CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of the Virgin Islands, in order to organize ourselves on a fully democratic basis and to promote the general welfare of the student body, do hereby establish this constitution of the Student Government Association of the University of the Virgin Islands.

ARTICLE I- NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association of the University of the Virgin Islands.

ARTICLE II- MEMBERSHIP

All students who have paid the student association and activity fee shall be members of the Student Government Association on the campus where payment has been made.

Branches of Government:
The branches of the government shall be the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch.

ARTICLE III- EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section I. Organization

A. Executive Body: The members of the executive body shall be the elected officers, President, Vice President, Treasurer, and a Secretary appointed by the President.

B. Executive Cabinet: This shall be the executive body and the chairpersons of the Student Government Association standing committees.

Section II. Oath of Office

The advisor to the Student Government Association, appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs, shall administer the following oath of office to the elected officers within two weeks after elections at a called meeting of the Student Government Association. “I (name) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will uphold the constitution of the Student Government Association and the policies of the University to the best of my ability.”
Section III.

The President of the Student Government Association shall have following powers and duties.

A. To call and to preside at all meetings of the executive body.
B. To be the official representative of the Student Government Association at public functions.
C. To appoint and to disband special committees within the executive cabinet to perform executive functions.
D. To appoint and/or remove chairpersons of standing committees with the approval of the Student Council.
E. To appoint committees, advisors, etc. with the approval of the Student Council, as he/she deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Student Government Association.
F. To appoint the secretary of the Student Government Association.
G. To be an ex-officio member of all student Government Association committees.
H. To serve as a member of the college’s Administrative Council.
I. To serve as a member of the college’s Conference Group.
J. To appoint student representatives, with the approval of the student council. To serve on standing college committees where necessary.
K. To authorize payments of expenses, in conjunction with the Treasurer, within the budget approved by the Student Council.
L. To attend meetings of the Student Council when formally requested to do so by the council.
M. To call and to preside at any special meeting of the Student Government Association.

Section IV

The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

A. To call and to preside at all meetings of the Student Council.
B. To administer all regulations governing the Student Council. (See Article V).
C. To exercise all duties and powers of the President in his/her absence, and to perform any such duties delegated by the President.
Section V
The Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

A. To be responsible for the financial administration and records of the Student Government Association.
B. To prepare a budget, in consultation with the executive cabinet, for approval by the Student Council. This shall be done within the first four weeks of each semester.
C. To authorize payments of such expenses, in conjunction with the President, within the budget approved by the Student Council.
D. To re-adjust the budget only after approval by the Student Council.
E. To submit a financial report to the Student Council when requested to do so by the council.
F. To conduct an audit of the financial records of all standing committees of the Student Government Association and to present his/her findings to the Student Council by the end of each semester.
G. To serve as a member of the University’s Administrative Council.

Section VI
The Secretary of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

A. To organize the office of S.G. A. in a business-like manner, including the maintenance an appropriate filing system.
B. To be recording secretary at meetings of the Executive body, Executive cabinet, and Student Council.
C. To carry those duties and responsibilities as delegated by the Executive body.

ARTICLE IV- LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section I  Organization
The Legislative Branch shall be the Student council. All legislative powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in this body.

Section II  Student Council
The composition of the Student Council shall be elected representatives from the Freshman class, the Sophomore class, the Junior class, and the Senior class. The formula for determining the Student Council representation shall be two per class as long as the enrollment does not exceed 300; then at which time it shall become three per class.
Section III  Oath of Office
The oath will be the same as that of the executives.

Section IV  Prerogatives of the Student Council
A. To create such committees (in addition to standing committees) as it deems necessary for
   the proper conduct of its business providing that such committees are not in conflict with the
   standing committees.
B. To disband any Student Government Association committee that fails to comply with the
   rules of the Student Council.
C. To remove any Student Government Association committee chairperson as it deems
   necessary.
D. To review and to approve/disapprove the presidential appointments to the Student
   Government Association and University committees.
E. To make all regulations governing student elections.
F. To impeach the officers of the Student Government Association if necessary. Judgment
   shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any
   office in the Student Government Association. (See ARTICLE VI.)

Section V  Quorum
A. 50%+1 of the existing membership of the Student Council shall constitute a quorum.
B. In the event of an odd number of council membership, a quorum will consist of 50%+1.

