

Changes in the UNCP SGA Constitution:

**Preamble: word changes:**

- a. Original: “We, the members of the Student Body of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, desiring to: Preserve within the University...”

Change: “We, the members of the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, desiring to preserve within the University...”

- b. Original: “... and to continue in our traditions of responsible self-government, ...”

Change: “... and to continue in our tradition of responsible self-governance, ...”

Rationale: Grammar and formatting – mostly clerical.

**Article I: Content change:**

Original:

Article I: Name

Section 1: The governing organization of the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke shall be known as the Student Government Association of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The Student Government shall be recognized as the representative of the Student Body and as such its action supersedes those of all other student organizations.

Change:

**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.”

Rationale: Uniformity in marketing – the SGA is known as both UNCP SGA and SGA of UNCP. UNCP SGA is less passive than SGA of UNCP. Removal of “The Student Government shall be recognized as the representative of the Student Body and as such its action supersedes those of all other student organizations.” – exclusivity of representation is covered in Section Three of proposed change.

## **Article II: Content change:**

Original:

### Article II: Mission

Section 1: The purpose of the Student Government Association is to represent and safeguard interests of the students. It is basically a political organization providing students with an avenue for action in matters pertaining to student rights and welfare. Although discipline is the legal responsibility of the administration, the principle of Student Government is fully supported by the administration and faculty.

Change:

### **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.

Moved under Article I in proposal.

Rationale: Current mission is mostly descriptive of the Student Government Association. Recognition of authority of the Student Government is covered in Section Three of the proposal. Proposed mission is more active and goal-oriented: “champion the concerns”, “ensure that the rights of the students are upheld”, and “ensure affordable and accessible quality education”

New addition:

### **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.

Rationale: As a support to the mission statement. Created separate statement to keep mission short and straight to the point. Mission covers a general sense of what the Student Government is tasked to do, purpose provides a more specific sense of direction.

## **Article III: Content Change:**

Original:

### Article III: Membership

#### Section 1: Classes of Membership

There shall be a minimum of five senators per class or one representative on the Senate for every one hundred fifty (150) students. The enrollment for credit for the previous September shall be the basis for determining the number of representatives. There shall also be two positions for part-time students and one position for graduate students.

#### Section 2: Qualification of Membership

Every full-time student who has at least a 2.5 cumulative average (on the 4.0 system) has the privilege of seeking positions of leadership in the Student Government Association by either appointment or election.

#### Section 3: Methods of Attaining Membership after Elections

3.1. Vacant Senator Positions: If any Senator position(s) remain vacant one month after the first full meeting of the Student Senate, they will become Senator-at-large positions, available to any student, regardless of class, level, or status. Upon transition to Senator-at-large positions, students interested shall submit an application along with a grade release form one week prior to presenting themselves to the Senate. After all required materials mentioned above are received and the student presents themselves to the Senate, with a two-thirds approval of the Senate is required to be appointed as a Senator by the President of the Senate.

3.2. Term of Membership: A member's term of office shall run from one Spring Commencement to the next.

#### Section 4: Duties, Rights, and Obligations of the Student Government Association Members

4.1. Pre-obligations for Senate Members: Each member of the Student Government Association must attend an information workshop to be advised of Parliamentary Procedures, Constitutional guidelines and other duties that are required of each Student Government Association member. The President of the Student Government, Vice President of the Student Government, Constitution Committee Chair, and Parliamentarian will be responsible for presenting the information at the workshop. This workshop shall be held within one month following the confirmation of elections. Only medical or family emergencies shall be excused, and the senator would make up the workshop with the executive officers.

4.2. Pre-obligations for Officers: Each person that accepts the responsibility of holding a paid officer position in the Student Government Association and Association of Campus Entertainment (ACE) renders themselves ineligible for Homecoming King and Queen.

Removed: The Student Government is a separate entity from the Association of Campus Entertainment.

4.3. Responsibilities of Student Government Association Members

Removed: Responsibilities are found in Article IV of current constitution and Article III of proposal.

4.3.1. Members of the Senate shall be absent from no more than two meetings of the Student Senate within one semester. More than two absences within a semester may result in impeachment by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

4.3.2. Members of the Senate must serve on no less than two standing committees.

Change:

#### **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.

Rationale: Outlines type of members in the Student Government - going against the current perception that membership to the Student Government is attained through an elected position.

**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.

Rationale: Discusses and describes constituent members of the Student Government. Includes part-time, full-time, and graduate students.

