

BILL 02

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT
PEMBROKE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Preamble: Whereas the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association Constitution is outdated in both format and content, including mission statements, purposes, membership, and general governance.

Section 1. Let the format be changed to be more easily read, referenced and utilized, and any repetitive or redundant language be removed.

Section 2. Let the content be changed to promote a more efficient governing body for the Student Body of the University of North Carolina.

Section 3. Let the mission be changed into a more pro-active mission, giving the Student Government a proper general sense of direction.

Section 4. Let the purpose be established to provide a specific focus for the Student Government in performing its mission.

Section 5. Let the membership be revised to be more inclusive of all University-enfranchised students, who have rightfully paid into the fees supporting the Student Government.

Section 6. Let the responsibilities of both the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch of the Student Government be established to promote accountability and proper representation of the Student Body.

Section 7. Let the general governing rules above the Student Government be upheld and let responsible self-governance be observed in the Student Government.

Section 8. The Student Senate shall refer to the Student Body, for their approval or rejection, as and in manner provided by law, the following proposed amendments to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association Constitution to read as follows:

VOLUME I

**Constitution of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Student Government Association**

We, the members of the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, desiring to preserve within the university an atmosphere of free discussion, inquiry and self-expression, to ensure the personal freedom and general welfare of the Student Body, and to continue in our traditions of responsible self-governance, do hereby establish this Constitution of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association.

Article I – NAME, MISSION, PURPOSE, AND MEMBERSHIP

SECTION ONE - NAME

The name of this association is the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association (SGA), hereafter referred to as “Student Government.”

SECTION TWO – MISSION

The Student Government exists to champion the concerns of the Student Body and to ensure that the rights of the students are upheld. The Student Government is also tasked to ensure affordable and accessible quality education for its Student Body.

SECTION THREE – PURPOSE

Recognized by administration, faculty, and staff of the University, the purpose of the Student Government shall be to:

- A. Represent the students of the University before the University Administration and the University Board of Trustees; and,
- B. Promote each student’s right as outlined in the Student Handbook and promote the issues deemed beneficial to the students; and,
- C. Address and act on collective interests of students enrolled in the University of North Carolina at Pembroke; and,
- D. Involve students in the political process by educating students on the issues affecting them and the University.

SECTION FOUR – MEMBERSHIP

4.1. There shall be two types of members of the Student Government:

- A. Constituent members of the Student Government;
- B. Officers of the Student Government.

4.1.2 Every student enrolled in the University of North Carolina at Pembroke who has paid into the fees supporting the Student Government is considered a member of the Student Body. Every member of the Student Body is considered a Constituent member of the Student Government for the current semester in which he or she is enrolled. Membership to the Student Government is not restricted to only the undergraduate students of the University. Members of the Student Body are allowed to vote in the Student Government Elections.

4.1.3. Officers of the Student Government is defined as members of the Student Senate, members of the Staff, and the Executive Officers.

4.1.3.1. Executive Officers are as follows:

- A. The Student Body President;
- B. The Student Body Vice President.

4.1.3.2. Members of the Student Senate are as follows:

- A. All elected Senators of the Student Government;
- B. The Student Body Vice President shall be an *ex-officio* non-voting member serving in the capacity as the Student Senate President;
- C. The Members of the Staff shall be *ex-officio* non-voting members of the Student Senate.

4.1.3.3. Members of the Staff are as follows:

- A. The Chief of Staff;
- B. The Student Body Treasurer;
- C. The Student Body Secretary;
- D. The Public Relations Officer;
- E. Any position created by the Student Body President as he/she sees fit, with two thirds (2/3) approval of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE II - EXECUTIVE

SECTION ONE – AUTHORITY

The executive power of the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Body President.

SECTION TWO – DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Executive Officers shall take office at the end of the Spring Commencement and leave office at the end of the following academic year's Spring Commencement. During the term of the Executive Officers, they shall:

- A. Advise the Student Senate on any matters of student policy or on any student programs and services;
- B. Provide coordination and communication with the Student Senate;
- C. Oversee any Student Government initiatives;
- D. Meet at least once every week with the Student Government Staff and Committee Heads, inclusive of the Student Government advisor;
- E. Communicate with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at least once every two weeks.

SECTION THREE– ELECTIONS

The Student Government Executive Officers shall be elected for a one-year term by a majority of those voting in the Student Body Elections. The Executive Officers shall be chosen from the Student Body at large. Requirements for Student Government Executive Offices shall be listed in the Electoral Code.

