

# Student Association Charter

## Saginaw Valley State University

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the students of Saginaw Valley State University, do establish the Student Association of Saginaw Valley State University to represent student concern and advance student priorities, to serve as a catalyst for positive University change, to provide information and leadership to the student body, to increase campus involvement, to faithfully administer the expenditures of Student Association funds, and to contribute to the improvement of the educational experience of the students.

### **Article I - Student Association**

Section 1 - There is hereby established a Student Association, henceforth known as the Association, which shall be comprised of a minimum of thirteen Representatives and a President.

#### Section 2

Subsection 1 - The Association shall elect a Speaker of the House from its membership. The Speaker shall be elected by vote of not less than three-fourths of the present Association voting at a meeting properly called and attended by a quorum. The Parliamentarian, Ombudsman, and Public Information Officer shall be selected through a process approved by the Association.

Subsection 2 - The Speaker of the Association shall preside over all meetings. The Speaker will vote only in the case of a tie. The Speaker shall supervise all committees as may be appointed from time - to - time by the Association, shall assign members to such committees, and shall maintain all files and other records of the Association.

Subsection 3 - The Parliamentarian shall rule on all matters of procedure or other issues relevant to the business of the Association. The Parliamentarian shall chair the Legislation committee. The business of the Association shall, in all matters, be governed by this Charter, by By-Laws properly adopted by the Association, and meetings will be conducted using the version of Robert's Rules of Order that the Parliamentarian specifies at the beginning of his / her term.

Subsection 4 - The Ombudsman shall process and maintain records relating to any grievances filed by members of the student body, shall preside over the resolution of all grievances properly presented within the Association, and shall serve as a source of information and support for members of the student body who are experiencing difficulties with the University.

Subsection 5 - The Public Information Officer shall be responsible for matters of communication and dissemination of information on behalf of the Association, whether in verbal, printed, or electronic form, including, but not limited to publication and distribution of recorded proceedings or other official documents not considered to be of a confidential nature, advertising and promotion of Association events, and responses to external inquiry. Also, the Public Information Officer will serve as the student representative on the Professional Journalistic Practices Committee.

Section 3 - The Association may adopt or approve By-Laws, resolutions and other policies or actions relevant to the function of the Student Association. Such actions may include, but shall

not be limited to, the allocation or use of funding made available by the University through the collection of student fees, and the adoption of expression of positions or opinions to be published or presented to University or governmental officials.

Section 4 - The Association may determine the Rules of Proceedings, and with the concurrence of three fourths of the representatives, expel a representative.

Section 5 - The Association may, from time-to-time, create and appoint committees. The authority or work of such committees shall be granted or assigned in any action or resolution there taken.

#### Section 6

Subsection 1 - All matters before the Association shall be decided by majority vote of members present, except as otherwise specifically provided in the Charter. The Association shall conduct no business, nor take any action, except in a public meeting attended by not fewer than three fourths of the representatives, which number shall constitute a quorum.

Subsection 2 - In the event of any tie vote on any matter properly before the Association, the Speaker shall cast a vote to determine the issue.

Subsection 3 - A representative may cast one and only one vote for each item of business brought before the Association, provided the representative shall be in attendance at the meeting during which time such item shall be decided upon.

Subsection 4 - In the event the Speaker is unable to attend the meeting and there is a quorum, the meeting shall be chaired by officers in the following order: Parliamentarian, Ombudsman, and Public Information Officer.

#### Section 7

Subsection 1 - In the event any officer is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the Association shall select one representative from the existing Association to assume this office in the same manner as the original selection.

Subsection 2 - In the event that a representative is unable or unwilling to fulfill his or her duties, the Association shall elect a new member from the student body of Saginaw Valley State University.

### **Article II - Executive Officer**

Section 1 - The President of the Student Association shall be elected by the students of Saginaw Valley State University by a general election.

Section 2 - The President of the Student Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Association, without a vote. He or she may appoint and, when necessary and proper, remove student representatives from University committees, subject to Association consent.

