

**De La Salle University – Manila
University Student Government
Constitution**

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Preamble

We, the undergraduate students of De La Salle University - Manila, imploring the aid of the Almighty God and invoking the patronage of St. John Baptist De La Salle, assert our inherent democratic right to pursue an autonomous and genuine student government that shall inspire us to become true Lasallian achievers for God and country, reinvigorate our formation as Lasallians who secure harmony, unity and cooperation among ourselves and with those who, together with us, make up the Lasallian community of persons, scholars, learners and citizens, commit to the advancement and defense of our rights and welfare, safeguard the academic freedom and integrity of the University, affirm the student-citizen's dignity and worth, promote the common good, actualize our roles as propagandists and catalysts for social change and action, inculcate a social consciousness that will strike a balance between self and service to others, healthy competition and cooperation, privilege and responsibility and embody our libertarian ideals, nationalist aspirations and noble vision of a humane and sovereign society where truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace reign, do solemnly ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

**Article I
NAME AND SEAT**

- Section 1. The name of this student government, established under this Constitution, shall be known as the De La Salle University - Manila University Student Government, which shall hereinafter be referred to as the USG.
- Section 2. The seat of the USG shall be in the De La Salle University - Manila, 2401 Taft Avenue, Manila, which shall hereinafter be referred to as the University.

**Article II
MEMBERSHIP**

The members of the USG shall be all undergraduate students of the University.

**Article III
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, PURPOSES AND POLICIES**

PRINCIPLES

- Section 1. The USG shall have the power of which emanates from the student body. It shall be the sole, unified, autonomous and democratic representative body of the students.
- Section 2. The USG shall recognize the importance of the University’s Mission Statement of “building a community of learners and scholars who value the pursuit of new knowledge within the perspective of Christian ideals and values.”
- 2.1. The Mission Statement shall serve as the guide of the USG in achieving the collective interest of the students.
- 2.2. The USG believes that the true importance of the Mission Statement lies in putting these ideals into action.
- Section 3. The USG is founded on the principles of representation, participatory democracy, decentralization, collaboration, equitability, accountability, unity and cooperation and efficiency and efficacy in the delivery of services.
- Section 4. The USG shall adhere to the policy of cooperation with other sectors of the Lasallian community.

PURPOSES

- Section 4. The USG shall be at the forefront of the students’ struggle for their rights and welfare, as embodied in Article IV of this Constitution, the University’s Student Charter and the laws of the land.
- Section 5. The USG shall help foster the physical, intellectual, moral, cultural, civic, spiritual and political interests of the students, as long as these are not contrary to the University’s vision and mission.
- Section 6. The USG shall develop critical thinking among the studentry and encourage all students to unite themselves and utilize their knowledge, skills and resources to contribute to nation-building.
- Section 7. The USG, recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building, shall encourage all students to be aware and sensitive to the universal needs of their time;
- Section 8. The USG shall foster a progressive and innovative academic institution.

Section 9. The USG shall be in solidarity with the Filipino people by partaking in the efforts of working towards genuine freedom and democracy.

POLICIES

Section 10. The USG shall pursue an independent stand, not dictated by any other sector, other than the students.

Section 11. The USG shall value academic freedom, peace based on justice and the equality of gender, religion, and race.

Section 13. The USG shall encourage student and sectoral organizations to promote the welfare of the students.

Section 14. The USG shall establish and maintain relevant linkages with various offices, sectoral and cause-oriented groups within and outside the University to create venues for resource-sharing.

Section 15. The USG shall pursue a policy of dialogue with other student governments, movements and the marginalized sectors of society, consonant with its principles and purposes.

Section 16. The USG shall pursue a Lasallian education that is holistic, competitive and of high standards, ensuring that it develops Lasallians for the nation. The USG shall also fight for a relevant, nationalistic, scientific, liberating and mass-oriented system of education.

Section 17. The USG shall struggle against all forms of exploitation, oppression and corruption.

Section 18. The USG shall renounce instruments of policy, activities and undertakings which are violent in nature, and/or are contrary to the rules and regulations of the University and/or the laws of the land.

Section 19. The USG shall adopt and implement a policy of public disclosure of all its transactions involving the interest of its members.

Article IV
BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Every student has the right to be properly informed of the programs, rules and regulations and policies of the academic community.

Section 2. Every student has the right to have access to his/her official records and other pertinent documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions.

Section 3. Every student has the right to receive professional competence from the faculty and administration.

Section 4. Every student has the right to be academically evaluated based on objective criteria.

Section 5. Every student has the right to conduct scholarly research freely and to publish, discuss and exchange findings and recommendations for the purpose of academic development.

