



CONSTITUTION
of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
of
ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Ratified 4/10/2023

Update Approved Cabinet 7/30/24

PREAMBLE

“As a member of the ABAC community, students possess certain rights and responsibilities in their pursuit of a life-changing experience which affords them the opportunity to prepare for their role in the communities in which they will live and work. All members of the ABAC community bear a responsibility to contribute to an environment that is conducive to the educational experiences of teaching, studying, learning, and participating.”

- ABAC Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities

We, the students of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, desiring a more representative and efficient Student Government; wanting better communications between students and the college administration, faculty, and staff; seeking to cultivate and preserve the ideals of good citizenship on the campus; and hoping to maintain a more complete and fruitful atmosphere of learning at this college, do hereby establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association (SGA), subject to the statutory regulations of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. If any part of the SGA Constitution conflicts with Board of Regents (BOR), University System of Georgia (USG), or ABAC policies and procedures, then BOR, USG, and ABAC policies and procedures shall take precedence over the SGA Constitution.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the SGA shall be to represent and voice the concerns of all students of ABAC in all institutional matters, while creating legislation and developing programs and activities of practical value to the student body.

Section 1: Vision Statement

- Our vision is to help make Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College the best place in the world to receive an education: a place where students boldly pursue their academic and life goals, a place where there is widespread student access to on-campus resources and support, and a place where there is collaboration between students, faculty, and administrators.

Section 2: Mission Statement

- Our mission is to empower student organizations, embody student opinions, preserve student integrity, and enrich the student experience.

ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association (hereinafter referred to as the “SGA”) of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Section 2: Power and Responsibilities of the Student Government Association

The primary purpose of the SGA shall be to represent and voice the concerns of all students of ABAC in all institutional matters, while creating legislation and developing programs and activities of practical value to the student body. It is recognized that Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a state educational institution operating under the authority of the Board of Regents Policy. Since the Board of Regents dictates that each state educational institution has an established student government, the Student Government Association derives its power from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Section 3: Branches of Government

1. The ABAC SGA shall be divided into two branches: The Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. These branches shall work closely to fulfill the mission of the SGA.
2. No power or authority belonging to one branch shall be applied to the other unless otherwise stated in this Constitution.

Section 4: Membership

1. All students, by virtue of their enrollment at ABAC (hereinafter referred to as “the student body”) shall be subject to this SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct.
2. The right to vote in any student body election or referendum shall be outlined under the SGA Election Codes.

3. All students shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the institution, but these rules shall at no time and in no way abridge the students' rights as defined under the Constitution of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of Georgia.
4. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, shall be extended to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or sex and gender identity.

Section 5: Faculty Advisor of Student Government Association

The Faculty Advisor to the SGA shall be appointed by the Provost, in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs (i.e., the Vice President for Student Affairs, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dean of Students), and shall serve a term of office at the discretion of the Provost and Dean of Students and Office of Student Affairs. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the Provost and Office of Student Affairs Administrators noted above should confer with sitting SGA officers before assigning a Faculty Advisor. The Advisor will be selected from within the faculty ranks. The Advisor may attend SGA meetings and participate in discussion and debate. However, the SGA Advisor may not vote, make motions, or second motions. The SGA Advisor will work closely with the Dean of Students and Office of Student Affairs to ensure that members of the SGA maintain the integrity of their respective offices and effectively represent ABAC's diverse student body. The SGA Advisor, alongside the Dean of Students and Office of Student Affairs, reserves the right to recommend official administrative removal of Officers and Senators who fail to uphold the Student Code of Conduct, SGA Code of Conduct, and/or respect for ABAC students, staff, faculty, or administration. The SGA Advisor will ensure that all SGA members adhere to non-discrimination and non-harassment policies as specified in the Student Handbook.

Section 6: Constitutional Committees

Within the Student Government Association there will exist Constitutional Committees as deemed necessary by SGA. Their creation and installation alongside the committees' duties and powers shall be enumerated in the SGA By-laws.

ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Composition

The Student Government Association Executive Branch (hereinafter referred to as the "Executive Board") shall consist of the offices of President, Vice President, Judiciary, Executive of Bainbridge, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, and SGA Faculty Advisor shall exist within the Executive Branch, along with necessary deputies and assistants.

Section 2: Authority and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch

The Executive Board of this government shall have authority to execute all necessary legislation and action as defined within the limits of this Constitution and the SGA Bylaws. The specific authority and responsibilities of the Executive Board are as follows:

1. The purpose of the Executive Board shall be to supervise, maintain, and advise on policies, regulations, and recommendations that are formulated by the Legislative Branch in the interest, convenience, and necessity of the student body.
2. The Executive Board will initiate and maintain projects of interest, which have been approved through the proper channels, for the student body and shall recommend to the Legislative Branch any legislation deemed necessary.

Section 3: Duties of the President

1. Shall serve as the liaison between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community.
2. Shall execute, supervise, and maintain all such policies, regulations, and recommendations as formulated by the Legislative Branch.
3. Shall represent the students of ABAC at official institutional functions.
4. Shall work with the SGA Advisor to appoint members to committees and councils of the college as requested by the ABAC Administration.
5. Shall appoint the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications Coordinator from among the sitting SGA Senators.
6. Shall be the head of the Executive Branch.
7. Shall preside over the SGA closed meetings.
8. Shall have the authority to call a special session of the entire SGA, shall have the authority to call an emergency meeting of the Executive Board, shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the SGA, and shall ensure that all SGA business is executed properly and according to schedule. Notice to the required attendees should, if possible, be given at least three (3) days before the called meeting.
9. Shall serve as the institution's delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
10. May be appointed to any standing institutional committee or board other than those of the SGA or may appoint a representative, in consultation with the SGA Faculty Advisor or Office of Student Affairs, to serve in such capacity.
11. May, in consultation with the SGA Faculty Advisor and Office of Student Affairs, create positions, fill positions, and remove appointees from positions within SGA to promote the general welfare of the SGA, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Senate.
12. The authority to veto any measure, legislation, or other presented documentation from the SGA Senate before its passage and before its acceptance by the student body, in part or as a whole, is solely vested in the Office of the SGA President. The SGA President has one week to issue a veto.

Section 4: Duties of the Vice President

1. Shall serve as the President of the Senate and preside over the meetings of the Senate.
2. Shall preside over the meetings of the Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs).
3. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the SGA President.

4. Shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the SGA President if the office of SGA President is vacated for any reason.
5. Shall serve in any capacity that will assist the SGA President in the execution of actions taken by SGA.
6. Shall report all business concerning Category 2 organizations of the Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs).
7. Shall serve as the institution's delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in the event the SGA President cannot attend.
8. Shall report any legislation passed by the Senate and provide any necessary Senatorial information to the SGA President and the SGA Executive Board.

Section 5: Duties of the Judiciary

1. Shall oversee the proper procedures and execution of SGA elections by way of communicating with the Office of Student Affairs.
2. Shall govern and interpret all provisions and guidelines dictated in the SGA Constitution.
3. Shall inform the SGA Advisor of any SGA Member's failure to maintain qualifications and requirements of the Member's office, as detailed in the SGA Constitution.
4. Shall act as an advisor to SGA presiding officers on matters of parliamentary procedure, as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.
5. Shall chair the Election Committee and oversee the election process, with its respective allocation of electoral votes, as carried out by the Office of Student Affairs.
6. Shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining all records and files electronically that pertain to SGA.
7. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the SGA President.

Section 6: Duties of the Executive of Bainbridge

1. Shall serve as the liaison between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community for the Bainbridge campus.
2. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the SGA President.
3. Shall maintain proper communication between campuses for coordination of SGA activities and SGA matters in Bainbridge.
4. Shall chair any respective SGA-approved initiative residing in Bainbridge.
5. Shall report all business concerning Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) of Bainbridge and assume the responsibility of all RSO communication of Bainbridge.
6. Shall use allocated funds of the SGA Budget for Bainbridge to their discretion with approval from the Office of Student Affairs by way of the SGA Treasurer.

