

**Morgan State University SGA Constitution
(Revised 2016)**

PREAMBLE

Whereas, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have nurtured individuals to assume leadership in their communities, it is necessary in these rapidly changing times for this tradition to be reaffirmed. Morgan State University recognizes the significance of student governance and the need for concerted student action and representation is most necessary.

Whereas, the students of Morgan State University recognize that there exists a heightened need to develop and maintain a core of dynamic leadership as an absolute necessity for the collective advancement of Morgan State University undergraduate students in general.

Be it resolved, that the undergraduate students of Morgan State University constitute the Student Government Association to provide a vehicle whereby leadership skills can be exercised through practical application in order to support student affairs, to advance and support the general welfare of the student body; to promote harmony between students, administrator, faculty, staff, and alumni; to ensure meaningful student participation in the governance of the University and to reinforce the academic mission of Morgan State University.

ARTICLE I- NAME AND AUTHORITY

SECTION A: The undergraduate student governing body of Morgan State University shall be known as the Student Government Association of Morgan State University, hereinafter, referred to as "SGA".

SECTION B: The SGA shall serve as the undergraduate student governance body for implementing the objectives set forth in the preamble; subject to all applicable laws and the policies of Morgan State University.

SECTION C: This organization shall formulate resolutions promoting and governing the programs, activities and interest of the students of Morgan State University and will advise the President and all entities whose decisions affect the undergraduate students of Morgan State University of student viewpoints concerning all matters affecting student life.

SECTION D: All full-time and part-time undergraduate students who have officially registered at Morgan State University shall be members of the Undergraduate Student Body.

ARTICLE II – STRUCTURE

SECTION A: The SGA shall be comprised of three distinct branches: the LEGISLATIVE BRANCH (Student Senate), the EXECUTIVE BRANCH, and the JUDICIAL BRANCH. The three branches shall serve as a check and balance of the other branches:

SUBSECTION 1: The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 2: The Executive Branch shall consist of the SGA President and Vice President, as well as the Executive Board

SUBSECTION 3: The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Chief Justice and the six Associate Justices.

ARTICLE III– LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION A: The Student Senate shall consist of a President (Vice President of the SGA), sixteen Senators, and four Senators representing each respective class.

SECTION B: The election of the President, Vice President, and all class officers will be conducted in the month of March. The recommendation of the Student Regent shall be conducted in accordance with state laws, and the by-laws of the Morgan State University Board of Regents..

SUBSECTION 1: The candidates for the Presidency and Vice – Presidency of the SGA shall be certified as juniors or seniors for the following fall semester and will possess no less than forty – four credits at the time of application for the position.

SUBSECTION 2: The candidates for selection to Student Regent of the Morgan State University Board of Regents must possess a 3.0 cumulative GPA and no less than 56 credits.

SUBSECTION 3: Chief Justice of the SGA shall be certified as juniors or seniors for the following fall semester and will possess no less than fifty-six credits at the time of application for the position.

SUBSECTION 4: In the case of a transfer student seeking office for any official position in the SGA, a minimum of two prior semesters must have been spent at Morgan State University as a full time undergraduate student enrolled in a minimum of twenty-four credit hours. All credits must have been successfully completed.

SUBSECTION 5: All candidates for appointment, selection and/or election to the SGA shall possess no less than a 2.50 grade point average at the time of application,

and must maintain a 2.50 cumulative grade point average for the duration of tenure in office.

SUBSECTION 6: All candidates for appointment or election to class officers of the SGA must be pursuing the equivalent credit requirements for the class officer position.

SUBSECTION 7: There shall be a Board of Election Supervisors to conduct the election of all officers.

SUBSECTION 8: The Board of Election Supervisors shall be selected in compliance with the SGA Bylaws. The Board of Election Supervisors will be comprised of Senior Class President and four (4) graduating seniors, presumably officers. If not officers, the four appointed seniors on the election committee must receive approval by the President of the Student Government and authorization by the Coordinator of Student Activities.

