



Student Government Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

1 **Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver**

2 **Student Government Association**

3 Last Revised: February 26, 2021

4
5 We, the students of the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) in order to give the students
6 effective representation in the shared governance of the campus, to provide the students with an
7 enriching and fulfilling university experience, and to promote the general welfare of the student
8 body establish this Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government
9 Association (CU Denver SGA). We do so in accordance with the University of Colorado Board
10 of Regents laws and policies, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and the Constitution of
11 the United States of America.

12 **Article I: Declaration of Rights**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 J. Students reserve all rights guaranteed and protected by the Constitution of the University of
2 Colorado Denver Student Government Association, the Constitution of the State of Colorado,
3 the Constitution of the United States of America and all other established legislation at the
4 University, State, and Federal levels
- 5 K. The University of Colorado, and thus CU Denver SGA, is committed to maintaining a
6 positive learning, working and living environment. The University prohibits discrimination on
7 the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, pregnancy, creed, religion, sexual
8 orientation, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, political philosophy or political
9 affiliation in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational
10 programs and activities
- 11 L. No decision related to the recognition or funding of any student group, access to any of the
12 benefits afforded by CU Denver SGA, or participation in any CU Denver SGA endeavor,
13 shall be made from the partisan viewpoint of any individual or politically involved group

14 **Article II: Qualification for Office**

- 15 A. Elected offices of CU Denver SGA shall be President, Vice President, Events & Planning
16 Director and the membership of standing committees, as provided herein. Appointed offices
17 of CU Denver SGA shall be the Parliamentarian , Judicial Committee, Student Fee Review
18 Committee (SFRC) representatives and Election Commissioners, as provided for herein, along
19 with any other such offices as the Senate may create between election periods after approval
20 by two thirds (2/3) of the senate
- 21 B. CU Denver SGA constituents are eligible to serve in elected or appointed office of CU Denver
22 SGA, subject to the following conditions:
- 23 C. Undergraduate students must be degree-seeking and enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit
24 hours for the duration of their term. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of three
25 (3) credit hours for the duration of their term or receiving thesis/dissertation credits
- 26 D. All students holding elected office within CU Denver SGA must disclose any affiliations with
27 any/all recognized CU Denver and/or student fee funded organizations. The President, Vice
28 President, SFRC Chair and Finance and Funding Chair may not concurrently hold any
29 executive office, including, but not limited to, the offices of President, Vice President,
30 Secretary, or Treasurer in any student fee funded organization.

- 1 E. All students holding elected or appointed office within CU Denver SGA, must remain in good
2 academic and disciplinary standing as defined by CU Denver and with their respective
3 school(s) and/or college(s)
- 4 F. No student may concurrently hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office of CU
5 Denver SGA or any paid staff position within CU Denver SGA, except as follows:
- 6 G. A student holding elected or appointed office within CU Denver SGA, other than the
7 President or Vice President, may concurrently hold one (1) paid staff position within CU
8 Denver SGA upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- 9 a. All appointed offices within the CU Denver SGA shall be considered “paid staff
10 positions” except Parliamentarian and Judicial Committee members for purposes of this
11 provision
- 12 H. A student in a non-voting position within CU Denver SGA may concurrently hold two (2)
13 paid non-voting positions upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate
- 14 I. The provisions of this paragraph (iv) shall not apply to any Ad Hoc committee created by the
15 Senate pursuant to this Constitution
- 16 J. Failure to meet any of these conditions throughout the duration of a term of office shall be
17 grounds for removal from CU Denver SGA by impeachment or at the discretion of the
18 Chancellor

19 **Article III: Legislative Branch**

20 ***Senate Composition***

- 21 A. The legislative authority of CU Denver SGA resides in the standing membership of the senate
22 which shall be comprised of:
- 23 a. All standing committee members, including eight (8) College Council members, four-
24 to-six (4-6) representatives from the Finance and Funding committee, and four-to-six
25 (4-6) representatives from the Civic Engagement committee, and two (2) Student
26 Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board members (SACAB) elected from the
27 student body at-large in accordance with this Constitution
- 28 b. The Chair of the Student Fee Review Committee and the Events & Planning Director
29 shall be full voting members of the Senate