Section 6. Every student has the right to suffrage.

6.1. Every student has the right to vote for representatives and officers of the USG.

6.2. Every student has the right to exercise other electoral practices.

Section 7. Every student has the right to actively participate in the USG.

Section 8. Every student has the right to recall their representatives from office.

- Section 9. Every student has the right to proper representation and participation in all policy-making bodies inside the University.
- Section 10. Every student has the right to regular student-faculty and student-administration dialogue.
- Section 11. Every student has the right to assemble and to freely and responsibly express their views, opinions and grievances.
- Section 12. Every student has the right to objective presentation and independent operation of the student-controlled publications, subject to the canons of responsible journalism.
- Section 13. Every student has the right to establish, organize, join and actively participate in clubs, organizations, groups and other associations for purposes not contrary to existing policies.
- Section 14. Every student has the right to due process.
- Section 15. Every student has the right to legitimate and responsible use of adequate, safe, clean and efficient school facilities.
- Section 16. Every student has the right to apply for a USG position.
- Section 17. All other rights as specified in the Student Handbook and the University’s Student Charter but are not specified herein are included as rights of the students.

**Article V
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS**

- Section 1. Every student shall observe and uphold the laws of the land, the rules and regulations of the University as stipulated in the Student Handbook and this Constitution.
- Section 2. Every student shall exercise his/her rights responsibly and in good faith.
- Section 3. Every student shall uphold the academic integrity of the University, endeavor to achieve academic excellence and abide by the rules and regulations governing his/her academic responsibilities.
- Section 4. Every student shall promote and maintain the peace and tranquility of the University by observing the rules of discipline and by exerting efforts to attain harmonious relationships with fellow students, the administrators, the teaching academic staffs and other University personnel.
- Section 5. Every student shall uphold, preserve and maintain the integrity of his/her Alma Mater.
- Section 6. Every student shall participate actively in civic affairs and in the promotion of the general welfare, particularly in the social, economic and cultural development of his/her community and in the attainment of a just, compassionate and orderly society.

**Article VI
ACCOUNTABILITY OF USG OFFICERS**

All USG officers shall at all times be accountable to the studentry who they must serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, efficiency and professionalism.

**Article VII
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- Section 1. The Executive Board, which shall hereinafter be referred to as EB, shall be the highest governing body and representative authority of the USG.
- Section 2. The EB shall be composed of the:
- 2.1. President.
 - 2.2. Vice President for Internal Affairs.
 - 2.3. Vice President for External Affairs.
 - 2.4. Executive Secretary.
 - 2.5. Executive Treasurer.
- Section 3. The EB shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:
- 3.1. To uphold and enforce the provisions stipulated in this Constitution and its bylaws.
 - 3.2. To outline and enforce basic policies that shall facilitate the performance of its duties and responsibilities.
 - 3.3. To discuss national, sectoral and university-wide issues and academic-related matters, projects, programs and campaigns to be presented to the College Presidents.
 - 3.4. To ensure fair, efficient and effective representation in all University committees whose services and decisions affect the welfare of the students.
 - 3.5. To create departments and ad hoc as may be necessary to discharge its functions.
- Section 4. The members of the EB shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.
- Section 5. Any member of the EB may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.
- Section 6. The EB shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.
- Section 7. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the EB members are informed and have agreed.

Article VIII
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1. The Executive Committee, which shall hereinafter be referred to as EXECOM, shall be vested with executive powers.
- Section 2. The EXECOM shall be composed of the:
- 2.1. All the members of the EB.
 - 2.2. All College Presidents.
- Section 3. The EXECOM shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:
- 3.1. To discuss and decide on national, sectoral, university-wide issues and academic-related matters, projects, programs and campaigns for endorsement and final approval of the Legislative Assembly, whenever necessary.
 - 3.2. To implement all resolutions approved by the Legislative Assembly.
 - 3.3. To issue Executive Orders to the USG in case of a state of emergency and be answerable to the Legislative Assembly for the consequences thereof.
 - 3.4. To appeal for reconsideration to the Legislative Assembly any approved motion or resolution upon two-thirds vote of the members of the EXECOM.

- 3.5. To determine the vision and mission of the USG and ensure that resources be made available towards their attainment.
- Section 4. The members of the EXECOM shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.
- Section 5. Any member of the EXECOM may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.
- Section 6. The EXECOM shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.
- Section 7. A final decision can only be reached via a majority vote (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are binding and executory unless challenged by an EXECOM member.

