

# THE CONSTITUTION OF UMSGINC

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## **PREAMBLE**

To serve the General Student Body of the University of Maine by providing social, cultural, and educational programs and activities to expand the scope of the educational experience; by providing the most effective use of student money and effort; by informing students of issues which are their concern and to eliminate confusion about those issues, by representing the General Student Body to the State Government, the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, the Administration, and any other appropriate body or organization and to give input to those bodies relating to student opinion; by encouraging student participation and input; and to be more worthy of the Motto of the State of Maine Dirigo, "I Lead".

*We, the General Student Body of the University of Maine, hereby approve this Constitution as of the 12th day of the 4th month of the year 1978 (April 12, 1978).*

## **ARTICLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 1 - SUPREMACY**

This Constitution shall take precedence over all documents and/or resolutions that have been or shall be adopted by the organizations mentioned in this Constitution.

### **SECTION 2 - VALIDITY OF DOCUMENTS**

All documents and/or resolutions not inconsistent with this Constitution shall continue in force until specifically amended or repealed.

### **SECTION 3 - GENERAL STUDENT BODY**

Shall mean any registered undergraduate student who pays the Student Activity Fee of the Student Government at the University of Maine.

## **ARTICLE II - BILL OF RIGHTS**

### **SECTION 1 - POLITICAL POWER**

All political power of this Student Government is inherent in the General Student Body, and all government herein is founded on their authority.

### **SECTION 2 - INHERENT RIGHTS**

All individuals have certain inherent rights, and no action taken by the Student Government or its agencies can in any way deprive them of these rights.

### **SECTION 3 - LEGAL RIGHTS**

All members of the General Student Body have all legal rights granted to them under the laws and constitutions of the State of Maine and the United States of America, and no action taken by this Student Government or its agencies can deprive them of these rights.

### **SECTION 4 - ACADEMIC RIGHTS**

Students have a right to a quality education. This includes, but is not limited to, **THE RIGHT** to real and vital input into all aspects of the institutions that they are attending, including programs, courses, and hiring, firing, tenuring, and promoting of faculty; **THE RIGHT** to a fair and non-prejudicial grading and counseling system; **THE RIGHT** to the best methods in career planning and teaching be made available and used at the University of Maine; **THE RIGHT** to the best possible atmosphere that is conducive to learning, and; **THE RIGHT** to determine, without interference, the future direction of their lives.

### **SECTION 5 - FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Students have the right to express and discuss their opinions, including the right to publish, without fear of censorship or punishment in any form.

### **SECTION 6 - CONTROL OF FEES**

The General Student Body shall have the right to control, directly or through such bodies as it sees fit to create, all activities for which it is assessed a fee.

### **SECTION 7 - STUDENT RECORDS**

No records shall be kept by the University of Maine that concern a student's social, political, or sexual activities, except where such activity can be proven to have directly led to the breaking of a State or Federal law; nor shall any student's records be made available to anyone outside the University System without the express written permission of the student or students involved.

### **SECTION 8 - DISCRIMINATION**

No individual shall be discriminated against, or organization denied recognition by the Student Government based upon race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran status.

### **SECTION 9 - VOTING RIGHTS**

All members of the General Student Body shall have equal voting rights in all elections held within their respective districts.

## **SECTION 10 - SANCTION**

Any member of the General Student Body may question the constitutionality or legality of any action taken by the Student Government or its agencies by filing a complaint. Complaints shall be filed by the President of Student Government, the President of the GSS, or the GSS Oversight Commission chair. Such a complaint shall be acted upon as soon as possible.

# **ARTICLE III - *ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT***

## **SECTION 1 - SEPARATION OF POWERS**

The powers of the Student Government shall be divided between the Legislative and the Executive Branches.

## **SECTION 2 - RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

No branch of the Student Government shall exercise any of the powers given to another as expressly stated in this constitution.

# **ARTICLE IV - *THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH***

## ***PART I - The General Student Senate***

## **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the GSS to serve as the Legislative and Judicial Body of the Student Government.

