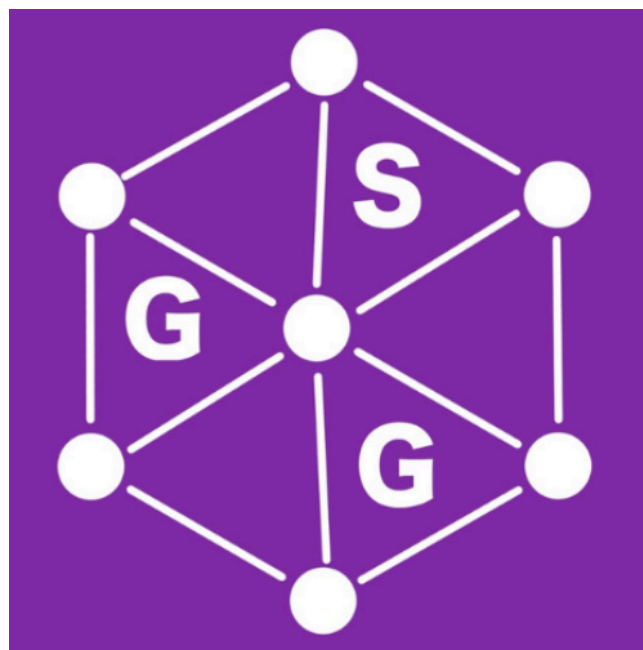


# Global Student Government Constitution



*As amended at the 3rd GSG Legislative Assembly  
December 23, 2023*

## **Article 1: Name**

1.1 The name of the organization shall be the “Global Student Government,” herein referred to as “GSG”.

## **Article 2: Purpose**

2.1 The GSG shall serve the following primary purposes:

- a. Providing a global democratic representative body for all students;
- b. Advocating for students’ interests in policymaking processes at all levels of government;
- c. Ensuring quality democratic student representation exists at all continental, national, regional, and campus levels;
- d. Establishing and maintaining lines of communication between student governments around the world;
- e. Fostering continuous improvement of student services, student government capacity building, extracurricular activities, and all aspects of the student experience;
- f. Ensuring the preservation, access, transfer, and continuous expansion of knowledge pertaining to student government and all aspects of the student experience.

## **Article 3: Definitions**

3.1 The GSG recognizes the definitions of the following terms in the implementation of its guiding documents and operations.

### **3.2 Student Government**

3.2.1 A student government is herein defined as a democratic, student-led organization representing students within a designated geographical jurisdiction and/or a subject of study.

### **3.3 Student Organization**

3.3.1 A student organization not fitting the category of a student government is herein defined as a student-led organization formed around a particular extracurricular interest or purpose.

### **3.4 Individual Member**

3.4.1 An individual member of the GSG is defined as a student who is affiliated with the GSG by signing up for an individual membership on their own or has been signed up for an individual membership by a GSG Association Member.

### **3.5 Act**

3.5.1 “Act” means the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, SC 2009, c 23.

### 3.6 Election

3.6.1 Elections refer to the election of members to serve on the Executive Committee.

## Article 4: Language

4.1 The operating language of the GSG shall be English.

## Article 5: Members

5.1 The GSG has three (3) classes of members:

- a. A class of Association Members consisting of student governments that join the GSG and have a vote at the Legislative Assembly through their representatives;
- b. A class of Individual Members consisting of individual students, whether also belonging to an Association Member or not, who have directly affiliated with the GSG and who cast votes within their respective constituencies to elect the members of the Executive Committee as outlined in Article 13;
- c. A class of Consultative Members consisting of organizations that are not student governments, which do not have any voting power, but are part of the GSG’s networks and assist in the implementation of the GSG’s purposes in an advisory capacity.

5.2 The right to vote at meetings of members, including annual meetings of members, is limited to Association Members.

### 5.3 Membership Fees

5.3.1 Membership fees can be paid through one of the following ways.

5.3.1.1 GSG Association Members shall pay a flat rate of one hundred (100) Euros, which shall be paid to the GSG annually, and with each renewed payment having a deadline of no later than 365 days after its previous payment for an Association Member to retain its membership status.

5.3.1.2 An individual GSG membership system for students who do not belong to an Association Member affiliated with the GSG set at annual rate(s) determined by the Executive Committee.

