

The SGA Constitution

2019

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Preamble

We, the students of Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) are determined to establish within our student community a government that will:

- Be sensitive to our individual and collective needs.
- Provide for an effective means of communication between the various components of our university community.
- Strive for the advancement of our university community.
- Assist in the preservation and maintenance of our rights and fundamental freedoms. With a firm commitment that we, students of AUI, have the right and the responsibility to make appropriate recommendations with regard to those matters that affect us.

we have resolved to combine our efforts to achieve these goals by establishing this constitution for a student government association at AUI.

ARTICLE 1

The name of this organization shall be Student Government Association at Al Akhawayn University or AUI SGA.

ARTICLE 2

The main mission of the Student Government Association (SGA) shall be:

- Represent the students' interests.
- Raise the students' concerns.
- Ensure student participation in policy and decision making within the university.
- Strive to improve the quality of academic and campus life.
- Act as a representative of the student body of AUI in front of other university organizations.
- Promote ethics inside the campus and ensure respect towards society's morals and values, and the spirit of tolerance.
- Take part in any disciplinary action related to any student.

ARTICLE 3

The Constitution shall come into effect once adopted by the authorities of the university and authorized by the President of the university.

Section II: Prerogatives and Organs of the SGA

ARTICLE 4

The powers of the SGA as provided in this constitution shall extend to all decisions and policies that affect students enrolled at AUI.

The SGA shall review all constitutional and policy changes and make recommendations before approval.

ARTICLE 5

The powers and responsibilities of the SGA shall be vested in the General Assembly, in accordance with the current university policies and regulations. Legislative power derives from the student body of AUI and is delegated to the General Assembly of the Student Government Association. The General Assembly shall have the power to exercise jurisdiction over all matters delegated to it by the university administration. Such delegation will always be issued in written form by the VPSA.

ARTICLE 6

All students at AUI shall elect a General Assembly (GA). There shall be 16 members in the General Assembly. Representations of the student body in the GA shall be from all schools and levels (graduate and undergraduate). An Advisory Council of an additional four members can be created at the GA's discretion to represent the Student-Athletes Council, the Resident Assistants, the Student Leadership Council, and the First Year Experience, in the GA.

ARTICLE 7

The General Assembly shall consist of an Executive Board and a Student Senate.

ARTICLE 8

The Executive Board of the SGA shall consist of four members is directly elected by the SGA members of the General Assembly. The four members are the President, Vice-President, Secretary General, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE 9

The Student Senate shall consist of the 12 members of the General Assembly who are not part of the Executive Board. The Student Senate is organized in committees.

ARTICLE 10

All voting operations for the election of the General Assembly and the Executive Board are conducted by students and supervised by the VPSA Office. Written records of the results of the elections are certified by the VPSA and announced by students through the SGA official communication channels. The Advisory Council members do not have the right to participate in any election held in the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 11

A board of Faculty Advisors consisting of four faculty and/or administrative members is designated by the general assembly for advising purposes. This board of advisors shall serve for a one-year term, and its members may not vote in SGA meetings.

Section III: Organization of the SGA

ARTICLE 12

The General Assembly membership of the Student Government Association is open to:

- Be a full student at the university for at least 2 complete semesters.
- Not be in an academic probation
- Not have any disciplinary history
- Not have been impeached from previous senates
- Maintain a CGPA of 2.75 or higher.
- Abide by the Manual of Procedures regarding SGA Elections

Students who are on disciplinary and/or academic probation are not eligible for membership in the General Assembly. Students who come under such probation after their election lose their status as members of the SGA. No more than five of the newly elected members are allowed not to be present in the following Fall semester (Last semester students, students planning for exchange/study abroad, students planning for a semester off/internship).

ARTICLE 13

Members of the General Assembly (GA) are elected directly by the whole student body. Membership in the GA is for two semesters. The Executive Board is by a majority of votes by the SGA members in the GA during the first meeting of a regular term.

ARTICLE 14

Only SGA members of the General Assembly shall have the right to vote in the General Assembly's deliberations. The Advisory Council members do not have the right to vote in the General Assembly's deliberations.