Article IX
POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EB MEMBERS

- Section 1. The President shall:
- 1.1. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the USG.
 - 1.2. Be the official spokesperson of the USG at any function, meeting or assembly.
 - 1.3. Preside over the meetings of the EB, EXECOM, USG General Assemblies, Convention of Leaders and committees under his/her office.
 - 1.4. Have no voting powers but shall have the power to veto policies, resolutions, programs and projects approved by the EB, EXECOM, the Activities Assembly and the Legislative Assembly.
 - 1.4.2. The presidential veto must be communicated to the Executive Secretary within three days of the approval of the policy, resolution, program or project. Otherwise, the policy, resolution, program or project may be released or implemented.
 - 1.4.3. A two-thirds vote of the remaining EB, EXECOM, the Activities Assembly and the Legislative Assembly, whichever is concerned, is required to override a presidential veto.
 - 1.5. Oversee the internal and external affairs of the USG.
 - 1.6. Initiate the implementation of all the decisions of the Legislative Assembly.
 - 1.7. Nominate and appoint the student representatives to external alliances, seminars, sector organizations, University-wide committees and other functions requiring such representation and appointment. The order for the nomination and appointment is as follows:
 - 1.7.1. Member/s of the EB.
 - 1.7.2. College President/s.
 - 1.7.3. Legislative Assembly Representative/s.
 - 1.7.4. Batch President/s.
 - 1.7.5. Other USG officer/s.
 - 1.8. Be an ex-officio member of all the committees under the executive arm of the USG.
 - 1.9. Submit to the Legislative Assembly and the Judiciary trimestral reports that shall present and evaluate the state of the organizational affairs and recommend further actions.
 - 1.10. Monitor, directly or indirectly, the performance of all offices and committees with executive functions.
 - 1.11. Receive and review periodic reports from each of the EB members, all Executive units, the Legislative Assembly and the Judiciary.
 - 1.12. Ensure that national, sectoral and University-wide issues be adequately addressed by the USG.
 - 1.13. Represent the USG in sectoral activities within and outside the University.
 - 1.14. Convene the Council of University Representatives (CURE) which shall be composed of all student representatives to University policy-making bodies.
 - 1.15. Perform other functions to facilitate the discharge of his/her responsibilities or acts prescribed herein and be answerable to the Legislative Assembly for the consequences of such.
 - 1.15. Be vested with the power to grant presidential pardon to any USG officer found guilty of violation of this constitution and its bylaws by the Judiciary, provided that the pardon is with just cause.

Section 2. The Vice President for Internal Affairs shall:

- 2.1. Report directly to the President.
- 2.2. Be the supervisor and coordinator of the internal affairs of the USG under the direction of the President.
- 2.3. Assume the responsibilities of the President in matters concerning internal affairs if the President is absent or incapacitated or if so directed by the EB.
- 2.4. Assume automatically the Presidency in the event that such office is permanently vacated.
- 2.5. Coordinate with the College and Batch Student Governments with regards to internal affairs of the USG.
- 2.6. Monitor all internal activities and programs of the College and Batch Student Governments.
- 2.7. Chair the Activities Assembly.
- 2.8. Ensure that the USG University-wide activities are prioritized over other student activities.
- 2.9. Create departments and ad hoc as may be necessary to discharge specific functions of the internal affairs.
- 2.10. Supervise the planning and implementation of special projects during celebrations of USG University-wide weeks and other occasions warranting participation of the USG.
- 2.11. Address student concerns regarding the operational efficiency and development of physical facilities in the University.
- 2.12. Conduct research undertakings on University policies and structures and present results and recommendations to the EXECOM, Legislative Assembly and/or the University administration.
- 2.13. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EXECOM.

Section 3. The Vice President for External Affairs shall:

- 3.1. Report directly to the President.
- 3.2. Be the supervisor and coordinator of the external affairs of the USG under the direction of the President.
- 3.3. Assume the responsibilities of the President in matters concerning external affairs if the President is absent or incapacitated or if so directed by the EB.
- 3.4. Assume automatically the Presidency in the event that both the Presidency and the Internal Affairs Vice Presidency are permanently vacated.
- 3.5. Coordinate with the College and Batch Student Governments with regards to external affairs of the USG.
- 3.6. Monitor all external activities and programs of the College and Batch Student Governments.
- 3.7. Co-chair the Activities Assembly and assume chairmanship if the Vice President for Internal Affairs is absent or incapacitated or if so directed by the EB.
- 3.8. Create departments and ad hoc as may be necessary to discharge specific functions of the external affairs
- 3.9. Establish liaisons with other student governments and other relevant entities.
- 3.10. Establish alliances with external entities on specific issues or campaigns as specified by the EB.
- 3.11. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EXECOM.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall:

- 4.1. Report directly to the President.
- 4.2. Be the Chief Administrative Officer of the USG.
- 4.3. Take charge of the daily and administrative affairs of the USG.
- 4.4. Be the official custodian of all records and papers of USG.
- 4.5. Record all meetings of the EB, EXECOM, USG General Assemblies, Convention of Leaders, Legislative Assembly and Inner Circle.
- 4.6. Be responsible for efficient USG office management.
- 4.7. Be responsible for the training and development and other concerns and needs of USG officers in the discharge of their duties.
- 4.8. Handle all correspondences of the EB, both internally and externally.