5.3.1.3 A free membership for each Consultative Member that shall last indefinitely, which can be terminated if an association member opts out through a vote of its governing body or through a vote of the Legislative Assembly.

5.3.2 The Executive Committee may at its discretion grant fee requirement exceptions to Association Members and/or Individual Members in extenuating circumstances.

#### 5.3.3 Attaining GSG Membership

5.3.3.1 A GSG Association Membership can be attained through a majority vote of a student government's governing body, including but not limited to its board of directors, general assembly, or member referendum.

5.3.3.2 A GSG Individual Membership can be attained if an individual student purchases said membership on the GSG website.

5.3.3.3 A GSG Consultative Membership can be attained through a majority vote of a student organization's governing body, including but not limited to its executive committee, board of directors, general assembly, or member referendum, upon acceptance by the Executive Committee. Consultative Membership is regulated by Article 10.

#### 5.3.4 Terminating GSG Membership

5.3.4.1 A GSG Association Membership can be terminated through a majority vote of a student government's governing body, including but not limited to its board of directors, general assembly, or member referendum.

5.3.4.2 A GSG Individual Membership can be terminated if an individual student cancels or does not renew said membership on the GSG website.

5.3.4.3 A GSG Consultative Membership can be terminated through a majority vote of a student organization's governing body, including but not limited to its executive committee, board of directors, general assembly, or member referendum, or by a majority vote of the Legislative Assembly.

### **Article 6: Governance Structure**

6.1 The GSG's structure consists of the following:

- a. An Executive Committee elected by Individual Members according to the procedures of the constituency system outlined in Article 13;
- b. A Legislative Assembly consisting of Association Members;
- c. An Advisory Board that rules in cases of internal disputes and in the interpretation of the GSG's guiding documents;

- d. A Consultation Group consisting of Consultative Members that provides non-binding resolutions and advice to the GSG's governing bodies and members.

6.2 The operation of the Executive Committee, Legislative Assembly, Advisory Board and Consultation Group is outlined in this Constitution and further regulated by the GSG Legal Framework.

6.2.1 These, together with any articles of incorporation or other documents required by law to be adopted, constitute the guiding documents of the GSG.

### **Article 7: Executive Committee**

7.1 The Executive Committee is elected annually by Individual Members and is tasked with implementing the democratic will of Individual Members and the Legislative Assembly.

7.2 The Executive Committee consists of the following positions:

- a. President;
- b. Secretary General;
- c. Treasurer;
- d. Vice-President for Communications;
- e. Vice-President for External Affairs;
- f. Vice-President for Operations.

7.3 The President shall:

- a. Lead the Executive Committee and the GSG as a whole in accordance with the GSG's primary purposes;
- b. Represent the GSG in an official capacity;
- c. Oversee the GSG's regional structures;
- d. Chair the Legislative Assembly;
- e. Have access to all the GSG's financial accounts;
- f. Report on the state and progress of the GSG at each Legislative Assembly.

7.4 The Secretary General shall:

- a. Oversee the recording and preservation of minutes at Executive Committee meetings and Legislative Assemblies;
- b. Ensure that the GSG's guiding documents are updated in a timely manner;
- c. Oversee the preservation and effective dissemination of institutional knowledge;
- d. Oversee the organizing of Legislative Assemblies and elections;
- e. Ensure the GSG guiding documents are followed and implemented correctly;
- f. Oversee the organizing of the Consultation Group.

7.5 The Treasurer shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's finances and ensuring that the GSG's remains in good financial standing;
- b. Develop and implement an annual budget;
- c. Have access to all the GSG's financial accounts;
- d. Provide annual financial reports to the Legislative Assembly and ensure that all financial reporting is completed effectively and on time.

7.6 The Vice-President for Communications shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's public relations;
- b. Oversee the GSG's promotion activities;
- c. Oversee the GSG's design and aesthetic;
- d. Oversee the GSG's social media accounts.

7.7 The Vice-President for External Affairs shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's relations with external organizations;
- b. Oversee the GSG's external advocacy activities;
- c. Oversee the gathering, preservation, and effective dissemination of external intelligence.

7.8 The Vice-President for Operations shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's internal communications;
- b. Oversee the GSG website;
- c. Oversee the GSG's information management systems;
- d. Oversee the GSG's information technology systems;
- e. Ensure internal information is preserved and accessible.