Section VI- Meetings and Regulations
A. The Student Council shall meet at least twice a month.
B. Special meetings of the Student Government Association may be called on a written petition
   by the majority of the members of the Student Government or by a petition of twenty-five
   percent (25%) of the Student Government Association.
C. Basic parliamentary procedure shall be used at meetings of the Student Council.
D. Voting: Each member shall have one vote. There will be on voting by proxy.
E. In the case of a tie, the chairperson shall break the tie.
ARTICLE V- RECALL

Section I Replacement of Student Council Member
The Student Council is empowered to hear evidence to recall any council member upon initiation of a petition requesting the recall signed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the class members represented by the council member. A council member shall lose his/her seat on the Student Council upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire membership.

Section II Special Elections
If a council member has to be replaced for any reason, a special election shall be called by the election committee.

Section III Lack of Quorum
In the event that a Student Council quorum is not attained after four (4) consecutive attempts, the Student Affairs advisor to the Student Government Association shall assume all powers and duties of the Council until such time that the Council is re-activated.

Section IV Replacement of Executive Officers
Replacement of Executive Officers: In the case of the removal of the President from office or his/her death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office, (at least 30 days), the Vice President automatically becomes the President, and it will then be the duty of the Student Council to fill the vacancy of the Vice President’s office within a period of two weeks. (See Section IV, A.). In the event that the Vice President’s office becomes incapacitated at the same time, the Pro-tempo (elected by and from the Council), will assume the responsibility of the executive body until the Council replaces both; which should not take longer than a period of two weeks. In the event that the Treasurer becomes incapacitated, the council shall replace him/her within two weeks. Any replacement must be a member of the student Government Association.

Section V Method of Replacement of Executive Officers:
A. In the event that the positions of Vice President and/or Treasurer becomes vacant, the President shall appoint their replacements with the approval of the Council.

B. In the event that the positions of President and Vice President become vacant at the same time, the following options shall be available.

1. The positions shall be filled by appointment with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Council.

2. Failure to attain a 2/3 majority vote shall warrant the holding of a special general election supervised by the elections committee (See ARTICLE VIII, Section II, C).

ARTICLE VI- IMPEACHMENT

Section I Executive Branch: The President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Student Government Association may be impeached from office for dereliction of duty or violation of the constitution.
A. Impeachment shall be effected by a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the Student Council and may be instigated by a written petition of 1/3 of the Council.

B. Full proceedings may be instituted by a majority of the entire membership of the Council with the Pro-tempo presiding. Full hearings shall be given to the accusers and to the defendant having full right of an advisor who cannot be a lawyer. Conviction shall be made with a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the Student Council.

ARTICLE VII - QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

Section I
All officers of the Student Government Association must be bonafide members of the Student Government Association.

A. All council members must be bonafide members of their classes as determined by ARTICLE VII, Section 1, B-4.

B. All candidates running for office of the Student Government Association must meet the following qualifications:

1. **President:** Candidates running for this office must have a grade point average of 2.5 and must not be in the REAP program.

2. **Vice President:** Candidates for this office must have the same qualifications as required for the President.

3. **Treasurer:** Candidates for this office must meet the same qualifications as the other officers.

4. **Student Council:** Persons running for the council will be elected by their respective classes during the Student Government Association election in April. Candidates must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 with the exception of the Freshmen. The formula for determining credit qualifications shall be:

   a) Candidates running for Student Government representatives for the Freshmen class must be full-time students who have no more than 23.5 cumulative earned degree credits at the time of election.

   b) Candidates for Student Government representatives for the Sophomore class must have no less than 24 but no more than 59.5 cumulative earned degree credits.

   c) Candidates for Student Government representatives for the Junior class must have no less than 60 but no more than 89.5 cumulative earned degree credits.

   d) Candidates for Student Government representatives for the Senior class must have less than 90 cumulative earned degree credits.
ARTICLE VIII- COMMITTEES

Section I
The chairpersons of the Student Government Association standing committees shall have the following powers and duties:

A. To be the coordinator of the committee.
B. To preside at all meetings of the committee.
C. To lead the committee in the formulation of plans and programs for the Student Government Association.
D. To delegate responsibilities such as those of a secretary, treasurer, etc. and make certain that members perform their duties.
E. To report to the executive body when formally requested to do so by the executive body.
F. To report to the Council when formally requested to do so by the Council or executive body.
G. To forward a copy of all official correspondence and copies of all committee minutes to the President.
H. To create such sub-committees as are necessary for the executive of committee plans.
I. To execute the authority vested in them by the President, to the best of their ability and shall use such authority wisely.
J. To provide the treasurer with a record of all financial undertakings.
K. To appoint all members of his/her committee from within the Student Government Association.