ARTICLE 15

The GA shall have at least one regular meeting every two weeks. Progress reports of all GA meetings shall be made available to the student body.

The President of the SGA and heads of committees can call for meetings if needed.

ARTICLE 16

The Student Government Association budget is allocated by the VPSA, who acts as a sponsor for the Association. The SGA shall preserve the right to negotiate the allocated budget every semester and ask for budget extensions when needed. The budget is cumulative and managed through a Business Office account.

Section IV: Officers Of The Association

ARTICLE 17

The executive authority of the SGA of AUI shall be vested in the Executive Board composed of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and a Secretary General. These officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the GA in the Fall General Election each year. Their term in office shall be for one calendar year and begins right after the elections. All Executive Board officers must be full-time students.

ARTICLE 18

Senators running for an executive board position shall prepare a speech for the first session. After the candidates give speeches, the remainder of the GA shall deliberate and vote.

ARTICLE 20

In case of a vacancy in the office of any member of the Executive Board officers, either through resignation, impeachment, or disability, the first officer in rank shall preside over the SGA meetings and executive council until election for the vacant position takes place by an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly within a two weeks period after the vacancy occurs.

ARTICLE 21

An Advisory Council shall have four members representing Resident Assistants, First Year Experience, Student Leadership Council, and Student-Athletes Council.

ARTICLE 22

The president shall have the power and responsibility:

- To implement all legislation made in pursuance of this Constitution by the GA.
- To lead the SGA's vision for the mandate
- To speak on behalf of the GA.
- To preside over all GA meetings.
- To Supervise and direct the activities of other executive officers.
- To arrange meetings considered necessary to advise and assist the different student committees. These actions do not require the GA approval.
- To attend the Board of Trustees meetings, the Administrative Council meetings, the Deans Council meetings, the Student Affairs meetings, and all the other meetings in which decisions affecting the students are made.
- Ensure that no conflict of interest arises within the SGA towards other stakeholders.
- Ensure integrity within the SGA.

ARTICLE 23

The responsibilities of the SGA Vice-President are:

- To preside over the General Assembly in case of impeachment or absence of the President.
- To assist or replace the President in his or her duties.
- To arrange meetings between the Student Organizations and the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE 24

The Responsibilities of the Treasurer are:

- To manage accounts and supervise all financial matters.
- To report all financial matters to the SGA EB and GA. The President of the SGA shall report financial matters to the VPSA.
- To preserve and maintain records for all local fund accounts.
- To submit at the end of each semester all necessary documents to the Business Office for a financial audit of operations.
- To document the origins of SGA funds.

ARTICLE 25

The Responsibilities of the Secretary-General are:

- to serve as the recording secretary for all SGA meetings.
- to maintain and preserve all administrative records of the SGA.
- to help the president in his/her duties.

ARTICLE 26

The duties of an Advisory Counselor are:

- Communicate the problems of each respective organization.
- Recommend new changes in AUI policies according to their respective departments.

Section V: Impeachment

ARTICLE 27

Any member of the SGA shall be subject to impeachment for the following reasons: incompetence, dereliction of duties, repeated absences and/or any behavior harmful to the AUI Community. A member of the GA is subject to impeachment if absent for two scheduled meetings of the Senate or committee without notice. After two unexcused absences have been recorded and announced by the General Secretary, the person will be compelled to justify the reasons for his/her absence in front of the GA. Willful violation of this constitution and or the decisions made in pursuance thereof or negligence or conduct contrary to institutional moral and ethical standards shall be subject to impeachment. Proposals for impeachment are made by majority vote of members of the GA. An affirmative 2/3 majority of the GA shall be necessary to impeach after hearing the member in question.

ARTICLE 28

Any student holding a membership in the GA or a position in the Executive Board or in the committees and has been impeached may not be a future candidate for the GA.

Section VI: Committees

ARTICLE 29

These be the recommended standing committees of the SGA: Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Public Relations.