7.9 Each Executive Committee term shall start on June 1st of each year and run until May 31st the following year.

7.10 The members of the Executive Committee shall attend each Legislative Assembly and report on their activities since the last Legislative Assembly.

7.11 The members of the Executive Committee shall be Directors of the organisation.

## **Article 8: Legislative Assembly**

8.1 The Legislative Assembly has the following powers:

- a. Representing Association Members within the GSG;

- b. Holding the Executive Committee accountable;
- c. Setting the general policy direction for the GSG;
- d. Fulfilling other legislative requirements as required by the laws of the country the GSG is incorporated in or other roles as outlined in this document.

8.2 The Legislative Assembly is the meeting of the organisation's members, and it is composed of the GSG's Association Members.

8.3 Each Association Member has votes within the Legislative Assembly according to the number of individual students it represents:

- a. Association Members with less than one million (1,000,000) individual students as members have one (1) vote.
- b. Association Members with an individual member population between one million (1,000,000) and fifty million (50,000,000) individual students as members have two (2) votes.
- c. Association Members with over fifty million (50,000,000) individual students as members have three (3) votes.

8.4 The Legislative Assembly shall convene at least two (2) times per calendar year. One (1) such a meeting shall be an annual meeting of members for the purposes of the Act and shall be held in accordance with the Act. The agenda for the annual meeting of members shall include, but may not be limited to:

- a. the approval of audited financial statements for the most recently concluded fiscal year; and
- b. the appointment of a public accountant for the fiscal year in which the annual meeting of members occurs.

8.5 The Legislative Assembly shall operate according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. The Legislative Assembly may adopt or amend additional rules as outlined in this document.

## **Article 9: Advisory Board**

9.1 The Advisory Board constitutes the highest appeal body within the GSG and shall rule in internal disputes within the GSG as pertaining to the implementation and interpretation of its guiding documents and any other rules and practices the GSG creates.

9.2 The Advisory Board is not a substitute for any kind of legal proceeding.

9.3 The Advisory Board is composed of five (5) advisors selected by the Legislative Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

9.4 Each advisor serves a two (2) year term.

9.5 An advisor cannot be a member of the Executive Committee, serve on the executive committee of a student government, or have a leadership role in an organization in the Consultation Group.

9.6 An advisor cannot run for a position on the Executive Committee after their term expires.

#### **Article 10: Consultation Group**

10.1 The Consultation Group consists of the GSG's Consultative Members. Consultative Members may include the following types of student organizations:

- a. Academic and educational organizations
- b. Community service organizations
- c. Media and publication organizations
- d. Political organizations
- e. Recreation and sports organizations
- f. Religious and spiritual organizations
- g. Multicultural organizations

10.2 Members of the Consultation Group shall provide non-binding resolutions and advice to the GSG's governing bodies and members.

10.3 Any student organization that wishes to obtain a status of a Consultative Member shall submit an online application on the GSG website.

10.4 The Secretary-General shall review the application of the organization and decide to recommend, or not recommend granting status to the organization. The Executive Committee shall take the final decision with a simple majority vote.

10.5 The organization shall appoint one (1) representative to the Consultation Group.

10.6 The Consultation Group shall convene at the notice of Secretary-General.

10.7 There will be seven (7) working groups established, named after aforementioned types of organizations in subsection (1).

10.7.1 Consultative Members can join the working group according to the type of their organization by appointing a representative at their discretion.

10.7.2 Consultative Members cannot join a working group that is different from the type of the organization they were classified as by the Secretary-General.



10.7.3 Working groups can convene at their own convenience. Every working group shall operate according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

10.7.4 Working groups can issue resolutions if they are supported by the majority of an entire working group membership.

10.8 A Consultative Member can be removed from the Consultation Group by the simple majority vote of an Executive Committee in the following instances:

- a. Inactivity for the period of twelve (12) months. Inactivity is defined as a continuous absence at Consultation Group meetings and/or absence at meetings of the respective working group.
- b. Consistent violent or discriminatory behaviour by a representative of a Consultative Member. Such behaviour includes but is not limited to bullying, degradation, harassment, verbal, non-verbal, and physical or non-physical humiliation and intimidation.