Section II  Standing Committees

A. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Social and Cultural Affairs Committee, working closely with the Director of Student Activities or his/her representative shall assume the responsibility for:

1. Programming, sponsoring, and encouraging recognized organizations on campus to sponsor a variety of cultural and social activities during a year.
2. Be the coordinating committee of all Student Government Association social and cultural activities.
3. Be responsible for creating social solidarity and cultural awareness among the student body.
4. Report all activities of the committee to the President and keep him/her informed of all upcoming events on campus.
B. SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Sports Committee, working closely with the Athletics Committee and others involved in the administration of intramurals, shall:

1. Be responsible for encouraging greater student participation in intercollegiate and intramural athletics, and for recommending improvements in the overall athletic program of the college.

2. Initiate programs which contribute to the above.

C. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Elections Committee shall:

1. Be responsible for working closely with the Student Council and for carrying out general and special elections.

2. Be responsible for certifying candidates for elections.

3. Work closely with the Student Activities Supervisor or his/her representative in the supervision of elections.

D. FOOD COMMITTEE

The Food Committee, working closely with the Cafeteria Management and Student Affairs office, shall be responsible for recommending improvements in the operations of and meals served by the cafeteria and snack bar.

E. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Publications Committee, working closely with a faculty advisor, shall:

1. Be responsible for encouraging greater participation in and improving the quality of student publications.

2. Consist of:

   The Editor and Staff of the Student Newspaper and
   The Editor and Staff of the Student Yearbook
F. BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Black History Month Committee

The Black History Month Committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing programs of Black Cultural awareness during Black History celebrations in February of every year. This committee will work closely with the Student Council and Director of Student Activities to plan meaningful programs for Black History.

2. Sub-Committees
   a) Black History Social and Cultural
   b) Calypso Competition
   c) Ideas and Issues Sessions
   d) Publicity
   e) Reception and Accommodation
   f) Recognition Dinner
   g) Program
   h) Poetry and Short Story Contest

The Black History Month Committee of both campuses shall select those sub-committees that would apply to their particular needs.

3. Membership

The Black History Month Committee shall be composed of the following persons:

   a) The Chairperson
   b) The Vice-Chairperson
   c) The Treasurer
   d) The Secretary
   e) The Chairpersons of the sub-committees
   f) Other members from within the Student Government Association
g) Any faculty or staff advisor as appointed by the Student Government Association President.

4. Responsibility/ Officers

a) **Chairperson**  (See ARTICLE VIII, Section 1)

b) **Vice-Chairperson**
   i) Shall perform all duties of chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.
   ii) Shall carry out those duties and responsibilities as delegated by the Chairperson.

c) **Treasurer**
   i) Shall be responsible for the financial administration and records of the Black History Month Committee.
   ii) Shall present a budget to the Chairperson for possible revision, who will then present it to the Executive Body of the Student Government Association.
   iii) Shall authorize payments of such expenses, in collaboration with the chairperson, as have been incurred by the Black History Month Committee.
   iv) Shall keep a record of all disbursements and revenues of the Black History Month Committee.
   v) Shall submit a report to the Executive body at the end of each semester of the academic year.

d) **Secretary**
   i. Shall record and distribute all minutes of the Black History Month Steering Committee.
   
   ii) Shall carry out those duties and responsibilities as delegated by the chairperson.

e) **Sub-Committee Chairpersons**
   i) Shall be directly responsible to the Chairperson of the Black History Month Committee.
   
   ii) Shall carry out those duties and responsibilities as delegated by the chairperson.

G. ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Academic Grievance Committee shall receive all student academic grievances and assist the student(s) to prepare evidence for presentation to the division grievance committees of the University.
F. QUEEN COMMITTEE

The Queen Committee shall:

1. Be responsible for the selection of the “Miss UVI”.
2. Solicit contestants and plan the entire program for the selection of the queen.
3. Work closely with the Student Activities Supervisor or his/her representative.

ARTICLE IX- FINANCE FEES

The Student Government Association will be financed through the Student Association and Activity fees.

ARTICLE X- AMENDMENTS

The Student Council shall propose amendments to this constitution. These amendments shall be adopted when voted upon affirmatively by a majority of the membership of the Council. Such amendments shall be ratified when voted upon affirmatively by 2/3 of the Student Government Association membership.

ARTICLE XI- RATIFICATION

Any amendment or by-law must be approved by 2/3 of the Student Government Association membership.