

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Article I – Bill of Rights

Section 1. Citizens of Student Government

Only duly enrolled members of the undergraduate student body of Wake Forest University shall be citizens of the Student Government with the right to vote in general elections and the right to be represented in the various branches of the Student Government.

Section 2. Non-Discrimination

No student shall be denied their rights for reasons of race, religion, sex, class, beliefs, disability, country of origin, or sexual orientation.

Section 3. Establishment of Organizations

No student shall be denied the right to peaceably assemble or the right to establish organizations and groups unless they conflict with the regulations set forth by Wake Forest University.

Article II – Executive Branch

Section 1. Executive Power

The executive power of the Student Body shall be vested in the President, Speaker of the House, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chief of Staff.

Section 2. Qualifications and Election

All Executive Officers of the Student Government shall be enrolled as undergraduate students of Wake Forest University and shall be elected by a majority of the voting student body and meet the standards for qualification set forth in the Student Government Statutes. The Chief of Staff is not elected, rather appointed by The President.

Section 3. Duties of the President

The President shall:

1. Call and preside over meetings of the student body. This does not refer to the Senate.
2. Appoint such Executive Committees as are necessary for the implementation of Student Government actions.
3. Seek information about University decisions concerning students and assist in its dissemination.
4. Upon invitation, attend meetings of the Board of Trustees as a non-voting participant.
5. Appoint students to University Committees with the advice and consent of the Executive Officers of the Student Government.
6. Serve as a chair of the Elections Committee.
7. Attend Student Budget Advisory Committee meetings for informational purposes.

8. Have representation, membership, and voting rights as a part of the Council of Student Presidents and shall be among the duties charged to the office of the President in collaboration with the University's other schools.
9. Serve on the Winston-Salem Presidents Council, if in existence, in order to foster cross-institutional engagement with peer universities in Winston-Salem through joint events, coordinated campaigns, and sustained conversation.
10. Serve as a non-voting officer of the Senate.

Section 4. Duties of the Speaker of the House

The Speaker of the House shall:

1. Call and preside over meetings of the Student Government Senate.
2. Appoint committees within the Senate as necessary for the implementation of legislative actions.
3. Serve as the chair of the Cabinet.
4. Serve as a voting officer of the Senate only in the event of a tie.
5. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Speaker, along with the advice and consent of the Executive officers.

Section 5. Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall:

1. Serve as clerk of the Senate and keep a journal of its proceedings,
2. Be responsible for Student Government correspondence.
3. Serve as a non-voting officer of the Senate.

Section 6. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. Approve all Student Government spending, including but not limited to, the spending of Committees, individual Senators, Executive Members, and the Student Government Advisor.
2. Serve as chair and head of the Student Budget Advisory Committee.
3. Serve as a non-voting officer of the Senate.

Section 7. Duties of the Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff shall be any undergraduate student, who is not on social or academic probation, appointed by the President of Student Government with the advice and consent of the executive officers of Student Government. The Chief of Staff shall:

1. Serve as the assistant and personal advisor to the Office of the President.
2. Serve as chair of the Senatorial Appointment Committee.
3. Relay information and relevant actions between Student Government and student members of University and Executive Committees.

Section 8. Executive Committees

- A. **The Cabinet** shall be chaired by the Speaker and consist of each of the chairs of the Standing Committees as well as the Executive Officers of Student Government. The Cabinet

shall be responsible for coordinating all Student Government Senate business and advising the executives of the Student Government.