SUBSECTION 9: FRESHMEN ELECTIONS: Freshmen elections shall be held during the fall semester by the third Tuesday after classes officially begin for Morgan State University, and shall be conducted by a committee appointed by the President of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 10: Elections for all SGA positions shall be conducted in compliance with the supplementary documents of the SGA. Each candidate must be eligible in all respects (i.e. GPA, credit hours, etc.) at the time of application. Candidates must be in good standing with the University. Good standing is defined as a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average and no judicial sanctions. All candidates, and appointed class and SGA Executive Board officers must be cleared through the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students shall be declared ineligible if they are under active sanction of suspension or currently on disciplinary probation for multiple minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

SECTION C: The Student Senate shall meet at least once a week, and/or each time deemed necessary by the President of the Student Senate or President of the SGA.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION A: All executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in the President of the SGA, who is elected annually by the undergraduate student body. The President shall be assisted by the appointed Executive Board members as specified in the SGA Bylaws. The Executive Branch shall be charged with implementing and enforcing all resolutions and acts enacted by the Student Senate. In addition, the duties of the Executive Branch shall be designated in the Bylaws of the SGA.

SECTION B: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

SUBSECTION 1: The President shall be empowered to make recommendations to the Student Senate for its consideration about student government operations, student concerns, academic affairs and when necessary call the Student Senate to special session;

SUBSECTION 2: The SGA President has the ability to veto legislation within ten business days;

SUBSECTION 3: Shall call general student body meetings to relay information directly to the student body;

SUBSECTION 4: Shall be empowered to fill vacancies of all appointed offices of the SGA with confirmation of the Student Senate by a two-thirds majority vote;

SUBSECTION 5: Shall nominate and with advice and consent of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate and appoint those officers deemed necessary for the proper administration of the SGA;

SUBSECTION 6: Shall be required to present to the Student Senate on the seventh week of both regular academic semesters, a comprehensive report on the State of the SGA;

SUBSECTION 7: The duties of the Executive Branch shall be specifically designated in the Bylaws of the SGA.

SECTION C: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBSECTION 1: The Vice President shall serve a dual role as the co-Chair of the Executive Branch and President of the Senate.

SUBSECTION 2: The Vice President will work in close cooperation with the SGA President.

SUBSECTION 3: As a member of the Executive Board, the Vice President will present all bills passed in the Senate to the President for approval or veto. The Vice President will also keep the President and Executive Board informed of all Senate Activities.

SUBSECTION 4: The Vice President will make monthly reports to the Senate.

SUBSECTION 5: The Vice President will perform other duties as outlined in Bylaws of the SGA.

ARTICLE V – JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION A: The Judiciary power of the SGA shall be vested in the Student Court of the SGA, and the Judicial Staff as specified in the Annotated Code of the Student Court.

SECTION B: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SUBSECTION 1: To provide an unbiased hearing for any and all cases involving an official of the SGA charged with a violation of the SGA Constitution and/or the supplementary documents of the SGA.

SUBSECTION 2: The Student Court shall have original jurisdiction over the following matters:

1. The constitutionality of all decisions made by the SGA
2. The constitutionality of all resolutions, amendments and acts produced by the Student Senate;
3. Any impeachment hearing, which may arise through the formal impeachment process as defined in the SGA Constitution and supplementary documents of the SGA;
4. All election hearings resulting from violations and discrepancies within the SGA Constitution.

SUBSECTION 3:

When the Student Court is hearing a matter before it, a final decision shall be made by a majority of a quorum of the Court that is present during the hearing.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

SECTION A: The standing committees of the Student Senate shall hold regular meetings, not less than 3 times per semester, and report to the President of the Student Senate. The Standing Committees shall be as follows:

1. Academic Affairs Committee
2. Student Affairs Committee
3. Operations Committee

SECTION B: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBSECTION 1: The President of the Student Senate shall appoint a Senator to serve as the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee with the approval of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 2: The Academic Affairs Committee shall be comprised of as five Senators, which shall be appointed by the President of the Student Senate with approval of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SECTION C: POWERS OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBSECTION 1: To hear concerns of students and make recommendations to the Division of Academic Affairs regarding academic policies of the University;

SUBSECTION 2: Conduct research through meetings with students and participation on University wide committees and recommend legislation for passage by the Student Senate to assist the Division of Academic Affairs with serving Morgan Sate University undergraduate students.

