

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
OF ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY



TRADITION. INNOVATION. EXCELLENCE.

By the Students of Rogers State University.

This Constitution is dedicated to the students, past, present, and future, of Rogers State University.

This place is the home of and start of a lifetime for the next generation - we draft this Constitution in hopes that, while our campus may be small, our futures remain brighter than ever before.

Do the things we could never do. Tell the stories that have sharp edges, the stories that never get told; for, more often than not, they are the stories that **need** to be told.

We leave our future into your hands. We give our thanks to Katie Anderson, Jeana Rae Conn, and John Carle in RSU Student Affairs for helping the RSU SGA Executive Committee of 2023 draft this Constitution, as well as Jake Brillhart for the inspiration he gave us in our writing.

Serit ut alteri saeclo prosit.
One sows for the benefit of another age.

This Constitution is best read on computer or through Print View on mobile devices.

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OF ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY

NOT RATIFIED (X - DRAFT)

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Rogers State University, hereby establish the RSU Student Government Association in order

- (1) to form a better college campus at Rogers State University,
- (2) to provide representation for the entire student body of RSU, whether it be undergraduates, Bartlesville or Pryor students, RSU Online students, concurrent students, graduate students, etc.,
- (3) to provide a network of communication among and between the students, student organizations, faculty, and administration throughout RSU,
- (4) to serve as the body responsible for the coordination of student action on campus issues that affect the RSU student body,
- (5) to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of the student to the school, the community, and humanity,
- (6) to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, and student rights,
- (7) to improve student cultural, social and physical welfare,
- (8) to promote the development of better educational standards, facilities and teaching methods, and
- (9) to provide a voice for and to provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests...

hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Rogers State University Student Government Association.

ARTICLE I: Name, Membership, and Status

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be called the Rogers State University Student Government Association (hereinafter "SGA").

SECTION 2: Every enrolled student at Rogers State University is a member of the SGA.

- (1) Students classified as undergraduate students may participate in all levels of government except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.
- (2) Students classified as graduate students may participate in all levels of government except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.

(3) Students classified as auditors or concurrent students may participate in all levels of government except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.

SECTION 3: No person shall, on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, status as veteran of the military, or such other factors that cannot be considered lawfully to the extent specified by federal or state law, be excluded from participation in the organization, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by it under any program or activity within the SGA.

ARTICLE II: Legislative Branch

SECTION 1: To fulfill the purpose of the organization, there shall be one distinct legislative body within the RSU Student Government Association, the Student Senate of the SGA, in which all legislative powers shall be vested within.

SECTION 2: The Student Senate shall be composed of up to two (2) senators from each RSU Department or School, the Pryor campus, and the Bartlesville campus, and undecided majors at RSU, chosen by the student body of Rogers State University. Unless approval is granted by the Department, major, or campus in which they are applying to represent as a Senator and notification is given to RSU Student Affairs before or with their application, they must be a student of that Department, major, or campus.

SECTION 3: When vacancies happen in the Student Senate, the Executive Branch may appoint interim senators to fill these vacancies for a one semester term, unless the Student Senate votes to reject the interim appointee.

SECTION 4: The Senate shall elect a Speaker of the Senate for a term of one (1) academic year at the beginning of each academic year, as well as any other Officers of the Senate, if any, as deemed necessary by the Student Senate and/or the RSU SGA Statutes & Bylaws. The Speaker of the Senate shall be in charge of running the meetings of the Senate and shall be in charge of making and sending out the agenda for every meeting at least 48 hours in advance. They shall also make any announcements concerning actions taken or recommendations proposed by the university administration pertaining to legislation that originated within the Senate. They shall be in charge of maintaining the sign-in sheet for non-Senators in attendance of Senate meetings.

SECTION 5: At no time shall any member of the SGA Executive Committee be considered a Senator, aside from the Speaker of the Senate. While members of the SGA Executive Committee shall be allowed to bring matters before the

Student Senate with the permission of its Speaker, Executive Committee members are not permitted to vote on matters before the Student Senate, except for the SGA President in the case of a tie-breaking vote.

SECTION 10: Any student, Registered Student Organization, Senator, or Executive Committee member may present resolutions to be voted upon by the Student Senate. Resolutions must be inspected by the Executive Committee, before being presented to the Student Senate. There must be a designated representative present at this meeting to present the resolution to the Student Senate or it will be pushed back to a later meeting as designated by the Speaker of the Senate.

ARTICLE III: Executive Branch

SECTION 1: The executive branch of the RSU SGA shall be vested in an Executive Committee (henceforth EC), consisting of a President, Vice President, Community Liaison, and the Student Senate's elected Speaker of the Senate.

SECTION 2: To be eligible to run for an Executive Committee position, the prospective candidate must have attended at least 60% (as of November of 2023, 3 of the 5) Senate meetings from the prior semester and have signed into the attendance sheet at each meeting as proof of their attendance.

