Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver

Student Government Association

We, the students of the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) Downtown Campus, in accordance with the authority granted by the University of Colorado Board of Regents and the Office of the Chancellor of CU Denver, in order to give the students effective representation in the shared governance of the campus, to provide the students with an enriching and fulfilling university experience, and to promote the general welfare of the student body, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association (CU Denver SGA). We do so in accordance with the University of Colorado Board of Regents laws and policies, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and the Constitution of the United States of America.

Article I

Declaration of Rights

A. Students shall have the right to representation by students in accordance with the University of Colorado Board of Regents laws and policies in the form of CU Denver SGA.

B. Students shall have the right to participate in CU Denver SGA in accordance with the CU Denver SGA Constitution and bylaws.

C. Students shall have the right to petition and appear before CU Denver SGA for matters of governance as detailed by this Constitution.

D. Students shall have the right to access the decisions made by CU Denver SGA, minutes and governing documents.

E. Students shall have the right to assemble, petition and protest against CU Denver SGA.

F. Students shall have the right to equitable treatment and advocacy from CU Denver SGA.

G. All student activity fee paying students enrolled at CU Denver at the downtown campus are constituents of the CU Denver Student Government Association, and thereby eligible to vote in any election held under the authority granted by this Constitution.

H. Students shall have the right to appear before and speak to CU Denver SGA.

I. Students shall have the right to attend all committee and subcommittee meetings of CU Denver SGA.

J. Students reserve all rights guaranteed and protected by the Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association
the Constitution of the United States of America and all other established legislation at the
University, State, and Federal levels.

K. The University of Colorado, and thus CU Denver SGA, is committed to maintaining a
positive learning, working and living environment. The University prohibits discrimination
on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, pregnancy, creed, religion,
sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, political philosophy or
political affiliation in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its
educational programs and activities.

L. No decision related to the recognition or funding of any student group, access to any of the
benefits afforded by CU Denver SGA, or participation in any CU Denver SGA endeavor,
shall be made from the partisan viewpoint of any individual or politically involved group.

Article II
Qualification for Office

A. Elected offices of CU Denver SGA shall be President, Vice President and the membership of
standing committees, as provided herein. Appointed offices of CU Denver SGA shall be the
Judicial Council, First-Year Council, CU Denver SGA representatives to the Student Fee
Review Committee (SFRC) and Election Commissioners, as provided for herein, along with
any other such offices as the Senate (described in Article III, A.) may create between election
periods after approval by two thirds (2/3) of the Senate.

B. CU Denver SGA constituents are eligible to serve in elected or appointed office of CU
Denver SGA, subject to the following conditions:

i. Undergraduate students must be degree-seeking and enrolled in a minimum of six (6)
credit hours for the duration of their term. Graduate students must be enrolled in a
minimum of three (3) credit hours for the duration of their term or receiving
thesis/dissertation credits

ii. All students holding elected office within CU Denver SGA must disclose any
affiliations with any/all recognized CU Denver and/or student fee funded
organizations. The President, Vice President, SFRC chair and Chair of the Finance
and Funding Committee may not concurrently hold any executive office, including,
but not limited to, the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer in
any student fee funded organization.

iii. All students holding elected or appointed office within CU Denver SGA must remain
in good academic and disciplinary standing as defined by CU Denver and with their
respective school(s) and/or college(s).
iv. No student may concurrently hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office of CU Denver SGA or any paid staff position within CU Denver SGA, except as follows:

a. A student holding elected or appointed office within CU Denver SGA, other than the President or Vice President, may concurrently hold one (1) paid staff position within CU Denver SGA upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

b. A student in a non-voting position within CU Denver SGA may concurrently hold two (2) or more paid non-voting positions upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

c. The provisions of this paragraph (iv) shall not apply to any ad-hoc committee created by the Senate pursuant to this Constitution.

v. Failure to meet any of these conditions throughout the duration of a term of office shall be grounds for removal by impeachment from CU Denver SGA or at the discretion of the Chancellor.