- 4.9. Coordinate with the other offices to facilitate the maintenance of a complete and effective filing system of the USG.
- 4.10. Supervise the information dissemination of the University-wide activities, programs and campaigns of the USG through publicity, publications and the like.
- 4.11. Establish programs or projects to obtain regular feedback from the student body.
- 4.12. Prepare the agenda of meetings of the EB and EXECOM after due consultation with its members.
- 4.13. Advise the President on matters of general administration.
- 4.14. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EXECOM.

Section 5. The Executive Treasurer shall:

- 5.1. Report directly to the President.
- 5.2. Act as custodian of the USG funds and enforce standard operating procedures within the USG with regards to the financial system.
- 5.3. Design and implement a plan for the management of funds under the jurisdiction of the USG.
- 5.4. Be in charge of the preparation of the annual budget, of which allocation must be given to all the offices under the structure of the USG, to be approved by the Legislative Assembly.
- 5.5. Formulate and implement policies and procedures governing the financial resources of the USG.
- 5.6. Require financial documents necessary for the maintenance of an effective monitoring system.
- 5.7. Collect and summarize needed data in the preparation of financial reports dealing with all phases of the financial, accounting and operating activities of the USG.
- 5.8. Prepare trimestral financial reports dealing with all phases of the financial activities of the offices under the USG structure and present such reports to all offices concerned.
- 5.9. Safeguard cash temporarily on hand and maintain banking connection for the regular deposit and savings accounts for the USG.
- 5.10. Monitor fund-raising activities initiated by the offices under the USG.
- 5.11. Make periodic reviews of the income and expenditure status of each budgetary unit for any needed remedial action.
- 5.12. Review and monitor all receipts and disbursements of funds within the USG.
- 5.13. Prepare an annual financial report of the USG for examination by the EXECOM and Legislative Assembly and also for audit by the Auditor duly appointed by the Judiciary.
- 5.14. Perform other such duties and responsibilities related to and/or implied from the above enumeration of duties and responsibilities.
- 5.15. Perform other such functions as deemed necessary by the EXECOM.

Article X

THE ACTIVITIES ASSEMBLY

Section 1. The Activities Assembly, which shall hereinafter be referred to as AA, shall be the policy-making arm concerning activities, projects and programs of the USG.

Section 2. The AA shall be composed of the:

- 2.1. Vice President for Internal Affairs.
- 2.2. Vice President for External Affairs.
- 2.3. All College Presidents.
- 2.4. All Batch Presidents.

Section 3. The AA shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 3.1. To outline and enforce basic policies and procedures for the efficient and effective implementation of student activities, projects and programs and enforce these upon the approval of the EXECOM.

- 3.2. To plan University-wide student activities, projects and programs and assign departments or ad hoc for the implementation of such upon the approval of the EXECOM.
- 3.3. To create departments and ad hoc as may be necessary to discharge specific functions of the AA.
- 3.4. To discuss and deliberate matters pertaining to activities, projects and programs of the departments and ad hoc.
- 3.5. To perform such other functions as deemed necessary by the EXECOM.

Section 4. The members of the AA shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.

Section 5. Any member of the AA may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.

Section 6. The AA shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.

Section 7. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present, subject to the decision of the EXECOM and the Legislative Assembly. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the AA members are informed and have agreed.

Article XI **THE COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Section 1. The College Student Government, which shall hereinafter be referred to as CSG, shall be composed of all undergraduate students of each respective college.

Section 2. The CSG Executive Board, which shall hereinafter be referred to as CSG-EB, shall be the highest governing body and representative authority of each respective college.

Section 3. The CSG-EB shall be composed of the:

- 3.1. College President.
- 3.2. All Batch Presidents from the college.
- 3.3. All Legislative Assembly Representatives from the college.

Section 4. The CSG-EB shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 4.1. To discuss and decide on matters which are pertinent to their respective college.
- 4.2. To determine the vision and mission of the CSG and ensure that resources be made available towards their attainment.
- 4.3. To outline and enforce basic policies that shall facilitate the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
- 4.4. To execute all policies and directives issued by the Legislative Assembly which are pertinent to each respective college.
- 4.5. To handle college affairs and the needs of the different majors and batches.
- 4.6. To organize and implement programs for their particular college.
- 4.7. To create departments and ad hoc as may be necessary to discharge its functions.
- 4.8. Prepare a Rules of Internal Governance of the CSG within the framework of this Constitution.