**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.

Removed all instances of elections (essentially the entire Article III). All instances of elections were moved to the Electoral Code (see Statutes, chapter 6). Replaced with actual membership clauses and description of all officer positions. Moved several offices from Executive to Staff – also dissolved the Executive Board.

Rationale: Students often have the misconception that membership to the Student Government is only attained after being elected into a position of office. Students who have paid into the fees supporting the Student Government are automatically considered members of the Student Government. Also, the Executive Board is dissolved. Historically the Executive Board has been inefficient and have no real purpose, in addition, currently executive power is held by five students – two of which are appointed, not elected (Secretary, Public Relations) and one has a support staff function (Treasurer). Thus, the Staff category has been created, to assist the two Executive Officers.

## **Article IV: Content Changes**

Original:

### **ARTICLE IV: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1:** The legislative powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Senate.

#### **Section 2: Members of the Senate**

- 2.1** Senate membership is to include all members of the Student Government Association, with the sole exception of the Student Government President.

Removed: Adds into exclusivity of membership “all members of the Student Government” thus implying that there is no need for elections since all students are automatically senators. Also implies all other officers are senators – even non-voting *ex-officio* members.

- 2.2** The President of the Senate, with approval of two-thirds of the Senate membership, will appoint a representative to fill any Senate position.

Removed: This refers to the at-large position – however, wording implies that the Senate President can appoint anyone – without application, as long as the Senate approves of the individual.

- 2.3** The Executive Officers of the Senate shall be: the President of the Senate, Vice President of the Senate and Parliamentarian of the Senate.

Removed: Statement of “Executive Officers” in the Senate may confuse students as to who the Executive Officers are.

- 2.4** The Officers of the Senate shall be the Officer of Information Technology, Officer of Public Relations, Officer of State and National Affairs, Vice-Secretary of the Senate, and Vice-Parliamentarian of the Senate. These officers are not members of the Senate Executive branch.

Removed: Historically unfilled positions and conflicting positions within the proposed staff.

2.5 The President of the Senate shall be the Vice President of the Student Government Association.

Removed: redundant to description to Student Body Vice President description.

2.6 All Officers of the Senate, with the exception of the President of the Senate, shall be elected at the first meeting of the Senate. These officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate membership.

### **Section 3: Powers and Duties of the Student Senate**

3.1 Determine its rules and procedures, elect its officers, except those designated herein

3.2 Make a thorough examination of all Student Government elections within ten days, and be the sole judge of validity thereof and the qualifications of the officers elected therein

3.3 Decide all tie elections at the first meeting following the examination of election results

3.4 Approve all recommendations of the President of the Student Government Association for Student Government administrative positions as well as presidential and University committees.

Removed: This implies that the Senate cannot disagree with the President.

3.5 Require reports from all officers of the Student Government Association

3.6 Approve a semester budget for the Student Government Association funds

3.7 Provide a copy of the Student Government Association budget to the PINE NEEDLE within thirty days following the beginning of each semester

3.8 Meet as a full body at least once each week

3.9 Establish rules of procedure which shall be included in the Student Government Association By-Laws

3.10 Enact all laws necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the Student Body and to govern Student Government elections

3.11 Enact by a two-thirds vote of the present Senate membership the Student Government Association By-Laws

3.12 Override a presidential veto by a three-fourths vote of the present Senate membership

Most of the changes done to the responsibilities of the Senate are the same in the proposal, however, wording was changed to reflect uniformity and ease of sentence comprehension.

## **Section 4: Duties of Officers of the Senate**

### **4.1 Officer of Information Technology**

- 4.1.1 Be responsible for reconstructing, maintaining, and updating the Student Government portion of the UNC Pembroke website
- 4.1.2 Upload Senate committee, Senate officer, and Senate executive reports and legislation online
- 4.1.3 Advise and assists the President with obtaining and deploying new technologies, including storage, networking, and video recording
- 4.1.4 Be responsible for any other technological and information needs of the Senate, Senate President, and Student Government President
- 4.1.5 The Officer of Information Technology will be appointed by the Student Government President and confirmed by 2/3 vote of the Senate.

Removed: Access to the website is restricted to the administrative assistant of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. Historically unfilled position. Support staff function – does not necessarily need to be a senator.

### **4.2 Public Relations Officer**

- 4.2.1 Serve as an ex-officio member of the Senate
- 4.2.2 Serve as a spokesperson for the Student Government Association
- 4.2.3 Produce a bi-monthly publication of Student Government Activities
- 4.2.4 Update and maintain the SGA section of the University Center advertisement board

Removed: *ex-officio* membership of staff members is stated in Article I of proposal.

