This is the Proposed constitution of the UNO Student Government Association to be put to a student body vote on October 1-2, 2019.
Index:

- Preamble  
  Page 3
- Definitions  
  Page 3
- Article I: General Provisions  
  Page 4
- Article II: Executive Department  
  Page 9
- Article III: Legislative Department  
  Page 12
- Article IV: Judicial Department  
  Page 18
- Article V: Student Activities Council 20  
  Page 20
- Article VI: Impeachment and Removal  
  Page 23
- Article VII: Removal of Student Groups  
  Page 24
- Article VIII: Constitutional Reform  
  Page 24
Preamble:

We the students of the University of New Orleans hereby establish this Constitution because students deserve to be governed and represented in the fairest and most democratic way possible. This constitution builds upon the past but recognizes that to fulfill the promise of a better UNO for students, there must be critical revision and review. That progress is not simply the passage of years, but the work and effort of many individuals striving forward. The future we envision demands the tools to build it.

Definitions:

Good Standing – a status of never having been expelled or convicted of a crime of the SGA leading to being removed from office.
Electorate – constituents; those for whom an officer/official is designated to represent.
Departmental leader – The SGA officer who is the SGA head of his respective department.
Regularly scheduled meeting – meetings which are scheduled on a regular basis in the SGA Master Calendar.
Non-binding resolution – a written motion adopted by a deliberative body that cannot progress into a law. The substance of the resolution can be anything that can normally be proposed as a motion.

Student Referendum – is a direct vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

Political Question – an amendment to the SGA Constitution, a request to fund something through an increase of tuition, a request to fund something though creation and/or increase of a fee or fees, a law, or the allocation of funds from a SGA controlled account or fund.

Rules and Procedures – the rules, ethics, procedures, regulations, and customs governing meetings and other operations of a department.

Code of Laws – regulatory laws which may apply to a certain area of the SGA or to the entire SGA; an official compendium of additional rules and procedures for legislative and organizational bodies under the SGA.

Veto – rejection of an active legislation passed by the relevant legislative body.

Ex-officio – position tied directly to the officer’s job description.
Slate system – is a group of candidates that run in multi-seat or multi-position elections on a common platform.

Executive Fund – fund only accessible through Executive Orders by the President.

Senate term – one academic year beginning at the Invocation during the SGA Spring Inauguration.

Senate Operating Account – money set aside for the Senate to allocate through passed legislation.

Senate Reserve Account – money accumulated from funds left over at the end of each senate term and used for one-time purchases. (NOTE: this definition is specific to how the SGA Reserve Account applies to the SGA Senate. For a more complete definition, contact the UNO Finance department.)

Financial legislation – legislation with money tied to it.

Monthly Allocation Block – allocation requests issued by organizational and University departments bundled together by the finance committee for the senate to vote upon as one piece of legislation.

Discriminatory – making or showing an unfair or prejudicial distinction between different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

Filed motion – a written motion.

Legislative jurisdiction – to have the prerogative to write legislation.

Censure – for a senator to be prohibited from being recognized by the Presiding Officer for any further discussion during the course of a meeting.

Recusal request – request to be exempt from being asked to vote, speak, or deliberate on any issue due to bias or a conflict of interest.

Retroactive – taking effect from a date in the past.

1. ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS
   1.1. Establishment:
1.1.1. The name of this organization shall be the University of New Orleans Student Government Association (Student Government Association or SGA)

1.1.2. The SGA is the governing, representative, deliberative, programming, and administrative organization of the student body of the University of New Orleans and is a duly constituted and legally recognized university-sponsored collegiate organization within the University of New Orleans (UNO).

1.1.3. The SGA shall be the primary Student Body Governing Organization at the University of New Orleans

1.1.4. The SGA shall be governed and operated by the SGA Constitution.

1.1.5. In addition to the constitution the SGA shall establish a Code of Laws. This code will serve to further specify the rules of SGA as a whole.

1.1.6. Each branch of the SGA shall establish their own Rules and Procedures to govern only their branch.

1.1.7. The SGA Constitution will be the most powerful governing document of UNO Student Government Association. The other governing documents will serve only to provide more specific requirements and cannot contradict or conflict with the SGA Constitution. In the case of conflict, the SGA Constitution takes precedent.

1.2. Purpose:

1.2.1. The SGA is a Student Body Governing Organization through which students can:

1.2.1.1. Express their concern for the welfare of students at the university;

1.2.1.2. Develop and disseminate ideas for the improvement of student life and education;

1.2.1.3. Contribute to the formation of relevant University policy;

1.2.1.4. Promote cooperation among UNO Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administration;

1.2.1.5. Protect the rights of the UNO Student Body;

1.2.1.6. Provide official channels through which the opinions and desires of UNO student may be expressed formally;

1.2.1.7. Promote the academic freedom, responsibility, excellence, and diversity of UNO Students;

1.2.1.8. Foster awareness of the UNO students position and welfare on campus, in the metropolitan area, state, national, and international committees;

1.2.1.9. Send representatives to the local, state, and national governments to advocate on behalf of the UNO Student Body and UNO as an institution.

1.3. Anti-discrimination Policy:

1.3.1. The University of New Orleans and the UNOSGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national or ethnic origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sex, marital status, physical or mental disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

1.4. UNO SGA Jurisdiction:
1.4.1. SGA jurisdiction includes all duly enrolled students and all registered student organizations in good standing with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership and the SGA.

1.4.2. Registered Student Organizations are considered in good standing by annual review under the procedures defined in the Code of Laws, and their status of being in good standing may not be lost throughout the academic year.

1.5. Voting Rights
1.5.1. All currently enrolled students shall be considered eligible to vote in any election sponsored by the SGA, for which the student body comprises the electorate.