## **SECTION 2 - POWERS**

- A.** Shall be the final authority on all matters of finance.
- B.** Shall be the final authority on all matters of policy concerning Student Government.
- C.** Shall have the power to make regulations concerning the General Student Body.
- D.** Shall retain all judicial power of the Student Government, including the power to interpret this Constitution. In the event a complaint is filed against the entire GSS, then the GSS Oversight Commission shall be the sole authority on that complaint only as enumerated under Article IV, Part II.
- E.** Shall have the power to send any resolution to a referendum of the General Student Body by a three-fifths (3/5) vote.
- F.** Shall have the power to make recommendations to other legislative and administrative bodies and officials concerning the welfare of the General Student Body.
- G.** Shall have the power to recognize and remove said recognition from student organizations.

- H.* May call upon any member of the Executive Branch to come before the GSS and be publicly accountable for their actions.
- I.* Shall appoint, or cause to be appointed, its committees.
- J.* Shall initiate programs as needs arise.

### **SECTION 3 - MEMBERSHIP**

- A.* Shall consist of not less than twenty-five (25) and not more than thirty-five (35) seats for membership. Members seated shall be titled Senators, to be apportioned on a basis that will ensure, as far as it is practicable, that equal numbers of voters can vote for proportionally equal numbers of senators.
- B.* Membership of twenty-five (25) senate seats shall be determined on a college-based system, where each respective undergraduate academic college (Maine Business School, College of Education and Human Development, College of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences) shall be represented in the General Student Senate.
  - a.* The number of senators representing each college will be determined based on the respective population of that college, so that the number of senators is proportional to the population of that college.
  - b.* The population of each college will be determined using the University of Maine's Student Records, which account for the most recent year of the election. The FEPC Chair will gather these numbers and determine the final number of seats given to each college.
- C.* Membership of ten (10) senate seats shall be determined by an at-large system, where senators are elected by the entire General Student Body
- D.* At no point shall the President of Student Government, the Vice President of Student Government, the Vice President of Financial Affairs, the Vice President of Student Entertainment, the Vice President of Student Organizations, or the Vice President of Student Leadership also serve as a senator.

### **SECTION 4 - GSS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

The GSS shall be run in accordance with its own governing documents, which shall regulate the procedures of the body.

## ***PART II - GSS Oversight Commission***

### **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

The purpose of the GSS Oversight Commission shall be to hear complaints filed against the actions of the General Student Senate.

### **SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

- A.* This commission shall consist of nine (9) members of the General Student Body.

- B.** Members will be selected by the Dean of Students.
- C.** Members of any part of Student Government, Inc. shall not be members of this commission.
- D.** Members of this commission may not file complaints against the GSS.

### **SECTION 3 - POWERS**

- A.** This commission shall only meet upon filing a complaint against the entire GSS.
- B.** This commission shall establish its own guidelines. These guidelines shall in no way impede the powers of the GSS as enumerated under Article III, Part 1 of this constitution.
- C.** If the Commission determines a complaint to be valid, it shall have the authority to take corrective action. Corrective actions may not conflict with the processes outlined in this Constitution in any way.

### **SECTION 4 - APPEAL OF A COMMISSION DECISION**

There may be one appeal of the decision of the GSS Oversight Commission. This appeal must be filed with the President of the University of Maine. The President of the University of Maine or their designate may overturn the decision of the GSS Oversight Commission if they feel the decision was made in error.

## ***PART III - Initiative and Referendum***

### **SECTION 1 - LIMITED INITIATIVE**

- A.** The General Student Body reserves the power to propose resolutions, by petition, to the GSS. This reserved power shall be known as limited initiative.
- B.** A limited initiative petition shall contain the full text of the proposed resolution and shall be signed by at least fifty (50) members of the General Student Body.

