of determining the student's qualifications for office.

- iv. The student shall fill the position upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the Senate.
- v. The positions of Speaker of the Senate and Parliamentarian shall not be filled through this vacancy process but, instead, shall follow the process outlined above in Article IV, Section 2.

## ARTICLE VIII

### OPERATION OF THE JUDICIARY BRANCH

#### Section 1: Composition and Replacement

- A. This branch shall consist of a court of six total SRSGA members. They shall be as follows; the SRSGA Parliamentarian, four appointed Senators, and one Senator randomly chosen for each trial.
  - i. All Senators shall serve as the Justices of the court and shall each have one vote.
  - ii. The Parliamentarian shall serve in the role of Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall take notes on all proceedings and report to the Senate on the findings of the committee at a Formal Meeting of the SRSGA. The Chief Justice shall not have a vote in the proceedings and decisions of the Judiciary and, instead, shall remain an impartial observer.
- B. Four Senators will be elected to this position by submitting an application of interest to be reviewed by all the Senate.
  - i. There shall be no limit on the number of applicants for the position, however they must all be sitting Senators.
  - ii. They shall be voted on by the Senate at the first Formal Meeting of the academic year.
  - iii. Should an appointed Senator wish to permanently step down from their position, they shall formally provide their resignation to the Senate.
  - iv. Should fewer than four Senators apply, the remaining positions shall be filled through random selection, as outlined in subsection C. of this Section, until all four positions are filled.
    - i. In the case of the Judiciary not being fully filled, applications shall remain open or be reopened until all positions are filled.
  - v. If more than four Senators apply, then there shall be a vote within Senate, with the highest vote receivers taking the positions. In the case of a tie, those Senators who tied shall participate in a run-off election for the position, with the Senators choosing them.
- C. One Senator, who does not currently sit on the Judiciary as one of the four elected Justices, shall randomly be chosen from the entirety of Senate to sit on each trial as a Justice.
  - i. They must be confirmed by Senate through a simple majority vote to sit as a Justice for the duration of the trial.



- ii. This selection shall be done through any randomized process, such as drawing of lots, random number generation, etc.
  - iii. This Senator shall be selected no later than the first Formal Meeting of the SRSGA after the submission of the alleged misconduct.
- D. In the case of a conflict of interest with a member sitting on the court, whether from them being the focus of an investigation, submitting an investigation, or being actively involved within an investigation in any other way, they shall recuse themselves from the case.
- i. Members of the Judiciary may either self-report conflict and recuse themselves from the case or be removed through a simple majority vote of the Senate for the duration of the trial.
  - ii. Should it be a Senator, they shall be temporarily replaced by a random Senator through the same process as outlined in subsection C.
  - iii. Should it be the Parliamentarian, they shall be replaced by the Vice President of Internal Affairs or, should they be also incapable, the Speaker of the Senate. Failing this another senator will be voted on to hold their duties until the end of the trial.

## **Section 2: Requirements and Proceedings for an Investigative Trial**

- A. All complaints of alleged misconduct, hereinafter referred to as articles, shall be submitted, in digital or physical writing, to the Chief Justice, stating the nature of the alleged misconduct in reference to the specific section violated, the name(s) of those alleged to have been involved, and the name(s) of those filing the complaint.
  - i. All allegations of misconduct must either be submitted by an elected, voting member of the SRSGA or by a petition of 10% of the student body.
  - ii. Should the matter be referred from the Senate floor, the Senator who made the motion shall submit their complaint of alleged misconduct through the process outlined in Article N, section 1, subsection B no later than one week after the Formal Meeting during which the motion was referred. If they fail to do this, the alleged misconduct will be considered dismissed.
- B. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Chief Justice shall immediately pass the information to the sitting Judiciary and SRSGA Advisors.
  - i. Upon receipt of said complaint, the Chief Justice and four sitting Justices shall, in consultation with the Advisors, vote on whether to take up the trial. For a hearing and trial to take place, three out of five must vote affirmatively.
    - i. Should the case involve a potential or actual violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the complaint shall be referred to and put under the authority of the appropriate university authorities, ending the investigation.
  - ii. Should the accusation not fall under misconduct, the Judiciary shall inform those who submitted that it is not in their purview because it does not qualify as misconduct.
  - iii. Should they find the accusation falls under any form of misconduct, a summarized version of the complaint, not including the names of the accusers, shall also be sent out at this time to those accused.

- iv. The Judiciary shall then, collectively, set a time and date, no later than three weeks from the time of submission, but no sooner than five days, to investigate the case and to allow for the presentation of arguments and witnesses by both sides.
- v. The time and date should work for as many of the parties involved as possible and should not create a purposefully unsolvable burden or inconvenience for any parties involved.
  - i. In the case of unsolvable time conflicts, multiple hearings shall be scheduled by the Judiciary to accommodate all parties.
  - ii. Should the articles be submitted at the end of the Fall or Spring semester, the investigation process will take place within a week of the next Fall or Spring semester.
  - iii. If a member resigns before the hearings take place, the investigation shall be closed, and all hearings cancelled. The Judiciary shall also publicly inform the Senate, at the next Formal Meeting, that the investigation is now closed due to member resignation.
  - iv. Senators and Executive Board members who resign while being under investigation shall not be allowed to rejoin the SRSGA.
- vi. All parties involved or alleged to have been involved must be notified of the time, date, and location of the hearing at least two days prior.
- C. After having heard the case and witnesses of both sides, the Judiciary shall convene and vote on whether they believe the alleged misconduct deserves any repercussions and what sanctions apply in the case that they vote affirmatively.
- D. The Chief Justice, after the vote, shall write a summary of the accusations, their findings, the result of the vote, and the Judiciary's recommended sanctions. They shall present this, in both writing and in formal reading, at the next Formal Meeting of the SRSGA.
  - i. In the case of a tie through the lack of a vote, or the lack of unanimous agreement, the dissenting Justices shall write an opinion, stating their reasoning, to be presented alongside the majority opinion of the Judiciary. All these opinions shall be presented by the Chief Justice.
  - ii. After this report occurs, the misconduct case shall be considered closed and shall not be resubmitted or reconsidered by the Judiciary. The report shall be archived and kept by the Chief Justice.
  - iii. At this time, the Senate may decide to move forward with the recommended sanction(s) or may choose to move forward with any other sanction they deem appropriate.