Section 3 - He or she shall further administer and execute policies set forth by the Association such as hire and fire all student employees of the Association, and shall be responsible for the faithful expenditure and management of all funds or other assets under the ownership or control of the Student Association.

Section 4 - He or she shall also, from time - to - time, inform the student body of actions taken by the Association or of such other matters as may affect the general interests or well - being of the student body of Saginaw Valley State University.

Section 5 - The President has the discretion to create a cabinet structure with the approval of the Association. The President has full discretion of appointment and removal power within the approved cabinet structure.

Section 6 - In the event the President is unable or unwilling to fulfill his or her duties, the Speaker of the Student Association will succeed to the Presidency.

Section 7 - The President has the power to veto action items, including specific financial allocations that the Association approves. If the action item is not signed within ten business days of passage, then the item is considered signed by the President. The Association may overrule the President's veto by a vote in the affirmative of three fourths or more Representatives at a meeting properly called.

### **Article III - Elections and Qualifications**

Section 1 - Elections will be sponsored and run by the University Election Commission.

Section 2 -All students enrolled in a course or courses at Saginaw Valley State University on the date of an election shall be eligible to vote in such election.

Section 3 - All Representatives and Officers of the Student Association must be enrolled as students at Saginaw Valley State University during the entire term of their office with a minimum of six credit hours per semester. Failure to remain enrolled, except during any summer semester, shall result in automatic forfeiture of the office to which such person was elected.

Section 4 - All Representatives and Officers of the Student Association must have and maintain a cumulative 2.25 grade point average throughout their term. Failure to do so shall result in automatic forfeiture of the office to which such person was elected.

Section 5 - No person shall be elected to the Office of President more than twice; no person shall be elected or appointed to any elective Office within the Student Association more than four times. "Elective office" shall be defined as the position of Representative or President.

### **Article IV - Discipline or Removal of the President**

Section 1 - A complaint seeking to discipline or impeach the President must be submitted to the Speaker of the Association. Any such complaint shall contain the valid signature of not less than ten percent of those students enrolled in a course or courses at Saginaw Valley State University as of the official count date, as certified by the Registrar. Any such complaint must allege in clear and specific terms, misfeasance or nonfeasance on the part of the President.

Section 2 - The speaker of the Student Association shall administer the provisions of this Article, and shall promptly deliver any signed submitted complaint to the Disciplinary Action Committee.

Section 3 - There shall be established a Disciplinary Action Committee, comprised of five members. Such members must be students enrolled at Saginaw Valley State University, or faculty or staff employed by the University. The Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Student Association and confirmed by three fourths of the Representatives of the Association.

Section 4 - The Disciplinary Action Committee may adopt its own By-Laws or other regulations to guide or govern the conduct of its business.

Section 5 - The said Disciplinary Action Committee shall conduct a hearing within ten business days of the date on which any complaint was submitted to the Speaker of the Student Association. At such hearing, the Disciplinary Action Committee shall consider all matters and evidence presented relative to the allegations contained in the complaint, and within five business days following the conclusion of the hearing shall recommend such actions as might be deemed necessary and proper to the Association.

Section 6 - All recommendations of the Disciplinary Action Committee shall be subject to action by the Association, provided that no action may be taken against the President of the Association unless confirmed by three fourths vote of the Representatives of the Association.

#### **Article V - Judicial Review of Charter**

Section 1 - Disputes arising under the provisions of this Charter shall be resolved by action of the prevailing review structure as it is established by the Saginaw Valley State University Code of Student Conduct.

#### **Article VI - Initiative and Referendum**

Section 1 - Students enrolled at Saginaw Valley State University may require a referendum to amend, modify or nullify any action taken by the Association. Any proposal for a referendum shall be initiated by a petition, setting forth the proposed measure in question and containing the signatures of not fewer than five percent (5%) of the students enrolled in a course or sources at Saginaw Valley State University, as of the official count date, as certified by the registrar. Any such petition shall be delivered to the Speaker of the Association.