### **SECTION 2 - INITIATIVE**

- A.** The General Student Body reserves the power to propose resolutions and Constitutional amendments by petition to be directly accepted or rejected by the General Student Body. This reserved power shall be known as initiative.
- B.** An initiative petition shall contain the full text of the proposed resolution or amendment and shall be signed, in the case of a resolution, by at least three (3) percent of the General Student Body, and in the case of an amendment, by at least six (6) percent of the General Student Body. The said petition shall be submitted to the President of Student Government.
- C.** A proposal submitted by initiative shall be submitted to a vote no less than thirty (30) and no more than forty-five (45) academic days after being filed by the President of Student Government.

- D.* The initiative shall not be used to pass resolutions making or repealing appropriations of funds or to name or designate any person to hold public office or to remove any person from public office.

### **SECTION 3 - REFERENDUM**

- A.* The General Student Body reserves the power to require, by petition, that any resolution passed by the GSS be submitted to the General Student Body for approval or rejection. This reserved power shall be known as a referendum.
- B.* A referendum petition must be filed by the President of Student Government within thirty (30) academic days after passage by the GSS of the resolution in question and must be signed by at least three (3) percent of the General Student Body.
- C.* The referendum shall take place not less than twenty (20) academic days or no more than thirty (30) academic days after the filing of the referendum petition.
- D.* The referendum shall not be used to pass resolutions repealing appropriations of funds or to name or designate any person to hold public office or to remove any person from public office.

## **ARTICLE V - *THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

### ***PART I - The President of Student Government***

#### **SECTION 1 - POWERS AND DUTIES**

- A.* Shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Student Government and, as such, shall see that all decisions of the GSS are faithfully executed.
- B.* Shall represent and express the wishes of the General Student Body to any persons outside that constituency.
- C.* Shall coordinate the activities of the Student Government.
- D.* Shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the GSS.
- E.* Shall appoint, or cause to be appointed, the student membership of all non-GSS committees, with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- F.* Shall maintain records of the term in which they serve, and prepare the officer who follows for all duties they will be responsible for.
- G.* Shall perform such other duties as directed by the GSS.

#### **SECTION 2 - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

- A.* The president shall be elected by a plurality vote of the General Student Body. This election shall take place in March at a time to be determined by the FEPC.
- B.* The candidates shall be members, in good standing, of the General Student Body with a cumulative grade point average not less than 2.5 (not including the semester of candidacy) and shall submit a petition at least fourteen (14) days before the election signed by at least two-hundred (200) members of the General Student Body.

- C. Candidates on the ballot shall deliver a platform statement before the GSS, and such other persons as may wish to attend a special meeting of the GSS held no more than seven (7) days before the election.
- D. The president-elect shall take office at a special meeting on a date to be determined by the FEPC upon certification of the presidential election.

### SECTION 3 - OATH OF OFFICE

Upon taking office, the President of Student Government shall stand, raise their right hand, and repeat the following, as read by a member of Student Government of their choosing:

*"I state your name, do solemnly swear, that I will support and uphold the Constitution of Student Government, Inc. Further, I swear to well and faithfully discharge the duties of The office upon which I am about to enter, while representing the Undergraduate Student Body, and the University of Maine."*

### SECTION 4 - IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

- A. The GSS shall have the power to impeach the President. Impeachment shall take the form of a resolution, stating the reasons for impeachment, passed by a two-thirds (2/3) roll call vote of the full membership at a regular meeting, provided that notification of the Impeachment Resolution is given no later than the previous regular meeting.
- B. The General Student Body reserves the power to remove the President from office. Removal shall take place upon passage, by the General Student Body of an Impeachment Resolution in a special election to be held not less than fifteen (15) academic days and not more than twenty-five (25) academic days after its passage by the GSS.