ARTICLE 30

The Academic Affairs committee shall consist of one student representative for each school and the language center. The Academic Affairs committee shall concern itself with the following issues:

- Expressing students' concerns regarding academic issues.
- Helping the students comprehend their full rights as well as their responsibilities and obligations regarding academic affairs.
- Contributing to the university's stated commitment to excellence and to the provision of academic training in response to national and regional development needs.

ARTICLE 31

The Student Life Committee shall concern itself with the following issues:

- Expressing students' concerns regarding housing, restaurant, campus store, bookstore, and other university services.
- Contributing to the development and quality of these services.
- Developing a favorable environment that enhances the students' academic performance and keeps students on campus.
- Developing a spirit of participation and cooperation among students and Soliciting input from them in order to expand student activities on the campus.

ARTICLE 32

The Public Relation committee concern itself with the following issues:

- Communicate SGA actions with the student body.
- Gather feedback from students and forward it to the GA.

ARTICLE 33

An Ad-hoc committee shall be appointed by the President of the SGA to investigate and advise on issues deemed necessary to conduct a specific business of the General Assembly. Appointment of the Ad-hoc Committee shall be effective after the approval of the SGA executive board. By default, the President of the SGA is the coordinator of the Ad-hoc committee. The president of SGA is responsible for allocating task force from the ad-hoc committee to other committees when needed.

ARTICLE 34

Members of the standing committees are elected by a simple majority vote during the first and second meetings following the election of the General Assembly and the Executive Board. The

session of these committees shall be of the same duration of the Senate. No head of a committee shall serve in more than their standing committee. Except for the SGA President (who is by default the coordinator of the Ad-hoc Committee), no member of the executive board may serve as a coordinator of any of the standing committees.

ARTICLE 35

A committee shall be responsible for recommendations and proposals referred by and to the SGA. All members of a committee have equal status. The members shall elect a committee coordinator whose functions are:

- to call for and preside over the meetings of the committee.
- to speak on behalf of the committee.
- To represent the committee at official functions, and execute, during an emergency, an action deemed expedient to the welfare of the student body which is not contrary to this constitution. Such action must be reported to the committee at its next session.
- To maintain and preserve all records of the committee.

ARTICLE 36

As an advisor of the SGA, the Student life director shall call the SGA President to meetings in order to address particular issues of interest to students. Contact between the SGA and the administration is to be reported to the Student Life Director.

Section VII: The Election Code

ARTICLE 37

To ensure continuity inside the Student Government Association, at most 3 members of the SGA will be directly re-elected from within the General Assembly by the members of the SGA where the vote will take place 2 sessions before the end of the term.

ARTICLE 38

The election of the members of the AUI General Assembly is open to all students enrolled in AUI (with the exception of exchange students). The voting shall follow the procedure announced by the VPSA, before the SGA elections.

ARTICLE 39

The Board of Election is responsible for supervising the voting and publishing the ballot. It will be constituted of re-elected members within the student government. Duties of the Board of

Election consist of ensuring that candidates fulfill eligibility criteria, supervising of the voting procedures, and in the publication of the results of the elections. All elections are supervised by the VPSA through the Campus Life Director.

ARTICLE 40

The general elections shall take place each year, no later than mid-November.

ARTICLE 41

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be formulated by the General Assembly or proposed by a petition signed by thirty percent of the Student Body. Following an interim period of two weeks, the proposed amendment may be ratified by an affirmative two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly. Ratified amendments must then be forwarded to the VPSA. The amendments go into effect immediately after their ratification by the General Assembly and their formal acceptance by the university administration.

ARTICLE 43

In case more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the general assembly is no longer in place (due to graduation, impeachments...). The SGA shall hold special elections no later than mid-September.

ARTICLE 44

The election committee is comprised of the Student Life Director, re-elected senators and if need be volunteers. The committee organizes elections based on the Election Code.

ARTICLE 45

Proposed amendments to the Election code must be formulated by the General Assembly or proposed by a petition signed by thirty percent of the Student Body. Following an interim period of two weeks, the proposed amendment may be ratified by an affirmative two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly. Ratified amendments must then be forwarded to the VPSA. The amendments go into effect immediately after their ratification by the General Assembly and their formal acceptance by the university administration.