

# Marymount University Student Government Constitution

## PREAMBLE

WE THE STUDENTS of Marymount University resolve that as sovereign equals, we shall cooperate in friendly association to maintain the common ground for which our community strives;

WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING we hereby agree that we, the student body, desire a union that recognizes the sovereignty of the student community and serves to represent its will;

IT IS WITH THAT GOAL that we establish and affirm this Constitution for the Marymount University Student Government Association.

## Article 1: Legislative Branch

1. The Legislative Body of the Marymount University Student Government Association shall consist of one legislative body, the Student Senate. The Senate shall be the holder of all legislative powers
2. The Student Senate shall be made up of twenty (20) members, five (5) Senators are to represent each class of the undergraduate body of students at Marymount University. Members of the Student Senate shall serve a term of one academic year and be eligible to run for re-election.
3. A member of the Student Senate may attain their seat by election to the Student Senate or by Appointment to the Student Senate.
4. In order to be considered a Senator and in order to sit in the Senate a Senator must be in good academic standing and judicial standing and be enrolled at Marymount University as a full time degree seeking candidate.
5. The Powers of the Senate shall include the right to:
  - a. Solicit and process the concerns of the Student Body constituency;
  - b. Enact all appropriate legislation to promote the general welfare of the Student Body;
  - c. Collaborate with the University Community, which shall consist of the students, faculty and staff of Marymount University, and the Greater Global Community to ensure the prosperity of the University;
  - d. Allocate the Student Activity Fee by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Student Senate and according to the processes set forth in the Bylaws;
  - e. Override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Student Senate;
  - f. Provide transparency in all functions of the Student Senate, including open meetings to the Student Body and access to finalized Marymount University Student Government Association documents;

- g. Quorum would constitute a simple majority of the total seated members of the Senate, a quorum must be maintained in order to continue or finalized the business of the Senate;
- h. Form Committees to answer concerns, form legislation and make reports on issues and matters the Student Senate deems necessary;
  - i. The Student Senate may form either a Permanent Standing Committee or an Ad Hoc Committee;
    - 1. Permanent Standing Committee(s) shall last from their formation by a vote of the Student Senate until the Senate votes to conclude;
    - 2. Ad Hoc Committee(s) shall stand for the time of one Academic Semester or four months during the Academic Year upon approval of the Student Senate and may be extended upon a vote of the Student Senate;
  - i. Depose any member of the Student Senate, the Executive Cabinet or the Judiciary for a violation of the Marymount University Student Government Association Constitution, Marymount University Student Government Association Bylaws, Marymount University Student Government Association Rules, upon a Three-Fourths (3/4) vote of the Senate;
  - j. Establish Bylaws and to set rules for the Marymount University Student Government Association according to procedure set out in the Bylaws;
- 6. Roberts' Rules shall serve as the default rules of the entirety of the Marymount University Student Government Association.
- 7. Student Senate shall be chaired by the Vice President of the Marymount University Student Government Association. In the absence of the Vice President, a member of the Student Senate shall serve as the Senate's Chairperson upon their election.
  - a. President Pro Tempore
    - i. The position of President Pro Tempore shall be filled by a member of the Senate who is selected by the Senate at the beginning of the Academic Year via simple majority vote taken by secret ballot.
    - ii. Shall fulfill the role of Chairperson of the Senate in the event of a vacancy in the Vice Presidency or in the event the Vice President is absent from a Senate Meeting.
    - iii. They shall only be granted the power to Chair the Senate and not the power to cast a tie-breaking vote.

## Article 2: Executive Branch

- 1. The Executive Branch shall be made up of the President of the Marymount University Student Government Association and the Executive Cabinet. The Executive Cabinet shall be chaired by the President of the Marymount University Student Government Association, and it shall consist of the Vice President of the Marymount University Student Government Association, the Treasurer of the Marymount University Student

Government Association, and the Secretary of the Marymount University Student Government Association.

2. The President of the Marymount University Student Government Association
  - a. Shall be chosen by the majority of the electorate of the undergraduate Student Body;
  - b. Shall serve as:
    - i. The Chief Executive Officer of the Marymount University Student Body;
    - ii. The chief liaison to the Marymount University Cabinet;
    - iii. A non-voting, ex-officio member of the Student Senate;
  - c. Shall have the ability to:
    - i. Sign or veto Senate approved legislation within seven days of receipt from the Senate;
    - ii. Nominate students to serve on faculty and staff committees with the approval of the Senate;
    - iii. Nominate Senate Committee Chairs with the approval of the Senate in the form of a simple ( $\frac{1}{2} + 1$ ) majority vote;
    - iv. Appoint Senate Committee Members with the approval of the Executive cabinet in the form of a simple ( $\frac{1}{2} + 1$ ) majority vote;
    - v. Call and Preside over Executive Cabinet and Extended Executive Cabinet Meetings;
      1. The Extended Executive Cabinet is made up of the Executive Cabinet, the President Pro Tempore and all Senate Committee Chairpersons;
    - vi. Call the Senate to Session;
    - vii. Submit a written summary report to the Student Body, Student Government, and University Administration on the State of the Government each semester;
    - viii. Collaborate with the Executive Board to provide leadership for the Marymount University Student Government Association;
    - ix. Coordinate Marymount University Student Government Association Trainings, Retreats and Daily Operations.
  - d. Shall:
    - i. Serve three hours a week for Marymount University Student Government Association Office Hours;
    - ii. Meet bi-weekly with the Marymount University Student Government Association Advisor to discuss concerns and overall efficiency of the Marymount University Student Government Association;
    - iii. Convene weekly with the Executive Cabinet to provide leadership for the Marymount University Student Government Association.
3. The Vice President of the Marymount University Student Government Association