### SECTION 5 - RECALL

- A. The General Student Body reserves the power to propose, by petition, the removal of the President of Student Government from office. This reserved power shall be known as the Recall.
- B. A recall petition shall contain the reason(s) for the removal of the President of Student Government from office and be signed by at least five (5) percent of the General Student Body.
- C. The GSS shall, at the first regular meeting following the submission of the Recall Petition, vote on whether or not to approve the petition. If approved by a two-thirds (2/3) roll call vote of the full membership, the President of Student Government shall be removed from office. If not approved, it shall be submitted to a referendum of the General Student Body not less than fifteen (15) academic days and not more than twenty-five (25) academic days after consideration by the GSS.
- D. The recall petition must be submitted to the GSS no less than 24 hours before the meeting at which it will be introduced.

## **SECTION 6 - LINE OF SUCCESSION**

- A.** If, for any reason, the office of President of Student Government is vacated, they shall be succeeded by the Vice President of Student Government, who shall, as soon as possible, appoint a new Vice President of Student Government with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.** If there is no Vice President of Student Government, further succession shall occur in the following order:
  - 1. Vice President of Financial Affairs.
  - 2. President Pro Tempore of the General Student Senate.
  - 3. Vice President of Student Organizations.
  - 4. Vice President of Student Entertainment.
- C.** In such cases, the person taking the office of President of Student Government shall immediately appoint officers to fill all Executive Branch vacancies remaining, with the advice and consent of the General Student Senate.
- D.** Any further succession shall be determined by the General Student Senate.
- E.** In the case of vacancy of the office and the application of this section, the office of the President of Student Government shall not be held by an individual outside of the order of succession.

## ***PART II - The Vice President of Student Government***

### **SECTION 1 - POWERS AND DUTIES**

- A.** Shall serve as President of the General Student Senate and as such shall represent and express the wishes of the GSS to any persons outside said body.
- B.** Shall act with the President in coordinating the activities of the Student Government.
- C.** Shall maintain records of the term in which they serve, and prepare the officer who follows for all duties they will be responsible for.
- D.** Shall perform such other duties as directed by the GSS.

### **SECTION 2 - ELECTION**

Shall be elected in the same manner, shall recite the same oath of office, and shall be subject to the same procedures for impeachment, removal, and recall as the President of Student Government.

## ***PART III - The Cabinet***

### **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the Cabinet to serve as an advisory body to the President of Student Government, to help coordinate the activities of Student Government, and to advise the GSS on matters of policy.

**SECTION 2 - POLICY**

All policies decided upon by the Cabinet shall be submitted to the GSS in the form of a resolution for action.

**SECTION 3 - AUTHORITY**

Shall have the authority to propose resolutions to the GSS or veto any resolution passed by the GSS with a 2/3 vote of members present, provided a quorum exists. The GSS may overturn this veto by a 2/3 roll call vote at the following GSS meeting. Should the Cabinet veto a funding allocation for an event taking place before the next GSS meeting, a special meeting is to be called within 48 hours to allow the Senate an opportunity to consider an override.

**SECTION 4 - CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson of the Cabinet shall be the President of Student Government. If the President cannot chair, the Vice President of Student Government shall take their place.

**SECTION 5 - MEMBERSHIP**

- A.* Shall consist of the Vice President of Student Government, the VPFA, the VPSE, the VPSO, the VPSL, a representative from each Representative Board, a representative from each Community Association, and two senators from the GSS. The President shall appoint these positions no later than two academic weeks into the President's term. The Senate must confirm the Senators appointed by the President for the Cabinet through a majority roll call vote in executive session, with the potentially appointed senators not present. The President shall have the discretion of appointing ex-officio members as they deem necessary, with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.* Any member of the Cabinet who is absent and fails to send a representative to two (2) meetings of the Cabinet shall lose all the rights and privileges of membership and shall not count toward a quorum until a majority vote of the GSS reinstates them. Following removal, the removed member (or another member sent by the organization) must show up to two consecutive meetings to re-obtain voting privileges.
- C.* It shall be the President's authority to remove any Cabinet member from their position, only to replace that member as described in the Cabinet Policies. Replacement of that member must occur by the next Cabinet meeting.