Section 5. The College Presidents shall:

- 5.1. Report directly to the President
- 5.2. Discuss and update the EXECOM on college-wide programs and concerns.
- 5.3. Enforce programs of the EB, upon the approval of the EXECOM, to the college and its batches.
- 5.4. Spearhead the execution of all policies and directives issued by the Legislative Assembly which are pertinent to their respective colleges.
- 5.5. Coordinate with the EXECOM regarding University-wide issues and activities.

- 5.6. Chair the CSG-EB and appoint from its members a replacement **in case of** their incapacity or absence.
- 5.7. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EXECOM and the Legislative Assembly.

Section 6. The members of the CSG-EB shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.

Section 7. Any member of the CSG-EB may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.

Section 8. The CSG-EB shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.

Section 9. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the CSG-EB members are informed and have agreed.

Article XII

THE BATCH STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Batch Student Government, which shall hereinafter be referred to as BSG, shall be composed of all undergraduate students of each respective batch of each respective college.

Section 2. The BSG Executive Board, which shall hereinafter be referred to as BSG-EB, shall be the highest governing body and representative authority of each respective batch of each respective college.

Section 3. The BSG-EB shall be composed of the:

- 3.1. Batch President.
- 3.2. Batch Vice-President.
- 3.3. Legislative Assembly Representative.

Section 4. The BSG-EB shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 4.1. Create committees for the operations of the batch.
- 4.2. Execute all policies and directives issued by the Legislative Assembly which are pertinent to the batch.
- 4.3. Organize and implement programs for the enhancement and development of the batch.
- 4.4. Participate in the execution of college and University-wide programs as directed by the College President and AA.
- 4.5. Encourage batchmates to participate in batch, college and University-wide programs.
- 4.6. Prepare a Rules of Internal Governance of the BSG within the framework of this Constitution.
- 4.7. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EB and the College President.

Section 5. The Batch Presidents shall:

- 5.1. Report directly to the College President and President as deemed necessary.
- 5.2. Represent the BSG in the CSG, AA and other such entities as necessary.
- 5.3. Discuss and update the CSG on batch-wide programs and concerns.
- 5.4. Enforce programs of the EB, upon the approval of the EXECOM, to the batch.
- 5.5. Spearhead the execution of all policies and directives issued by the Legislative Assembly which are pertinent to their respective batches.
- 5.6. Coordinate with the College President and EB regarding college and University-wide issues and activities, respectively.
- 5.7. Chair the BSG-EB.
- 5.8. Perform other functions as defined in the Rules of Internal Governance of the BSG and as deemed necessary by the EB, College President and the Legislative Assembly.

Section 6. The Batch Vice-Presidents shall:

- 6.1. Report directly to the Batch President and College President and President as deemed necessary.
- 6.2. Represent the Batch President in other programs and activities and other such entities.
- 6.3. Discuss and update the CSG on batch-wide programs and concerns in the absence of the Batch President.
- 6.4. Assume powers and responsibilities of the Batch President in his/her incapacity or absence.
- 6.5. Enforce programs of the EB, upon approval of the EXECOM, for the batch.
- 6.6. Assist the Batch President in the execution of all policies and directives issued by the Legislative Assembly which are pertinent to their respective batches.
- 6.7. Chair the BSG-EB in the absence of the Batch President.
- 6.8. Perform other functions as defined in the Rules of Internal Governance of the BSG and as deemed necessary by the EB, College President and the Legislative Assembly.

Section 7. The members of the BSG-EB shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.

Section 8. Any member of the BSG-EB may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.

Section 9. The BSG-EB shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.

Section 10. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the BSG-EB members are informed and have agreed.

Article XIII **THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. The Executive Departments, which shall hereinafter be referred to as EXEDEP, shall be the standing committees to aid the USG in addressing specific concerns, issues, projects and programs consonant with its principles and purposes.

Section 2. The Batch Presidents shall be appointed to EXEDEP, except for the Department of Activity Approval and Monitoring, and shall be limited to membership to only one EXEDEP. The EB shall assign the Batch Presidents to the EXEDEP in reference to, but not entirely based upon, the top three choices of each Batch President and in a manner that the EB deems necessary.

Section 3. Each EXEDEP shall have a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, all of whom shall be elected from among and by the members of the EXEDEP. The members shall determine the manner of election thereof.