- a. Shall be chosen by the majority of the electorate of the undergraduate Student Body.
  - b. Shall serve as:
    - i. Non-Voting member, except in the case of a tied vote, ex-officio member of the Senate.
  - c. Shall have the ability to:
    - i. Assume the duties of the President upon the vacancy of the position until a Special Election can be held to fill the vacancy, the procedures of which shall be set out in the Bylaws;
    - ii. Call and Preside over Student Senate Meetings;
    - iii. Meet regularly with chairs to review committee work and ensure committee duties are carried out no less than once a semester and no more than bi-weekly;
    - iv. Collaborate with the Executive Cabinet to provide leadership for the Marymount University Student Government Association;
    - v. Assist in the Coordination of Marymount University Student Government Association Training, Retreats, and Daily Operations.
  - d. Shall:
    - i. Serve two hours a week for Marymount University Student Government Association Office Hours;
    - ii. Meet bi-weekly with the Marymount University Student Government Association Advisor to discuss concerns and overall efficiency.
4. The Treasurer of the Student Government Association
- a. Shall be chosen by the majority of the electorate of the undergraduate Student Body.
  - b. Shall serve as:
    - i. The Chief Financial Officer of the Student Body;
    - ii. The Chairperson of the Senate Financial Affairs Committee;
    - iii. A non-voting, ex-officio member of the Senate.
  - c. Shall have the ability to:
    - i. Oversee and manage the Annual Budget Appropriation Process;
    - ii. Manage the Marymount University Student Government Association Annual Budget;
    - iii. Review any Organization's Budget that receives funds from the Student Activities Fee;
    - iv. Preside over Appropriations Committee Hearings;
    - v. Call a Special Senate Session for Budget Allocation;
    - vi. Preside over Student Government Financial Proceedings;
    - vii. Present to the Senate applications for Emergency Funding;

- viii. Present a Report to the Co-Curricular Council and Marymount University Student Government Association on the Financial State of the Student Government each semester.
  - 1. This may be in writing or in a joint meeting of both institutions;
  - 2. On a date set at the discretion of the Treasurer.
- ix. Collaborate with the Executive Cabinet to provide leadership for the Marymount University Student Government Association.
- d. Shall:
  - i. Serve two hours a week for Marymount University Student Government Association Office Hours;
  - ii. Meet weekly with the Marymount University Student Government Association Advisor to discuss concerns and overall efficiency.
- 5. The Secretary of the Student Government Association
  - a. Shall be chosen by the majority of the electorate of the Student Body.
  - a. Shall serve as:
    - i. A non-voting ex-officio member of the Senate;
    - ii. A voting, ex-officio member of the Senate Public Affairs Committee.
  - b. Shall have the ability to:
    - i. Record and distribute the Minutes from all Government Meetings and distribute minutes from all Committee Meetings;
    - ii. Maintain archived Marymount University Student Government Association documents and materials;
    - iii. Oversee all correspondence and communications for the Marymount University Student Government Association;
    - iv. Collaborate with the Executive Cabinet to provide leadership for the Marymount University Student Government Association.
  - c. Shall:
    - i. Serve two hours a week for Marymount University Student Government Association Office Hours;
    - ii. Meet bi-weekly with the Marymount University Student Government Association Advisor to discuss concerns and overall efficiency.
- 6. Executive Cabinet and Extended Executive Cabinet shall meet upon the direction of the President or a Majority of the Members of which the Extended Executive Cabinet is made up of in the event the President is incapacitated or refuses to hold a meeting.

### Article 3: Judicial Branch

- 1. The judicial power of the Marymount University Student Government Association, shall be vested in one Court. The Court shall only have authority over matters of inter-governmental Constitution, Bylaw and Marymount University Student Government Association Rule disputes that may arise through the functions of the government.