### **4.3 Vice-Secretary**

- 4.3.1 Be responsible for carrying out the duties of the Secretary in his/her absence
- 4.3.2 Assist the Secretary in tasks as s/he sees fit
- 4.3.3 Be responsible for the end of year report

Removed: changed job description to only serve in the Secretary's absence.

### **4.4 Parliamentarian**

- 4.4.1 Be available to all Senate members for questions concerning parliamentary procedure

4.4.2 Attend all workshops for new Senators to give instruction on parliamentary procedure

4.4.3 Ensure that all Senate meetings run according to parliamentary procedure

Removed: changed job description to be reference for parliamentary procedure. Added clause in the event no senator is available/capable/comfortable being parliamentarian.

**4.5 Vice-Parliamentarian**

4.5.1 Be responsible for carrying out the duties of the Parliamentarian in his/her absence

Removed: no real need for a vice-parliamentarian.

**4.6 Officer of State and National Affairs**

4.6.1 Be a delegate for the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments, and attend all meetings of the organization

4.6.2 Give monthly reports to the Senate concerning issues being addressed by the UNCASG

4.6.3 Be responsible for addressing issues of state and national concern which will affect the student body of UNC Pembroke

4.6.4 the Officer of State and National Affairs shall be appointed by the Student Government President and confirmed by 2/3 vote of the Senate

Removed: *ex-officio* delegates to the Association of Student Governments are: already listed as responsibilities of the Student Government President and the committee heads. Officers are expected to be knowledgeable of state and national issues that may affect the student body.

**Section 5: Restrictions of the Student Senate**

- 5.1 The Student Senate shall not enact any law abridging any of its powers delegated by this Constitution
- 5.2 The Student Senate shall not infringe upon the secrecy of the ballot in Student Body elections
- 5.3 The Student Senate shall not deny floor privileges to elected officers of the Student Government, University department heads, or the University administrative officers
- 5.4 The Student Senate shall not meet in Executive Session except in accordance with NCGS (North Carolina General Statute) 143-318.11, 143-318.14, 143-318.15, 143-318.18 (The Open Meeting Law)

Removed: some items were moved to Duties of the Senate – other in Article Five: Governance.

Changes:

**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.

Rationale: Clarification of when the Senate Sessions begin and end.

**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 maximum of seven senators per year level.

Rationale: Increased number of senator seats to accommodate increasing student population growth.

### **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.

Rationale: Changed Senate Vice President position to Speaker Pro Tempore to mirror Robert's Rules of Order.

**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.

Rationale: Mirrors job description found in Statutes and in current constitution.

**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.

Rationale: not to add to the advisor's responsibilities, this shall only be done in the event that no senator is knowledgeable enough in parliamentary procedure. this covers absences of the parliamentarian, that the advisor will serve as interim parliamentarian.

**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.

Rationale: accountability of the senate - to appoint officers in a timely manner.

### **3.3. Duties of the Student Senate**

The Student Government Senate shall:

- A. Accredite 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.

Redefined membership to the Senate and specified the sessions of the Senate. Reworded “executive officers” to “special officers”. Maintained duties of the senate (several rewording and rearrangement). Open Meetings law moved to Article V of proposal.

Rationale: Clarification of membership to the Senate was needed. Dissolved the “Executive Officers” of the senate – reducing redundancies in job descriptions. The addition of “Special Officers” was to ensure proper succession and Senate operations.

### **Article V: Content Changes**

Original:

#### **ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

##### **Section 1: Student Government Executive Officers**

Executive officers of the Student Government Association shall be the Student Government President, the Student Government Vice President/Student Senate President, the Student Government Treasurer, and the Student Government Secretary. The executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in these officers.

Removed: Executive power changed from everyone in the Executive Board to just the President.

##### **Section 2: Terms and Requirements of Office**

The Student Government Association Executive Officers shall be elected for a one-year term by a plurality of those voting in the Student Government elections. Each officer shall be enrolled and in good standings with the University at the time of election. Terms for officers begin immediately following the Spring Semester Commencement and end immediately after the following Spring Commencement. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall each be required to be enrolled as a full-time student from the time of the fall semester of the beginning of his/her term in office until the end of the spring semester of the same academic year, and not be involved in a professional semester program. Neither the President nor the Vice President of the Student Government Association will be allowed to hold a President or Vice President position in any club or fraternal-type organization at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke while he/she is serving in an executive capacity of the Student Government Association.

Removed: All instances of Elections have been moved to the Electoral Code.