- 1 B. The Vice President shall chair and preside over meetings of the Senate, and shall not be a
2 voting member, except in the case of a tie. The Senate shall elect from among its members a
3 President Pro Tempore who shall preside over meetings of the Senate in the absence of or at
4 the request of the Vice President
- 5 C. Meetings of the Senate shall be held weekly or up to the discretion of the Vice President
6 during the Fall and Spring semesters, and at least once during the Summer semester.
7 Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Vice President, or the President Pro
8 Tempore if the Vice President shall refuse to act, or upon affirmative vote or signature of a
9 majority of the Senate membership
- 10 D. The Senate may adopt legislation, upon introduction by any member of the CU Denver SGA.
11 Legislation proposals introduced by any member of the Senate may be referred by the Senate
12 to any such standing committees or Ad Hoc committees of the Senate as the Senate shall
13 deem necessary.
- 14 E. The Senate shall approve the CU Denver SGA operating budget in accordance with CU
15 Denver rules and procedures, including budgets adopted for the Student Fee Review
16 Committee (SFRC) as described herein
- 17 F. The Senate shall approve bylaws for all standing committees within CU Denver SGA with
18 two thirds (2/3) vote. The Senate shall not act except upon the presence of a quorum, which
19 shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the standing membership
- 20 G. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments as set forth herein upon
21 presentation of said impeachments by the Judicial Committee.

22 ***Committees***

- 23 A. There shall be four (4) standing committees comprised of sitting membership within the
24 Senate as follows:
- 25 a. The Civic Engagement Committee is responsible for promoting matters of civic
26 engagement within and outside SGA. Civic involvement and participation involving:
27 civic activism, student activism, and community engagement in Denver and beyond,
28 including issues of public, political or civic concern. The civic engagement
29 committee will work collaboratively with students and organizations across CU
30 Denver's campus in order to register students as voters and engage them in current

- 1 political issues. The ultimate goal of the civic engagement committee is to encourage
2 and promote the political involvement of our student body both within and outside the
3 University of Colorado Denver. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in
4 the Civic Engagement Committee bylaws.
- 5 b. The Finance and Funding Committee shall allocate student fee funds to recognized
6 student organizations in accordance with the Funding Guidelines and shall review but
7 not veto or alter budgets proposed by internal Student Government committees. All
8 other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Finance and Funding bylaws
- 9 c. The College Council shall be composed of one representative from each of the eight
10 (8) colleges at CU Denver: Architecture and Planning, Arts and Media, Business,
11 Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Science, Liberal Arts
12 and Sciences, Public Affairs and Graduate School. These representatives shall
13 participate in the administration of their respective colleges and represent the interests,
14 initiatives, and concerns of the students within their respective colleges. All other
15 duties and responsibilities are outlined in the College Council bylaws
- 16 d. Pursuant to §23-70-102, C.R.S. (2013), as it may hereinafter be revised or
17 renumbered, there exists a Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board of
18 Directors (SACAB), comprised in part of CU Denver SGA representatives who shall
19 be elected and shall serve in the manner prescribed by law. In the event of a vacancy
20 by a CU Denver SGA representative to SACAB, it shall be the highest priority of the
21 CU Denver SGA to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law. The Senate
22 shall be responsible for adopting procedures to fill vacancies as prescribed by law, and
23 for carrying out any other responsibilities imposed by law on the student government
24 or governing body related to SACAB
- 25 B. The Executive Branch shall nominate, for the consideration and confirmation of the Senate, a
26 chair for each standing committee
- 27 **C.** Each committee member shall be nominated by the Executive Branch, with the consensus of
28 at least three (3) of the four (4) standing committee chairs for the consideration and
29 confirmation of the Senate. If the Executive Branch and three (3) of the four (4) standing
30 committee chairs do not reach consensus, the Senate may appoint members to the standing