1.5.1.1. An SGA election’s electorate shall be defined in the rules establishing that election’s process.

1.5.1.2. Defining the electorate for each established and created electable position is required.

1.6. UNOSGA Organizational Structure:
1.6.1. The SGA shall consist of four departments:

1.6.1.1. the Executive Department
1.6.1.2. the Legislative Department
1.6.1.3. the Judicial Department
1.6.1.4. the Student Activities Council

1.7. SGA Departmental Leadership:
1.7.1. The SGA Departmental Leaders shall be

1.7.1.1. The Executive Department
1.7.1.1.1. The SGA Student Body President
1.7.1.2. The Legislative Department
1.7.1.2.1. Senate Presiding Officer
1.7.1.3. The Judicial Department
1.7.1.3.1. The SGA Supreme Court Chief Justice
1.7.1.4. The Student Activities Council
1.7.1.4.1. The Student Activities Council President

1.8. The SGA Officers shall be:
1.8.1. Any department leader, executive department leader, student senate leader, SAC leader, and Chief Justice.

1.9. SGA officials shall be:
1.9.1. Student Senators, SAC voting members and associate justices of the SGA Supreme Court.

1.10. SGA Officer and Official Qualification Standards:
1.10.1. To be a UNOSGA Officer and/or Official these minimum standards must be met at the time of qualifying for a position.

1.10.2. The minimum standards for all SGA Officers and Officials are:
1.10.2.1. At least a 2.0 GPA,
1.10.2.2. Enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours if an Undergraduate student;
1.10.2.3. or enrolled in at least three (3) credit hours if a Graduate student.
1.10.2.4. In good standing with UNO and the UNOSGA.

Commented [JR1]: The SGA Reform Committee elected to remove the Graduate Student Council. Despite several attempts, the Graduate Student Council was never able to form and meet. Under this Constitution, Graduate Students are not restricted from any part of the UNO SGA. The committee encourages graduate student participation within the current system, and then if a need arises, can revisit the concept of a Graduate Student Department.
1.10.2.5. To not have been removed and/or impeached from any UNOSGA Officer or Official position, within a calendar year.

1.11. Department Qualification Standards Authority

1.11.1. Each Department may create more stringent qualification standards for any position.
   1.11.1.1. Increased qualifications must be initiated by the Departmental Leader of the relevant department or the Constitution Review Board.
   1.11.1.2. Increased qualifications must be approved by the SGA Senate by a simple majority of seated senators.

1.11.2. Increased Qualification standards may be lowered, but are prohibited from being lower than the constitutionally defined minimum requirements.
   1.11.2.1. Lowering Qualification standards must be approved by the SGA Senate by a ⅔ majority of seated senators.

1.12. Exclusionary Office Rule:

1.12.1. No student shall hold more than one position as a Departmental Leader or a SGA Officer concurrently.
   1.12.1.1. Unless holding multiple positions is explicit to their office, or it is a non-voting, non-officer membership to SAC.
   1.12.2. This rule does not in any way prohibit membership or officer status to other student groups.

1.13. SGA Retreats:

1.13.1. The purposes of the SGA Retreats are the training and development of the SGA Officers, Officials, and Staff for the betterment of UNO and the SGA.
   1.13.2. A SGA retreat must not take place within the first or last fourteen (14) calendar days of a semester and must also not take place during the week of mid-terms and finals.
   1.13.3. There must be at least one (1) UNOSGA retreat per semester.
   1.13.4. The Vice President is responsible for the organization and execution of the SGA Retreats.
   1.13.5. All UNOSGA Officers and Officials are required to attend at least one SGA retreat a year unless they have an excused absence approved by the Vice President. The Vice President must then provide some form of alternative work to complete for the absent official as detailed by the Code of Laws.
   1.13.6. Failure to attend a SGA Retreat or request an approval of absence results in immediate removal from SGA positions for which attendance is required.
   1.13.6.1. The Vice President is required to maintain a list of all SGA Officers and Officials who have attended or need to attend a SGA retreat.
   1.13.6.2. The Vice President shall inform any SGA Officer or Official who is at risk of losing their office from not attending a retreat at least thirty (30) calendar days before the final SGA retreat of the academic year.
   1.13.6.3. The Vice President shall inform any SGA Officer or Official who did not attend a SGA retreat after the final retreat takes place that the Officer or Official has been removed from his position.

Commented [JR2]: The SGA Reform Committee chose to remove the SGA Scheduling Policy (Formerly 1.13) from the Constitution. This policy is now handled by each branch, and recorded in the Rules and Procedures.
1.14. **Non-Binding Resolutions:**

1.14.1. A non-binding resolution is a written motion adopted by a deliberative body that cannot progress into a law. The substance of the resolution can be anything that can normally be proposed as a motion.

1.14.2. This type of resolution may be used to express the body’s approval or disapproval of something that they cannot otherwise vote on, due to the matter being handled by another jurisdiction, or being protected by a constitution.

1.14.3. This type of resolution carries no legal weight, only stating the opinion of that deliberative body.

1.14.4. The Legislative and Executive Departments, as well as the Student Activities Council may adopt Non-Binding Resolutions.

1.14.4.1. After the adoption of a Non-Binding Resolution by any of these Departments the remaining bodies may vote to also adopt the Non-Binding Resolution.

1.14.5. A Non-Binding Resolution is adopted by a simple majority vote of the present voting members of the department’s deliberative body attempting to adopt it.

1.14.6. Non-Binding Resolutions are either:


   1.14.6.3. A SGA Resolution - A Non-Binding Resolution adopted by the Student Activities Council, Executive, and Legislative Departments.

1.15. **Student Referendums:**

1.15.1. A Student Referendum is a direct vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to it for a direct decision.

1.15.2. The political question for a Student Referendum may include, but is not limited to an amendment to the SGA Constitution, a request to fund something though creation and/or increase of a fee or fees, or the allocation of funds from a UNOSGA controlled account or fund.

1.15.3. The Executive and Legislative Departments shall have the authority to submit referendums.

   1.15.3.1. Executive Referendums may be initiated from the Executive Department or from the Legislative Department.

   1.15.3.2. UNOSGA Joint Referendums shall be initiated with the consent of both the Executive and Legislative Departments and is the only means by which the Constitution may be altered/reformed.