Section 4. The EXEDEP Chairpersons shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 4.1. Report directly to the EB.
- 4.2. Preside over the meetings of their respective EXEDEP.
- 4.3. Administer the overall operations of their respective EXEDEP.
- 4.4. Report to the AA actions on programs and projects referred to their EXEDEP.
- 4.5. Appoint EXEDEP members to sub-committees as well as delegate EXEDEP tasks to members, whenever necessary.
- 4.6. Consolidate the EXEDEP members on matters pertinent to the AA and in their attendance to AA sessions.
- 4.7. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EB and AA.

Section 5. The EXEDEP Vice Chairpersons shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 5.1. Report directly to the EXEDEP Chairperson.
- 5.2. Assume the powers and responsibilities of the EXEDEP Chairperson in his/her incapacity or absence.
- 5.3. Supervise the EXEDEP programs and projects.
- 5.4. Assist the EXEDEP Chairperson in supervising the operation of the EXEDEP.
- 5.5. Perform other functions deemed necessary by the EXEDEP Chairperson or as prescribed within the rules of their respective EXEDEP.

Section 6. The members of the EXEDEP shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities, other than those stated in Article XII Section 5 of this Constitution:

- 6.1. Report directly to the EXEDEP Chairperson.
- 6.2. Be present and participate actively in all EXEDEP meetings.
- 6.3. Aid the EXEDEP Vice Chairperson in all programs and projects.
- 6.4. Perform other functions deemed necessary by the EXEDEP Chairperson or as prescribed within the rules of their respective EXEDEP.

Section 7. The members of the EXEDEP shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.

Section 8. Any member of the EXEDEP may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.

Section 9. The EXEDEP shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.

Section 10. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the EXEDEP members are informed and have agreed.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Section 11. The EXEDEP prescribed by this Constitution shall be the following:

- 11.1. Department of Activity Approval and Monitoring.
- 11.2. Department on Community Development.
- 11.3. Department on Student Services.
- 11.4. Department on Advocacy.

DEPARTMENT ON ACTIVITY APPROVAL AND MONITORING

Section 13. The Department of Activity Approval and Monitoring, which shall hereinafter be referred to as DAAM, shall be the coordinating body of the USG in approving and monitoring student activities.

Section 14. The DAAM shall be chaired by a staff duly appointed by the Vice President for Internal Affairs.

Article XIV THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Section 1. The Legislative Assembly, which shall hereinafter be referred to as LA, shall be the highest policy-making body of the USG. The legislative power shall be vested in the LA, except to the extent reserved to the people by the provisions on initiative and referendum.

Section 2. The LA shall be composed of the:

- 2.1. Chief Legislator.
- 2.2. All LA Representatives.
- 2.3. Legislative Secretariat.

Section 3. The LA shall concern itself with discussing and deciding on the following matters:

- 3.1. Integral policies, existing operations, projects and programs.
- 3.2. Resolutions of University-wide, curricular and extra-curricular matters.
- 3.3. Resolutions on national and sectoral issues.
- 3.4. Representation of administrative and non-administrative units and committees requiring such inside the campus.
- 3.5. Budget allocation of the USG as presented by the Executive Treasurer.
- 3.6. Creation of standing and ad hoc committees whose functions shall be determined by the body.
- 3.7. Approval of the Election Code to be adopted by the Commission on Elections.
- 3.8. Approval of appointed USG officers for elected positions.

Section 4. The Chief Legislator shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 4.1. Call and preside over the sessions of the LA and appoint from its members, except the Majority and Minority Floor Leaders and the Legislative Secretariat, a replacement upon his/her incapacity or absence.
- 4.2. Call and preside over the meetings of the LA Inner Circle and appoint from its members, except the Legislative Secretariat, a replacement upon his/her incapacity or absence.
- 4.3. Call special LA sessions.
- 4.4. Preserve order and decorum during sessions, and, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct within the premises where the session is being held, take such measures as he/she may deem advisable or as the LA may direct.
- 4.5. Rule on all questions of order, subject to appeal by any member of the LA, which appeal shall not be debatable, but the member appealing may explain his/her appeal for not more than five minutes.
- 4.6. Sign and affix the seal of the USG in all resolutions, memorials, writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by the order of the LA.
- 4.7. Enforce all rules, policies and procedures governing the LA.
- 4.8. Receive periodic reports from all units and members of the LA whose frequency of submission shall be at his/her discretion.
- 4.9. Appoint LA Representatives to LA Committees.
- 4.10. Be an ex-officio member of all LA Committees.
- 4.11. Have administrative supervision over the LA and all its units.
- 4.12. Be the official representative of the LA in functions that require its presence.
- 4.13. Ensure that the LA follows properly the parliamentary procedure during sessions.