- B. **The Elections Committee** shall be responsible for coordinating the selection process for the executive officers and the Senate. The Elections Committee shall consist of the President, Speaker, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, and the two appointed co-chairs of the Judiciary Committee. A staff advisor, shall serve on the committee in conjunction with the Student Trustee as non-voting members of the Committee. Non-voting members are permitted but are not required to attend meetings. They are to be included in any and all correspondence and consulted on decisions and sanctions. If any of these members is unable to serve, they will first be replaced according to the established order. If this is insufficient to find replacements, the Elections Committee shall nominate one or more students to fill the vacancies. The ultimate appointment must be voted in by a majority of Elections Committee members; a second vote will be held with the top two candidates if this does not occur the first time. No candidate can serve on the Committee who has been disqualified from or has outstanding fines from a previous election. The chair may appoint persons as necessary to effectively manage the clerical and public relations duties of the Elections Committee.
- C. **The Student Budget Advisory Committee** shall be chaired by the Treasurer of Student Government and consists of the following voting members: one representative per ten student organizations determined by an appointment process.
- D. The appointment process shall take place during April, after the newly elected Treasurer has been elected. Both the departing Student Government Treasurer and the newly elected Student Government Treasurer shall work with the Student Budget Advisory Committee Advisor and the Student Government Advisor to ensure these positions are filled by qualified students prior to the end of the closing academic year.
- E. **The Senatorial Appointment Committee** shall be chaired by the Chief of Staff of Student Government and consist of the two appointed co-chairs of the Judiciary Committee, the two appointed co-chairs of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the President of Student Government. The Chief of Staff shall appoint prospective candidates based on the advice and consent of the committee members. The Senatorial Appointment Committee shall:
 - a. Publicize and explain the functions of available senator positions.
 - b. Solicit, interview, and recommend prospective senators to the Senate.
 - c. Foster a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion by reviewing best practices.
 - d. Review best practices on conducting the interview process and on combating implicit biases which may be unfairly prejudicial to prospective candidates.
 - i. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for consulting the Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chairs when providing best practice materials to the committee.
 - ii. Best practice materials must be made available to the committee prior to the interview process.
 - iii. Best practice materials need not be exhaustive in nature but should be reputable and in alignment with the aims of this Student Government and Wake Forest University more broadly.
 - e. Each member must submit their recommendations to the Chief of Staff in a timely fashion barring exceptional circumstances. Each member of the committee retains the right to abstain from making a recommendation on certain candidates but must

express their decision to do so to the committee. Recommendations should be submitted through a mutually accepted medium such as (but not limited to): email, text, telephone conversation, video conferencing application, or an in-person meeting.

- F. **Executive Advisory Committees** shall be implemented by the executive officers as deemed necessary to address constituent issues. Members of the Executive Advisory Committees shall consist of volunteer members, either from Student Government or outside, appointed by the President of Student Government with the majority consent of the Senate. Each committee shall advise an executive officer who is responsible for communicating the committee's progress to the Senate.

Section 9. Succession

All Executive Officers as described in this Article shall assume office no later than the last day of the legislative session, as determined by the Speaker of the House. The last day of the legislative session shall occur no earlier than fourteen days after executive elections and no later than the last day of classes.

Article III – Legislative Branch

Section 1. Legislative Power

The legislative power of the Student Body shall be vested in the Senate.

Section 2. Responsibilities of the Senate

The Senate shall:

1. Represent the interests of students in social and academic matters.
2. Promote the funding and operations of beneficial programs for the student body.
3. Be presided over by the Speaker of the House, who will serve as a voting officer only in the case of a tie.
4. Have each first-year student residence hall elect, from among its residents, one senator for every one hundred occupants of that unit. Upperclassmen shall elect one senator for every one hundred members per class. Where there are twenty-five or more additional students, an additional senator shall be chosen. Living units with fewer than fifty and at least twenty-five residents shall elect one senator. The first-year student residence halls shall be determined by the Elections Committee.
5. Have the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief of Staff of Student Government serve as non-voting officers.
6. Allow the chair(s) of each standing committee to serve as both voting members and officers. Co-Chairs who were not elected to the Senate shall have all the rights and duties, including the title of, Senators after their appointments.

Section 3. Standing Committees

- A. The Senate shall consist of the following standing committees:

- a. **Academic Committee:** The Academic Committee is responsible for addressing issues pertaining to the academic realm of student life.
 - b. **Campus Life Committee:** The Campus Life Committee is responsible for the improvement of the quality of life on campus in terms of student services and social concerns that are neither physical nor economic in nature. The Committee may consider matters including, but not limited to, housing, visitation policies, and alcohol policies.
 - c. **Diversity and Inclusion Committee:** The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is responsible for intentionally and effectively aiding in the process of creating and upholding a diverse and inclusive student body. This diversity includes but is not limited to diversity of religion and spirituality, ethnicity and race, gender and sexual orientation, socioeconomic status and residency status, and/or thought and ideology, race, and gender. The Committee seeks to contribute to discussions and actions that will address issues pertaining to the relevance of inclusion of all Wake Forest undergraduate students.
 - d. **Judiciary Committee:** The Judiciary Committee is responsible for considering and heightening the awareness of honor and social regulations that govern students and the judicial procedures that surround them. Further, the Committee is responsible for government and constitutional oversight including impeachment proceedings.
 - e. **Physical Planning Committee:** The Physical Planning Committee is responsible for considering matters relating to the physical facilities, sustainability, and security of campus.
 - f. **Public Relations Committee:** The Public Relations Committee will relay pertinent information from the faculty, the administration, and the Student Government to the student body. It will publicize and plan Student Government events and official business.
 - g. **Student Organizations Council:** The Student Organizations Council is responsible for reviewing potential organizations' constitutions and by-laws to determine if they are in accordance with the mission of the University. Additionally, the Committee is responsible for evaluating and chartering all chartered organizations. Two voting positions on the Committee are held by administrators from the Student Life Committee, to whom the Student Life Committee has delegated its voting and chartering power.
- B. The Speaker of the House, with the advice and consent of the other Executive Officers after their inaugurations in the spring, shall appoint committee chairs for each standing committee. While it is recommended that chairs have at least one semester of Student Government experience, it is not required. Each committee must have at least one chair with a minimum of one semester of experience in the Student Government Senate. If a

chair does not have one semester of experience in Student Government, it is expected that they possess other qualifications which would compensate for their inexperience in the Senate. It is the responsibility of the Speaker of the House to present qualifications and receive express consent from the Executive Officers and Student Government Advisor prior to the appointment of a chair without one semester of experience in the Student Government Senate. Committee chairs shall become full members of the Senate upon appointment to the co-chair position.

- C. The Speaker of the House assembles each Committee from the membership of the Senate. Each Senator shall serve on one Standing Committee with the advice and consent of the Executive Officers.

Article IV – Honor and Conduct Systems

Section 1. The Student Conduct Advisors, Office of the Dean of Students, Title IX Office, the Honor and Ethics Council and the Judicial Council comprise the Judicial System of the University. All relevant and accurate information about the rules governing and functions of these groups can be found on their websites or through the Office of the Dean of Students.

Article V – Students in University Government

Applications for appointment, as well as student nominations submitted by the faculty, to University Committees shall be made available to all undergraduate students during the spring semester of each academic year. The Student Government President will review all applications and conduct interviews of selected candidates at his/her/their discretion. The President, with the advice and consent of the executive officers, shall then forward to the Office of the Dean of the College two nominees per committee (to be designated first and second choice, in the event that one student cannot serve his/her/their term of appointment). Upon approval by the Dean of the College, the same nominees will be forwarded to the University President, who will give final approval for student appointments. Notification of appointment(s) will be made by either the office of the Dean of the College or the University President. The process by which the Student Trustee is selected is outlined in the Statutes that follow this Constitution.

Article VI – Statutes

The statutes that follow this Constitution shall be established to regulate the specific functions of Student Government. In order that the changing needs of the student body of Wake Forest may be met, these statutes shall be subject to addition, amendment, or abolition by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

Article VII – Amendment

The Constitution of Student Government shall be amended or revised only with the consent of two-thirds of the Senate's approval as expressed by a roll call vote.

Article VIII – Ratification

The articles and statutes of this Constitution shall become effective immediately upon the two-thirds approval of the undergraduate student body as expressed by secret ballot. Any specific sections of the Constitution in conflict with faculty bylaws will not be enforced unless the faculty bylaws are changed to accommodate the student provisions.

Article IX – Order of Interpretation

Whenever there is a contradiction between any two or three Governing Documents which cannot be resolved by reasonably interpreting them in light of each other, the Constitution shall override the provisions of the Statutes and the Bylaws and the Statutes shall override the provisions of the Bylaws. This interpretative instruction may only be altered or amended by a simultaneous amendment of this provision in all three Governing Documents by a two-thirds roll call vote.