   1.15.3.3. Approved and valid referendums shall be voted on by the relevant electorate during the next election.

1.16. **Department Rules & Procedures:**

1.16.1. Each Department shall maintain their own Rules & Procedures.

1.16.2. A Department’s Rules & Procedures are the rules, ethics, procedures, regulations, and customs governing meetings and other operations of a Department.
1.16.3. Department Rules & Procedures may be altered and made as long as they only affect the operation of the relevant Department for which the Department Rules & Procedures exist.

1.16.4. Department Rules & Procedures may not contradict or conflict with any part of the SGA Constitution or SGA Code of Laws. This Constitution takes precedence in cases of conflict.

1.16.5. Additions to Executive or Judicial Department Rules and Procedures must be submitted to the UNOSGA Senate for approval.
   1.16.5.1. Approval shall be determined by a simple majority vote of all seated senators.
   1.16.5.2. To overturn or amend Executive or Judicial Departmental Rules & Procedures requires a ¾ vote of all Senators.

1.16.6. Alterations to the Legislative Department Rules and Procedures must be submitted to the Legislative and Executive branches for approval.
   1.16.6.1. Approval will require the signature of the President. Failure of receiving this signature would result in an appeal process through the Judicial Department.
   1.16.6.2. Senate Approval will require a 2/3 majority vote of the senate.

1.16.7. Alterations to the SAC Rules and Procedures must be submitted to SGA Senate for approval.
   1.16.7.1. Approval will require the signature of the President. Failure of receiving this signature would result in an appeal process through the Judicial Department.
   1.16.7.2. Senate approval will require a 2/3 senate vote.

1.17. SGA Fund Expenditure:
   1.17.1. The SGA Vice-President must be notified of all expenditures of SGA controlled funds out of any SGA account prior to submission to the appropriate UNO office as well as the SGA advisor for processing.

2. ARTICLE II. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT:

2.1. Vesting Power:
   2.1.1. All executive authority granted in the University of New Orleans Student Government Association Constitution shall be vested in the officers of the Executive Department.

2.2. Purpose:
   2.2.1. The UNO SGA Executive Department, herein referred to as the Executive Department, shall serve as the executive body, in order to create an all-encompassing SGA that will serve the student body.

2.3. General Provisions:
   2.3.1. The Executive Department shall be organized with authority vested within the executive officers, cabinet officers, officials, and staff to carry out the various functions of the SGA outlined in the SGA Constitution, SGA Code of Laws, SGA Legislation, and the Executive Department Rules & Procedures.

2.4. Departmental Leader:
2.4.1. The Departmental Leader of the Executive Department shall be the UNOSGA President.

2.4.2. The UNOSGA President shall be referred to as the President.

2.4.3. The President is an executive officer position.

2.4.4. To qualify to be the President a student must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA.

2.4.5. The Powers and Duties of the President shall be:

   2.4.5.1. call meetings of the entire student body.
   2.4.5.2. To call a Special Session of the SGA Senate with forty-eight hours notice to the SGA Senate.
   2.4.5.3. To issue executive allocations from the Executive account in accordance with the improvement of the SGA.
   2.4.5.4. To issue the Executive Branch Charter each year by executive order at the commencement of the fall legislative session. The Executive Branch Charter shall set forth the operating procedures for the executive branch and shall not contain any rules or regulations that change the operation of the legislative branch as specified in their Code of Laws.
   2.4.5.5. All other Powers and Duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the Department Rules & Procedures.

2.4.6. The President shall have the following approval and veto power over senate legislation:

   2.4.6.1. The president may approve or veto any legislation enacted by the Senate.
   2.4.6.2. The presidential veto must be exercised within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of such legislation by their office, in accordance with procedures set forth by SGA law, failure to veto legislation in a timely manner will result in default of such right, thus causing automatic adoption of the legislation.
   2.4.6.2.1. The president shall be required to inform the Senate in a concise and complete written document the reason(s) for the exercise of their veto within the same seven (7) day time period.

2.5. Executive Officers:

2.5.1. General Provisions:

   2.5.1.1. Each executive officer will be the department leader or equivalent to their respective departments or area of oversight.
   2.5.1.2. Executive officers are charged with coordination and implementation of the activities and policies of the entire SGA.
   2.5.1.3. To qualify to be an executive officer a student must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA.

   2.5.1.4. Each executive officer is granted executive authority to:

      2.5.1.4.1. Create additional operating procedures as long as they do not conflict with existing policies.
      2.5.1.4.2. Allocate funds from their individual executive officer accounts to improve their department or the SGA as a whole, when applicable
      2.5.1.4.3. Establish executive committees or programs to fulfill a function not already provided by SGA.
2.5.2. **Executive Department Officer Tuition Waivers:**
   2.5.2.1. The President, Vice President, Senate Presiding Officer and SAC President will each receive the four tuition waivers allotted by the ULS System.

2.5.3. **Executive Department Officer Terms:**
   2.5.3.1. Executive Department Officer terms will be the length of one senate term beginning at the Invocation during the SGA Spring Inauguration.

2.5.4. **The Officers of the Executive Department will be:**
   2.5.4.1. SGA President
   2.5.4.2. SGA Vice President
   2.5.4.3. SGA Senate Presiding Officer
   2.5.4.4. SGA Student Activities Council President

2.5.5. **Executive Department Officer Eligibility:**
   2.5.5.1. To be eligible, candidates must have (1) completed at least 24 credit hours at UNO, (2) completed two semesters as a graduate student, or (3) is an enrolled graduate student who graduated previously from UNO.
   2.5.5.2. Every executive officer is expected to work for SGA for a minimum of ten (10) hours per week.
   2.5.5.3. To run for an executive position, or be to one, the candidate must have held a leadership position in a student organization for one semester or have held a UNOSGA officer or official position for one semester.