Section 5. The LA Representatives shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 5.1. Report directly to the Batch President, College President, Chief Legislator and President as deemed necessary.
- 5.2. Participate actively in LA sessions.
- 5.3. Conduct regular consultations with his/her constituents regarding academic and non-academic matters.
- 5.4. Hold position in other USG units and University-wide committees as appointed.
- 5.5. Handle the College Advisory Board together with the other LA Representatives of each respective college.
- 5.6. Handle the Batch Advisory Board.
- 5.7. Review existing policies and resolutions.
- 5.8. Pass resolutions and legislations that are of relevance to the studentry.
- 5.9. Be entitled to a copy of all minutes, resolutions and the like that concerns the legislative proceedings.
- 5.9. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the EB, College President, Batch President, Chief Legislator and the LA.

- Section 6. The Legislative Secretariat shall be chaired by the Executive Secretary and composed of at least two staffs from the Office of the Executive Secretary.
- Section 7. The Legislative Secretariat shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:
- 7.1. Report directly to the Chief Legislator.
 - 7.2. Enforce orders of the LA when such duty devolves upon them.
 - 7.3. Record the minutes of each session of the LA and all meetings of the LA Inner Circle.
 - 7.4. Call the roll of the members of the LA before the opening of the session.
 - 7.5. Note all questions in order with the decisions thereon.
 - 7.6. Complete, within five days after the close of the session, the printing and distribution of the minutes for the said session to the members of the LA.
 - 7.7. Provide each LA Committee a copy of the outline of the minutes for filing and reference.
 - 7.8. Take charge in counting and recounting the votes or ballots.
 - 7.9. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the Chief Legislator or the LA.
- Section 8. The LA Representatives shall, during the first session, elect among themselves a Majority Floor Leader and a Minority Floor Leader.
- 8.1. The Majority Floor Leader shall consolidate the arguments and positions in a specific issue or resolution of the majority of the body. He/She shall serve as the spokesperson of the majority side. In case of conflict of interest, he/she may appoint anyone from the majority side to assume the position but may not vacate his/her position as part of the majority, except for meritorious cases to be decided by the Chief Legislator. He/She may call separate meetings outside the LA sessions to convene the majority side.
 - 8.2. The Minority Floor Leader shall consolidate the arguments and positions in a specific issue or resolution of the minority of the body. He/She shall serve as the spokesperson of the minority side. In case of conflict of interest, he/she may appoint anyone from the minority side to assume the position but may not vacate his/her position as part of the minority, except for meritorious cases to be decided by the Chief Legislator. He/She may call separate meetings outside the LA sessions to convene the minority side.
- Section 9. The members of the LA shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.
- Section 10. The LA shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.
- Section 11. Decisions made in the absence of the quorum shall not be binding, unless such are made in the context of an implied quorum.
- 11.1. Implied quorum shall only be decided through a 100% vote of the members present, which is composed of at least a majority (50% + 1) of the members of the LA.
 - 11.2. Decision made during an implied quorum can be reached through a majority vote and shall remain final unless no member of the body challenges the decision in the succeeding sessions or meetings.
 - 11.3. Decisions made during an implied quorum, which were reached through a 100% vote, shall be considered final.
- Section 12. Resolutions shall be passed by a majority vote (50% + 1) of the LA Representatives present in the session, with the exception of resolutions which seek to amend this Constitution which requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the LA.
- Section 13. Resolutions passed by the LA shall be final and binding. However, if the EXECOM does not concur though a two-thirds vote of its members, the EXECOM may ask for reconsideration and return the same with objections to the LA immediately on its next session. In the event that the LA retains the original decision by a majority vote of LA Representatives present, the resolution is executory.

Section 14. All rulings announced by the Chief Legislator shall be final unless reversed through a motion to appeal to the Chief Legislator's rulings by any member of the LA. Such reversal shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the LA to be carried.

Article XV
THE LA COMMITTEES

Section 1. The LA Committees shall be formed to address specific tasks and functions and ensure that specialized issues and concerns are adequately addressed by the LA.

Section 2. The LA Representatives shall be appointed to LA Committees and shall be limited to membership to only one LA Committee. The Chief Legislator shall assign the LA Representatives to the LA Committees in reference to, but not entirely based upon, the top three choices of each LA Representative and in a manner that he/she deems necessary.

Section 3. Each LA Committee shall have a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Secretary, all of whom shall be elected from among and by the members of the committee. The members shall determine the manner of election thereof.