**SECTION 6 - MEETINGS**

- A.* Shall meet after each GSS meeting before the end of the day on the following Wednesday.
- B.* The cabinet shall run in accordance with its own governing documents.
- C.* Special meetings of the Cabinet may be held at the discretion of the President or upon the request of at least three (3) members of the Cabinet.

- D.** Upon the request of the President, the Cabinet members shall again give their reports about their respective organizations.

## ***PART IV - The Division of Financial Affairs***

### **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

The Division of Financial Affairs shall provide for the uniform and efficient operation of the financial affairs of the Student Government and its agencies.

### **SECTION 2 - ORGANIZATION**

The Division of Financial Affairs shall consist of the Vice President of Financial Affairs, the Student Government Treasurer, and the Executive Budgetary Committee (EBC). Any additional employees of the DFA must be created and regulated according to the Student Government Employment Policies.

### **SECTION 3 - THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (VPFA)**

- A.** Shall be appointed by the outgoing President of Student Government, with the advice and consent of the GSS. If, for any reason, the position of VPFA should fall vacant, the current President of Student Government will appoint a new VPFA with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.** Shall advise the President of Student Government and the Cabinet on all matters of finance and financial policy.
- C.** Shall, in the absence of a qualified Treasurer, write all checks.
- D.** Shall see that all accounts of Student Government are submitted to an annual audit and that the results of that audit are reported to the GSS and made available to the General Student Body.
- E.** Shall have the right to inspect the financial records of any organization that receives funding from the Student Activity Fee.
- F.** Shall report any appropriations by the Executive Budgetary Committee to the General Student Senate. This report must be given no later than the GSS meeting immediately following the EBC meeting where the appropriation was made.
- G.** May be removed from office as stated in the Student Government Employment Policies.
- H.** Shall perform such other duties as directed by the President or Vice President of Student Government Inc., or the GSS.

### **SECTION 4 - TREASURER**

- A.** Shall be appointed by the VPFA with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.** Shall write all checks.
- C.** Shall keep, or provide for the keeping of, such financial records as are necessary.
- D.** Shall serve as financial advisor for all Student Organizations.
- E.** May be removed from office as stated in the Student Government Employment Policies.

- F.* Shall perform other duties as directed by the VPFA.

## **SECTION 5 - EXECUTIVE BUDGETARY COMMITTEE (EBC)**

- A.* The Executive Budgetary Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of Financial Affairs.
- B.* Shall consist of the President and Vice President of Student Government, the VPFA, the VPSO, and 4 members elected by GSS at the first GSS meeting of October, or when any seats should fall vacant.
- C.* The EBC shall run in accordance with its own governing documents.
- D.* Meetings shall be held not less than once a week when the GSS is in session, or upon request of at least two members of the EBC.
- E.* Any member who is absent or fails to send a representative to two (2) consecutive meetings of the EBC shall lose all the rights and privileges of membership and shall not count as a quorum until a majority vote of the EBC reinstates them.
- F.* The EBC shall have the power to prepare the Annual Budget and all other budget matters for submission to the GSS in accordance with the most current Student Government financial policies.
- G.* The EBC shall have the power to appropriate up to \$1000 in funds to Student Organizations without approval by the General Student Senate (GSS). If the funds have not yet been distributed, the GSS may overturn such an appropriation by a 2/3 roll call vote.

## **SECTION 6 - DIVISION POLICIES**

The Division of Financial Affairs shall maintain a set of policies to govern the operation of the division. These Financial Policies shall be subject to amendment by a 2/3 vote of the GSS.

### ***PART V - The Division of Student Organizations***

#### **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the Division of Student Organizations to promote the activities of student organizations at the University of Maine and to assist in the programs each takes part in.

#### **SECTION 2 - ORGANIZATION**

The Division of Student Organizations shall consist of the Vice President of Student Organizations, the Student Organizations Committee (SOC), and all recognized Student Organizations, classified by type.