Executive Officers

SECTION FOUR– STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

The Student Body President shall:

- A. Serve as the student representative on the Board of Trustees, in *ex-officio*;
- B. Appoint students in University Committees, as listed in the Student Government Statutes;
- C. Be responsible for establishing a job description and/or set of job responsibilities for Executive Officers;
- D. Be responsible for seeing that Executive Officers receive proper training in their duties;
- E. Hire members of the Staff within sixty (60) calendar days of proclamation as Student Body President-elect;
- F. Appoint officers necessary for the operation of the Student Government during the Summer sessions;
- G. Have the power to veto any Student Senate act within ten (10) days of approval from the Student Senate President;
- H. Have the power to call special elections, when deemed necessary, with approval of two thirds of the Student Senate;

- I. Have the power to create new Student Government Staff positions, as he/she sees fit, with approval of two thirds of the Student Senate, to be added onto the Student Government Statutes;
- J. Serve as an *ex-officio* delegate of the Student Government to the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments, and be responsible for appointing other delegates in accordance to the Student Government Statutes;
- K. Appoint students to fill vacated elective offices, unless otherwise specified in the Student Body Constitution or Student Body Statutes subject to the approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate.

SECTION FIVE – STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT

The Student Body Vice President shall:

- A. Serve as the Student Senate President;
- B. Serve as presiding officer of all Student Senate meetings;
- C. Call all meetings of the Student Senate;
- D. Forward all legislation within three (3) days of its passing to the Student Body President;
- E. Assist the Student Body President in the performance of his or her duties;
- F. Succeed to the Student Body Presidency in the event of vacating that office;
- G. Exercise the powers of the Student Body President if he or she is prevented from exercising his or her powers;
- H. Be responsible for appointing a Speaker Pro Tempore and Parliamentarian from among the current Student Senate officers, with approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate;
- I. Appoint the Student Senate Committee Chairs;
- J. Have the power to call special meetings of the Student Senate, with a three (3) day notice prior to the date of the special meeting.

SECTION SIX – LINES OF SUCCESSION

6.1. If the Student Body President position is vacated for any reason, the Senate President shall assume the office of Student Body President.

6.2. If the Senate President position is vacated for any reason, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall assume the office of Senate President.

6.2.1. If the Speaker Pro Tempore position is vacant when the Senate President position is vacated, the Student Body President has the authority to appoint a current Senator to be Senate President with approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate.

6.2.2. If in the event of a write-in victory for an individual running for Student Body President and results in a vacancy in the Senate President position, the Student Body President-elect may appoint an interim Senate President from the Senator-elect pool, to be approved by the Student Senate in the following session.

ARTICLE III - LEGISLATIVE

SECTION ONE – THE STUDENT SENATE

The supreme legislative authority of the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Senate.

SECTION TWO – SESSIONS OF THE STUDENT SENATE

Each regular session of the Student Senate begins on the week prior to the beginning of the Fall semester and shall end on the week prior to the final exams for the Spring semester.

SECTION THREE – COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT SENATE

The Student Senate will be composed of student senators elected in processes outlined in the Electoral Code.

3.1. There will be a minimum of seven senators per year level.

3.2. Special Officers of the Student Senate

The Special Officers of the Student Senate shall be:

- A. The Student Senate President;
- B. The Speaker Pro Tempore;
- C. The Student Senate Secretary;
- D. The Parliamentarian.

3.2.1. The Student Government Vice President will serve as *ex-officio* Senate President.

3.2.1.1. The Senate President will not be given voting privileges in the Student Senate.

3.2.2. An incumbent Senator shall be appointed by the Senate President to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore with approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate.

3.2.2.1. In the event of the President of the Senate's absence, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve as Senate President.

3.2.2.2. The Speaker Pro Tempore will not be given voting privileges in the Student Senate when acting as Senate President.

3.2.3. The Student Government Secretary will serve as *ex-officio* Student Senate Secretary.

3.2.3.1. The Student Senate Secretary will not be given voting privileges in the Student Senate.

3.2.4. An incumbent Senator shall be appointed by the Senate President to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Student Senate, working directly under the Student Senate Secretary.

3.2.4.1. In the event of the Student Senate Secretary's absence, the Assistant Secretary of the Student Senate will serve as Student Senate Secretary.

3.2.5. An incumbent Senator shall be appointed by the Senate President to serve as the Parliamentarian of the Student Senate.

3.2.5.1. The Parliamentarian shall be the reference and adviser for all parliamentary questions of the Student Senate.

3.2.5.2. In the event that no incumbent Senator is willing or able to serve as the Parliamentarian, the Student Government Advisor shall serve as the Parliamentarian in the interim.

