

The Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association

Preamble

We, the students of the University of Colorado Denver at the Denver Campus (UC Denver) according to the authority granted by the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado and the Office of the Chancellor of UC Denver, in order to give the students an effective voice in the shared governance of the campus, to provide the students an enriching and fulfilling university experience and to promote the general welfare of the student body, do ordain and establish this constitution of the Student Government Association (UCDSGA). We do so in accordance with the Laws and Policies of the Regents of the University of Colorado and the Constitutions of the State of Colorado and the United States of America.

Article I Declaration of Rights

- A. Students shall have the right to representation in accordance with University of Colorado Board of Regents Law in the form of the UCDSGA.
- B. Students shall have the right to participate in UCDSGA in accordance with this document and UCDSGA bylaws.
- C. Students shall have the right to petition and appear before UCDSGA for matters of governance as provided by the UCDSGA Constitution.
- D. Students shall have the right to access to UCDSGA decisions, minutes, and all governing documents.
- E. Students shall have the right to assemble together, and to petition, and protest against the UCDSGA.
- F. Students shall have the right to equitable treatment and advocacy in the UCDSGA.
- G. Students shall have the right to appear before and speak to the UCDSGA Senate.
- H. Students shall have the right to attend all committee and sub-committee meetings of the UCDSGA.
- I. Students reserve all rights given to them as citizens by the State of Colorado and the United States Constitution.
- J. The UCDSGA and its elected and appointed representatives shall not discriminate in carrying out any of the functions of the SGA on the basis of race, gender, creed, religion, color, national origin, disability, military or veteran status, gender identity or sexual orientation in accordance with University laws and policies as well as state and federal laws.
- K. The UCDSGA is committed to the principle of viewpoint neutrality. Accordingly, no decision related to the recognition or funding of any student group, nor any decision about access to any of the benefits afforded by the UCDSGA or participation in any UCDSGA endeavor, shall be made on the basis of the viewpoint of any individual or group.

Article II
Qualification for Office

- A. All students enrolled on the UC Denver, Denver Campus are constituents of the UCDSGA and are eligible to vote in any election held under the authority granted in this Constitution.
- B. The elected offices of the UCDSGA shall be the President, Vice President, members of the Senate, and UCDSGA representatives to the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board of Directors, as provided for herein. The appointed offices of the UCDSGA shall be the members of the Judicial, Freshman and College Councils, UCDSGA representatives to the Student Fee Review Committee, and Election Commissioners, as provided for herein, along with any other such officers as the Senate may create from time to time.
- C. UCDSGA constituents are eligible to serve in elected or appointed office of the UCDSGA and in any paid staff positions, 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 or appointed office of the UCDSGA, or any paid staff position, must remain in good academic standing as defined by UC Denver and in good standing with their respective academic program/s and schools or colleges.
 - iii. All students holding elected office of the UCDSGA must disclose any affiliations with any recognized UC Denver and/or student fee-funded organizations. The President, Vice-President, Chairs of standing committees of the Legislative branch, and members of the Judicial Council 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.
 - iv. No student may hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office of the UCDSGA or any paid staff position, except as follows:
 - a. A student holding elected or appointed office of the UCDSGA, other than the President, Vice President and members of the Judicial Council, may concurrently hold one (1) paid staff position of the UCDSGA upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
 - b. A student who does not hold elected office of the UCDSGA may concurrently hold two (2) or more staff positions upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
 - c. Paragraph (a) of this paragraph (iv), notwithstanding, a Senator who sits on more than one standing committee of the Senate may not concurrently hold a paid staff position of the UCDSGA.
 - d. 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 from the UCDSGA at the discretion of the Chancellor.

Article III
Legislative Branch

Senate Composition

- A. The legislative authority of the UCDSGA resides in the Senate which shall be composed of:
- i. Eighteen Senators elected from the student body at large at an annual election.
 - ii. The Chair of the College Council, who shall be a full voting member of the Senate.
 - iii. The Chair of the Freshman Council, who shall be a full voting member of the Senate.
 - iv. The Vice President, who shall be a full voting member of the Senate.
- B. The President shall preside over meetings of the Senate but shall not be a voting member. The Senate shall elect from among its members a President Pro Tempore who shall preside over meetings of the Senate in the absence of the President.
- C. Meetings of the Senate shall be held at least once per month during Fall and Spring Semesters and at least once during the Summer semester. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the President, or the President Pro Tempore if the President shall refuse to act, or upon affirmative vote or signature of a majority of the Senate membership.
- D. The Senate may adopt legislation as provided herein for approval by the President upon introduction by any member of the Senate or recommendation of the Legislation and Drafting Committee upon request by any other elected officer of the UCDSGA. Legislation proposals introduced by any member of the Senate shall be referred by the Senate Pro Tempore to the Legislation and Drafting Committee and to such other standing committees or ad hoc committees of the Senate as the President Pro Tempore shall deem necessary, except that the Senate may elect to consider any such legislative proposal without committee review, or may refer proposed legislation for additional committee review. If the President shall veto such legislation, the Senate may override such veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its sitting membership.
- E. The Senate shall approve the UCDSGA operating budget in accordance with UC Denver rules or procedures, including procedures adopted by the Student Fee Review Committee described herein, as relevant. The Senate may establish or eliminate offices of the UCDSGA in addition to those provided for herein and may establish or eliminate such paid staff positions, except that the Senate may not eliminate any paid staff position unless or until it is vacant.
- F. The Senate shall adopt bylaws for orderly proceeding. The Senate shall not act except upon the presence of a quorum, which shall be a majority of the sitting membership.
- G. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments as set forth herein.