SECTION D: STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBSECTION 1: The President of the Student Senate shall appoint a Senator to serve as the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee with the approval of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 2: The Student Affairs Committee shall be comprised of five Senators, which shall be appointed by the President of the Student Senate with approval of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 3: The purpose of the Committee is to hear concerns of students and make recommendations to the Division of Student Affairs, regarding extra curricular and student engagement and involvement policies of the University;

SUBSECTION 4: Research and recommend legislation for passage by the Student Senate to assist the Division of Student Affairs with serving Morgan State University undergraduate students.

SECTION E: STUDENT GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBSECTION 1: The President of the Student Senate shall appoint a Senator to serve as the Chair of the Student Government Operations Committee with the approval of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 2: The Student Government Operations Committee shall be comprised of as many as six Senators, which shall be appointed by the President of the Student Senate with approval of two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 3: To propose new policies to effectively manage the operations of the SGA, and provide oversight of the Executive Board, and Judiciary as a check and balance;

SUBSECTION 4: To ensure all members of the SGA are abiding by the SGA Constitution and supplementary documents of the SGA, and all Morgan State University Policies and Procedures;

SUBSECTION 5: Make legislative recommendations to the Student Senate for passage regarding all measures of operations and finance.

ARTICLE VII. – SUCCESSION OF OFFICE AND IMPEACHMENT

SECTION A: PROCEDURE FOR THE REMOVAL OF OFFICER (S): The President of the SGA, Vice President of the SGA, any member of the Executive Board, any elected and/or appointed official may be removed from office by impeachment for neglect of duty, violation of the Student Code of Conduct and/or the SGA Constitution and supplementary documents of the SGA. The Student Senate with the President of the Student Senate presiding shall conduct proceedings of impeachment. Wherein the President of the Student Senate is under impeachment Proceeding, the Speaker of the Senate shall preside over the impeachment proceedings.

SUBSECTION 1: Impeachment charges must be presented in writing to a Senator of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 2: Impeachment shall be defined as presentation of formal charges to the Student Senate against an SGA official who has been accused of acts of malfeasance as defined above.

SUBSECTION 3: Upon presentation of formal impeachment charges, the Speaker of the Senate shall set a time for an impeachment session and formally order the accused in writing to appear for the impeachment session. The Speaker of the Senate shall give the accused five business days notice of the impeachment session date. The Speaker of the Senate is then responsible for making the impeachment session public.

SUBSECTION 4: The impeachment session date must be convened within five to ten business days of the initial presentation of charges.

SUBSECTION 5: At the impeachment session the Student Senate will hear testimony and evidence pertaining to the charges.

SUBSECTION 6: If the Student Senate finds the evidence supporting the charges to be substantial by a two-thirds majority vote, The Chief Justice of the Student Court shall set an impeachment hearing within five to ten business days of the impeachment session.

SUBSECTION 7: The Student Court shall adjudicate the impeachment hearing.

SUBSECTION 8: In the event that the above procedure is not followed, the charges will be dismissed.

SECTION B: The order for succession of office to the presidency shall be as follows:

1. Vice President
2. Any further succession shall be decided by a special session of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION A: All proceedings of the SGA shall be governed by the Newly Revised, Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

SECTION A: Recommendations for change to this Constitution may be made to the Board of Regents upon a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

SUBSECTION 1: Once a two-thirds majority vote has been secured, the proposed changes must be presented through the University's shared governance process for vetting of the proposed changes.

SUBSECTION 2: Upon completion of this process, the SGA President and the Vice President for Student Affairs will present the proposed changes to the Board of Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Sub Committee as an information and action item for approval by the entire Board of Regents.