



Cumberland
UNIVERSITY

Cumberland University
Student Government
Association
Constitution

Article I - Name and Obligation

The name of this organization shall be called, the Student Government Association of Cumberland University, hereafter called SGA. The organization shall be obliged to follow all existing university policies and procedures. The SGA of this institution will consist of a Cabinet and Senate.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to be the governing body of Cumberland University in matters involving the students of Cumberland University, to establish a close relationship between the students and the administration, to promote a spirit of community, to exchange constructive ideas, to discuss school problems, to promote and aid in student activities, and to be the students' voice of Cumberland University.

Article III – Powers

The Officers and Senators of the SGA delegate the powers of the SGA, herein granted, with supervision by the administration and the advisor.

Article IV – Cabinet Member By-Laws

Section 1. Composition of Cabinet

Cabinet will consist of five officers:

- A) President
- B) Vice President
- C) Secretary
- D) Student Liaison
- E) Treasurer

Section 2. Qualifications and Duties

A) President

Qualifications:

1. The president will have a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average at the time of election. If

GPA is lower than this at the time of election candidate must be approved by SGA Advisor and/or Dean of Students.

2. The President shall have successfully completed a minimum of 60 hours of college credit at the start of the elected term as a Cumberland University student and be considered on junior or senior status.
3. Transfer students running for president must have completed two full semesters at Cumberland University at the time of election.
4. The president must be registered for 12 or more hours each semester during the term year.
5. The president must have been member of cabinet or senate the previous calendar year.

Powers and Duties:

1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the SGA.
2. The President shall vote in the case of a tie.
3. The president will make appointments with the President of the University and meet with him every other month to update him on legislation, meeting discussions, etc.
4. The President shall diligently strive to better the University. His/her efforts should be a constant complement to the goal of Cumberland and to the realization of individual betterment.

B) Vice-President

Qualifications:

1. The Vice-President shall have a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average at the time of election. If GPA is lower than this at the time of election candidate must be approved by SGA Advisor and/or Dean of Students.
2. The Vice-President shall have completed a minimum of 30 hours of college credit at the start of the elected term and be considered a member of at least the sophomore class as a Cumberland University student.
3. Transfer students running for Vice-President must have completed two full semesters at Cumberland University.
4. The Vice-President must be registered for 12 or more hours each semester during the term year.
5. The Vice-President must have been member of cabinet or senate the previous calendar year.

Powers and Duties:

1. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside over all meetings in the absence of the president.
2. The Vice-President shall act as Parliamentarian and have at all senate meetings an updated copy of Roberts Rules of Order and the Cumberland Student Handbook.
3. If the SGA President is at any time removed from office or unable to do his or her duties the Vice-President will take his or her place as Cumberland University's SGA President.

C) Secretary

Qualifications:

1. The Secretary shall have a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average at the time of election. If GPA is lower than this at the time of election candidate must be approved by SGA Advisor and/or Dean of Students.
2. The Secretary shall have completed a total of 30 hours of college credit as a Cumberland University student.
3. Must have completed two consecutive semesters in attendance at Cumberland University as full time student.

Powers and Duties:

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for all minutes and correspondence for the Student Government Association and Senate.
2. The Secretary shall be responsible for cataloging minutes and correspondence in SGA year log to be placed in Library at the end of term.
3. The Secretary shall document and track all legislation within the senate
4. The Secretary shall take roll and submit attendance to the Student Government Association Parliamentarian.

D) Student Liaison

Qualifications

1. The Student Liaison shall have a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average at the time of election.

If GPA is lower than this at the time of election candidate must be approved by SGA Advisor and/or Dean of Students.

2. The Student Liaison shall have completed a total of 30 hours of college credit as a Cumberland University student.
3. The Student Liaison must have completed two consecutive semesters in attendance at Cumberland University as full time student.
4. The Student Liaison will be responsible for the maintaining and management of SGA Media through all appropriate media present to and for the student body at Cumberland University which includes but is not limited to the school newspaper, the Cumberland University website, and appropriate social media.
5. The Student Liaison will be responsible for the documentation and classification of all media of complaint forms turned in to the Cumberland University Student Government Association and its advisors for consideration and review with the best interests of the student body as a whole in mind.

Powers and Duties:

1. The Student Liaison will act as liaison between student body and SGA Cabinet and Senate.
2. The Student Liaison will help plan all SGA/Senate polling and voting in cooperation with appointed Advisor.
3. The Student Liaison will work in Cooperation with other on campus organizations to provide any requested assistance.

E) Treasurer

Qualifications

1. The Treasurer will have a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average at the time of election. If GPA is lower than this at the time of election candidate must be approved by SGA Advisor and/or Dean of Students.
2. The Treasurer shall have successfully completed a minimum of 30 hours of college credit at the start of the elected term as a Cumberland University Student and be considered a member of at least the sophomore class.
3. Transfer students running for Treasurer must have completed two full semesters at Cumberland University as a full time student.

Powers and Duties

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for weekly financial reports regarding Student Government Association's funding.
2. The Treasurer will help plan all Student Government Association's projects where financial funding is required in cooperation with the appointed advisor.
3. The Treasurer shall be responsible for presenting petitions of financial aid by other organizations to the General Assembly.

Section 3. Appointment

The cabinet members shall be elected by secret ballot no more than five weeks before the end of the spring semester.