Article III
Legislative Branch

Senate Composition

A. The legislative authority of CU Denver SGA resides in the standing membership of the Senate which shall be comprised of:

i. All standing committee members, including eight (8) College Council members, six (6) representatives each to the Finance and Funding, and Legislation and Outreach committees and two (2) Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board members (SACAB) elected from the student body at-large in accordance with this Constitution.

ii. The Chair of the First-Year Council, Chair of the Events and Planning committee and Chair of the Student Fee Review Committee, who shall be full voting members of the Senate.

B. The Vice President shall chair and preside over meetings of the Senate, and shall not be a voting member, except in the case of a tie. The Senate shall elect from among its members a President Pro Tempore who shall preside over meetings of the Senate in the absence of or at the request of the Vice President.

C. Meetings of the Senate shall be held at least biweekly during the Fall and Spring semesters, and at least once during the Summer semester. Additional meetings may be held at the

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discretion of the Vice President, or the President Pro Tempore if the Vice President shall refuse to act, or upon affirmative vote or signature of a majority of the Senate membership.

D. The Senate may adopt legislation, upon introduction by any member of the CU Denver SGA, or upon recommendation of the Legislation and Outreach Committee. Legislation proposals introduced by any member of the Senate shall be referred by the Senate to the Legislation and Outreach Committee and to such other standing committees or ad-hoc committees of the Senate as the Senate shall deem necessary. If the President shall veto such legislation, the Senate may override said veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its standing membership.

E. The Senate shall approve the CU Denver SGA operating budget in accordance with CU Denver rules and procedures, including budgets adopted for the Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC) as described herein.

F. The Senate shall approve bylaws for all standing committees within CU Denver SGA with two thirds (2/3) vote. The Senate shall not act except upon the presence of a quorum, which shall be a majority of the standing membership.

G. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments as set forth herein upon presentation of said impeachments by the Judicial Council.

Committees

H. There shall be four (4) standing committees comprised of sitting membership within the Senate as follows:

i. The Legislation and Outreach Committee shall investigate, research and draft proposed legislation upon referral by the: Senate, Executive Office and President Pro Tempore as provided herein, or upon request by elected officer of the CU Denver SGA, and shall timely forward any legislation so referred or requested with recommendations to the Senate. In addition, Legislation and Outreach shall actively engage the student body and work with the parties in question in order to find a fair and amicable resolution to these issues as representatives of the student body. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Legislation and Outreach bylaws.

ii. The Finance and Funding Committee shall allocate student fee funds to recognized student organizations in accordance with the Funding Guidelines, and shall review but not veto or alter budgets proposed by internal Student Government committees. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Finance and Funding bylaws.

iii. The College Council shall be comprised of one representative from each of the eight (8) colleges at CU Denver: Architecture and Planning, Arts and Media, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Science, Liberal Arts
and Sciences, Public Affairs and Graduate School. These representatives shall participate in the administration of their respective colleges and represent the interests, initiatives, and concerns of the students within their respective colleges. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the College Council bylaws.

iv. Pursuant to §23-70-102, C.R.S. (2013), as it may hereinafter be revised or renumbered, there exists a Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board of Directors (SACAB), comprised in part of CU Denver SGA representatives who shall be elected and shall serve in the manner prescribed by law. In the event of a vacancy by a CU Denver SGA representative to SACAB, it shall be the highest priority of the CU Denver SGA to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law. The Senate shall be responsible for adopting procedures to fill vacancies as prescribed by law, and for carrying out any other responsibilities imposed by law on the student government or governing body related to SACAB.

I. The Executive Branch shall nominate, for the consideration and confirmation of the Senate, a chair for each standing committee.