2.5.6. **The Powers and Duties of the Vice President:**
   2.5.6.1. To execute the powers and duties of the President in their absence.
   2.5.6.2. To perform all other duties assigned to them by the President or as prescribed in the SGA Code of laws.
   2.5.6.3. To oversee the various executive officials and cabinet officers ensuring their duties are fulfilled.
   2.5.6.4. To be responsible to the SGA for any information related to any funds generated or appropriated for SGA use.
   2.5.6.5. To be responsible to the SGA Senate for continued review of expenditures of any funds generated or appropriated for SGA use.
   2.5.6.6. To keep and make available a permanent financial record of all transactions entered into by and on behalf of the SGA.
   2.5.6.7. To approve of all expenditures of SGA funds prior to submission to the SGA advisor for processing.
   2.5.6.8. To approve of all expenditures of SGA funds out of the administrative budget prior to submission to the SGA advisor for processing.
   2.5.6.9. To review the financial condition of the SGA and submit financial statements to the Senate for each Senate Session.

2.5.7. **The Powers and Duties of the Senate Presiding Officer**
   2.5.7.1. To include all powers and duties outlined in Article III.
   2.5.7.2. To nominate appointments to fill Legislative Department vacancies.

**Commented [JR3]:** The SGA Reform Committee has removed the Graduate Student Council President from this section. The Graduate Student Council failed to ever form. Graduate Students are welcomed to participate at all levels of the UNO Student Government Association.
2.5.7.3. And all other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA By-laws or the department rules and procedures.

2.5.8. **The Powers and Duties of the Student Activities Council President**
2.5.8.1. To include all powers and duties outlined in Article V.
2.5.8.2. To manage and oversee the Student Activities Council.
2.5.8.3. To nominate appointments to fill Student Activities Council vacancies.
2.5.8.4. And all other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of laws or the department rules and procedures.

2.6. **Cabinet Officers:**
2.6.1. **General Provisions:**
   2.6.1.1. The cabinet officers shall perform all duties assigned by the executive officers and all other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the department Rules and Procedures.
   2.6.1.2. The cabinet officers shall be appointed by the President, unless otherwise specified, and confirmed by the SGA Senate.
   2.6.1.3. A cabinet officer serves until the end of that president’s term and the confirmation of his successor.
   2.6.1.3.1. In the case of a resignation, removal, or impeachment of a President, cabinet officers shall retain their positions.
2.6.2. **Cabinet Officers of the Executive Department will be:**
   2.6.2.1. President’s Chief of Staff
   2.6.2.2. Any other cabinet officers described in the SGA Code of Laws.

2.7. **SGA Executive Council**
2.7.1. Will meet to coordinate the activities of the SGA.
2.7.2. It shall be the primary means by which to submit reports to the various bodies of the SGA.
2.7.3. It shall also be the venue for establishing policy proposals for the entire SGA.
2.7.4. It will serve as the main advising body to the SGA President for all student wide policies or communications.
2.7.5. This committee shall be chaired by the SGA President.
2.7.6. Membership of the committee shall be:
   2.7.6.1. SGA President
   2.7.6.2. SGA Vice President
   2.7.6.3. SGA Speaker of the Senate
   2.7.6.4. SGA Student Activities Council President
   2.7.6.5. SGA Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

3. **ARTICLE III. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**
3.1. **Vesting Power:**
   3.1.1. All legislative powers granted in the University of New Orleans Student Government Association Constitution shall be vested in a SGA Senate.

3.2. **Purpose:**
3.2.1. The SGA Senate, herein referred to as the Senate, shall serve as the legislative body, in order to create an all-encompassing proactive SGA that will serve the Student Body at large.

3.3. Senate Composition:

3.3.1. The Senate shall be comprised of fifty (50) senators filling fifty (50) Senate seats.

3.4. Senators:

3.4.1. Senators are voting members of the Senate.

3.4.2. There will be two (2) equal classifications of senators: academic senators and at-large senators.

3.4.3. Academic Senator Policy:

3.4.3.1. There are to be forty (40) academic senators each representing the designated colleges and the IDS program.

3.4.3.2. Each college and IDS shall have at least two (2) Academic Senators representing it.

3.4.3.3. For the Purposes of the SGA and SGA Senate, the IDS program will be considered a college.

3.4.4. The Designated Colleges are:

3.4.4.1. The College of Liberal Arts, Education & Human Development

3.4.4.2. The College of Engineering

3.4.4.3. The College of Business Administration

3.4.4.4. The College of Sciences

3.4.4.5. The Interdisciplinary Studies Program

3.4.5. At-Large Senator Policy:

3.4.5.1. There are to be ten (10) At-large Senators with two representing each of these defined groups:

3.4.5.1.1. Freshmen

3.4.5.1.2. Sophomores

3.4.5.1.3. Juniors

3.4.5.1.4. Seniors

3.4.5.1.5. Graduate Students

3.4.5.2. At-large senate seats are available for anyone from the relevant classification to run for.

3.4.5.2.1. Eligibility will be determined by the candidate’s classification/credit hours completed at the time of appointment. If they are running in the spring election, they will run for the classification they will hold in the following fall.

3.4.5.3. Classification Designation Policy

3.4.5.3.1. A freshman is considered any student with 0-29 credit hours.

3.4.5.3.2. A sophomore is considered any student with between 30-59 credit hours (inclusive).

3.4.5.3.3. A junior is considered any student with between 60-89 credit hours (inclusive).

3.4.5.3.4. A senior is considered any student with 90 and above credit hours.
3.4.5.3.5. A graduate student is considered any student enrolled in a graduate program.

3.5. Senate Terms:

3.5.1. A senate term is one academic year beginning at the Invocation during the SGA Spring Inauguration.

3.5.2. Each senate seat shall have a term that starts and ends at the same time, the term shall continue whether or not the seat is filled.
   3.5.2.1. Vacancy appointments to vacant seats or vacant seats filled by election shall complete the remainder of the term of that seat.

3.5.3. A new senate term shall begin for all senate seats at the Commencement during the Annual SGA Spring Inauguration.

3.5.4. An existing senate term shall expire for all senate seats at the Invocation during the Annual SGA Spring Inauguration.