#### **SECTION 3 - THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (VPSO)**

- A.* Shall be appointed by the outgoing President of Student Government with the advice and consent of the GSS. If, for any reason, the position of VPSO should fall vacant, the

current President of Student Government will appoint a new VPSO with the advice and consent of the GSS.

- B.** The Vice President of Student Organizations (VPSO) shall ensure that the policies of the Division of Student Organizations are adhered to.
- C.** The VPSO shall be responsible for maintaining a database of active, inactive, and suspended Student Government organizations, representative boards, and community associations.
- D.** The VPSO shall be the chair of the Student Organizations Committee (SOC).
- E.** The VPSO shall attend and give reports at all UMSG General Student Senate meetings.
- F.** The VPSO shall attend all Executive Budgetary Committee meetings.
- G.** The VPSO shall supervise the activities of all Representative Boards and Community Associations.
- H.** The VPSO shall assist all organizations seeking the various stages of recognition from UMSG, Inc.
- I.** The VPSO shall regularly keep in contact with all organizations so that they may be informed regarding Student Government activities and resources, as well as the rights and responsibilities of a student organization.
- J.** May be removed from office as stated in the Student Government Employment Policies.
- K.** The VPSO shall perform any other duties as directed by the President or Vice President of Student Government Inc., or the GSS.

#### **SECTION 4 - THE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE (SOC)**

- A.** The Student Organizations Committee shall be a collaborative body. All members shall have jurisdiction over the approval of preliminary applications for recognition. UMSG, Inc. members shall have jurisdiction over all the approvals of final applications for recognition.
- B.** The Student Organizations Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of Student Organizations.
- C.** The Student Organizations Committee shall comprise representatives from Student Government and Student Affairs.
- D.** The SOC shall run in accordance with its own set of governing documents.

#### **SECTION 5 – DIVISION POLICIES**

The Division of Student Organizations shall maintain a set of policies to govern the division's operations. These Student Organization Recognition Policies shall be subject to amendment by a 2/3 vote of the GSS.

## ***PART IV - The Division of Student Entertainment***

### **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the Division of Student Entertainment (DSE) to provide programming events for the General Student Body at the University of Maine in a manner consistent with the most effective and efficient use of the Student Activity Fee.

### **SECTION 2 - ORGANIZATION**

The DSE shall consist of the Vice President of Student Entertainment, the Assistant Vice President of Student Entertainment(s) and the Student Entertainment Committee. Any additional employees of the DSE must be created and regulated according to the Student Government Employment Policies.

### **SECTION 3 - VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT (VPSE)**

- A.** Shall be appointed by the outgoing President of Student Government with the advice and consent of the GSS. If, for any reason, the position of VPSE should fall vacant, the current President of Student Government will appoint a new VPSE with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.** The Vice President of Student Entertainment shall lead and coordinate the programming events of the Division of Student Entertainment.
- C.** The VPSE shall be the chair of the Student Entertainment Committee.
- D.** May be removed from office as stated in the Student Government Employment Policies.
- E.** The VPSE shall attend and give reports at all UMSG Inc. General Student Senate meetings.
- F.** Shall perform such other duties as directed by the President or Vice President of Student Government Inc., the GSS, or the Student Entertainment Committee.

### **SECTION 4 - THE STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE**

- A.** The Student Entertainment Committee shall be a collaborative body responsible for organizing all programming events in the Student Entertainment division.
- B.** The Student Entertainment Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of Student Entertainment.
- C.** The Student Entertainment Committee shall be composed of employees of the Division of Student Entertainment and any members of the General Student Body appointed by the VPSE and approved by the SEC. Members of the President's Cabinet have the option of membership if they so desire.
- D.** The SEC shall run in accordance with its own set of governing documents.

**SECTION 5 - DIVISION POLICIES**

The Division of Student Entertainment shall maintain a set of policies to govern the operations of the division. These Entertainment policies shall be subject to amendment by a 2/3 vote of the GSS.

***PART VII - The Division of Student Leadership*****SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

The Division of Student Leadership aims to develop future student leaders at the University of Maine.