### **Article 11: Employees, Volunteers, and Other Appointed Personnel**

11.1 All appointed personnel within the GSG have the primary purpose of serving the will of GSG's individual members as embodied in the Executive Committee and the Legislative Assembly.

11.2 All appointed personnel within the GSG are prohibited from interfering with the GSG's democratic processes, including but not limited to votes held by the Executive Committee or Legislative Assembly and the election of the Executive Committee.

11.3 Any appointee may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, a majority vote of the Legislative Assembly, or by the decision of the respective Executive Committee member said appointee reports to.

### **Article 12: Regions**

12.1 The GSG is supplemented by subordinate regional governance structures, known as Regions.

12.2 The objective of the Regions is to assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling the GSG's mandate across all areas of the world, and to ensure that all areas are in direct communication with the Executive Committee for their particular and distinct issues.

12.3 The GSG may use the Regions as geographical groupings to differentiate between countries for the purpose of enabling less economically-developed countries to fully participate in the GSG.

12.4 The geographical extent of the Regions shall be determined by the Executive Committee, with consideration to uniformity in economic capacity within each Region.

12.5 Each of the Regions shall have a Regional Manager who is appointed by the Executive Committee.

12.6 The Regions shall communicate with the Executive through the President.

### **Article 13: Elections**

13.1 Any GSG member in good standing can run in the election.

13.2 The right to vote in elections belongs to the Individual Members of GSG in good standing, or Association Members if said Association members do not have an individual membership system established.

13.3 The election shall be held in the last month of the Executive Committee's term.

13.4 The election shall be administered by the GSG's online election system or a third-party provider of secured online elections. In the case of the latter, the Secretary-General shall be in charge of organizing the election with the selected service provider.

13.5 The Secretary-General shall set the date for an election at least three (3) months in advance.

13.5.1 The date of the election shall be announced on communication channels used by GSG:

- a. websites;
- b. social media pages;
- c. email newsletters.

13.5.2 The Secretary-General shall begin accepting candidates' applications to the election on the same day of the election date announcement.

13.5.2.1 The Secretary-General shall stop accepting candidates' applications to the election at least 30 (30) days prior to the election date.

13.6 The Secretary-General shall be accountable to the Executive Committee by providing regular reports on the election organization process.

13.7 The Secretary-General shall be responsible for creating a webpage with a description of positions and candidates running for them.

13.8 The Secretary-General shall be responsible for reviewing the candidates' eligibility to run in the election. The candidates shall be informed of whether they are accepted to run in the election no later than seven (7) days after they submit their application or at least thirty (30) days before the election date, whichever is earlier.

13.9 The election campaign shall begin thirty (30) days before the election date.

13.10 Candidates must make themselves available during the election campaign for questions from GSG members. They can choose to answer the questions via email or a social media profile. This contact information and relevant links must be included in their CV or platform statement.

13.11 The standard period of voting shall be seven (7) days.

13.12 All voting for elections shall be by secret ballot.

13.13 The results of the online voting shall be announced by the Secretary-General to all GSG members within seventy-two (72) hours after the closing of the voting period.

13.14 Elections shall be organized according to a constituency system.

13.14.1 The number of constituency votes an Association Member has will correspond with the number of votes they have in the Legislative Assembly.

13.14.2 A constituency shall exist for students not represented by an Association Member, which shall have the same number of electoral college votes that it would have if it was a member of the Legislative Assembly.

13.14.3 If an Association Member does not have an individual membership system established, its elected representatives can vote on behalf of their organization.

13.15 Elections shall be conducted using a ranked ballot system.

13.16 Candidates with the most constituency votes following the implementation of the ranked ballot system win.

13.17 By-elections

13.17.1 If an Executive Committee position goes vacant in between regular elections, the Executive Committee may decide to hold a by-election to fill the vacant position.

13.17.2 The Executive Committee may appoint an individual to serve in a vacant Executive Committee position in the interim until someone can be elected to the role.

13.17.3 In the event of a by-election, the Secretary General shall implement the same procedure for general elections with the exception that it can be initiated at any point within six (6) months of the Executive Committee's elected term.

13.17.4 If an Executive Committee position goes vacant after six months into an Executive Committee's elected term, any interim appointed by the Executive Committee shall serve until the end of the elected term.

#### **Article 14: Constitutional Amendments**

14.1 Amending the GSG constitution requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Legislative Assembly.