3.5.5. Senators shall be elected in the SGA general election.
   3.5.5.1. At-large senators will be elected in the spring elections for the seat relevant to their classification in the following fall.
   3.5.5.2. Academic senators shall be elected in the spring elections for the seat relevant to their classification in the following fall.
   3.5.5.2.1. Non-elected (appointed) Senators must run in the Fall Elections to retain their seats.
   3.5.5.2.2. Any senator that switches majors, and is no longer a member of the college they represent, has more than one major and wishes to represent a college other that the one they currently represent, or wishes to switch between academic and at-large senator, must give up their current seat and be appointed by the senate, and if relevant will run in the fall special elections. Any at-large senator may remain a representative of the grade classification they were at the time of obtaining the position, unless they themselves wish to give up their seat and seek appointment to their current classification.

3.6. Annual Apportionment

3.6.1. The apportionment of academic senate seats will be divided by proportion via the total student population of each college so that the makeup of the academic senatorial seats reflect the college classification demographics of the university.

3.6.2. The enrollment data used shall be from the prior fall semester’s enrollment.

3.6.3. Apportionment of academic senatorial seats shall be decided by the Election Commission.

3.6.4. The Election Commission shall draft an Annual Apportionment Bill (AAB) to be submitted to the Senate and accepted, rejected, or sent back to the commission by the Senate.

3.6.5. The AAB must be voted upon at least two sessions prior to the last Senate session of the fall semester.
   3.6.5.1. If the AAB fails or is sent back to the Election Commission then the commission must submit a new AAB the following session.
3.6.5.1.1. If the second bill fails then the annual apportionment must be decided by the SGA Supreme Court.

3.7. Vacancy Appointments:
3.7.1. In the event that there is a vacant seat after an election, or due to a resignation or removal, that seat becomes available for a qualifying student of the relevant college or defined group to be appointed to it.
3.7.2. Senators appointed to a vacancy will serve the remainder of the senate term.

3.8. Senator Equality Policy:
3.8.1. Appointed, elected, at-large, and academic senators shall have the same rights, powers, and eligibility.
3.8.2. Appointed senators will not be able to vote until the meeting after the one in which they were appointed.
3.8.3. No senators may be appointed after the general spring elections until after the first meeting the following fall.

3.9. Senate Elections:
3.9.1. Senate elections shall be held during the spring general elections.
3.9.2. Senate special elections shall be held during the fall mid-semester elections.
3.9.3. The fall mid-semester elections shall be for the purpose of electing the two (2) freshmen at-large senate seats, any Senators who were appointed to their seats, and filling any vacant Senate seats.
3.9.3.1. Those elected to these seats shall serve the remainder of the term attached to the seat.

3.10. Senator Eligibility:
3.10.1. To qualify to be appointed or elected a Senator, a student must have and maintain:
3.10.1.1. Not being on academic probation or suspension with UNO and/or UNOSGA.
3.10.1.2. Having at least a 2.0 GPA
3.10.1.3. Being enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours in the fall and/or spring for undergraduate students.
3.10.1.4. Being enrolled in at least three (3) credit hours in the fall or spring for graduate students.

3.11. UNOSGA Retreat Mandatory Attendance:
3.11.1. It is mandatory for a Senator to attend one SGA retreat each senate term in order to retain their seat.

3.12. Special Senate Session Policy:
3.12.1. A Special Session of the Senate may be called by:
3.12.1.1. The Senate Presiding Officer’s receipt of a petition signed by 50% of the active Senate.
3.12.1.2. The Senate Presiding Officer
3.12.1.3. The SGA President

3.13. Senate Appointment Confirmation Power: Commented [JRS]: The SGA Reform Committee elected to drop the eligibility to run for senate office to "at least a 2.0 GPS." This does not limit the senate from raising this in their Rules and Procedures.
The Senate is empowered to vote on all appointed positions within the SGA save for that of the Vice President of Programming (SAC President) and the Election Commission.

**Departmental Leader:**

3.14.1. The departmental leader of the Legislative Department shall be the Speaker of the Senate.

3.14.2. The Speaker of the Senate is a Senate officer position.

**The Powers and Duties of the Speaker of the Senate shall be to:**

3.15.1. Act as the Presiding Officer over all the meetings of the Senate.

3.15.2. Sign all legislation that passes the Senate.

3.15.3. Promote organizational efficiency and cooperation.

3.15.4. Be the departmental leader for the Legislative Department.

3.15.5. Oversee and manage all other Senate Officers.

3.15.6. Oversee and manage committees

   3.15.6.1. Be a non-quorum ex-officio member on all senate committees.
   3.15.6.2. Appoint and remove the heads of senate committees as needed.
   3.15.6.3. Fill committees at their discretion.
   3.15.6.4. The Speaker of the Senate may, at its sole discretion, create and/or destroy any ad hoc committee.

3.15.7. May not participate in the structured debate on any pending legislation.

3.15.8. Determine if quorum is present at senate sessions.

3.15.9. Quorum is considered a simple majority of seated Senators.

3.15.10. Create the Senate docket for senate sessions 48 hours in advance to the Call of Order of the Senate session.

3.15.11. Shall be required to schedule all legislation or nominations that have passed through committee.

3.15.12. Call a special senate session, if needed.

3.15.13. All other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures.

**Election of the Speaker of the Senate:**

3.16.1. Must be elected by the spring senate for the upcoming senate.

3.16.2. Must maintain a cumulative 2.50 GPA average.

3.16.3. Must have at least one (1) of these experience requirements:

   3.16.3.1. One full senate term of experience as a senator or as Clerk of Senate.
   3.16.3.2. For the experience requirement to be valid, one academic year cannot have passed since the relevant experience.
   3.16.3.3. If no candidate meets the experience requirement, seated senators may seek permission to run from the Senate. This permission can be granted with a 2/3 majority approval of the senate.