Committees

- H. There shall be three standing committees of the Senate as follows:
- i. The Legislation and Drafting Committee shall investigate, research and draft proposed legislation upon referral by the Senate or Senate Pro Tempore, as provided herein, or upon request by elected officer of the UCDSGA, and shall timely forward any legislation so referred or requested with recommendations to the Senate.

- ii. The Finance and Funding Committee shall recommend Funding Guidelines for the allocation of student fee monies to recognized student organizations, and any revisions thereto the Committee deems appropriate, to the Senate, which shall approve or reject but which shall not further amend such Guidelines or revisions. The Funding Guidelines shall be consistent with the principal of viewpoint neutrality and subject to approval by the Chancellor. The Finance and Funding Committee shall allocate student fee funds to recognized student organizations in accordance with the Funding Guidelines. Funding decisions of the Finance and Funding Committee are appealable to the Judicial Council on the grounds that such decision was not in accordance with the duly adopted Funding Guidelines.
 - iii. The Events and Planning Committee shall promote, plan and execute UCDSGA events and activities for the benefit of the UC Denver campus community.
- I. The President shall nominate and the Senate shall confirm a chair of each standing committee who shall not vote except in the event of a tie. In addition to the chair, each standing committee shall be comprised of an odd number, but not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7), Senators elected at-large, who shall be nominated by the President, with the consensus of at least two (2) of the three (3) standing committee chairs and confirmed by the Senate. In the event that the President and two (2) of the three (3) 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 President and confirmation by the Senate.
 - J. The Senate may create ad hoc committees and define the membership of such committees, without limitation, as needed.
 - K. Each Senator elected at-large Senator shall serve on at least one (1) and not more than two (2) standing committees.

Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch

- L. Pursuant to 23-70-102, C.R.S. (2010), 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 UCDSGA representatives who shall be elected and shall serve in the manner prescribed by law. In the event of a vacancy by a UCDSGA representative to SACAB, it shall be the highest priority of the UCDSGA 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.
- M. Pursuant UC Denver policy, there exists a Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC), which is responsible for making recommendations to the UC Denver administration for the allocation of student fee monies to designated student fee-funded services and activities and concerning new student fees and changes to existing fees. The membership of the SFRC shall be as prescribed by UC Denver policy; provided, however, that the President shall nominate and the Senate shall confirm any UCDSGA representatives to the SFRC other than those UCDSGA officers specifically designated by UC Denver policy. UCDSGA representatives shall provide regular reports to the Senate as required by the Senate.

Article IV
Executive Branch

President

- A. The executive authority of UCDSGA 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 the UC Denver administration and the UCDSGA, the spokesperson for the student body, and shall represent the UCDSGA, 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 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 from time to time address the Senate on the state of the campus and recommend to their consideration such measures as he/she shall judge necessary and expedient, and shall have the power to call special sessions of the Senate.
- E. The President shall participate on any executive committee of the UCDSGA established by the Senate in the manner prescribed by the Senate.

Vice President

- F. The Vice President, together with the President, shall be elected at-large by the student body.
- G. The Vice President shall aid the President in executing the duties of the office. The President may delegate specific duties in writing to the Vice President.
- H. The Vice President shall serve as a voting member of the Senate.
- I. The Vice President shall participate on any executive committee of the UCDSGA established by the Senate in the manner prescribed by the Senate.

Article V
Judicial Branch

- A. The Judicial Council shall be constituted of one (1) Chief Justice and two (2) Justices nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- B. The Judicial Council shall interpret this Constitution and committee bylaws or rules adopted by the Senate, and rule on disputes arising from decisions of the UCDSGA in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution; except that complaints of financial misconduct, criminal acts, discrimination, sexual harassment and/or any other violation of the student conduct code or other violations of University policy shall be forwarded to the campus administration for processing in accordance with University policies and procedures. All decisions of the Judicial Council shall be binding on the SGA.
- 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, the Judicial Council shall carry out the duties of the Elections Commissioners described herein.

