



# **Student Body Constitution of George Mason University Korea**

We, the students of George Mason University Korea, in order to promote the general student welfare, do hereby establish this Constitution to govern and delegate rights and responsibilities of those parties stated herein.

## **ARTICLE I: MISSION STATEMENT**

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government of George Mason University Korea (Mason Korea). Student Government (SG) is a permanent standing entity that receives its legitimacy and authority as representatives of the entire student body. The Student Government advocates the interests of the student body of George Mason University Korea, educates the University community regarding the state of the institution, and represents the interests of each student. The Student Government of George Mason University Korea will serve as a liaison to the administration, faculty, staff, and University community in Korea and with the counterparts at George Mason University's home campus in Fairfax, Virginia.

The Student Government of George Mason University Korea is a body that is intended to assist in relations between the George Mason University Korea administration and George Mason University Korea students, and between the Incheon Global Campus (IGC) Foundation and George Mason University Korea students. The primary objective of the Student Government is to improve and maintain the quality of student life at George Mason University Korea. Any other goals during the process are supplementary in achieving the primary objective. The Student Government will achieve its objective by raising any concerns and problems students might have, as well as organizing activities for the student community. The Student Government shall also consistently maintain and develop relations between George Mason University Korea faculty and students. The success of the Student Government rests on the trust and dedication that the George Mason University Korea community places in them, as a leadership and development platform created by George Mason University Korea for the growth of its students and the institution. Finally, the Student Government shall remain as an independent entity free from influence and control from George Mason University Korea staff or others.

## **ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

Section 1. Establishment 1.1 All Statutory powers are herein granted and shall be vested in the Student Senate of George Mason University Korea.

Section 2. Composition, Qualifications, and Term

2.1 The Student Senate of George Mason University Korea shall be composed of students, chosen by the students; and each senator shall have one vote. Any person may be elected to the Senate, who, at the time of the election does not possess a cumulative GPA any lower than 2.5, has been confirmed to be in good academic and University standing, and is a full-time registered student at George Mason University Korea.

2.2 The terms of the Senators shall expire in the timeframe of 12:00pm one Monday before Spring or Fall final examinations commence, serving one-year terms upon their election.

2.3 Each Senator shall be a representative of the Student Body of George Mason University Korea.

### Section 3. Officers

3.1 The members of the Student Senate shall choose the Chairman(s) of the standing committee(s).

### Section 4. Duties & Powers

4.1 The Student Senate shall assemble every Monday of the month, unless otherwise deemed unnecessary by university recognized holiday, statue, or emergency. In cases of social distancing regulations, the Student Senate shall strive to hold synchronous online meetings once a week, when in-person meetings are difficult to arrange.

4.2 The Student Senate shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, and the yeas and nays of the members on any questions hall, at the desire of a majority of those present, be entered into the journal.

4.3 The Student Senate shall establish uniform rules of Student Governance.

4.4 The Student Senate shall have the sole power to impeach a member of Student Government.

### Section 5. Member Restrictions

5.1 No senator, while holding office, shall be appointed to the Elections & Disputes Commission or the Executive Branch of the Student Government; and no person holding the office under the Elections & Disputes Commission or the Executive Branch of the Student Government, shall be a member of the Student Senate, with the exception of the Office of the Speaker, Speaker Pro-Tempore, and Clerk.

5.2 No candidate for elected office may run for more than one position in Student Government at the same time.

5.3 No Student Government member candidate should be a first-semester registered student.

5.4 The President, Vice-President, and Senators running for office during Fall elections to serve on the Board of Major Representatives shall have earned or be in the process of earning at least 30 credits by the time of office to run for office.

### Section 6. Bills and Statutes

6.1 Every bill which shall have passed the Student Senate, shall, before it become a Statute, be presented to the Student Body President of George Mason University Korea; if the President approves, the bill shall be signed, but if not, the bill shall be returned with any objections to the Senate which shall enter the objections at large in their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of the body shall agree to pass the bill, it shall become a statute. But in all such cases the votes of the Student Senate shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the person voting for and against the bill shall be entered into the journal.

## Section 7. Limitation of Power

7.1 No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto statute shall be passed.

7.2 No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by statute; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

## **ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### Section 1. Establishment, Qualifications, and Terms

1.1 The Executive Power shall be vested in a Student Body President and Vice President of George Mason University Korea, who shall be chosen by the registered students of George Mason University Korea for the same term.

