

# *Constitution of the Georgia Association of Student Councils*

## **PREAMBLE**

We believe Student Council is an educational instrument designed to provide actual learning experiences in leadership and opportunities for practicing the qualities of effective leadership and good citizenship necessary for active membership in a democratic society. Therefore, the mission of the Georgia Association of Student Councils is to provide leadership development that empowers student leaders by equipping its member schools with the tools and skills needed to serve their school, community, and state.

## **ARTICLE I: Establishment**

### *Section 1: Name*

The name of this organization shall be the "Georgia Association of Student

### *Section 2: Charter Year*

The inaugural year of this organization, established in the 1941-1942 school year, shall be recognized as 1941.

### *Section 3: Charter Members*

The charter members of GASC are the thirteen secondary schools that sent delegates to the meeting called for March, 1942, Brunswick, Georgia, for the purpose of forming a state organization.

## **ARTICLE II: Objectives**

To provide opportunities for the training of leaders, the practice of citizenship, and the promotion of democracy as a way of life.

To foster unity in realizing the values of education and democracy.

To serve as a link to establish better relationships between member schools. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, activities, and concerns.

To aid individual GASC member schools in establishing and maintaining effective student councils.

To provide representation for member schools on the state, regional and national level.

## **ARTICLE III: Membership**

### *Section 1: Active Members*

Membership shall be open to any middle school, junior high school, or senior high school in the state of Georgia upon payment of dues.

## **ARTICLE IV: Officers**

### *Section 1: Names of Officers*

- A: Offices shall include but not be restricted to the elected offices of president, vice president, secretary, communication, parliamentarian, middle school member-at-large, and advisor liaison.
- B: The association shall have an Executive Director serving as chief administrator.

### *Section 2: Executive Board*

- A: The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the advisors to these officers, and the Executive Director. This shall include but not be restricted to the offices of president, vice president, secretary, communication, middle school member-at-large, parliamentarian, and advisor liaison.
- B: The purpose of the Executive Board is to promote and support the mission of GASC by recruiting new members and communicating the mission of GASC with all schools in the state of Georgia.
- C: During Executive Board action each officer school shall be entitled to two (2) votes. The Executive Director and advisor liaison shall be entitled to one (1) vote each.
- D: The Executive Board shall be responsible for conducting the business of the association on its behalf with the exception of those items requiring a vote of the membership as prescribed in the constitution.
- E: The Executive Board will annually set the policies of the association, including duties of the officers and campaign procedures.

### *Section 3: Board of Directors*

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of the current Executive Director, a previous Executive Director, Community Member/Stakeholder, Current Advisor and Previous Student.
- B. Board members will be elected to 3-year terms by adult advisors at the recommendation of the Executive Director. There are no term limits.
- C. If a board member cannot complete their term, the current Executive Director will appoint another representative for the remainder of the term. If a previous Executive Director is not available to serve on the Board of Directors, the current Executive Director will appoint another adult representative who has previously served on the GASC executive board.
- D. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for advising the Executive Board with regard to corporation status, tax exempt status, insurance issues, and any additional legal matters.
- E. The Board of Directors will meet once a year to review the finances, organizational goals, and programming for the year.

## **ARTICLE V: Election of Officers**

### *Section 1: Qualifications, Nominations, and Campaigning*

#### **A: Qualifications**

1. The school must have an organized student council with a constitution and/or bylaws.
2. The school must be a current member of the Georgia Association of Student Councils.

#### **B: Nominating Procedures**

1. A candidate school must present one letter to the GASC Parliamentarian and one letter to the Executive Director indicating the candidate school's ability and willingness to fulfill the obligations of the office. These letters must contain the signature of the candidate school's principal and student council advisor and be presented by the close of registration prior to the annual convention. Letters may be sent via U.S. mail, fax, or email.
2. Nominations may be made from the floor of the convention for any electable office only if there is no school that has met the qualifications to run for that office.
3. A list of qualified candidates will be presented to the member schools two (2) weeks prior to the convention by the Parliamentarian school.

#### **C: Campaigning Procedures**

1. Campaign procedures will be a part of the policies of the organization and reviewed and set annually by the Executive Board.

### *Section 2: Election Procedures*

#### **A: Nominees shall be designated by the names of schools rather than names of individuals.**

1. The President school will choose from their own councils no more than (4) students to hold the office, (2) serving as President and (2) serving as Convention Chair.
2. All other schools will choose from their own councils no more than (2) students to hold each office.
3. Additional seats for any office must be approved by the Executive Board.