3.2.6. Appointed Special Officers of the Student Senate must be elected within the first two weeks of the beginning of the Student Senate Session, with the exception of the Senate President.

3.3. Duties of the Student Senate

The Student Government Senate shall:

- A. Accredit its own membership;
- B. Establish its own meeting time;
- C. Establish its own rules of procedure, which shall be included in the Student Body Statutes;
- D. Enact all legislation necessary to promote the general welfare of the Student Body;
- E. Approve an annual Student Government budget;
- F. Provide for the compilation and publication of any Student Government document to inform the Student Body;
- G. Govern and oversee the Student Body General Elections;
- H. Have the power to review any Student Government elections and decide its validity within ten (10) days;
- I. Allocate funds to its constituents and programs;
- J. Have the power to override any Presidential veto with a three-fourths approval from the Student Senate;
- K. Confirm or reject any appointments by the Student Body President and/or the Student Senate President with a two-thirds vote;
- L. Try all impeachments and suspensions by a three-fourths majority vote any elected or appointed official of the Student Government for malfeasance;

- M. Not enact any law abridging its powers designated by this Constitution;
- N. Not deny floor privileges to elected officers of the Student Government, University Faculty members, or University Administrative officers.

ARTICLE IV – STUDENT GOVERNMENT STAFF

SECTION ONE – PURPOSE

The Student Government Staff shall be appointed for the assistance to the Student Body President and execution of duties not applicable to the Executive Officers or the Student Senate.

SECTION TWO – APPOINTMENT

Members of the Student Government Staff shall be appointed by the Student Body President and approved by two-thirds of the Student Senate.

SECTION THREE – COMPOSITION

The membership of the Student Government Staff shall be found in the Student Government Statutes.

SECTION FOUR – ACCOUNTABILITY

The Student Body President shall have the authority to remove any member of the Student Government Staff from office as he or she sees fit.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNANCE

SECTION ONE – ILLEGAL ACTS PROHIBITION

The Student Government and all its constituents shall abide by the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America, the Constitution and Laws of the state of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith.

SECTION TWO – OPEN MEETINGS

The Student Government and all its constituents shall follow the Open Meetings Law of North Carolina, N.C. General Statutes Chapter 143, Article 33C.

SECTION THREE – OPEN RECORDS

The Student Government and all its constituents shall follow the Public Records Law of North Carolina, N.C. General Statutes Chapter 132.

SECTION FOUR – RULES OF ORDER

Except as otherwise stated in the Student Government Statutes, the Student Government shall follow the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised as their parliamentary authority.

SECTION FIVE – ELECTIONS

The Student Government and all its constituents shall follow the Student Government Electoral Code for the Student Body General Elections.

SECTION SIX – MEETINGS

6.1. Regular meetings of the Student Senate are to be held once a week, at the time established by the Student Senate.

6.2. Special Meetings may be called by the Student Senate President at any time, with restrictions of a three (3) day notification.

6.3. Quorum shall be defined as three-fifths (3/5) of the current Senator membership. No business may be conducted without a quorum.

6.4. Meetings may not be rescheduled or cancelled to accommodate Student Government sponsored activities.

ARTICLE VI – STATUTES

The Statutes of the Student Government shall be the by-laws of this Constitution and shall require passage by approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION ONE – PROCESS

All amendments to this Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote in approval of those students voting in the referendum following either:

- A. A two-thirds majority vote from the Student Senate or,
- B. A petition signed by thirty percent of all members of the Student Government Association.

1.1. A bill must be presented to the Student Senate two (2) weeks prior to a vote on the considered amendment.

1.2. The Government Operations Committee shall appoint officers with the responsibility of reviewing the Student Government Constitution every two (2) years for amendment.

1.2.1. This does not restrict amendments and review of the Student Government Constitution to the required two (2) years.

SECTION TWO – PUBLICATION

The Student Government must provide a copy of the amendment to the Pine Needle at least one week prior to the election of the amendment.

University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association

62nd Session, 2010 - 2011

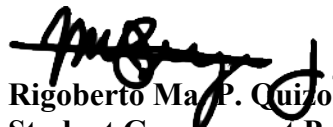
Section 9. This Constitution is to take effect on the 8th of May 2011.

I hereby certify the foregoing bill was read twice and adopted by acclamation in the Senate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association, this the 13th day of April, 2011.



**Kimberly Lynn Brassard
Student Government Vice President**

I hereby signify my approval of the foregoing bill as adopted by the Senate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association, this the 13th day of April, 2011.



**Rigoberto M. P. Quizon Jr.
Student Government President**