Section 7: Duties of the Secretary

1. Shall retain all Senatorial privileges and voting rights.
2. Shall be the recorder of Senate, Executive Board, RSO, and any specially called meetings.

3. Shall maintain attendance records of Senate members and guests to meetings and notify the Judiciary of any SGA members whose official attendance record may fail to maintain the requirements of SGA officials.
4. Shall deliver meeting minutes to the Communications Coordinator in a timely manner.
5. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the SGA President and Vice President.

Section 8: Duties of the Treasurer

1. Shall retain all Senatorial privileges and voting rights.
2. Shall oversee SGA budget allocations as approved by SGA.
3. Shall obtain approval from the Office of Student Affairs for SGA use of monies for both campuses.
4. Shall supervise the proper expenditure of all monies of the SGA and shall give reports on these expenditures upon the request of the Executive Board.
5. Shall oversee the proper dispersion of monies, as based on the allocated percentages found in the SGA By-Laws for the Executive of Bainbridge and the Senators.
6. Shall maintain records of all business transactions which involve the SGA funds.
7. Shall assume any other duties delegated by the SGA President and Vice President.

Section 9: Duties of the Communications Coordinator

1. Shall retain all Senatorial privileges and voting rights.
2. Shall oversee the official social media platforms of SGA, with timely updates to the student body.
3. Shall be responsible for the communication of SGA updates and activities (e.g., meeting minutes, events, etc.)
4. Shall be responsible for the scheduling of events through proper channels.
5. Shall be responsible for all advertising (flyers, boards, etc.)
6. Shall, under direction of the SGA President, compile and organize approved SGA communications to be released to the student body in a timely fashion.
7. Shall assume any other duties delegated by the SGA President and Vice President.

Section 10: Election of the Executive Branch

All election procedures of the Executive Branch shall be dictated by the SGA Election Codes and overseen by both the Judiciary and the Office of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE IV: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Composition

The Student Government Association Legislative Branch (hereinafter referred to as the “Senate”) shall consist of the President of the Senate, the Judiciary, and all Senators from each of the academic schools.

Section 2: Authority and Responsibilities of the Legislative Branch

The Senate shall formulate such policies, regulations, and recommendations that shall relate to the student body. The specific authority and responsibility of the Senate are as follows:

1. The Senate shall have the authority to make recommendations on issues relevant to the general welfare of the student body.
2. The Senate shall have the authority to pass legislation, consisting of bills, resolutions, and amendments.
3. The Senate shall have the authority to make statutes governing the operations of the SGA.
4. Senators must be present, whether physically or virtually, to vote on any item or issue. There shall be no voting by proxy.
5. A quorum of the Senate shall be two-thirds of all members of the Senate on roll. A quorum must be present to conduct official business. (A first reading of proposed legislation is allowed in the absence of a quorum; however, no voting may take place until a quorum is present.)
6. The process of passing legislation shall use an absolute majority (50%+1) vote in determining the outcome of the respective legislation.
7. The Senate shall have the authority to override an SGA Presidential veto on any statute or recommendation by an absolute majority (50%+1) vote of the entire voting membership of the Senate.

Section 3: Duties of the President of the Senate

1. Shall be the SGA Vice President.
2. Shall preside over and conduct meetings of the Senate, should meetings be called by the Senate.
3. May, in the case of a tie, vote on any measure before the Senate.
4. Shall create Senate committees and appoint committee members from the sitting Senators.
5. Shall have the authority to withhold vote on any measure before the Senate to encourage further consideration for up to one week unless such directive is overridden by two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
6. Shall assist in the coordination of meetings between Senators and college personnel.
7. Shall work in conjunction with the SGA Executive Board to ensure Senators fulfill their duties.
8. Shall report to the Senate any SGA President-approved discussions from the Executive Board.
9. Shall appoint the Senate President Pro-Tempore from among the sitting SGA Senators with a two-thirds majority vote from the Senate.