#### **B: Elections shall be held during a session of the association's convention. Each school present at the convention will be allowed one vote per student delegate up to a maximum of three (3) votes.**

#### **C: The Parliamentarian School will secure Election Clerks prior to the election. These Clerks should be three (3) students and one adult from different schools that are not schools on the ballot.**

D: The Parliamentarian School will recruit and secure an Election Committee prior to January 31st. This committee will oversee the elections process during convention. This may include, but not be limited to, the review and approval of campaign materials, campaign skits, and campaign speeches, and the assistance with election meeting (s). This committee will be made up of one student from each district and one adult. While these individuals may come from schools running for office, they will not be allowed to participate in any part of the campaign process.

E: When schools attending convention exceed 50, the schools in attendance will vote on the method of voting for officers (roll call vs. ballot). Election results will be public record, no matter the method of voting. Voting procedures will be as follows when fewer than 50 schools are in attendance:

1. All member schools will be responsible for sending a representative to privately cast their votes on a paper ballot.
2. The Parliamentarian School will collect all votes on the stage and check off each school to make sure all member schools' votes have been accounted for.
3. This will be publicly done in the presence of all student delegates/advisors at the annual convention.
4. Immediately following the collection of ballots, the Parliamentarian School will publicly announce the votes one by one, without stating the name of the voting school, and tally the votes.

F: Election to office requires a majority vote of official delegates voting. If a second ballot is needed, the two schools receiving the highest number of votes will be placed on the ballot. It will be a straight paper vote and announcement of the winner.

G: The Executive Board shall be responsible for filling all vacancies on the Executive Board with individuals from schools meeting the officer school qualifications in Article V, Section IA.

## **ARTICLE VI: Meetings**

### *Section 1: Association Meetings*

A: The association shall meet in convention at least once a year. The Executive Board has the power to annually set the date(s) of the meeting(s).

### *Section 2: Advisors' Business Meeting*

The advisors of the member schools in attendance at the convention shall hold at least one meeting during the convention chaired by the Executive Director. The purposes of this meeting shall include but not be restricted to the following items.

A: A financial report from the Executive Director.

B: A budget report from a committee of three (3) advisors appointed by the Executive Director that includes a proposed budget for the upcoming year.

C: The election of an Executive Director.

1. Candidates for Executive Director must be affiliated with a member school.

2. Candidates for Executive Director must have served at least two terms as an advisor on the Executive Board.
3. Term of office shall be four years.
4. The advisor to the parliamentary school will conduct the election of the Executive Director.
5. Candidates must present a letter to the GASC Parliamentarian and the current Executive Director indicating the candidate's ability and willingness to fulfill the obligations of the office. If there are no candidates that submit a letter, nominations will be taken from the floor. Copies of candidate letters will be provided to all advisors in attendance at convention.
6. Election of the Executive Director requires a majority vote of the advisors in attendance at the business meeting with only one vote per school present.
7. Should a vacancy occur when the convention is not in session, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board until the next annual convention may elect an Executive Director.

D: The election of Advisor Liaisons

1. Candidates for Advisor Liaisons must be affiliated with a member school.
2. Candidates for Advisor Liaisons must have attended at least two GASC Conventions prior to running for this office.
3. Term of office shall be two years.
4. The advisor to the parliamentary school will conduct the election of the Advisor Liaisons.
5. Candidates must present a letter to the GASC Parliamentarian and the current Executive Director indicating the candidate's ability and willingness to fulfill the obligations of the office. If there are no candidates that submit a letter, nominations will be taken from the floor. Copies of candidate letters will be provided to all advisors in attendance at convention.
6. Election of the Advisor Liaisons requires a majority vote of the advisors in attendance at the business meeting with only one vote per school present.
7. Should a vacancy occur when the convention is not in session, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board until the next annual convention may elect a liaison.

**ARTICLE VII: Association Policies**

Policies relating to the conduct of association business shall be approved on an annual basis by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE VIII: Rules of Order**

On all parliamentary questions not specified in this constitution, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the final authority.

## **ARTICLE IX: Amendments**

### *Section 1: Proposal of Amendments*

Amendments must be proposed, in writing, to the Executive Director and Parliamentarian School by any member of the association by the close of registration prior to the annual convention or the annual leadership summit.

### *Section 2: Notification of Amendments*

The Parliamentarian School must submit the proposed amendment, along with contact information of the author of the proposed amendment, to member schools for review two (2) weeks prior to convention or summit.

### *Section 3: Contention of Amendments*

If any member school attending convention intends to contest (speak against) the proposed amendment, they must notify the Parliamentarian School upon their arrival at convention or summit.

### *Section 4: Adoption of Amendments*

Amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the official delegates at the annual convention or summit. Each school present at the convention or summit will be allowed one (1) vote, either a “yes” vote or a “no” vote.

## **ARTICLE X: Ratification**

This constitution shall become effective following ratification by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the official delegates present and voting on November 14, 2012.

This constitution was amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the official delegates present and voting on February 23, 2018.

This constitution was amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the official delegates present and voting on February 21, 2020.

This constitution was amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the official delegates present and voting on February 22, 2024.