Article VI
Advisory Councils

College Council

- A. There shall be a College Council made up of representatives from each of the following Schools/Colleges: Architecture and Planning, Arts and Media, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Science, Graduate, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Public Affairs.
- B. Representatives to the College Council may be nominated by the Dean of each School or College and must be confirmed by the Senate in accordance with procedures established by the Senate. The College Council shall be constituted upon confirmation by the Senate of six (6) or more representatives. Members of the College Council shall serve a term that commences upon constitution of or selection to the College Council and ends upon commencement of the College Council during the next academic year.
- C. The Chair of the College Council, who shall be voting member of the Senate, shall rotate annually among the representatives of each School or College designated herein in a manner prescribed by the Senate.
- D. The College Council shall meet at least twice during each of the Fall and Spring Semesters and not less than six (6) times each academic year; provided, however, that the College Council shall not be constituted and shall not, therefore, be required to meet at any time that there are two (2) or more vacancies on the College Council.

Freshman Council

- A. There shall be a Freshman Council to represent the voice of new students at UC Denver and to provide opportunities for first time students to become involved in UCDSGA.
- B. All freshman or first time college students who are UCDSGA constituents are eligible to serve on the Freshman Council, which shall be annually constituted by the Senate during the Fall Semester. The membership and manner of selection to the Freshman Council shall be determined by the Senate. Members of the Freshman Council shall serve a term that commences upon constitution of or selection to the Freshman Council and ends upon the term completion of the Senate.
- C. The President shall nominate and the Senate shall confirm the Chair of the Freshman Council, who shall be a voting member of the Senate.
- D. The Freshman Council shall meet at least once per month during the Fall and Spring Semesters, or more often if prescribed by the Senate; provided, however, that the Freshman Council shall not be required by the Senate to meet more than once per week.

Article VII
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 UCDSGA elections in accordance with the Elections Policy, which shall be proposed by the Election Commissioners and approved by the Senate; except that the Senate may adopt revisions to the Election Policy not proposed by the Election Commissioners upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its sitting membership. All revisions to the election policy must be in accordance with University policy.

General Elections

- B. Elections shall be held at the time and in the manner set forth in the Election Policy. The general elections for all elected 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, and shall begin on June 1 following the General Election and end on May 31 of the next 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 the UCDSGA shall be coterminous with the regular elected term, except as otherwise provided herein or by the Senate.

Referenda

- D. Upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the sitting membership of the Senate 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 Policy.
- E. Upon petition by at least ten percent (10%) of the UC 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 special election as set forth in the Elections Policy or as determined by the Senate.
- F. 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.

Special Elections

- G. Special elections shall be conducted as set forth in the Elections Policy or as determined by the Senate.

Article VIII
Removal and Vacancies

Impeachment

- A. Any elected or appointed officer of the UCDSGA, excluding paid staff positions, who fails to substantially fulfill the duties of his/her office may be impeached. Paid staff positions of the UCDSGA shall be at-will, subject to termination at any time by the President in accordance with University policy and applicable law.
- B. Articles of impeachment may be filed at any time by any elected or appointed officer of the UCDSGA with the Judicial Council. 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 and present the allegations to the Senate with a recommendation. The member against whom articles of impeachment have been filed shall have an opportunity to address the Senate as well as any UCDSGA member who wishes to speak on behalf of that individual. Upon 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 UCDSGA constituent may initiate removal of any elected or appointed officer of the UCDSGA by recall petition. A petition must contain a statement of specific reasons for proposed removal and be signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the UC Denver student body. Upon submission of petition to the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council shall certify that the recall petition meets the requirements of this paragraph (C) and forward such petition to the Senate. Upon receipt of the recall petition, the Senate shall determine whether to submit a recall question to student body, to initiate impeachment as provided herein, or to impose a remedy other than removal from office. If the Senate determines to submit a recall question to the student body, a special election shall be held as described in this Constitution and the Election Policy.

Vacancies

- D. Should the office of President become vacant during the term, the Vice President shall serve as President and the Senate shall select a Vice President. Should the office of President and Vice President become vacant, the succession of office shall be as follows: President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Legislation and Drafting Committee Chair, the Finance and Funding Committee Chair, the Chief Justice, the Events and Planning Committee Chair. Should all of these positions be open, the Senate shall select an interim President and Vice President. Successors to the office of President described in this paragraph shall serve the remaining term if the vacancy occurs during the Spring Semester. If the office of the President becomes vacant during the Fall Semester, a special election shall be held.
- E. Should any elected or appointed office of the UCDSGA other than the 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 on the SACAB shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law.

**Article IX
Amendments**

- 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.

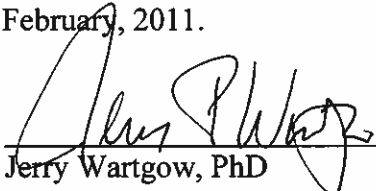
RATIFICATION: This document is effective upon approval by the student body and replaces and supersedes any other constitution or governing document of the UCDSGA now or previously in effect.

Adopted by the 2010-11 UCDSGA Executive Council on this 28th day of January, 2011.

Keven Shaw
Keven Shaw
President

Shannon Fender
Shannon Fender
Legislative Committee Chair

Approved by the UC Denver Chancellor on this 14 day of February, 2011.



Jerry Wartgow, PhD
Chancellor

Adopted by the UC Denver student body at the general election held on March ___ 2011.

Head Election Commissioner