1 committees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. At the discretion of the committee or the Senate,
2 additional non-voting members may be appointed to any standing committee upon nomination
3 by the committee chair or the Executive Branch and confirmation by the Senate

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

6 E. A resolution depicting the purpose of the Ad Hoc, must be created and approved by a 2/3
7 majority vote at Senate

8 ***Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch***

9 A. Pursuant to CU Denver policy, there exists a Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC), which
10 shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding the allocation of all student
11 purpose fee dollars. This responsibility includes review of both new funding requests and
12 current expenditures. SFRC shall ensure that all student purpose fee dollars are allocated in a
13 manner that best serves the students of the University of Colorado Denver.

14 B. The Senate shall have the authority to appoint an advisory representative to serve as a member
15 of the Senate upon 2/3 vote by the standing membership of the Senate. Examples of this
16 representative include sustainability and DEI. Roles and responsibilities for this representative
17 must be documented before the position may be appointed.

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

20 **Article IV: Executive Branch**

21 ***President***

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

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

29 C. The President shall approve or veto, in writing, any legislation adopted by the Senate

- 1 a. The President must approve, with a signature, any legislation adopted by the Senate
- 2 within five (5) business days
- 3 b. The President may veto any legislation brought forth from the Senate floor by
- 4 expressing so within five (5) business days in writing
- 5 c. If no action is taken upon legislation within five (5) business days, it shall be
- 6 considered approved

7 D. The President's veto may be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the Senate within five (5) business
8 days after said veto

9 E. The President shall address the Senate on the state of the campus and recommend for their
10 consideration such measures as they deem necessary and expedient

11 ***Vice President***

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

13 B. The Vice President shall serve as the chair of the Senate

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

16 ***Parliamentarian***

17 A. Parliamentarian shall serve as the chief facilitator of SGA proceedings

18 B. Parliamentarian shall serve as chair of the Judicial Committee

19 C. The Parliamentarian shall act as recordkeeper and Parliamentarian for all Senate
20 meetings, and shall keep records of attendance and voting tabulations for all Senate
21 meetings

22 D. The ***Parliamentarian*** shall nominate and advise the Elections Commissioners and if the
23 Elections Commissioners are unable or unwilling to administer regular or special
24 elections as provided herein, or if all commissioner offices are vacant, shall carry out the
25 duties of the Elections Commissioners as described herein until a suitable replacement
26 may be appointed

27 E. The Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by a two-thirds
28 (2/3) vote of the Senate

29 ***Events & Planning Director***

- 1 A. The Events & Planning Director shall promote, plan, execute, and evaluate CU Denver
2 SGA events and activities for the benefit of CU Denver students at the Denver campus.
- 3 B. The Events & Planning Director will work with the President, Vice President,
4 Parliamentarian, and members of the Senate legislature to ensure all events promote
5 diversity, equity, inclusion, and a safe learning environment for all CU Denver Students
- 6 C. All others responsibilities and powers of the Events & Planning Director are outlined in
7 the Events & Planning bylaws

8 **Article V: Judicial Committee**

- 9 A. The Judicial Committee shall consist of the Parliamentarian and two-to-four (2-4) volunteer
10 students-at-large having been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate
- 11 B. The Judicial Committee shall oversee all activities of the CU Denver SGA, ensuring that the
12 creation and implementation of the CU Denver SGA policies and legislation coincide with the
13 interests of the University of Colorado Denver and its students. All judgments of the Judicial
14 Committee shall be binding on the SGA. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in
15 the Judicial Committee bylaws

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

17 ***Election Commissioners***

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

24 ***General Elections***

- 25 A. Elections shall be held at the time and manner set forth in the Election Code. The general
26 elections for all elected CU Denver SGA offices shall be held annually during the Spring
27 semester and no election may occur during the summer semester or during any break in the
28 academic year