### **Section 3: Duties of Executive Officers**

#### **3.1 Student Government**

##### **President**

##### **3.1.1 Lead by example**

Removed: This is not a constitutional responsibility.

##### **3.1.2 Serve as student representative on Board of Trustees**

Removed: Student representation on the BOT is not dictated by the constitution. It is dictated by the NC General Statutes, thus, this responsibility must state *ex-officio* membership.

##### **3.1.3 Appoint students to certain University committees**

##### **3.1.4 Hire the Association of Campus Entertainment coordinator.**

Removed: ACE is now a separate entity from the SGA.

##### **3.1.5 Be responsible for establishing a job description and/or set of job responsibilities for officers**

##### **3.1.6 Be responsible for seeing that officers receive proper training in their duties**

##### **3.1.7 Establish the “tone” for the SGA office by conducting himself/herself in a professional manner**

Removed: Again, not a constitutional responsibility.

##### **3.1.8 Set and maintain established office hours, at least 8 hours each week**

Removed: Moved to Statutes.

##### **3.1.9 Represent the Student Government Association of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke at the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments**

##### **3.1.10 Give correspondence, travel, etc., to secretary in a timely manner**

Removed: Vague.

##### **3.1.11 Attend all SGA Senate Meetings**

##### **3.1.12 Work closely with Treasurer and SGA Secretary on budgetary matters**

Removed: Moved to Statutes.

**3.1.13** Meet with Executive Board on a weekly basis

Removed: Executive Board is to be dissolved. Changed into meeting with the staff – found in statutes.

**3.1.14** Support SGA by attending SGA sponsored events and assisting with SGA sponsored activities

Removed: Not a constitutional responsibility.

**3.1.15** Meet with Director of Student Activities on a regular basis

Removed: No such position.

**3.1.16** Establish effective communication within the SGA Office

Removed: Not a constitutional responsibility.

**3.1.17** Appoint officers for summer session, in absence of Executive Board

**3.1.18** Contact the SGA Office either in person or by telephone every day during the SGA working week

Removed: Vague.

**3.1.19** Call special meetings of the Senate as deemed necessary

Reworded: Added restriction to special meetings.

**3.1.20** Develop and present a budget to the Senate at the beginning of each semester

Removed: Responsibility transferred to Treasurer.

**3.1.21** When deemed necessary, the Student Government President shall call special elections with the approval of the Student Senate by a two-thirds vote of the present Senate membership

**3.2 Student Government Vice-President/Student Senate President**

**3.2.1** Be responsible for presiding over the Senate meetings

Reworded: Language issue and consistency with proposal.

**3.2.2** Be responsible for appointing Senators to various committees as well as committee Chairs, must also work with committee Chairs to maintain Senator attendance log

Removed: Moved to statutes, removed attendance log clause.

**3.2.3** Be responsible for establishing and maintaining set office hours, at least 8 hours each week

Removed: Moved to statutes.

**3.2.4** Give travel, correspondence, etc., to secretary in a timely manner

Removed: Vague.

**3.2.5** Be responsible for elections

Removed: Responsibility transferred to Commission on Elections.

**3.2.6** Be responsible for appointing a Student Senate Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Vice Parliamentarian from among the senate membership with two-thirds approval of the Senate

Removed: Covered in Article III.

**3.2.7** Represent Student Body President in his/her absence

Reworded: Language issue and consistency.

**3.3 Executive Assistant**

**3.3.1** Have authority over report submissions by Executive officers, including executive and Senate staff, and any Senate reports as required by the Student Senate President or Student Senate Vice President

**3.3.2** Serve as a projects manager at the request of the Student Government President

**3.3.3** The Executive Assistant will be appointed by the Student Government President and approved by 2/3 vote of the Senate

Removed: Position removed.

### **3.4 Student Government Treasurer**

- 3.4.1** Act as Chief Financial Officer of the Student Body
- 3.4.2** Serve as ex officio member of the Senate
- 3.4.3** Keep records of all expenditures and finances
- 3.4.4** Present a minimum of three budget reports during a semester as determined by the Student Government President, and make each report available to the PINE NEEDLE
- 3.4.5** Receive monthly reports from the Business Office at the beginning of each month
- 3.4.6** Be responsible for establishing and maintaining set office hours, at least 5 hours each week

Removed: Position removed – responsibilities transferred to Statutes.