1.2 The Student Body President of George Mason University Korea shall be a registered student, chosen by the student body. Any student may be elected to the Presidency, who, at the time of the election does not possess a cumulative GPA any lower than 2.5, has been confirmed to be in good academic and University Standing, has been an enrolled student at George Mason University Korea for one completed year, and who is no younger than eighteen years of age.

1.3 No person constitutionally ineligible to the Office of Student Body President shall be eligible to that of the Student Body Vice President of George Mason University Korea.

1.4 The terms of the Student Body President and the Vice President shall commence one Monday before Fall final examinations commence, next succeeding the election, and ending immediately upon the inauguration of their successors.

### Section 2. Elections

2.1 All persons seeking the Office of Student Body President shall designate a nominee for Student Body Vice President, and the names of said nominees shall appear jointly on one ballot, and each registered student shall cast a single vote applicable to both offices.

2.2 All ballots shall be tabulated and transmitted to the Elections & Disputes Commission who shall open all certificates and affirm the results. The persons having the greatest number of votes for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall be elected to said offices.

### Section 3. Disability, Vacancy, Succession

3.1 In case of the removal of the President from office, or, in the case of death, resignation, military service, progression or transfer to the Fairfax Campus, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said Office, the Student Body Vice President shall assume the powers, duties, and title of said Office. In case of the removal of both the President and Vice President from office, or in case of death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers of said Offices, the officer of the Student Government who is highest on the following list shall become the Acting Student Body President—upon resignation from their previous office—and shall uphold the powers, duties, and title of the Office of the President: The Chair of the Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee, the Chair of the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Committee, the Chair of the University Life Committee, and the Chair of the University Academics Committee.

3.2 Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Student Body Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

### Section 4. Responsibilities and Powers

4.1 The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Government and shall be elected at large from the student body, serving a one-year term as previously defined.

4.2 The President has veto power over all Senate bills. This veto must be exercised before the next Senate meeting, and must be submitted in writing.

4.3 The President shall be the official representative of the Student Government to the administration, faculty, and University Committee.

4.4 The President shall have the power to appoint a cabinet to be confirmed by the Senate.

4.5 The President shall be the Chief contracting officer of Student Government and is authorized to review all contracts which commit Student Government funds.

4.6 The President or Executive Branch Designee shall make an Executive Report to the Senate at all regularly scheduled full senate meetings.

## **ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS & DISPUTES COMMISSION**

### Section 1. Establishment, Qualifications, and Terms

1.1 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall have sole power over holding official elections of the Student Government of George Mason University Korea, and preside as an independent adjudicator when and should disputes arise between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. The Elections & Disputes Commission is established as an independent body from the Student Government of George Mason University Korea, and except for elections, can be summoned by either chamber of Student Government if there is ever a dispute between the Legislative and the Executive Branches.

1.2 The Commissioners shall be registered students of George Mason University Korea and shall hold their offices so long as they do not possess a cumulative GPA any lower than 2.5,

and have been confirmed to be in good academic and University Standing. Commissioners shall hold their office until the date of their respective graduation, resignation, or removal from office.

## Section 2. Composition

2.1 That the Elections & Disputes Commissioners shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a two thirds majority vote of Senators Present.

2.2 The Election & Disputes Commission shall elect of its own members, in a manner of their own choosing, a Chair who shall run meetings, render rulings, and represent the Elections and Disputes Commission generally, Once elected chair, said individual will remain chair for the remainder of their tenure on the Elections & Disputes Commission.

## Section 3. Responsibilities

3.1 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct two regularly scheduled elections each year.

- The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct an election within the Fall Semester, which determines the President and Vice President and six seats for senate, one per academic major, to serve on the Board of Major Representatives. Qualified voters shall be restricted to voting for Senate seats within their respective Major during this election.
- The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct an election within the Spring Semester, which determines the remaining three Senate seats. Only freshman and first-semester transfer students shall be eligible to run for Senate during this election.

3.2 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct any emergency elections as conditions may dictate.

3.3 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall provide oversight of elections to ensure compliance with election rules and procedures.

3.4 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall have the power to settle disputes between the Legislative and Executive Branch.

## Section 4. Limitations

4.1 Members of the Elections & Disputes Commission may not aid in the execution or planning of any Student Government function or event not directly related to the responsibilities stated in this article. This section explicitly does not prohibit Commissioners from attending Student Government sponsored functions or events.