2. The name of the court shall be the Marymount University Student Government Association Constitutional Court.
3. The judicial branch shall consist of three individuals who shall be referred to as Justices, one of the three justices shall hold the position of Chair of the court, and the title of the Court's chairperson shall be Chief Justice.
4. A judicial term shall last for two full academic semesters, justices will be limited to two full terms, beginning upon their appointment to the Judicial Branch.
5. The justices of the Marymount University Student Government Association Constitutional Court shall be nominated by the President of the Marymount University Student Government Association on the advice of the Student Development and Campus Programs and Leadership Development Office, and appointed with the advice and consent of a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Marymount University Student Government Association Student Senate.
6. The Constitutional Court shall not be permitted to start judicial proceedings if a seat on the court is vacant. Questions of constitutionality will be referred to a select senate judiciary committee that will only meet on an as needed basis and will be made up of three individuals; the procedures of choosing these individuals will be stated in the bylaws.

#### Article 4: Election and Appointment

1. The Marymount University Student Government Association shall fill its roles by one of three means either Election, Appointment or Special Election and all Candidates must, at the time of the election and inauguration, be in good academic and judicial standing and be enrolled as a degree seeking candidate.
2. The Marymount University Student Government Association shall hold elections on an Annual Basis in order to fill the roles of the Executive and Legislative Branches.
  - a. Elections for the Executive Branch and for the Senate, with the exception of the Incoming Freshman class, shall be held in the Spring Semester on dates set out by the Government Operations Committee with the assistance of the Advisor.
  - b. The Freshman Senators shall be elected in the Fall Semester on dates set out by the Government Operations Committee with the assistance of the Advisor.
3. The Marymount University Student Government Association shall fill all vacancies of the Judiciary Branch by a Nomination from the President and on the advice and consent of the Student Senate
  - a. Advice and Consent shall be considered as a debate and two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate
4. The Marymount University Student Government Association shall fill all vacancies of the Executive Branch that occur after the Spring Elections by a Special Election to be held no more than four weeks after the Vacancy is announced during a meeting of the Senate, with the dates for the election to be set by the Government Operations Committee with the assistance of the Advisor.

5. The Marymount University Student Government Association shall fill all vacancies of the Student Senate with a Senate Special Appointment
  - a. Any vacancy that occurs after a Spring Election for Non-Freshman Senators or after the Fall Elections for Freshman Senators may be filled by any full time degree seeking student in good academic and judicial standing, even though they may hold another academic class rank. Candidates must be nominated by a member of the Marymount University Student Government Association Senate and must pass with a two-thirds vote.
  - b. And any Vacancies should be declared during a Senate Session and be posted by the Secretary in public spaces so all Students have the ability to be notified of a vacancy.

#### Article 5: Student Activity Fee (Finances)

1. The distribution of the Student Activities Fee shall be overseen by the Treasurer and a Senate Committee and all final funding decisions shall be approved by the Senate and Signed by the President. Further definition shall be set by the bylaws.

#### Article 6: Amendments and Ratification

1. For the Ratification of this Marymount University Student Government Association Constitution it must be approved by a Three-Fourths (3/4) Vote of the Student Senate
2. For an Amendment to this Marymount University Student Government Association Constitution it must be approved by a Three-Fourths (3/4) Vote of the Student Senate

#### Article 7: Students Bill of Rights

1. Right to Revise Government through Democratic Means
  - a. The Students shall be granted the Right to Recall all elected Official of the Student Government Association to be voted on after a petition signed by Twenty Five Percent (25%) of the General Student Electorate and Once Verified shall fall into the Same means as set out for a Special Election.
  - b. The Student Government should be granted the Right to Offer to the Students a Referendum on an Issue it deems worthy of a General Vote of the Students in a means set in the Student Government Bylaws Election Section.
  - c. The Students be given the Right to Initiate an Initiative to be voted on after a petition signed by Twenty Five Percent (25%) of the General Student Electorate and Once Verified shall fall into the Same means as set out for a Referendum Election.
2. Right to Petition
  - a. All Students have the Right to Petition their Government on account of Grievances.
3. Right to be Present at all Senate Meetings

- a. All Students have the Right to be Present at all General Student Senate Session Meetings.
4. Right to Freedom From Discrimination.
  - a. Students at Marymount University have the right be able to participate in all facets of campus life regardless of race, color, national origin, Religious affiliation, gender expression, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
5. The Right to An Adequate Voice.
  - a. A student or group of students has the right to have their concerns represented by the legislator of their choice.
  - b. A student or group of students may submit a request to the Vice President that representation of that student(s) concerns to the legislative body be handled by a specific individual or group of individuals within the legislature without regard to their standing within the legislative structure.
  - c. The Vice President may refuse this request in favor of representation that fits the concern more appropriately. The students then have the ability to contest the Vice President's refusal in judicial proceedings.
6. The Right to Government Accountability
  - a. All students have the right to a clear and transparent government.
  - b. Students may have access to transcripts of proceedings and copies of official Student Government Association documents upon request.