Section 4: Duties of Senate President Pro-Tempore

1. Will perform all duties and responsibilities of the SGA Vice President in the event the Vice President is absent from a meeting.
2. Shall actively assist with the appointment of members to Senate committees.

3. Shall assume special tasks, projects, or initiatives, regarding both internal and external matters, as deemed necessary by the President of the Senate.

Section 5: Duties of Senators

1. Shall propose legislation on behalf of the student body. Legislation is defined as bills, resolutions, and amendments.
2. Shall meet with their respective School's Dean every two weeks and share relevant updates with the SGA.
3. Shall report in the Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) meetings all business concerning Category 3 organizations within their respective School.
4. Shall attend all required SGA meetings and assigned Senate committee meetings.
5. Shall have the authority, along with three other Senators, to call a special meeting of the entire SGA. Notice to the required attendees should be given, if possible, at least three days before the called meeting.
6. Shall use allocated funds by the SGA Budget for their respective School to their discretion.
 - a. Use of allocated funds are communicated by the SGA Treasurer to the Office of Student Affairs.
 - b. Use of allocated funds must be approved by the Dean of Students.

Section 6: Research and Solution Committees

Any Senator may propose a research and solution committee to the Senate. Once approved by an absolute majority (50%+1), the Senator who proposed the special committee will serve as chair and may recruit non-SGA members to assist in creating a research and development report. The completed report is to be submitted to the SGA President, who will then present the report to the SGA Advisor for approval before submitting the report to senior ABAC administration.

Section 7: Election of the Legislative Branch

All election procedures of the Legislative Branch shall be dictated by the SGA Election Codes and overseen by both the Judiciary and the Office of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE V: LEGISLATION

Section 1: Legislation Types

Bills

Shall be drafted to propose allocation of SGA funds, creation of initiatives, formation of events, etc.

Resolutions

Shall be drafted to express an official position of the SGA on behalf of the ABAC student body.

Amendments

Shall be drafted to change a section of the SGA Constitution. The approved amendment shall be added to the SGA By-Laws.

Section 2: General Procedures

1. While members of the Executive Board may recommend or request legislation, only Senators may introduce legislation.
2. Before enactment, Bills and Resolutions must be:
 - a. Proposed in Senate meetings for discussion.
 - b. Entered into the meeting minutes.
 - c. Passed by an absolute majority vote (50% + 1).
 - d. Presented by the President of the Senate to the SGA President.
 - e. Signed by the SGA President.

Section 3: Amendment Procedures

1. When a proposed amendment is presented, no debate shall occur about the amendment.
2. The President of the Senate shall provide notice of and present details of the proposed amendment to the Judiciary, Office of Student Affairs, and SGA Advisor to receive counsel on the amendment process and advice regarding the proposed amendment prior to Senate discussion of the amendment proposal.
3. After the meeting with the Judiciary, Office of Student Affairs, and SGA Advisor, the President of the Senate shall decide whether to move the process forward to discussion.
4. If the proposed amendment moves forward, the Senate shall discuss the proposed amendment.
5. After the discussion of the amendment, the Senate shall vote on the proposed amendment.
6. - If the amendment passes the Senate with an absolute majority vote (50%+1), the amendment must be sent to the student body for review and will be voted on at the next student body meeting by the RSOs.
7. If the amendment has passed both the Senate and RSOs with an absolute majority vote (50%+1) in both, the amendment will then require the signature of the SGA President.
8. The SGA President must review the finalized amendment with the Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor prior to signing.
9. Upon receiving the SGA President's signature and with the approval of the Office of Student Affairs, the amendment takes immediate effect in the SGA By-Laws.
10. If the SGA President vetoes the amendment, two-thirds of the Senate may override the President's decision and, with the approval of the Office of the Student Affairs, the amendment takes immediate effect in the SGA By-Laws.

