



St. Olaf College  
Student Government Association  
**Constitution**  
As revised October 2019

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, to provide opportunities for the expression of student rights, responsibilities, and opinions, and to 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 of St. Olaf College shall be called the St. Olaf Student Government Association (SGA). The legislative body of SGA shall be called the Student Senate.

**Article II—Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities**

The St. Olaf student community, shall be vested in the St. Olaf Student Government Association. The St. Olaf SGA shall continually strive for a unified community of students, faculty, administrators, and staff. The provisions of this constitution and the accompanying SGA Bylaws shall designate the purpose, responsibilities, and procedures of SGA.

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

- a) The right and freedom to participate in the student 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 keep student records confidential from the public and accessible to the student(s) they concern.
- 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 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 discrimination or bias.

**Section 2:** SGA shall be the primary vehicle for expressing the interests and concerns of the St. Olaf student community. It shall serve as the main liaison between the student community and the faculty, staff, and administration.

**Section 3:** SGA shall enact all measures necessary and proper to execute its purposes and responsibilities as stated herein.

**Section 4:** SGA shall be a mechanism through which student participants in student and faculty governance organizations may coordinate their efforts.

**Section 5:** SGA shall be responsible for the formulation and maintenance of relations with student governments from other colleges and universities.

**Section 6:** The Student Senate shall be the final arbiter, by majority vote, in any constitutional or jurisdictional disputes arising from this constitution or other SGA governing documents.

### **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 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 Student Observer
- d) Intercampus Liaison
- e) International Student Senator
- f) Multicultural Student Senator
- g) Gender and Sexuality Senator
- h) Environmental Senator
- i) Student Senate representatives to the following faculty committees:
  1. Curriculum
  2. Student Life

**Section 2.** The following Student Senate members shall be elected in the fall of the school year and shall serve for the remainder of the year in which they are elected. They shall be elected by their individual constituencies.

- a) Off-Campus Senator
- b) Honor House Senator
- c) Residence Hall Senators

**Section 3.** The following positions shall not have a vote on matters before the Student Senate.

- a) Student Government Association Executive Assistant
- b) Inter-Hall Council External Chair
- c) Student Alumni Liaison
- d) Student Athlete Advisory Board Liaison

- e) Advisors of the Student Senate, including:
  - a. Director of Student Activities
  - b. Dean of Students Office Representative(s)
  - f) Student Government Association Chief Technology Officer

#### **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 of the Senate 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 an amendment 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.

**Section 4.** The Student Senate shall be vested with the power to make grammatical corrections, clarifications of legalese, and non-substantive position title changes to this constitution provided those changes are approved by a two thirds vote of the St. Olaf Student Senate.

#### **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 SGA by a two thirds vote of the Student Senate.

**Section 2.** The Bylaws, as a charter associated with this constitution, shall outline the official operating practices and membership of SGA.

**Section 3.** The Student Senate shall have the power to amend the SGA 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 SGA Bylaws no less frequently than every three years, beginning with the 1986-87 year.