Section 2 - Upon receiving any such petition, the Speaker will read it to the Association and present it to the Election Commission, which shall organize a vote of the student body on said petition. Any such vote must take place within fifteen business days from the date the said petition was received by the Association.

Section 3 - The action proposed in the referendum shall take effect if supported by a majority of those students properly voting in the said election.

Section 4 - Specific allocations are not subject to referendum.

Section 5 - Likewise, members of the student body may propose, of their own initiative, that certain matters of policy or other action be established or taken as if approved by the

Association. Any such initiative shall follow the same procedures as set forth in this Article governing the Power of Referendum. In the event the Association passes a resolution or takes action identical with that proposed in the petition for initiative, no further action shall be taken on said petition.

#### **Article VII - Amendments**

Section 1 - The Association may propose amendments to this Charter, with approval of three fourths of the Representatives present. Also, pursuant to article VI, the student body may propose a Charter amendment by initiative. A charter initiative requires the signatures of ten percent (10%) of the students enrolled in a course or courses at Saginaw Valley State University, as of the official count date, as certified by the registrar.

Section 2 - The Election Commission shall organize and conduct a vote of the students after the public announcement of any properly proposed amendment at the next regular election. Any such amendment, if approved by a majority of those students properly voting and by the University President, shall then be presented to the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University for final approval.

#### **Article VIII - Ratification**

This charter was approved by the Saginaw Valley State University Student Government Senate on February 15, 1996, was approved by the Saginaw Valley State University student body on February 22, 1996, and was ratified at the March 4, 1996 meeting of the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control. 04/24/96.

This Charter was approved by the Saginaw Valley State University Student Association on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003, was approved by the Saginaw Valley State University Student Body on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003, and was ratified at the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003 meeting of the Board of Control.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS  
Proposed and Ratified

*Note: This section on Charter Amendments does not add anything to the Charter. It is meant to provide a record of previous Charter amendments that have been proposed and ratified by the Student Association.*

**Resolution #:** HM0005-07

**Resolution Title:** Resolution to reconsider HR026-05, a resolution to amend the Charter to create a 4 year term limit on Student Association Representatives

**Date Approved by House:** March 12, 2007

**Date Approved by Students:** Approved

**Date Approved by Board of Control:** Approved

**Changes Made:** The previous term limit was 3 years. Note: an amendment to this proposal was offered on 3/12/07, this defined the offices to which the term limit applies; this amendment was not in the text offered on the original HR026-05

**Resolution #:** HR044-05

**Resolution Title:** Resolution to amend the SA Charter to change the voting threshold to elect officers

**Date Approved by House:** September 26, 2005

**Date Approved by Students:** Approved

**Date Approved by Board of Control:** Approved

**Changes Made:** The Parliamentarian, Ombudsman, and Public Information officer were elected by a 3/4s vote; this changed the election to simple majority.

**Resolution #:** HR045-05

**Resolution Title:** Resolution to amend Article VI and VII of the SA Charter

**Date Approved by House:** September 26, 2005

**Date Approved by Students:** Approved

**Date Approved by Board of Control:** Approved

**Changes Made:** This lowered the petition requirement for referendum from 10% to 5%. This added the provision that allocations are not subject to referendum. This added definition for threshold of proposing amendments to the Charter; previously 3/4s of the Representatives and 10% of the students were not stipulated. Finally, charter amendment proposals occur at the next regular election, and not within twenty business days.

**Resolution #:** HR013-003

**Resolution Title:** Resolution to approve amendments to the Student Association Charter

**Date Approved by House:** September 29, 2003

**Date Approved by Students:** Approved

**Date Approved by Board of Control:** Approved

**Changes Made:** This changed the number of representatives from 13 to a minimum of 13. Any action (Expelling a representative, determining quorum, overriding a veto, establishing a Disciplinary Action Committee, and approving the recommendations of the Disciplinary Action Committee) that required 9 of the 13 representatives previously now requires 3/4s of the

Representatives. This also changed the Presidential term limit from one term to two terms. Finally, this added language that is dated 2003 at the end of the Charter in the ratification section.