

SGA

Student Government Association *St. Olaf College*

St. Olaf College
Student Government Association

Constitution

As revised May 2011

We, the elected student representatives of St. Olaf College, in order to foster a spirit of unity among all members of the St. Olaf Community, provide opportunities for the expression of student rights, responsibilities, and opinions, and assume such powers and perform such duties as may further the educational goals and general welfare of the student community, do hereby establish this St. Olaf College Student Government Association Constitution.

Article I - Name

The student representative body shall be called the St. Olaf Student Government Association (SGA). The legislative body of the SGA shall be called the Student Senate.

Article II - Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities

All of the St. Olaf student community, herein specified, shall be vested in the St. Olaf Student Government Association. The St. Olaf Student Government Association also will continually strive for a truly unified college community of student, faculty, administrators and staff. The provisions of this constitution and bylaws passed in accordance with it shall designate the purpose, responsibilities, and procedures of the Student Government Association.

Section 1. The Student Government Association shall respect the college's mission policies and actions, yet do all in its power to uphold and project the following rights and freedoms of the St. Olaf College student community:

- A. The right and freedom to participate in the government of the college.
- B. The right and freedom to participate in the formulation of policy affecting the education and welfare of the college community.
- C. The right and freedom to information concerning regulations.
- D. The right and freedom to have student records kept confidential and their contents accessible to the student.
- E. The right and freedom to be eligible to vote in any election or referendum conducted in accordance with this constitution.
- F. The right and freedom to form organizations and associations.
- G. The right and freedom to access to higher education.
- H. The right and freedom of expression and inquiry in the campus community.
- I. The right and freedom to establish and issue publications free of censorship.
- J. The right and freedom to be protected from unwarranted search.
- K. The right and freedom to participate fully in the student community without subject to discrimination or bias.

Section 2. The Student Government Association shall be the primary vehicle for the expression of the interests and concerns of the St. Olaf student community

and shall serve as the main liaison between the student community and the faculty, staff and administration.

Section 3. The student government association shall enact all measures necessary and proper to achieve the purposes and responsibilities of the St. Olaf Student Government Association as stated herein.

Section 4. The Student Government Association shall be a means by which student participants in student and faculty governance organizations may organize and coordinate their efforts.

Section 5. The Student Government Association shall be responsible for the formulation and maintenance of relations with student governments from other colleges and universities.

Section 6: The Student Senate will be the final arbiter, by majority vote, in any constitutional or jurisdictional disputes arising from this constitution or bylaws enacted pursuant to it.

Article III - Membership

Participation in the Student Government Association is open to the student community. Voting status in the Student Senate is granted only to the following officers and senators elected according to the bylaws of this constitution.

Section 1. The following Student Senate members shall be elected as representatives of the St. Olaf community. The election will be held in the spring preceding the school year in which they will serve.

- A. Student Government Association President
- B. Student Government Association Vice-President
- C. Board of Regents Observer

- D. Student Activities Coordinator
- E. Political Awareness Coordinator
- F. Lion's Pause Coordinator(s)
- G. Student Organizations Coordinator
- H. Volunteer Network Coordinator
- I. Diversity Celebrations Coordinator
- J. Music Entertainment Coordinator
- K. After Dark Coordinator
- L. Intercampus Liaison
- M. Senate Representatives to the following faculty committees:
 - a. Curriculum
 - b. Student Life
 - c. Environmental

Section 2. The remaining elected Student Senate membership will be determined by an election in the fall of the school year. These remaining representatives will be elected by their individual constituencies.

- A. Off-Campus Senator
- B. Honor House Senator
- C. Residence Hall Senators
- D. International Student Senator
- E. Multicultural Student Senator

Section 3. The following positions are nonvoting membership.

- A. Student Government Association Executive Assistant
- B. Student Government Association Public Relations Director(s)
- C. Student Government Association Financial Officer
- D. Inter-hall Council Chair
- E. Student Alumni Liaison
- F. Director of Student Activities
- G. Dean of Students Office Representative

Article IV - Meetings

All Student Senate meetings are open to the student community. The SGA Vice President shall call the initial meeting of the Student Senate at the beginning of the academic year. The schedule of regular meetings shall then be determined by the SGA Vice President. The meetings shall be no less frequent than twice monthly. By a petition of five senators or ten percent of the student population, a special meeting must be called immediately by the SGA President.

Article V - Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by:

- A. A petition presented to the Student Senate bearing the valid signatures of at least ten percent of the student community.
- B. The Student Senate, whenever two-thirds of the Student Senate deems it advisable.

Section 2. After initiation, proposed amendments shall be submitted to the student community by the Student Senate at least two weeks in advance of the voting on such amendments.

Section 3. Amendments shall become effective when approved by two thirds of the St. Olaf College student community voting in the election.

Article VI - Bylaws

Section 1. The Student Senate shall have the power to enact such bylaws as it deems necessary to facilitate the operation of the Student Government Association by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

Section 2. The bylaws, as a charter subsequent to this constitution, shall

outline the official operating practices and membership of student government.

Section 3. The Student Senate shall have the power to amend such bylaws by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

Article VII - Evaluation of the Constitution

Section 1. The Student Senate or its assignees shall reevaluate this constitution and bylaws enacted pursuant to it at least every three years, beginning with the 1986-87 year.