



# Student Government Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

## **Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver**

### **Student Government Association**

Last revised on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

By: Chief Justice Burns & Associate Justice Ravisankar

We, the students of the University of Colorado (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 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 appear before and speak to CU Denver SGA.
- E. Students shall have the right to access the decisions made by CU Denver SGA, meeting minutes, and governing documents.
- F. Students shall have the right to assemble, petition, and protest against CU Denver SGA.
- G. Students shall have the right to equitable treatment and advocacy from CU Denver SGA.
- H. All student activity fee paying students enrolled at CU Denver 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.



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- 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, 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.
- M. All elected and hired SGA members will be afforded the right to the respective communication channels used by the governing body for the entirety of their term.

## **Article II: Qualifications for Office**

- A. Elected offices of CU Denver SGA shall be President, Vice President, Director of Events, Director of Communications, Director of the Student Services Review Committee, Student Advisory to the Auraria Board (SACAB) representatives and the membership of the standing committees, as provided herein. Appointed officers of the CU Denver SGA shall be the Chief of Staff, Judicial Committee, and Election Commissioners, as provided for herein, along with any other such officers as the Senate may create between election periods after approval by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.
- B. CU Denver SGA constituents are eligible to serve in the elected or appointed into officer positions in the CU Denver SGA, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Undergraduate students must be degree-seeking and enrolled in a minimum of six



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(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.

b. All students holding an elected or hired position within CU Denver SGA must disclose any affiliations with any/all recognized CU Denver and/or student fee funded organizations.

c. The President, Vice President, Director of SSRC, Finance and Funding Chair, Civics Chair, and College Council Chair may not concurrently hold an executive office, including, but not limited to, the offices of President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff in any student fee funded organization.

d. All students holding elected or appointed office within the 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).

C. 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 position 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 two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

b. All appointed positions within the CU Denver SGA shall be considered “paid staff positions.”

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

d. The provisions of Article II (C) shall not apply to any Ad-Hoc committee created by the Senate pursuant to this Constitution.

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



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## 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:

- a. All standing committee members, including eight (7) College Council members – one from each respective college, four-to-six (4-6) representatives from the Finance and Funding committee, and four-to-six (4-6) representatives from the Civic Engagement committee, and two (2) Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board members (SACAB) elected from the student body at-large in accordance with this Constitution and shall be full voting members of the Senate.
- b. The Director of the Student Services Review Committee, the Director of Communications, and the Director of Events 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 weekly or up to the discretion of the Vice President during the Fall and Spring semesters, and at least once during the summer semester. Additional meetings may be held at the 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.

- a. A special Senate Meeting may be called for by the President of the Senate or by a two-thirds (2/3) agreement of the Legislative Branch.
- b. Two (2) business days' advanced notice must be given to the members of SGA.
- c. The student body must be informed of the special session at least thirty-six (36) hours before the start of the session.
- d. Quorum will be maintained at two-thirds (2/3) majority of the standing membership.



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- 115 D. The Senate may adopt legislation, upon introduction by any member of the Legislative  
116 Branch. Legislation proposals introduced by any member of the Senate may be referred  
117 by the Senate to any such standing committees or Ad-Hoc committees of the Senate as  
118 the Senate shall deem necessary.
- 119 E. The Senate shall approve the CU Denver SGA operating budget in accordance with CU  
120 Denver rules and procedures.
- 121 F. The Senate shall approve bylaws for all standing committees within CU Denver SGA  
122 with two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. The Senate shall not act except upon the presence of  
123 a quorum, which shall be two-thirds (2/3) majority of the standing membership.
- 124 G. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments as set forth herein upon  
125 presentation of said impeachments by the Judicial Committee.

## 126 ***Committees***

- 127 A. There shall be six (6) standing committees comprised of sitting membership within the  
128 Senate as follows:
- 129 a. Civic Engagement Committee
  - 130 b. College Council
    - 131 i. The College Council shall be composed of one  
132 representative from each of the seven (7) colleges at  
133 CU Denver: Architecture and Planning, Arts and  
134 Media, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering  
135 Design and Computing, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Public Affairs.
  - 136 c. Public Relations Committee
    - 137 i. Director of Communications
    - 138 ii. Associate Director of Communications
  - 139 d. Finance and Funding Committee
  - 140 e. Judicial Committee
  - 141 f. Student Services Review Committee
  - 142 g. Pursuant to §23-70-102, C.R.S. (2013), as it may hereinafter be revised or  
143 renumbered, there exists a Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board of



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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 the 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.

B. Be it enumerated in the Constitution the delegation of power to the bylaws in outlining the duties and functions of committees.

C. Each committee shall nominate their own chair through a vote with the exception of the Finance and Funding Committee and the Judicial Committee.

D. The Senate may create Ad-Hoc committees and define the membership and purpose of such committees, without limitation, as needed.

E. A resolution depicting the purpose of the Ad-Hoc must be created and approved by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote at Senate.

## ***Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch***

A. Pursuant to CU Denver policy, there exists a Student Services Review Committee (SSRC), which shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding the allocation of all student purpose fee dollars. SSRC shall ensure that all student purpose fee dollars are allocated in a manner that best serves the students of the University of Colorado Denver.

B. The Senate shall have the authority to appoint an advisory representative to serve as a member of the Senate upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the standing membership of the Senate. Roles and responsibilities for this representative must be documented before the position may be appointed.

a. If the position is created by executives for the academic year, these positions can be granted voting rights outside of the constitution with the approval of temporary bylaws by the Senate.



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- C. All Ad-Hoc committees and Ad-Hoc positions shall be considered Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch unless specified otherwise.