### **3.5 Student Government Secretary**

- 3.5.1** Be responsible for attending every Senate meeting and taking the minutes
- 3.5.2** Serve as an ex-officio member of the Senate
- 3.5.3** Be responsible for establishing and maintaining set office hours, at least 5 hours each week
- 3.5.4** Carry out tasks designated by the Student Government President and the Student Body Vice President

Removed: Position removed – responsibilities transferred to Statutes.

### **Section 4: Executive Board Duties**

The Executive Board, which shall be comprised of the above mentioned officers in addition to the Student Government Association Advisor, shall be required to meet weekly.

Removed: Executive Board dissolved.

## **Section 5: Line of Succession**

- 5.1** If the Student Government President is removed or leaves office for any reason, (s)he shall be replaced by the Student Senate President, who is the Student Government Vice President.
- 5.2** If the Student Senate President is removed or leaves office for any reason, (s)he shall be replaced by the Student Senate Vice President.
- 5.3** If the Student Senate President or Treasurer is removed or leaves office for any reason and the Student Senate Vice President position is vacant:
  - 5.3.1** The Student Government President has the authority to appoint a new Senate President/Treasurer from amongst the current Senate membership
  - 5.3.2** The appointee must be approved by a majority vote of the Senate
- 5.4** If the Student Senate Vice President is removed or leaves office for any reason, the Student Senate President shall appoint a new Vice President with a two-thirds vote from the Senate.
- 5.5** If the Student Body Treasurer is removed or leaves office for any reason, (s)he shall be replaced by a special election thirty (30) days after the vacation of this position, unless the spring election falls within this thirty (30) day period.
- 5.6** If the Student Senate Secretary is removed or leaves office for any reason, then the Student Senate President shall appoint a new secretary with a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

Removed: Entire section reworded, removed instances of Treasurer and Secretary.

Change:

## **ARTICLE II - EXECUTIVE**

### **SECTION ONE – Authority**

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

Rationale: Having multiple members with executive powers reduces the accountability for the senior leadership. Providing the Student Body President sole executive authority creates a single responsible individual for all executive acts done.

## **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.

Rationale: creates a general responsibility for the executive officers as a whole, in addition to individual responsibilities listed in the constitution and statutes.

## **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.

Rationale: Consistency and cleanliness - all instances of elections have been moved to the electoral code, found in the statutes.

## **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*;

Rationale: Added *ex-officio*, with regard to the NC General Statutes.

- 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;

Rationale: for additional responsibilities not listed in this constitution or the statutes.

- 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;

Rationale: Provides timely and accountable hiring of staff members. Hiring early will allow officers to lay the framework early for the next session.

- 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 meetings of the Student Senate, with a three (3) day notice prior to the date of the special meeting;
- I. Have the power to call special elections, when deemed necessary, with approval of two thirds of the Student Senate;
- J. 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;

Rationale: provides for individual initiatives that arise from the session, which may or may not be covered by the Senate.

- K. 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;
- L. 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.

## **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 IX: Words and arrangement change:**

Original:

### **ARTICLE IX: Amendment of the Constitution**

**Section 1: Process of Amendment:** All amendments to the Student Government Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of those students voting in the Student Body Referendum following:

.1 A two-thirds majority vote of the entire Senate membership,

or

.2 A petition signed by thirty percent of all University enfranchised students

**Section 2: Publication of Amendment:** The proposed amendment shall be provided to the PINE NEEDLE not less than one nor more than three weeks prior to the election at which it is considered.

#### **Section 3: Notice of Amendment**

A notice is to be given to the entire Senate membership two weeks prior to a vote on a considered amendment.

#### **Section 4: Review of Constitution for Amendment**

The Constitution Committee must review the Student Government Constitution for Amendment every two years.

Removed: changed to Government Operations and Constituent Services Committee.

Change:

## **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 notice must be given to the Student Senate two (2) weeks prior to a vote on the considered amendment.

**1.2.** The Government Operations and Constituent Services 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.

Completely new sections:

## **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.

Rationale: this allows for more flexibility in changes to job descriptions or positions.

### **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.

Rationale: A reminder of the Student Government's capacity as a public body.

### **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.

Rationale: was not added onto the constitution. Although this and the Open Meetings law is a given due to the nature of the Student Government as a public body, not all members are aware of the NC General Statutes.

### **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.

Rationale: For any vague and uncovered language in the constitution, the Student Government shall refer back to Robert's Rules of Order.

### **SECTION FIVE – Elections**

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

Rationale: A statement, again, for consistency that all instances of the Elections are found in the Statutes.

### **SECTION FOUR – Meetings**

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

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

**4.3.** Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds of the current Senator membership. No business may be conducted without a quorum.

**4.4.** 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.