J. Each committee member shall be nominated by the Executive Branch, with the consensus of at least three (3) of the four (4) standing committee chairs for the consideration and confirmation of the Senate. If the Executive Branch and three (3) of the four (4) standing committee chairs do not reach consensus, the Senate may appoint members to the standing committees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. At the discretion of the committee or the Senate, additional non-voting members may be appointed to any standing committee upon nomination by the committee chair or the Executive Branch and confirmation by the Senate.

K. The Senate may create ad-hoc committees and define the membership of such committees, without limitation, as needed.

Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch

L. There shall be a First-Year Council which shall represent the voice of the first-year student population at CU Denver and provide opportunities for first time students to become active and involved in CU Denver SGA. All CU Denver first-year students are defined as students attending CU Denver for the first academic year, and are thereby eligible to serve on the First-Year Council, which shall be annually constituted by the Senate during the Fall semester. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the First-Year Council bylaws.

M. There shall be an Events and Planning Committee which shall promote, plan, execute, and evaluate CU Denver SGA events and activities for the benefit of CU Denver students at the Denver campus. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Events and Planning bylaws.
N. Pursuant to CU Denver policy, there exists a Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC), which shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding the allocation of all student purpose fee dollars. This responsibility includes review of both new funding requests and current expenditures. SFRC shall ensure that all student purpose fee dollars are allocated in a manner that best serves the students of the University of Colorado Denver. The President shall nominate, and the Senate shall confirm, any CU Denver SGA representatives to the SFRC.

Article IV

Executive Branch

President

A. The executive authority of CU Denver SGA shall reside in the President, who shall be responsible for oversight and general functioning of the entire body. The President shall be the liaison between CU Denver administration and CU Denver SGA, the spokesperson for the student body and shall represent CU Denver SGA; or shall designate a representative, on the system-wide intercampus forum.

B. The President, together with the Vice President, shall be annually elected at-large by the Student body.

C. The President shall approve or veto, in writing, any legislation adopted by the Senate within five (5) school days. If the President has not acted upon any legislation within five (5) school days, it shall be considered approved.

D. The President shall address the Senate on the state of the campus and recommend for their consideration such measures as he/she deem necessary and expedient.

Vice President

E. The Vice President shall be elected at-large by the student body.

F. The Vice President shall aid the President in executing the duties of the office.

G. The Vice President shall serve as the chair of the Senate.

H. The Vice President shall participate in any executive committee of CU Denver SGA, having been established by the Senate in the manner prescribed by the Senate.

Article V

Judicial Council
A. The Judicial Council shall consist of one (1) Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices, having been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

B. The Judicial Council shall oversee all activities of the CU Denver SGA, ensuring that the creation and implementation of the CU Denver SGA policies and legislation coincide with the interests of the University of Colorado Denver and its students. All judgments of the Judicial Council shall be binding on the SGA. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Judicial Council bylaws.

C. The Judicial Council shall advise the Election Commissioners and if the Election Commissioners are unable or unwilling to administer regular or special elections as provided herein, or if both election commission offices are vacant, shall carry out the duties of the Election Commissioners as described herein.

Article VI

Elections and Terms of Office

_Election Commissioners_

A. There shall be two (2) Election Commissioners who shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Election Commissioners shall be responsible for conducting all CU Denver SGA elections in accordance with the Election Code, which shall be proposed by the Election Commissioners and approved by the Senate; except that the Senate may adopt revisions to the Election Code not proposed by the Election Commissioners upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its standing membership.

_General Elections_

B. Elections shall be held at the time and manner set forth in the Election Code. The general elections for all elected CU Denver SGA offices shall be held annually during the spring semester and no election may occur during the Summer semester or during any break in the academic year.

_Terms of Office_

C. The terms of all regularly elected offices established herein shall be one (1) year, of which shall begin the day after CU Denver spring graduation following the General Election and end on the day prior to spring graduation of the following year. Any member elected to fill a vacancy under a special election as set forth herein shall serve the remainder of the regular term of such office. All appointed offices of CU Denver SGA shall be coterminous with the regular elected term, except as otherwise provided herein or as approved by the Senate.