## **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 the 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.
- a. The President must approve, in writing, any legislation adopted by the Senate within five (5) business days.
- b. The President may veto any legislation brought forth from the Senate floor within five (5) business days, it shall be considered approved.
- c. If no action is taken upon any legislation within five (5) business days, it shall be considered approved.
- D. The President's veto may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate within five (5) business days after said veto.
- E. The President shall address the Senate on the state of the campus and recommend measures for consideration as they deem necessary and expedient.

### ***Vice President***

- A. The Vice President shall aid the President in executing the duties of the office.
- B. The Vice President shall serve as the chair of the Senate.
- C. 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.

### ***Chief of Staff***



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- A. The Chief of Staff shall serve as an assistant to the President and Vice President. B.  
The Chief of Staff shall be appointed at the discretion of the President and Vice President.
- C. The Chief of Staff shall act as recordkeeper of staff hiring, quorum, and attendance in  
coordination with the Judicial branch.
- a. Additional duties will be defined as needed by President and Vice President.

## **Article V: Judicial Committee**

- A. The Judicial Committee shall consist of the Parliamentarian having been nominated by  
the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- a. Chief Justice of the Judicial Committee shall serve as the Parliamentarian.
- b. The Parliamentarian shall act as recordkeeper and Parliamentarian for all Senate  
meetings and shall keep records of attendance and voting tabulations for all  
Senate meetings.
- B. The Judicial Committee 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 judgements  
of the Judicial Committee shall be binding on the SGA. All duties and responsibilities are  
outlined in the Judicial Committee bylaws.

## **Article VI: Elections and Terms of Office**

### ***Election Commissioners***

- A. There shall be two-to-three (2-3) Election Commissioners who shall be nominated by the  
Executive Branch 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; the Senate may adopt revisions to the Election Code not proposed by the Election  
Commissioners upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of its standing membership.

### ***General Elections***

- A. 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





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semester and no elections may occur during the summer semester or during any break in the academic year.

## ***Terms of Office***

- A. The terms of all regularly elected offices established herein shall be one (1) year, following General Elections, beginning the day after the Spring CU Denver Commencement Ceremony, and ending the day before graduation 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 regular elected term, except as otherwise provided herein or as approved by the Senate.

## ***Referenda***

- A. Upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority 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.
- B. 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 a 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***

- A. 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 member of CU Denver SGA, who fail to substantially fulfill the duties of the office, may be impeached.
- a. Possible grounds for impeachment include, but are not limited to the following:



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- i. Failure to abide by all adopted Bylaws, and Resolutions, and this Constitution.
    - ii. Violation of University policies and procedures.
  - b. Remedies allowed for impeachment process:
    - i. Removal of Office
    - ii. Any other remedy recommended by Judicial and the Senate.
- B. Articles of Impeachment may be filed with the Judicial Committee at any time by any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA.
  - a. Articles of Impeachment must state all grounds and factual evidence for impeachment.
- C. Inquiry Process
  - a. The Judicial Committee will conduct an inquiry for all impeachment allegations and present findings to the Senate body with a recommended action.
    - i. In the event that impeachment is brought forward against Judicial Committee members, the President and Vice President will preside over the inquiry.
  - b. From the date of submission of Article of Impeachment, the Judicial Committee has 10 (ten) business days to finish inquiry process.
  - c. After the inquiry process, Judicial Committee shall notify the President, Vice President, and Ex-Officio of the findings and request to be on the following agenda of a regular Senate Meeting.
    - i. A special Senate Meeting may be called for the expressed purpose of the impeachment procedures.
    - ii. This Special Senate meeting must follow all requirements that are outlined in Article III.
  - d. A motion shall be made and seconded by to review impeachment of the member in question.
  - e. The member in question shall be given the opportunity to speak their own defense and offer evidence as they deem necessary.



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- f. Following full discussion, the motion of impeachment shall be voted on immediately.
- g. All members of CU Denver SGA present, including the member in question, but not including the President, Vice President, Judicial Committee members, and ex officio shall have voting rights in the process of impeachment.
- h. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate, the judgement of impeachment shall be determined.
- i. A member who is removed from office, may not hold any position in CU Denver SGA for at least two (2) years after removal.
- j. If the Vice President is subject to impeachment the President Pro Tempore will preside over Senate.

## ***Recall***

- A. Any constituent may initiate removal of any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA by submitting a recall petition to the Judicial Committee.
- B. 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.
- C. Upon submission of the recall petition, the Judicial Committee shall certify that the recall petition meets the following requirements:
  - a. Printed full legal name
  - b. CU Denver email address
  - c. Signature
- D. After approval, the Judicial Committee shall forward such a petition to the Senate within at least two (2) business days.
- E. 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***

- A. All CU Denver SGA members are student employees, 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:



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- a. Lack of performance or attendance
  - b. Falsifications of timesheet
  - c. Releasing of restricted information
  - d. Theft
  - e. Unauthorized or fraudulent use of equipment and/or property
  - f. Violation of University policies and procedures
- B. Any member who is terminated may not hold any position in CU Denver SGA for at least two (2) years after termination.

## ***Vacancies***

- A. 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.
- B. Should President and Vice President become vacant the President Pro Tempore will serve as an interim President for the remaining semester.
- a. If the President Pro Tempore assumes the office of President during the fall semester, a special election shall be held prior to the start of the spring semester.
- C. Should any elected or appointed office of CU Denver SGA, other than President, become vacant during the term, the Chair of the committee and/or committee shall nominate, and the Senate shall confirm an eligible student to hold such office; except that any vacancy within SACAB shall be filed in the manner prescribed by law.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

- A. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by the Senate before the last Friday in February, approved by the Chancellor 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.



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

348 *Last ratified by vote of the student body April 2025*

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350 **Endorsement of the Chancellor:**

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**Kenneth Christensen, PhD., Chancellor**

  
**Date**