## ARTICLE IX

### SRSGA ADVISORS

#### Section 1: Advisors

- A. There shall be seven (7) non-voting advisory members of the SGA

- i. Two (2) representatives appointed by the Slippery Rock University Faculty Union (APSCUF)
- ii. One (1) Representative appointed by the University President
- iii. SRSGA, Inc. Business Manager
- iv. One (1) Slippery Rock University Student Trustee
- v. One (1) University Advisor to the SRSGA, recommended each year by the Executive Committee and approved by the Senate
- vi. One (1) University Academic Advisor, recommended each year by the Executive Committee and approved by the Senate.
- vii. If any of the SRSGA, Inc. Board of Directors student positions are not elected members of the Senate, they shall also be considered as advisors to the Senate.

## ARTICLE X

### BYLAW AMENDMENTS

#### Section 1. Procedures

- A. The Rules & Policy committee shall review the Senate Bylaws on a regular basis and bring any recommendations to the Senate for approval.
- B. Once a Senate Bylaw amendment is brought to a formal meeting, through a motion and a second, the chair shall open the floor for debate and discussion.
- C. In Debate & Discussion, the Rules & Policy committee shall present the amendment.
- D. Once Debate & Discussion has ended, the motion will automatically be tabled until at least the next formal meeting, to allow members sufficient time to review the proposed amendment.
- E. The amendment must pass by a 2/3rds majority of the Senate to be approved.

#### Section 2. Amendments

- A. 3/30/2020: Added “Parliamentarian is appointed by the President and confirmed by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of the Senate” and “Speaker of the Senate is elected by the Senate with a majority vote” to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection B.
- B. 3/30/2020: Article III, Section 1, added point C.
- C. 3/30/2020: Article III, added section 2-10 with respective subpoints.
- D. 4/27/20: Revised Article I, Section 2B-C for clarification.
- E. 4/27/20: Revised Article I, Section 3 to establish guidance for ad-hoc committees.
- F. 4/27/20: Corrected a spelling error in Article II, Section 1D.
- G. 4/27/20: Article IV, revised point v. to Section A.
- H. 4/27/20: Added Article V, Section 2A.
- I. 4/27/20: Revised Article V, Section 3A subpoint i.

- J. 3/15/21: Added Article III, Section 1, subsection D and E.
- K. 3/29/21: Revised Article IV Section 3, Subsection A, # 9 for GPA clarification.
- L. 3/29/21: Revised Article IV Section 4, Subsection A, # 1 for GPA clarification.
- M. 11/2/21: Revised Article IV Section 2, Subsection A, Sub-subsection #6 to require disclosure of instead of a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Senate ratification for holding other eBoard positions on campus.
- N. 11/16/21: Updated Article VII on Impeachment, Vacancy, and Dismissal to create a more comprehensive and functional policy process.
- O. 05/02/22: Updated Article I, section 3 to outline the precedent by which we operate in the creation of ad-hoc committees and to increase transparency in their creation by formalizing the process.
- P. 3/20/2023: Change the name from Senate Rules and Policies to Rules and Policies.
- Q. 3/20/2023: Change the name from Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion to Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.
- R. 3/20/2023: Update to state address concerns of the student body as they pertain to subject matter related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging (DEIB), and Social Justice.
- S. 3/20/2023: Add Athlete Senator to the exception.
- T. 3/20/2023: Remove this requirement for all SRSGA members.
- U. 3/20/2023: Change the name from Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion to Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.
- V. 3/20/2023: Change the name from Building Senators to Resident Hall Senators.
- W. 3/20/2023: Change the name from Freshmen Senator to First Year Senator.
- X. 3/20/2023: Add Section 11: Athlete Senator.
- Y. 3/20/2023: Add to Section 11
  - a. Shall be elected for one semester (Fall Representative or Spring Representative) to align with the Athlete's off-season.
    - i. Only the Athlete Senator elected for their specific semester will have voting rights during Formal and Special meetings of the SRSGA.
  - b. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
  - c. Shall attend monthly meetings with the Head Coaches of SRU NCAA recognized sports teams.
  - d. Shall attend monthly meetings with the SRU Athletic Director.
- Z. 3/20/2023: Rename Senate Election Commission to SRSGA Elections Commission.
- AA. 3/20/2023: Rename SRSGA Elections Committee to SRSGA Elections Commission.
- BB. 3/20/2023: Add Article VIII Operation of the Judiciary

## SPECIAL RULES

1. 10/18/2021: The Chair is allowed to recognize any member of student organizations at their sole discretion during formal meetings.