SECTION 3: The Executive Committee shall convene for weekly meetings throughout the academic year, or more frequently if it is deemed necessary. The Executive Committee may invite any individuals they choose to their meetings or declare their meetings open or private to the public, however only active members of the Executive Committee may vote.

SECTION 4: Members of the EC must attend eighty-five percent of all EC meetings and Senate meetings, and shall not miss more than two (2) consecutive meetings of the EC, nor two (2) consecutive meetings of the Senate during an academic year. Any such unauthorized absence shall result in forfeiture of office. EC members may request an excused absence from the SGA President. An excused absence will not result in the forfeiture of their office.

SECTION 4: The President shall be in charge of the EC and the administrative functions of the RSU SGA. The President is also responsible for regularly meeting with the university president and any other relevant administrative officials.

SECTION 5: The Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President in the

execution of their duties, and be able to serve in the absence of the President in any and all administrative functions. In the case of the absence of the President, the Vice President will assume all the responsibilities of the Presidency. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Presidency, the Vice President shall assume the position.

SECTION 6: The Community Liaison shall be responsible for contacting any and all student organization presidents on the RSU campus with reminders and updates as they become available for RSU SGA events via phone, email, social media, or other necessary means. The Community Liaison shall also be responsible for the preparation of any and all advertising pertaining to RSU SGA events at least one month in advance of the event whenever possible, or when notified to do so by the RSU SGA.. The Community Liaison shall assist student organization presidents with PR materials by request, should those requests be submitted in a timely manner.

ARTICLE IV: Elections

SECTION 1: The election of Student Government President, Vice President, and Community Liaison, as well as all open Senator positions as declared by Article II, shall take place five (5) weeks prior to Finals Week in the spring semester of each year. Any extra elections may be called by a majority vote of the Executive Committee to fill vacant positions.

SECTION 2: Campaign materials, and the distribution thereof, must comply with publicity policies outlined in the Student Organization Handbook, page 17-8. All campaign materials, posted by the candidate or their volunteers or workers, shall be the responsibility of the candidate whom they endorse, and at the closing of the campaign period, the candidates must remove all campaign materials. Any candidate who alters, destroys, or otherwise defaces the campaign materials of another candidate shall be subject to a referral to the RSU Vice President of Student Affairs or a representative appointed by the Vice President. The Vice President of Student Affairs may, under the powers vested to it by the RSU SGA, decide any recourse or disqualification of candidates if necessary.

SECTION 3: As permitted by Oklahoma Statute, this title shall not be construed as restricting the rights of students or individuals under 70 O.S. § 2120. Persons not under the direction of a candidate may still engage in “any lawful verbal, written, audio-visual or electronic means by which individuals may communicate ideas to one another, including all forms of peaceful assembly, protests, speeches and guest speakers, distribution of literature, carrying signs and circulating petitions.” This shall occur in “the outdoor areas of campus” which are considered “public forums for the campus community.” This shall not prevent

RSU, its employees, officers, or volunteers from enforcing reasonable time, place and manner restrictions as duly established by the institution or its governing board.

SECTION 4: In support of the legislative intent 70 O.S. § 2120, the RSU SGA further supports the Chicago Statement, prepared by the University of Chicago Committee on Freedom of Expression, as it relates to student expressive activity and behavior.

SECTION 5: Elections shall be open for four (4) consecutive academic days (Monday through Thursday) online, and notification of the start of the election period shall be given by the Office of Student Affairs via student email.

SECTION 6: A mandatory candidates' meeting shall be held on the Friday of the academic week immediately following the close of the application period, or scheduled upon another date if voted upon by the Executive Committee as long as candidates are given reasonable notice of the rescheduling. During this meeting, all rules for campaigning will be explained, printed copies of the campaigning rules, position descriptions, and a campaign spending disclosure form will be distributed, and candidate questions shall be addressed. Official dates concerning the election process will also be outlined.

SECTION 7: In the case that less than three candidates run for a Senator position, the candidates that applied shall be declared Senators assuming they meet all requirements to become a Senator as set forth by the Constitution and Statutes & Bylaws. If three or more candidates run for a Senator position, their names shall be placed on the election ballot of their Department, campus, or major, with the two individuals with the highest number of votes being declared Senators.

SECTION 8: In the case that one candidate runs for a spot on the Executive Committee position, the candidate that applied shall be accepted into the position they applied for within the Executive Committee so long as they meet all requirements to fill the position. Should no candidate apply for a position within the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may appoint interim officers for a one semester term. Should multiple candidates be interested in an open office position or if the Student Senate or Executive Committee call for an election by a two-thirds majority vote, per the terms of this Article for that position, an election shall be held.