_Referenda_

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D. Upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the standing membership of the Senate, or upon petition by at least ten percent (10%) of the CU Denver student body, and subject to prior approval by the Chancellor, any question may be submitted to the student body for approval at the next general election or at a time and place set forth in the Election Code.

E. A referendum shall consist of a single question such that a student may vote either “yes” or “no”, and any referendum submitted to the student body by student petition shall have the exact wording of the petition or motion initiating the election. A referendum requires a simple majority to pass.

Special Elections

F. Special elections shall be conducted as set forth in the Election Code or as determined by the Senate.

Article VII

Removal and Vacancies

Impeachment

A. Any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA, excluding paid staff positions, who fail to substantially fulfill the duties of the office, may be impeached.

B. Articles of impeachment may be filed with the Judicial Council at any time by any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA. Articles of impeachment shall state with specificity the grounds and factual basis for impeachment. Upon submission of articles of impeachment, the Judicial Council will investigate the allegations and decide to either present their findings to the Senate along with a recommended action, or take no action. The member against whom articles of impeachment have been filed shall have an opportunity to address the Senate, as well as any CU Denver SGA member who wishes to speak on behalf of that individual. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate determining that grounds for impeachment exist, the Senate shall determine the remedy, which may include removal from office. Any remedy shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

Recall

C. Any constituent may initiate removal of any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA by submitting a recall petition to the Judicial Council. A petition must contain a statement of specific reasons for proposed removal and be signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the CU Denver student body. Upon submission of the recall petition, the Judicial Council shall certify that the recall petition meets the requirements of this paragraph (A) and forward such...
petition to the Senate. If the Senate determines a recall questionnaire to the student body is appropriate, a special election shall be held as described in this Constitution and the Election Policy.

**Termination**

D. All CU Denver SGA members are student workers and thus are “at will” employees who can be terminated by their respective hiring department at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, the following reasons:

   i. Lack of performance or attendance
   
   ii. Falsifications of timesheet
   
   iii. Releasing of restricted information
   
   iv. Theft
   
   v. Unauthorized or fraudulent use of equipment and/or property
   
   vi. Violation of University policies and procedures

**Vacancies**

E. Should the office of President become vacant during the term, the Vice President shall serve as President, and the Senate shall select and confirm a Vice President from the standing membership of the Senate. Should the office of President and Vice President become vacant, the succession of office shall be as follows: President Pro Tempore, Legislation and Outreach Committee Chair, Finance and Funding Committee Chair, College Council Chair, Events and Planning Committee Chair, First Year Council Chair, and Chief Justice. Should all positions be open, the Senate shall select an interim President and Vice President. Successors to the office of President described within this paragraph shall serve the remaining term if the vacancy occurs during the Spring semester. If the office of President becomes vacant during the Fall semester, a special election shall be held.

F. Should any elected or appointed office of CU Denver SGA, other than President, become vacant during the term, the President shall nominate and the Senate shall confirm an eligible student to hold such office; except that any vacancy within SACAB shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law.

**Article VIII**

**Amendments**

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A. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by the Senate before the last Friday in February and submitted to the student body at a special election or the next general election, as determined by the Senate.

B. Any amendment to this Constitution shall be deemed adopted and effective immediately if approved by a majority of the students who vote in the general or special election at which such amendment is submitted to the student body.

RATIFICATION: This document is effective upon approval by the student body and replaces/supersedes any other constitution or governing document of CU Denver SGA now or previously in effect.

Grecia Portillo
President, CU Denver SGA

Jamie Sutliff
Chair, Legislation and Outreach

Daniel Bor
Chief Justice

Approved by the CU Denver Chancellor on this 19th day of July, 2018.

Dorothy A. Horrell, PhD
Chancellor, CU Denver

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