Section 4: SGA President in Legislation

1. All legislation that passes through the Senate must then be presented to the SGA President.
2. Prior to signing any legislation, the President must discuss the proposed legislation with the SGA Advisor and Office of Student Affairs.
3. The President can approve legislation by signing it.
4. The President can veto the legislation.

5. Any bill or resolution passed by the Senate must be approved by the SGA President within five (5) business days of the passage of the bill or resolution.
6. All legislation, having been enacted by the Senate and approved by the SGA President, shall be submitted to the ABAC President's Cabinet.

ARTICLE VI: TERM OF OFFICE

Upon administration of the Oath of Office, a term of office begins for SGA members the day after Spring graduation of the academic year when the members were elected. The term of office will carry through to the following Spring graduation when the term of office begins for newly elected SGA members (e.g., term includes the Summer following the Spring election and continues to the following Spring graduation.)

If someone assumes the duties of another office in SGA through way of impeachment, removal, or resignation of the vacating member, then that member will serve in the assumed role until the next election cycle or a special election. For an SGA member to be legitimate, the member must take the Oath of Office. The SGA Oath of Office may be administered by the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, or SGA Advisor, depending on availability, in the presence of at least two (2) witnesses.

ARTICLE VII: OATH OF OFFICE

An SGA position is not official until the Oath of Office is administered by the appropriate college official. Students who have been either elected to an office or appointed to a vacant office must take the following Oath of Office:

I, _____ do solemnly swear to persevere in my duties as a representative for the students of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, to work for a better student government and to maintain the dignity of the office during my term. I do solemnly swear to execute my office of _____ faithfully and honestly and to respect and preserve the Constitution and By-Laws on which our Student Government is founded.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1: Student Body Meetings

During regular Fall and Spring semesters, Student Government Association meetings for the student body shall be throughout the ABAC semester, generally twice per month, open to all members of ABAC's community, with proceedings administered to the student body through official SGA communications. In these meetings, SGA will oversee official SGA matters and all Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) business and will serve as a resource, leadership forum, and advocacy group for RSOs.

Section 2: Student Government Association Meetings

The Student Government Association Executive Board, Senate, and Category 4 RSO Chair shall meet twice per month, generally on alternate weeks of student body meetings, of the Fall and

Spring semesters to discuss student concerns and other campus issues. Invitations are extended to the Office of Student Affairs and the SGA Advisor.

Section 3: Executive Board Meetings

The Student Government Association Executive Board, consisting of the President, Vice President, Judiciary, Executive of Bainbridge, Secretary, and Treasurer shall meet as needed during the Fall and Spring semesters, at the discretion of the SGA President, with invitations extended to the Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor.

Section 4: Senate Meetings

The Student Government Association Senate, comprised of the President of the Senate, Senators of each school, and the Judiciary, shall meet as needed throughout the Fall and Spring semesters to discuss student concerns and other campus issues, with invitations extended to the SGA President, the Office of Student Affairs, and SGA Advisor.

Section 5: Attendance at Meetings

All Student Government Association Officers and Senators are expected to attend all required meetings but may miss four (4) meetings per semester without penalty. To avoid a penalty for an absence, the absent party must provide a written excuse to the following officials: (1) the presiding officer of meeting, (2) the Judiciary, and (3) the SGA Advisor. Email will suffice as written notice of the excuse. One or more of the officials noted above shall confirm receipt of the email.

Without proper notification of the absence and after exceeding four absences, the Judiciary may recommend to the SGA Advisor that proceedings be initiated for removal of the officer or senator from office. Based on the totality of the circumstances and in consultation with the Judiciary and Office of Student Affairs, the SGA Advisor will evaluate whether the officer or senator is found in dereliction of SGA duties. If approved by the SGA Advisor, the Judiciary will formalize the decision to remove the officer or senator. If the officer with more than four absences is the Judiciary, this process will initiate with the recommendation of the SGA President.