**Senate Officers:**

3.17.1. General Provisions:

   3.17.1.1. All senate officers are senators.
3.17.1.2. All senate officers shall be appointed by the Presiding Officer and confirmed by the Senate.

3.17.2. **Senate Officer Appointments:**

3.17.2.1. All senate officers will be appointed by the Presiding Officer for confirmation by the Senate.

3.17.3. **The Senate Officers of the Senate shall be:**

3.17.3.1. The Senate President Pro Tempore (President Pro Tempore)

3.17.3.2. The Senate Parliamentarian (Parliamentarian)

3.17.3.3. The Senate Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

3.17.3.4. The Senate Chief Communications Officer (CCO)

3.17.4. **To qualify to be appointed a Senate Officer a senator must have:**

3.17.4.1. At least a cumulative 2.50 GPA.

3.17.4.2. Be considered a full-time student during the time which they hold the positions

3.17.4.3. Been a member of the senate standing committee the relevant senate officer position is ex-officio chair of.

3.17.4.4. Been a currently seated senator.

3.17.5. **The Powers and Duties of the Senate President Pro Tempore shall be to:**

3.17.5.1. Serve as the Ex-Officio Chair of the Governance Committee.

3.17.5.2. Act in the place of the Presiding Officer in the absence of the Presiding Officer, or if they are unable to perform a required duty.

3.17.5.3. Assists the Presiding Officer in their duties.

3.17.5.4. Shall keep time during the Senate Sessions.

3.17.5.5. Serve as the Ex-Officio Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Senate Reform.

3.17.5.6. All other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures.

3.17.6. **The Powers and Duties of the Senate Parliamentarian:**

3.17.6.1. Serve as the ex-officio chair of the Rules Committee.


3.17.6.3. Serve as the Ex-Officio Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Senate Reform.

3.17.6.4. All other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures.

3.17.7. **The Powers and Duties of the Senate Chief Financial Officer:**

3.17.7.1. Serve as the Ex-Officio Chair of the Finance Committee.

3.17.7.2. Track the Senate’s budget as well as its projected budget pending the passage of any bills into law.

3.17.7.3. All other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures.

3.17.8. **The Powers and Duties of the Senate Chief Communications Officer:**

3.17.8.1. Serve as the Ex-Officio Chair of the Student Affairs Committee.
3.17.8.2. Internally and externally distribute and retrieve information across the entire Legislative Department, SGA, and the UNO Community.
3.17.8.3. Serve as the students' voice within the Senate and as the formal conduit for the student body, student groups, and student organizations to express their interests and concerns.
3.17.8.4. All other powers and duties prescribed for in the SGA Code of Laws or the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures.

3.18. Standing Committees
3.18.1. Rules Committee
3.18.2. Finance Committee
3.18.3. Governance Committee
3.18.4. Student Affairs Committee

4. ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
4.1. Vesting of Power:
4.1.1. All Judicial Powers in the University of New Orleans Student Government Association Constitution shall be vested in the SGA Supreme Court and any lower courts established, by SGA policy.

4.2. Purpose:
4.2.1. The UNO SGA Judicial Department, herein referred to as the Supreme Court, shall serve as the adjudicating body, in order to create an all-encompassing SGA that will serve the student body.

4.3. Supreme Court Composition:
4.3.1. The Supreme Court shall be comprised of nine (9) Supreme Court Justices filling nine (9) Supreme Court Justice Seats.

4.4. Supreme Court Justices:
4.4.1. The Supreme Court Justices (or the Justices) are the voting members of the Supreme Court.

4.5. Supreme Court Justice Terms:
4.5.1. The term of office for a Supreme Court Justice shall not expire unless they leave the university, are no longer a student, resign, are removed from office, or they no longer meet the GPA requirement.
4.5.1.1. At the start of each new Senate Term the GPAs of all Supreme Court Justices will be verified.

4.6. Supreme Court Justice Vacancy Appointments:
4.6.1. Vacancies in the Supreme Court are appointed by the President.
4.6.2. The appointment is subject to SGA Senate Student Affairs Committee Appointment Hearing process, and is confirmed by the SGA Senate with a 2/3 majority vote of all present and voting.

4.7. Supreme Court Justice Requirements:
4.7.1. To have completed at least twenty-four (24) credit hours, or be a Graduate Student who has completed either two semesters at UNO or has an undergraduate degree at UNO.
4.7.2. To attend one SGA retreat within one academic year of their appointment.

Commented [JR11]: The SGA Reform Committee lowered the number of credit hours from 30, to 24. This will allow justices to serve longer terms and help with stability in the court.
4.7.2.1. A Justice is only required to attend one retreat during their term of office.

4.8. Departmental Leader:
4.8.1. The Departmental Leader of the Judicial Department shall be the Chief Justice of the SGA Supreme Court.
4.8.2. The Chief Justice of the SGA Supreme Court (or Chief Justice) is a Justice of the Supreme Court.
4.8.3. The Chief Justice at qualifying must have a 2.5 GPA.
4.8.4. The Chief Justice must also have completed one year of duty on the Supreme Court and be appointed from the Supreme Court Justices.
4.8.4.1. In the event that there are no qualified or willing justices, the SGA President may appoint any student eligible in terms of GPA and Credit Hours, with approval of the senate.
   4.8.4.1.1. The Justices issue a letter of refusal to the Chief Justice appointment, to be submitted to and distributed by the Senate CIO.
   4.8.4.1.2. The Non-Justice Appointment to the Chief Justice Position, is subject to the same appointment process as a regular vacancy on the Supreme Court.
   4.8.4.1.2.1. The President cannot appoint a Non-Justice appointment to the Chief Justice Position if there is no vacancy on the Supreme Court.