**SECTION - ORGANIZATION**

The Division of Student Leadership shall consist of the Vice President of Student Leadership and their committee to be determined members of UMSG, Inc.

**SECTION 3 - VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP (VPSL)**

- A.** Shall be appointed by the outgoing President of Student Government with the advice and consent of the GSS. If, for any reason, the position of VPSL should fall vacant, the current President of Student Government will appoint a new VPSL with the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.** The Vice President of Student Leadership (VPSL) shall ensure that the Division of Student Leadership Development policies are adhered to.
- C.** The VPSL shall be the chair of the Student Leadership Committee (SLC).
- D.** The VPSL shall attend and give reports at all UMSG, Inc. General Student Senate meetings. The VPSL shall also attend and be a voting member of the President of UMSG, Inc.'s Cabinet.
- E.** May be removed from office as stated in the Student Government Employment Policies.
- F.** The VPSL shall perform any other duties as directed by the President or, Vice President of Student Government Inc., or the GSS

**SECTION 4 - THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (SLC)**

- A.** The Student Leadership Committee shall be a collaborative body composed of undergraduate students at the University of Maine, to be determined by the VPSL at the advice and consent of the GSS.
- B.** The Vice President of Student Leadership shall chair the Student Leadership Committee.
- C.** The Student Leadership Committee shall be comprised of representatives from Student Government and the student body at large.
- D.** The SLC shall run in accordance with its own set of governing documents

## **SECTION 5 - DIVISION POLICIES**

The Division of Student Leadership shall maintain a set of policies to govern the operations of the division. These Student Leadership policies shall be subject to amendment by a 2/3 vote of the GSS.

# **ARTICLE VI - *REPRESENTATIVE BOARDS***

## **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

The purpose of Representative Boards is to provide for the representation of groups of students who have voluntarily associated themselves with certain segments of the university community.

## **SECTION 2 - GOVERNING OF BOARDS**

Each of the following groups shall have the right to adopt and/or amend a Constitution for their own governance so long as they are not inconsistent with this document:

1. The Fraternities
2. The Sororities
3. The Commuters and Non-Traditional Students
4. The Student Athletes
5. The Honors College Students

## **SECTION 3 - POWER**

- A. Each of these Representative Boards is granted full power concerning its own affairs and governance, but this power shall not be construed to limit or restrict the powers of the GSS as enumerated under Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution.
- B. Shall have the authority to propose resolutions to the General Student Senate with the approval of a majority of the Board membership.

## **SECTION 4 - ELECTION PRACTICES**

Each of these Representative Boards shall be required to submit to an annual review of their election practices by the FEPC as outlined in the FEPC Guidelines.

# **ARTICLE VII - *COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS***

## **SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

Community Associations shall represent groups of students who associate themselves with certain segments of the university community that deal with individual heritage, sex, sexuality, or disability.

## **SECTION - GOVERNING OF ASSOCIATIONS**

Each of the following organizations shall have the right to be classified as Community Associations, with all the rights and responsibilities as outlined in this Constitution:

1. Student Heritage Alliance Council (SHAC)
2. Wilde Stein Queer Straight Alliance
3. Feminist Collective

## **SECTION - POWER**

- A. Each of these Community Associations is granted full power concerning its own affairs and governance, but this grant of power shall not be construed to limit or restrict the powers of the GSS as enumerated under Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution.
- B. Each Community Association has the authority to propose resolutions to the General Student Senate, which must be approved by a majority of the Association membership.

## **SECTION 4 - ELECTION PRACTICES**

Each of these Community Associations shall be required to submit to an annual review of their election practices by the FEPC as outlined in the FEPC Guidelines

# **ARTICLE VIII - FINANCES**

## ***PART I - Student Activity Fee***

### **SECTION 1 - Definition**

Income shall be derived from the application of the Student Activity Fee from the undergraduate student body to be redistributed to benefit the undergraduate student body. This amount shall be determined based on the most recent Student Activity Fee applied. Adjustments may be made to this amount no more frequently than biannually. This determination shall be proposed at the Annual Budget Meeting and approved by the GSS.