Section 6: Special Meetings

Any SGA member may call a special meeting. The purpose of any special meeting shall be stated in the request to meet. Except in cases of emergency authorized by the Dean of Students or SGA Advisor, at least three (3) days' notice shall be given to members through proper channels of communication, as regularly used by the SGA Team.

ARTICLE IX: THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

To maintain the accessibility and integrity of SGA elections, the SGA Election Committee is hereby established to oversee adherence to the proper procedures and rules of all governing SGA documents, specifically the SGA Elections Code.

Section 1: Members

1. The Chair of the Election Committee shall be the Judiciary, unless the Judiciary is also a candidate.
2. If the Judiciary is a candidate in the SGA election, the SGA Advisor, in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs, shall appoint the Chair of the Election Committee.
3. The SGA Advisor, in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs and the Election Committee Chair, will appoint at least two (2) student representatives to serve on the Election Committee.
4. No member of the Election Committee may also be a candidate.
5. The committee will work with the Office of Student Affairs to oversee the process of SGA elections and ensure that the respective election procedures outlined in the SGA Elections Code are fulfilled.

Section 2: Purpose and Responsibilities

The purpose of this committee is to (1) allocate electoral votes to each respective school, (2) ensure that all ABAC students are eligible to vote in an election, (3) confirm SGA election results are both sound and legitimate before the respective results are dispersed, and (4) supervise any other SGA election business.

Section 3: Approval of Decisions

The committee shall use an absolute majority system (50%+1) to approve or decide on results and other election matters that require a vote.

ARTICLE X: RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Recognized Student Organizations (hereinafter referred to as “RSOs”) shall be defined as a group of club and organization representatives united by a common purpose as stated by the RSOs’ Guidelines, with an elected Category 4 Chair. RSOs are formed to contribute to students’ educational growth, recreation, and/or personal development.

Section 1: Purpose

1. To provide a forum for communication among Recognized Student Organizations on campus.
2. To provide guidance to the various clubs and organizations in planning, executing, and evaluating activities.
3. To represent RSOs on campus issues in the form of recommendations to the Office of Student Affairs.
4. To organize and promote joint organizational events for the benefit of ABAC students.
5. To increase the quality of campus social, cultural, and educational life through organizational activities.

Section 2: Structure

The structure of RSOs consists of representatives from each club and organization attending the SGA's student body meeting, generally twice per month. The SGA Vice President shall preside over the meetings with the SGA President, SGA Executive of Bainbridge, SGA Senators, and Category 4 Chair reporting on behalf of their respective categories' clubs and organizations.

Section 3: Duties of Category 4 RSO Chair

1. Shall perform the duties related to RSO's function as assigned by the RSO Advisor.
2. Shall be responsible for promoting attendance and participation at all Student Body meetings.
3. Shall serve as the liaison between Category 4 RSOs, all other RSOs, the SGA, and RSO Advisor.

Section 4: Election of Category 4 RSO Chair

All election procedures of the Category 4 RSO Chair shall be dictated by the RSO Guidelines and carried out by the Office of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE XI: VACANCIES

Section 1: Executive Board

1. If the position of SGA President becomes vacant, the SGA Vice President shall, after the administration of a new oath of office, assume the position of SGA President and all responsibilities and duties therein.
2. If the position of SGA Vice President becomes vacant, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall, after the administration of a new oath of office, assume the position of SGA Vice President and all responsibilities and duties therein.
 - a. This will result in a vacant Senator seat.
 - b. In response to the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate becoming Vice President, the new Vice President will follow the appropriate procedures to replace the vacant Senator seat left by the transition.
3. If the Judiciary position becomes vacant, the SGA Advisor, in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs, shall appoint a new Judiciary.
 - a. Current members of the SGA or any member of the student body who meets the qualifications of Judiciary may be considered for this role.
 - b. Candidate(s) must interview with the Office of Student Affairs prior to forwarding to the Senate for the confirmation vote.
 - c. The SGA Advisor may request that the SGA President and President of the Senate appoint a committee to interview identified candidate(s) for the position.
 - d. The appointment will require a two-thirds majority confirmation from the Senate to be effective.
 - e. Administration of a new oath of office is required for the appointment to be official.