4.9. General Provisions:
4.9.1. The judicial department shall be empowered to make and maintain their own Rules & Procedures with the approval of the Senate.
   4.9.1.1. A ¾ vote of the entire Senate would be needed to overturn any of the Judicial Rules & Procedures.
4.9.2. The Supreme Court’s duties include traffic violations, violations of academic integrity, violations of the University Code of Conduct in addition to impeachable offences, any all other duties as prescribed within SGA Policy as defined.
4.9.3. The Supreme Court, is empowered to hear complaints of, and levy punishments against SGA groups up to, but excluding, their dissolution/hanishment from the SGA.
   4.9.3.1. Such a higher punishment will be referred to the Star Chamber.
4.9.4. If any court of the judiciary had business, they are required to submit a case report on the business held to the Senate CCO for distribution and to be present the Case Summary at the next Senate meeting.
   4.9.4.1. This Case Report would include:
      4.9.4.1.1. When they met,
      4.9.4.1.2. Numbers present to reach quorum,
      4.9.4.1.3. Place of the meeting,
      4.9.4.1.4. Itemized number and nature of cases without giving the names of accused/students/defendants except in the case of SGA Officials and Officers accused.
4.9.4.1.5. Matters internal to the SGA and serious transgressions are to be in the spoken report in addition to the written report, which is to include all relevant information.

4.9.4.1.6. The signature of the Chief Justice.

4.9.4.2. The report of the case must have a detailed summary, including its resolution.

4.9.5. Judicial Charges are to be a matter of public record.

4.9.5.1. The parties’ privacy must be preserved.

4.9.6. All established courts are to meet at least biweekly.

4.9.7. Once a case is submitted to the Clerk of Court, it must be presented/submitted to the Supreme Court, or relevant court within one business day and must be heard and decided upon within ten business days.

4.9.8. The case and decision is to be presented to the Senate in the aforementioned report by the next Senate Session.

4.9.9. The Supreme Court is responsible for conducting or delegating the swearing in of all SGA Officers and Officials.

4.9.9.1. The Chief Justice may delegate the swearing in of SGA Officers and Officials to any current Officer or Official of the SGA.

4.9.9.2. Any Supreme Court Justice may swear in a SGA Officer or Official at the direction of the Chief Justice.

4.9.9.3. If the duty of swearing in a SGA Officer or Official is delegated to a member of the SGA outside the Judicial Department, a letter or email signed by the Chief Justice must be provided to any Executive Officer prior to the swearing in and retained in the records of both the Judicial Department and Department for which the official being sworn in will serve.

4.9.9.3.1. In order for an email to serve as the official delegation of this duty, it must be sent by the Chief Justice from their uno.edu account.

4.10. Clerk of Court:

4.10.1. There shall be a Clerk of Court.

4.10.2. The Clerk of Court will assist the Judiciary in the execution of their duties.

4.10.3. All cases must be submitted to a Court Clerk who will submit it to the relevant court for adjudication.

5. ARTICLE V: STUDENT ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

5.1. Purpose:

5.1.1. The UNO SGA Programming Department, herein referred to as the Student Activities Council, (or SAC,) shall serve as the programing department in order to create an all-encompassing UNOSGA that will serve the student body.

5.2. General Provisions:

5.2.1. To promote campus life and school pride to all students at the University of New Orleans.

5.2.2. To serve as an integral part in the educational process by allowing people to meet and exchange ideas, interests, and values.

Commented [JR12]: The SGA Reform Committee removed the section of lower courts (formerly 4.12). This section was never used, and at this time it seems as though the court is capable of handling all matters themselves.
5.2.3. To unify the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the University of New Orleans by providing social, educational, cultural, and recreational programs.

5.3. Membership:
5.3.1. The membership of the SAC shall be open to all currently registered students of the University of New Orleans.
5.3.2. All members must maintain a 2.0 GPA.
5.3.3. There shall be two types of SAC Members:
   5.3.3.1. A voting member is one who has completed the full requirements for membership, has been inducted into the organization, and is granted full voting privileges.
   5.3.3.2. A non-voting member of the SAC is one who has not been inducted into the organization and has no voting privileges.
5.3.4. The requirement for becoming a full voting member is working five (5) SAC events.
5.3.5. In order to maintain it, voting members must work at one (1) SAC event each semester and attend the SAC meetings, unless they have class, or some other valid excuse.
5.3.6. The SAC President will confirm new voting members.
5.3.7. The SAC Vice-President may excuse members from meetings who are or will be absent.

5.4. Departmental Leader:
5.4.1. The Departmental Leader of the Student Activities Council shall be the President of SAC.
5.4.2. The SAC President is an SGA Officer.
5.4.3. The SAC President will be appointed by the SGA President Elect from amongst a pool of interviewed applicants.
5.4.4. SAC presidential applicants will interview with the UNOSGA President Elect, the outgoing SAC President, and the SAC Adviser.
5.4.5. The SGA President Elect’s appointment, is confirmed by a simple majority vote of all SAC voting members present and voting at the next SAC meeting.

5.5. SAC Officers:
5.5.1. General Provisions:
   5.5.1.1. To qualify to be an SAC Officer a Student have at least a 2.5 GPA.
5.5.2. The SAC Officers shall consist of the:
   5.5.2.1. SAC President,
   5.5.2.2. SAC Vice-President,
   5.5.2.3. Event Chairs,
   5.5.2.4. and all other SAC Officers as prescribed in the UNOSGA By-Laws.

5.6. SAC Review Board:
5.6.1. The purpose of the SAC Review Board is to identify, hear, and deal with violations of the SAC’s Rules & Procedures, SGA Code of Laws, SGA Constitution concerning the SAC.
5.6.2. The Review Board shall judge complaints on the removal of officers, a member’s voting rights, or to expel a member from SAC.
5.6.3. Voting rights may be recovered by working five (5) events.
5.6.4. A formal complaint must be submitted to the SAC adviser in writing within one week after the perceived violation.
5.6.5. The chairperson of the Review Board will call a meeting within one week after receiving the written formal complaint.
5.6.6. The accused will have two weeks after receiving notification of complaint to request a hearing with the Review Board.
5.6.7. If the accused does not request a hearing in the two-week period, a hearing will be held without their presence.
5.6.8. The review board is required to make their time available to meet with the accused.