Section 4. Oath of office

All elected cabinet members of the Student Government Association shall take and subscribe to the following statement: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the constitution of Cumberland University's Student Government Association, and that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the office of ----- to the best of my ability."

Section 5. Cabinet Meetings

The Cabinet shall meet together twice a month while planning respective meetings with: Senate, President of University, and Dean of Students.

Article V – Senator By-Laws

Section 1. Composition of Student Senate

The Student Senate shall be comprised of ten representatives there being one representative from each school as well as a Residence Life Representative, a Student Programming Board Representative, a Graduate Studies Representative, an Athletics Representative, and a Commuter Representative.

- 1) Edward A. Labry School of Business Representative
- 2) School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Representative
- 3) Jeanette Rudy School of Nursing Representative
- 4) School of Music and the Arts Representative
- 5) School of Education Representative

- 6) Resident Life Representative
- 7) Student Programming Board Representative
- 8) Graduate Studies
- 9) Athletics Representative
- 10) Commuter Representative

Section 2. Qualifications and Duties

Qualifications:

1. All representatives shall have a 2.75 Grade Point Average at the time of election. If GPA is lower than this at the time of election candidate must be approved by SGA Advisor and/or Dean of Students.
2. All Representatives shall be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours of coursework.
3. All Representatives shall not have been on academic probation or suspension the previous semester.
4. All representatives must receive a positive recommendation from SGA Advisor and/or Faculty member.
5. All representatives must not be serving in any other Student Government Position.

Powers and Duties:

1. Every representative should maintain an open line of communication with the head of their school/organization, as well as the teachers and students from their school/organization.
2. Will serve on any advisory boards or organizations if appointed by the cabinet and senate.
3. Must represent their school/organization at all times with the up most decorum.
4. Must cast ballot in all voting days within senate.

Section 3. Appointment

The five School Representatives, the Graduate Studies Representative, the Athletic Representative, and the Commuter Representative shall be elected by secret ballot no more than five weeks before the end of the Spring Semester while the Residence Life and Student Programming Board Representatives methods of appointment will be decided by the group advisor.

Section 4. Senate Meetings

The Senate shall meet no less than once a month following appointment for the entirety of the term year. Special meetings of the senate may be called by the SGA President, Vice-President, or by a majority of the members of the Senate.

Article VI – Governing Principles

All members of the Student Government Association Cabinet and Senate shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner representative of the high level of trust that the student body has placed in their leadership. Members shall constantly strive to promote:

- 1) **Honesty:** All members shall uphold the strictest level of honesty with their peers, the students and administration of Cumberland University, and the public at large.
- 2) **Respect:** All members shall at all times respect their peers and the administration.
- 3) **Academic Integrity:** All members shall strive for academic excellence and at no times violate the Honor Code or their Oath of Office.
- 4) **Recognition of Bill of Rights:** All students, faculty, and staff are deserving of equal treatment and service. No person shall ever be discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. The Student Government Association will not at any time violate these basic human rights.
- 5) **Confidentiality:** All members shall respect their position and the delicacy of the material of which they are dealing. At no time should a member repeat information discussed in official meetings and/or discuss voting, legislation, or the opinions of their peers.

Article VII – Voting

Section 1. The full-time student body of Cumberland University shall elect its Cabinet and Senate Representatives by secret ballot.

Section 2. Voting for Cabinet and Senate members will be done no more than five weeks before the end of the Spring Semester.

Article VIII – Tenure, Termination, and Replacement

Section 1. Tenure

The term of office for Officers and Representatives consists of one calendar year ending with the verification of the election results for the following calendar year (Officers calendar year will always begin with Spring commencement and end with the Spring commencement the following year).

Section 2. Termination

Members shall be removed from office in the event of:

- a) Withdrawal, Dismissal, Suspension from the University
- b) Failure to maintain appropriate qualifying Grade Point Average
- c) Three unexcused absences from meetings
- d) Failure to comply with duties set forth by the SGA as a whole
- e) Failure to comply with SGA Governing Principles
- f) Failure to participate in meetings and hosted events on a regular basis

In the case of occurrence of these events said member will be removed from office by two thirds vote of Senate and Cabinet along with approval of the Dean of Students and/or SGA Advisor.

Section 3. Replacement

In the event of a vacancy, the president with guidance from the SGA advisor and/or Dean of Students shall appoint a nominee. In order for nominee to assume office, the nominee must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of cabinet and senate.

Article IX – Adoption of the Constitution

The Constitution shall be presented to the student body and Dean of Undergraduate Students. The Constitution shall be posted in three easily accessible locations on campus at least one calendar week before Vote is to take place. For constitution to take effect two-thirds of student body must vote in favor of constitution.

Article X – Veto Power

The President shall have the power to veto legislation in case of a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Government Senate.

Article XI – Amendments

Any student may present a proposal for amendment to the constitution of the SGA. If such an amendment is approved by two-thirds majority vote of the SGA, it shall be read to the student body or posted publicly. Not less than one week or more than a month later it shall be voted upon by secret ballot and shall become effective upon two-thirds of those voting. If the SGA disapproves of the proposed amendment, the student proposing it may present the amendment together with a petition containing at least 30 signatures of students to the President of the SGA. The President shall present the amendment to the student body herein provided.

Article XII – Enactment

Enacted by student body as of April 2011.