4. If the Executive of Bainbridge position becomes vacant, the Executive Director of the Bainbridge Campus will submit a minimum of two (2) names to the SGA Advisor and Office of Student Affairs for consideration for the role.
 - a. Candidates must interview with the Office of Student Affairs prior to forwarding to the Senate for the confirmation vote.
 - b. The President of the Senate, in consultation with the SGA President, may appoint a committee to interview the candidates for the position.
 - c. The appointment will require a two-thirds majority confirmation from the Senate to be effective.
 - d. Administration of the oath of office is required for the appointment to be official.
5. If any appointed position in the Executive Cabinet (e.g., Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) becomes vacant, the SGA President shall, following appropriate procedure, appoint a sitting Senator to fill the position.

Section 2: Senate

1. If a Senator position becomes vacant or left unfilled after an election, the President of the Senate will coordinate with the respective Dean of the School in which the vacancy has occurred to secure a replacement candidate.
 - a. The recommended candidate must meet all qualifications required of an SGA Senator.
 - b. Candidates must interview with the Office of Student Affairs prior to forwarding to the Senate for the confirmation vote.
 - c. The appointment will require a two-thirds majority confirmation from the Senate to be effective.
 - d. Administration of the oath of office is required for the appointment to be official.
2. If any appointed position of the Senate becomes vacant, the President of the Senate may, following appropriate procedure, appoint a sitting Senator to fill the position temporarily.

ARTICLE XII: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL, AND RESIGNATION

Section 1: Impeachment

1. Any member of the SGA may bring forward impeachment charges.
2. Due to the seriousness nature of the impeachment proceeding, the member of the SGA must have reasonable cause to support the charges and be prepared to present such evidence.
3. After the SGA official has gathered evidence to support the impeachment charges, the official must provide the evidence to the SGA Faculty Advisor and Office of Student Affairs for the evidence to be reviewed. After reviewing the charges brought forth, the SGA Faculty Advisor and the Office of Student Affairs will advise on all rights of impeachment.
 - a. At this point, the concerns may be declared to be invalid based on confidential student information available only to the SGA Faculty Advisor and Office of Student Affairs.

- b. Further, certain infractions may be considered minor based on the totality of the circumstances.
 - c. Concerns that involve confidential student information or which are considered to be minor offenses are to be judged solely by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, and SGA Faculty Advisor and brought before the Senate only if these parties deem necessary and proper.
- 4. If the charges are declared valid after consultation with the SGA Faculty Advisor and the Office of Student Affairs, the SGA Senate shall hear the articles of impeachment at the next available Senate meeting, which shall be called according to proper procedure.
- 5. After charges have been brought before the Senate, a brief discussion of the prepared evidence will be held. The member being charged shall not be present during discussion of the evidence.
- 6. At the conclusion of the discussion, a vote shall be held to formally impeach the accused member.
 - a. An absolute majority vote (50% + 1) of the present SGA Senators is required to impeach any member.
 - b. This vote does not remove the accused from SGA.
- 7. If impeached, a date will be set for an impeachment trial. This trial will be a closed meeting of the Senate. The SGA Faculty Advisor shall preside over the trial.
 - a. At the impeachment trial, evidence may be discussed in detail, witnesses may be asked to testify, and the accused may present a defense.
 - b. After all evidence has been heard and the debate among the members has ceased, the Senate shall vote on whether or not to formally expel the accused from the SGA. A two-thirds (2/3) of the SGA Senate shall be required to remove any member from the SGA.
 - c. The verdict from the Senate shall effectively remove a member from the SGA.
- 8. If any member of the SGA receives a guilty verdict at the conclusion of an impeachment trial, that officer shall be subject to the following restrictions.
 - a. If the impeached individual was a member of the Executive Branch, that member shall be forbidden from ever holding a position in the Executive Board and may only seek a Senate position one (1) year after the next election that follows the date of the impeachment trial.
 - b. If the impeached individual was a member of the Legislative Branch, that member shall be forbidden from ever holding a position in the Executive Cabinet and may only seek a Senate position one (1) year after the next election that follows the date of the impeachment trial.