## ***PART II - Annual Budget***

### **SECTION 1 - PROPOSALS**

Only members of the EBC may submit proposals for the Annual Budget, and all such proposals shall first be submitted to the VPFA.

### **SECTION 2 - BUDGET PROCESS**

The DFA shall prepare a Budget process timeline to be submitted to the EBC in early February.

**SECTION 3 - DEADLINE**

The EBC shall prepare the Annual Budget, which will be submitted to the GSS at least four (4) weeks before the end of the spring semester. Two-thirds (2/3) of the EBC must be present when preparing the budget.

**SECTION 4 - ACCEPTANCE / REJECTION**

The GSS shall pass or reject the Annual Budget by roll call vote as a single, non-divisible resolution. However, the GSS may amend the Budget as it deems proper, provided it authorizes no expenditures.

**SECTION 5 - FAILURE OF THE GSS TO PASS**

If the GSS does not pass the proposed Annual Budget by the end of the spring semester, it shall go into effect as if passed by the GSS without amendments until the first regular meeting of the GSS in the fall semester, at which time it shall be the first item on the Agenda and open to amendments by the GSS.

**SECTION 6 - SURPLUS BUDGET**

Any money not appropriated in the Annual Budget shall form a Surplus Budget, which the EBC will administer, subject to the approval, review, and amendment of the GSS.

***PART III - Restrictions*****SECTION 1 - FUNDS**

No part of the net income of Student Government shall be allocated for the benefit of any private person, with the exception that Student Government shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes of this Student Government or set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution.

**SECTION 2 - PROPAGANDA**

No substantial part of the activities of Student Governments shall be allocated for the benefit of any private person, with the exception that Student Government shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes of this Student Government or set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution.

**SECTION 3 - DISSOLUTION OF ASSETS**

Upon its dissolution, all the assets of the University of Maine Student Government shall be transferred to the University of Maine after the payment of any outstanding debts and obligations, with the intent of redistributing them to the students. If this proves impossible, they shall be transferred to the Government of the State of Maine.

## **ARTICLE IX - *AMENDMENTS***

### **SECTION 1 - PASSAGE BY GSS**

All amendments, except those proposed by initiative, must first be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) roll call vote of the GSS.

### **SECTION 2 - RATIFICATION BY THE STUDENT BODY**

The default procedure for Constitutional Amendments, whether passed by the General Student Senate (GSS) or submitted through student initiative, is to place them on the ballot for a vote of the General Student Body during the next scheduled UMSG Executive Election. To ensure adequate review and dissemination, no amendments may be proposed within three (3) weeks of the Executive Election. However, if the GSS determines that an amendment requires more immediate consideration, it may, through an additional two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote, call for a Special Election at any point during the academic year. Such an election must be held no sooner than three (3) weeks after the amendment's passage by the GSS. An amendment shall take effect only upon approval by a majority vote of the General Student Body.

### **SECTION 3 - AMENDMENT HISTORY**

Revised 5/06/25 per resolution 46S-POL-09-02-11-2025 & approved by referendum 4/18/25 | Revised 03/23/23 per resolution 44S-POL-23-02-21-2023 & approved by referendum 03-22-2023 | Revised 03/29/18 per resolution 39S-POL-28-02-27-2018 & approved by referendum 03-29-2018 | Revised 02/27/18 per resolution 39S-POL-27-02-27-2018 & approved by referendum 03-29-2018 | Revised 09/27/17 for grammatical errors | Revised 12/08/15 per resolution 36S-CAB-111-12-08-15 & 36S-SOC-114-12-08-15 | Revised 12/01/15 per resolution 36S-CAB-108-12-01-15 | Revised 11/19/15 per referendum | Revised 12/30/14 (grammatical errors) | Revised 11/27/12 per resolution 34S-18-11-27-12 passed by senate vote on-11/27/12