5.7. The hearing shall consist of:

5.7.1. The Review Board
5.7.2. The Accused
5.7.3. Either party has the right to request the SGA President to sit in on the hearing as an impartial observer to ensure the proceedings are conducted properly and without bias.
5.7.4. The Review Board may judge the accused no fault/no misconduct, or guilty and sentence them to:
   5.7.4.1. Probation,
   5.7.4.2. Removal of voting privileges,
   5.7.4.3. Removal of an officer,
   5.7.4.4. Or a revocation of all membership privileges.
5.7.5. The convicted has the right to appeal the Review Board’s decision to the UNOSGA Supreme Court to be confirmed, overturned, or altered to make the penalty more or less severe.
5.7.6. For appeals, no testimony will be heard, but rather only the evidence and the written records will be reviewed.
5.7.7. From the time a complaint is made to the adviser, until the conclusion of the hearing, all information pertaining to the matter must be kept in a hearing record.
5.7.8. The SGA President, if an observer, must take notes as well, which will be a part of the hearing record for the Supreme Court to review.

5.8. The composition of the SAC Review Board shall be:

5.8.1. SAC President as Chair
   5.8.1.1. If a complaint filed involves the President or they are not available to deal with the violation, the Vice President shall take the President’s place on the Review Board.
   5.8.1.2. SAC Adviser
   5.8.1.3. One (1) voting Member of SAC to be determined through a vote by all SAC Members as the first SAC meeting of each semester.
6. ARTICLE VI: IMPEACHMENTS AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

6.1. The criteria for removing SGA Officers or Officials is to be:
   6.1.1. Willfully overstepping constitutional bounds/constraints.
   6.1.2. Dereliction of duty, the persistent poor performance of their duty, or the malicious abuse of their authority
   6.1.3. And violations of University Policy, the Student Handbook, or the UNOSGA Code of Conduct on campus, or at University (or University related) functions.
   6.1.3.1. These violations are not retroactive, nor can violations committed prior to assuming a position be used against an individual to impeach or remove any officer or official.
   6.1.3.2. Any member of SGA that is removed or impeached no longer meets the requirements of good standing and may not seek any other SGA position

6.2. The SGA Code of Conduct is as follows:
   6.2.1. Must abide by federal, state, and local Laws.
   6.2.2. The SGA members must also abide by the University of New Orleans Student Code of Conduct.
   6.2.3. They must act in a manner according to their position as a member of the UNOSGA at any University, or University affiliated functions. (“affiliated” defined as a function thrown by an official university group.)
   6.2.4. Members of the SGA must treat all students equally.
   6.2.5. Follow all other code of conduct provisions prescribed for in the SGA By-laws.

6.3. The SGA will decide matters of impeachment and removal for its members.

6.4. A recall election may be held for all SGA Senators, the SGA President, and Vice President if 10% of the position in question’s electorate petitions for their removal.

6.5. Upon verification of the petition by the Election Commissioner a recall election will be held at the earliest possible convenience to allow for filing and campaigning for the incumbent and any opposition.

6.6. Impeachment:
   6.6.1. The Senate can call for any SGA Officer or Official to be impeached through drafting a Bill of Particulars to be debated and passed by 2/3 of the active Senate.
   6.6.2. Any student can issue a Request for Judicial Review against any SGA Officer or Official:
       6.6.2.1. In all cases, except for the removal of Justices, the case will be sent to the Judiciary to be decided by a simple majority of the active court.
       6.6.2.2. In the case of Justices, the case will be sent to the Senate Impeachment Body.
       6.6.2.2.1. The Senate Impeachment Body are all Senators.
       6.6.2.2.2. The Senate Presiding Officer presides over the proceedings.
   6.6.3. For Senators, the decision can be appealed by a ¾ vote of the active Senate.
   6.6.4. For Executives, the decision can be appealed by a simple majority vote of the Student Body.
   6.6.5. In the case of Justices the decision can be appealed by the Senate Trial Body.
6.6.5.1. The Senate Trial Body are all Senate Officers and Deputy Senate Officers.
6.6.5.2. SGA President presides over the proceedings.

7. Article VII. Removal of Student Groups:
7.1. In the event of repeated violations of the missions, trust, and principles of the SGA determined by the SGA Supreme Court, such that problems with the group are deemed to be systemic, the Star Chamber will convene.
7.2. The Star Chamber will determine whether the flaws inherent to the group’s culture are so deeply ingrained and deleterious to the SGA as to warrant the group’s suspension from the University of New Orleans.
7.3. The Star Chamber may suspend a group up to four (4) years.
7.4. This body shall be comprised of:
   7.4.1. the SGA Supreme Court Chief Justice (as voting Chair)
   7.4.2. the SGA President
   7.4.3. the SGA Speaker of the Senate
   7.4.4. the SGA President of Student Activities Council
7.5. The vote must be unanimous.
7.6. Abstention votes are prohibited.

8. Article VII. Constitutional Reform
8.1. Five (5) members of each of the five (5) Departments of the SGA, to be determined by the respective body (Senate ex. Presiding Officer, President ProTempore, Parliamentarian, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Information Officer) must convene every summer during the leadership retreat to review and reform this constitution.
8.2. Each body’s group of representatives would form their own subcommittees to review the section of the constitution pertaining to their own SGA body. The group would then reconvene as a whole to debate and vote on any changes.
8.3. All changes would need ¾ of the Reform Committee, rounding up, or 19 votes to go into effect.
8.4. The Constitution would then be presented to the Senate at its first session, for a vote of 2/3 to approve, or deny.
8.5. Regardless of the vote, it would then be sent to the SGA President for Executive Action.
   8.5.1. In the case that the Senate does not pass reforms recommended by the Reform Committee the President has the option to present it to the Student Body for approval and vote without Senate blessing.
   8.5.2. This must be clearly referenced in all communications and votes that this is done without the blessing of the Senate.
8.6. If it does go forward, then it is presented to the Student Body for a referendum.
8.7. Upon passage, it goes to the SGA President for signature.