ARTICLE V: Recall & Initiative Petitions

SECTION 1: The RSU student body shall have the power to recall any elected

officer serving under this Constitution. The petition to recall shall not be valid unless it is signed by a number of students equal to over fifty (50) percent of the number of votes cast for that office, which shall be documented after any SGA election. All recall petitions must state the reason for the recall action, and will be delivered to the Speaker of the Senate. In the case the recall petition is about the standing Speaker of the Senate, it shall be delivered to the SGA President.

SECTION 2: One week after the person named has been notified, an impartial third party as designated by RSU Student Affairs shall declare the petition valid or invalid based upon the validity of the signatures contained in the petition and the validity of the charges against the officer. If the petition is deemed valid, the SGA shall begin a new election for their position within two weeks.

SECTION 3: The RSU student body shall have the right to initiate any act within the power of the Student Senate, and to amend the SGA Constitution, through a valid petition. An initiative petition shall not be valid unless it contains the signatures of at least thirty-five (35) students enrolled at Rogers State University. The Speaker of the Senate shall determine the validity of the petition, and shall consult the Registrar's Office for verification of the enrollment status of students listed on the petition. Appeal of the Speaker's decision can be made to RSU Student Affairs.

SECTION 4: The SGA shall schedule an election on the issue in not less than five (5) or more than fifteen (15) days after the Speaker of the Senate has determined the validity of the petition. Public notice of such an election shall be given not less than four (4) days before it shall take place. A majority of the votes cast at the election shall be sufficient to pass the bill.

Article VI: Registered Students Organizations

SECTION 1: Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) are student organizations registered with the Department of Student Affairs. Any and all RSOs wishing to be recognized by the RSU SGA shall submit a New Student Organization Registration Form to the Office of Student Affairs and shall have an opportunity to be heard by the RSU SGA Congress for a vote on acceptance.

SECTION 2: To be recognized as a RSO affiliated with the Student Senate, the RSO must be inspected by the Executive Committee to confirm they meet approval guidelines, and be accepted by a simple majority vote by the Student Senate, and must have a minimum of five (5) members who are RSU students currently enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours. All members of a recognized

RSO must be an RSU student. RSOs may set their own membership qualifications within their RSO constitutions.

SECTION 3: It is the responsibility of the RSO that they provide their organizations contact information to the RSU SGA in a timely manner each academic year in order to remain registered, as well as when this contact information changes (i.e. new President, new Advisor, new Officers). It is also the responsibility of the RSO to ensure that they meet the requirements to remain an active RSO as determined by the SGA Constitution, the SGA Statutes & Bylaws, and RSU Student Affairs.

SECTION 4: Any RSO that is deemed to be in unfavorable status shall be prohibited from requesting any discretionary funds or participating in RSU SGA business. In order to restore favorable status, a representative of the RSO must resolve whatever issue has placed them in unfavorable status and have a resolution approved (or other means if deemed permissible by the Statutes & Bylaws) by the Student Senate that places them back into good standing with the RSU SGA.

ARTICLE VII: Constitutional Adoption & Amendments

SECTION 1: Upon adoption of this document by the RSU SGA Student Congress, it shall be presented to the full student body for its approval. The procedure shall be as follows:

- A. The document shall be made available to the student body for inspection and study.
- B. Announcements shall be made allowing the student body to know of the updates to the Constitution.
- C. On a set date with student body notification prior, an election shall commence for the ratification of the proposed Constitution.

SECTION 2: Once the proposal receives a simple majority vote of approval from the student body votes cast in the election on which the proposed Constitutional change is balloted, it shall be considered law seven (7) days after the results have been certified and sealed. Furthermore, upon passage and approval of this document any and all previous constitutions shall be considered null and void.

SECTION 3: The office holders of any Executive positions that are removed by the adoption of this constitution or any subsequent amendments to this constitution shall be given at-large Senate seats that will last the duration of the term they are

currently serving. These seats shall be considered special Senate seats, and shall be approved by the Student Senate during consideration of the Constitutional Amendment.

SECTION 4: Any Constitutional Amendments proposed by the SGA shall take the form of a bill, as defined in the RSU SGA Statutes and Bylaws. Bills regarding Constitutional Amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of approval from SGA Senate and a simple majority of ballots cast by the student body in a ballot election as described in the RSU SGA Statutes and Bylaws.

SECTION 5: Constitutional Amendments taking place by petition of the RSU student body that is approved through public election shall be considered a proper amendment of the constitution and should be submitted in full to the SGA to be put into this constitution.

SECTION 6: Typographical, grammatical, and formatting errors in the SGA Constitution shall be amended through amendments to the SGA Constitution or Statutes & Bylaws passed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate, and shall be considered ratified and valid to all intents and purposes upon enactment of the legislation. Amending the constitution to fix these errors is approved by the RSU student body by the passing of this Constitution and does not require election so long as the errors are minor and would not affect the meaning of the Constitution's wording.



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