4.2 No member of the Elections & Disputes Commission may simultaneously hold any other office within the Student Government. Upon resignation or removal from office, former Elections & Disputes Commission members are not eligible to hold another position within Student Government for a period of one calendar year.

## Section 5. Procedure

5.1 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall be responsible for setting its own procedure and schedule.

## **ARTICLE V. ADVISOR COMMITTEE**

1.1 The Advisor Committee's purpose shall offer guidance throughout their service time to Student Government, and to ensure a smooth transition between cabinets throughout the academic year.

### **Section 2. Composition**

2.1 The Associate Dean of University Life shall be assigned as a member of the Advisor Committee.

2.2 The Student Body President and Vice President, at their discretion, shall serve as members of the Advisor Committee for one year after they finish their time at office.

2.3 Other faculty and staff members shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a two thirds majority vote of Senators Present.

2.2 The Advisor Committee shall elect of its own members, in a manner of their own choosing, a primary advisor who shall run meetings, render rulings, and represent the Advisor Committee generally. Once elected primary advisor, said individual will remain primary advisor for the remainder of their tenure on the Advisor Committee.

## **ARTICLE VI. OATH OF OFFICE**

### **Section 1. Presidential Oath**

1.1 Before entering on the execution of the Office of Student Body President, the following Oath or Affirmation shall be taken: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of Student Body President of George Mason University Korea, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Student Body Constitution of George Mason University Korea."

### **Section 2. Constitutional Oath**

2.1 The Senators, Elections & Disputes Commissioners, and all other officers of Student Government, shall be bound by the following Oath or Affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Student Body Constitution of George Mason University Korea; and that I will faithfully and honorably discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as an officer of the Students to the best of my ability."

## **ARTICLE VII. IMPEACHMENT**

Any elected or appointed official under the Student Government of George Mason University Korea can be impeached upon accusations hereby defined as alleged malfeasance, alleged corruption, alleged negligence, dereliction of duty, or alleged misconduct.

### **Section 1. Articles of Impeachment**

1.1 A resolution of impeachment, after being passed by a two-thirds majority of Senators present, is to be submitted in writing to the Office of University Life in accordance with the rules and regulations and is considered binding.

## Section 2. Penalties and Punishment

2.1 Should the Advisor Committee find the accused Officer responsible for the offense(s), the Advisor Committee shall impose any punishment not exceeding removal from office and exclusion from the Student Government of George Mason University Korea.

# **ARTICLE VIII. SUFFRAGE**

## Section 1. Source of Power

1.1 All power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the students, who all have the right of suffrage.

## Section 2. Qualifications

2.1 In elections by the people, each qualified elector shall be a student of George Mason University Korea.

# **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

## Section 1. Right of Reform

1.1 The Student Body and the Student Government shall share the power to amend this Constitution.

## Section 2. Student Government

2.1 Any member of the Student Government may submit a bill to amend this Constitution.

2.2 After a bill is composed to amend this Constitution, the Senate must hold at least one open public hearing in which students will be given adequate time to speak and give input into the proposed changes. This public hearing must be publicized, through appropriate media sources, at least two consecutive weeks before the hearing is held. The Senate shall have the power to establish procedures for the open hearing. After holding the public hearing the bill may be submitted for first reading to the Senate.

2.3 Two-thirds of the Senate must be present in order to vote on the proposed amendment(s), and four-fifths of those present must approve in order to pass the bill.

2.4 Upon signature of the Student Body President, or Legislative Override, the bill shall be forwarded to the Office of University Life. The Office of University Life and Elections & Disputes Commission shall place the proposed amendment on the referendum at the next appropriate election.

2.5 A majority of the students voting on the proposed amendment shall be required to amend the Constitution.

### Section 3. Student Body

3.1 Five percent of the Student Body of George Mason University Korea must transmit a signed petition complete with school identification numbers, to amend this Constitution to the Office of University Life.

3.2 Once the petition is received, and the requisite number of petitioners is confirmed as registered students of George Mason University, the Office of University Life shall determine if the issue merits a special election or if the issue is to be decided at the next election.

## **ARTICLE X. INSTITUTIONAL SUPREMACY**

The powers and provisions contained herein, shall serve as the primary source of George Mason University Korea Student Government authority, and any further documents regarding statutes of Student Governance shall be viewed as inferior to this Constitution.