Section 2: Removal

- 1. Any SGA official, defined as a Senator or member of the Executive Board, may be removed from office for violation of this Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, the ABAC Code of Conduct, the ABAC Student Honor Code, or the University System of Georgia Board of Regent's Policy.

2. If any Officer or Senator of SGA is removed from the SGA, procedures of vacancies will be initiated by the Judiciary in consultation with the SGA Advisor and Office of Student Affairs.
3. If the Judiciary is the party removed from office, the SGA Advisor shall appoint a new Judiciary, in accordance with appropriate procedures of vacancies.

Section 3: Resignation

1. Any Officer or Senator of SGA may have the authority to submit a letter of resignation to the SGA Advisor and Judiciary.
2. The Judiciary will notify the SGA President and SGA Advisor of the vacancy immediately to ensure proper procedure is followed.

ARTICLE XIII: FINANCES

Section 1: Financial Autonomy

The SGA shall ensure responsible, prudent oversight and use of all allocated funds by the College, consistent with Institutional and University System of Georgia Board of Regents Policy. The Student Government Association is entitled to a budget to use at the discretion of the association.

Section 2: Dispersion of Funds

Under the SGA By-Laws, the SGA Treasurer shall be the chair of all SGA budget concerns and allocation of funds. After approval from SGA officials and the Office of Student Affairs, the SGA Treasurer shall disperse funds appropriately.

Section 3: Approval of Funds

All allocation of funds must be approved by majority vote (50%+1) of the Senate.

ARTICLE XIV: GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Section 1: Governing Documents

The Senate shall have the authority to establish and amend the SGA By-Laws, SGA Elections Code, and SGA Code of Conduct through the passage and approval of an SGA Amendment. Once approved, the amendment is ratified and added to the SGA By-Laws.

1. The SGA Bylaws shall further clarify the structure and rules of the SGA.
2. The SGA Code of Conduct shall be established to outline the expectations of SGA members including attendance.
3. The SGA Elections Code shall be established to outline SGA Elections.

ARTICLE XV: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1: Procedures

While members of the Executive Board may recommend or request a Constitutional Convention, only Senators may introduce the proposal for a Constitutional Convention.

1. Any member of the SGA who wishes to call a Constitutional Convention must propose the convention to the Senate.
2. After the Senator has gathered all evidence for a Constitutional Convention to be held, the Senator shall meet with the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor for all evidence to be reviewed and possibly resolved.
3. If the solution is believed to be a Constitutional Convention, after meeting with the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor to address certain issues and concerns, the Senate may entertain discussion and debate of a Constitutional Convention.
4. A vote of two-thirds majority of the Senate is required for the Constitutional Convention to be convene.
5. After the Senate approval for the Constitutional Convention to convene, a committee of SGA members shall be formed by the Dean of Students and the SGA Advisor.
6. After a revised constitution is drafted and approved by the committee of students, Office of Student Affairs, SGA Advisor, and ABAC President's Cabinet, the SGA Senate and RSOs must vote on the proposed constitution.
7. If the proposed constitution receives an absolute majority vote (50%+1) of the Senate and the student body meeting with RSOs, with approval by the ABAC President's Cabinet, then the constitution will be forwarded to the SGA President for approval.
8. After the SGA President approves the constitution, it is passed with immediate effect.
9. If the SGA President vetoes the constitution, two-thirds of the Senate may override the President's decision and the constitution is replaced and ratified.
10. After ratification, the ABAC President's Cabinet shall be notified of the passing of and provided with a copy of the new SGA Constitution.