29 ***Terms of Office***

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

7 ***Referenda***

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

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

16 ***Special Elections***

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

19 **Article VII: Removal and Vacancies**

20 ***Impeachment***

21 A. Any elected or appointed member of CU Denver SGA, who fail to substantially fulfill the
22 duties of the office, may be impeached

23 a. Possible grounds for impeachment include, but are not limited to the following

24 i. Failure to abide by all adopted Bylaws, Resolutions, and this Constitution

25 ii. Violation of University policies and procedures

26 iii. Any other offenses the Senate sees fit

27 b. Remedies allowed for impeachment process

28 i. Removal of Office

29 ii. Any other remedy determined by the Senate

1 B. Articles of Impeachment may be filed with the Judicial Committee at any time by any elected
2 or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA

3 a. Articles of Impeachment must state all grounds and factual evidence for impeachment

4 C. Inquiry Process

5 a. The Judicial Committee will conduct an inquiry for all impeachment allegations and
6 present findings to the Senate body with a recommended action

7 i. In the event that impeachment is brought forward against Judicial Committee
8 members, the President and Vice President will preside over the inquiry

9 b. From the date of submission of Articles of Impeachment, Judicial has 10 (ten)
10 business days to finish inquiry process

11 c. After the inquiry process, Judicial Committee shall notice the President, Vice
12 President, and Ex-Officio of the findings and request to be on the following agenda of
13 a regular Senate Meeting

14 i. A special Senate Meeting may be called for the expressed purpose of the
15 impeachment procedures

16 1. 2 (two) business days advanced notice must be given to the members of SGA

17 2. The Student Body must be informed of the special session 24 hours before the
18 meeting occurs

19 3. Quorum will be the same as a regular Senate Meeting

20 D. Impeachment Procedure

21 a. A motion shall be made and seconded to review impeachment of the member in
22 question

23 b. The member in question shall be given the opportunity to speak on their own defense
24 and offer evidence as they deem necessary

25 c. Following full discussion, the motion of impeachment shall be voted on immediately

26 d. All members of CU Denver SGA present, including the member in question, but not
27 including the President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Judicial Committee
28 members, and ex-officio shall have voting rights in the process of impeachment

29 E. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, the judgement of impeachment shall be
30 determined

1 F. A member who is removed from office, may not hold any position in CU Denver SGA for at
2 least two (2) years after removal

3 G. If the Vice-President is subject to impeachment the President Pro Tempore will preside over
4 Senate

5 ***Recall***

6 A. Any constituent may initiate removal of any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA
7 by submitting a recall petition to the Judicial Committee

8 B. A petition must contain a statement of specific reasons for proposed removal and be signed by
9 at least 15 percent of the CU Denver student body

10 C. Upon submission of the recall petition, the Judicial Committee shall certify that the recall
11 petition meets the following requirements:

- 12 a. Printed full legal name
- 13 b. CU Denver email address
- 14 c. Signature

15 D. After approval, Judicial Committee shall forward such petition to the Senate within at least 2
16 (two) business days

17 E. If the Senate determines a recall questionnaire to the student body is appropriate, a special
18 election shall be held as described in this Constitution and the Election Policy

19

20 ***Termination***

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

- 24 a. Lack of performance or attendance
- 25 b. Falsifications of timesheet
- 26 c. Releasing of restricted information
- 27 d. Theft
- 28 e. Unauthorized or fraudulent use of equipment and/or property
- 29 f. Violation of University policies and procedures

1 B. A member who is terminated, may not hold any position in CU Denver SGA for at least two
2 (2) years after termination

3 ***Vacancies***

4 A. Should the office of President become vacant during the term, the Vice President shall serve
5 as President, and the Senate shall select and confirm a Vice President from the standing
6 membership of the Senate.

7 B. Should President and Vice President become vacant the President Pro Tempore will serve as
8 an interim President for the remaining semester.

9 a. If the President Pro Tempore assumes the office of President during the Fall semester,
10 a special election shall be held prior to start of the Spring semester

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

15 **Article VIII: Amendments**

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

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

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

27

28 ***Last ratified by vote of the student body April 2021.***