Section 4. The LA Committee Chairpersons shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 4.1. Report directly to the Chief Legislator.
- 4.2. Preside over the meetings of their respective LA Committees.
- 4.3. Participate in the meetings of the LA Inner Circle.
- 4.4. Administer the overall operations of their respective committees.
- 4.5. Report to the LA Inner Circle actions on resolutions referred to their committees.
- 4.6. Appoint committee members to sub-committees as well as delegate committee tasks to committee members, whenever necessary.
- 4.7. Consolidate the committee members on matters pertinent to the LA and in their attendance to LA sessions.
- 4.8. Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the Chief Legislator and the LA.

Section 5. The LA Committee Vice Chairpersons shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 5.1. Report directly to the LA Committee Chairperson.
- 5.2. Assume the powers and responsibilities of the LA Committee Chairperson in his/her incapacity or absence.
- 5.3. Supervise the LA Committee researches.
- 5.4. Assist the LA Committee Chairperson in supervising the operation of the LA Committee.
- 5.5. Perform other functions deemed necessary by the LA Chairperson or as prescribed within the rules of their respective committees.

Section 6. The LA Committee Secretary shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 6.1. Report directly to the LA Committee Chairperson.
- 6.2. Record the minutes of the LA Committee meetings and provide copies to committee members.
- 6.3. Organize and compile all documents pertinent to the LA Committee.
- 6.4. Be in charge of all logistical work of the LA Committee.
- 6.5. Be responsible for drafting and submission of periodic reports to the Chief Legislator.
- 6.6. Inform members of the LA Committee meetings two days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.
- 6.7. Perform other functions deemed necessary by the LA Committee Chairperson or as prescribed within the rules of their respective committees.

Section 7. The members of the LA Committees shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities, other than those stated in Article XIV Section 5 of this Constitution:

- 7.1. Report directly to the LA Committee Chairperson.
- 7.2. Be present and participate actively in all LA Committee meetings.
- 7.3. Aid the LA Committee Vice Chairperson in committee researches.
- 7.4. Perform other functions deemed necessary by the LA Committee Chairperson or as prescribed within the rules of their respective committees.

Section 8. The members of the LA Committees shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.

Section 9. Any member of the LA Committees may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.

Section 10. The LA Committees shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.

Section 11. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the LA Committee members are informed and have agreed.

Article XVI **THE LA INNER CIRCLE**

Section 1. The LA Inner Circle, which shall hereinafter be referred to as LA-IC, shall be vested with the administrative power of the LA.

Section 2. The LA-IC shall be composed of the:

- 2.1. Chief Legislator.
- 2.2. Majority Floor Leader.
- 2.3. Minority Floor Leader.
- 2.4. All LA Committee Chairpersons.
- 2.5. Legislative Secretariat.

Section 3. The LA-IC shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- 3.1. Discuss and decide on matters relating to the administration of the LA.
- 3.2. Receive reports from LA Committees on resolutions referred to it and on the performance of the committee and its members.
- 3.3. Discuss and decide on matters relating to the rules and procedures to be used in the consideration on the floor of resolutions reported to it, such as time limit for the debates, rules on germaneness and amendments, etc.
- 3.4. Calendar resolutions reported by the LA Committees for consideration.
- 3.5. Outline the agenda of all LA sessions.

Section 4. All rulings by the LA-IC on matters pertaining to the administration of the LA may be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the LA.

Section 5. The members of the LA-IC shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.

Section 6. Any member of the LA-IC may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.

Section 7. The LA-IC shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.

Section 8. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the LA-IC members are informed and have agreed.

Article XVII

THE COLLEGE LEGISLATIVE BOARD

- Section 1. The College Legislative Board, which shall hereinafter be referred to as the CLB, shall be an aid to the CSG and shall act as the highest policy-making body of the CSG.
- Section 2. The CLB shall be composed of:
- 2.1. All LA Representatives of the college.
- Section 3. The CLB shall concern itself with discussing and deciding on the following matters:
- 3.1. Integral policies, existing operations, projects and programs of the college.
 - 3.2. Resolutions of curricular and extra-curricular matters which are college-wide or batch-wide, as may be necessary, in scope.
 - 3.3. Representation of administrative and non-administrative units and committees requiring such within the college.
 - 3.4. Creation of standing and ad hoc committees for the college whose functions shall be determined by the body.
 - 3.5. Approval of College Commissioners for the Commission on Elections and the Commission on Audit.
- Section 4. Motions or resolutions approved by the CLB may be subject to the approval of the LA as deemed necessary.
- Section 5. The members of the CLB shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.
- Section 6. Any member of the CLB may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.
- Section 7. The CLB shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.
- Section 8. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the CLB members are informed and have agreed.

Article XVIII THE JUDICIARY

- Section 1. The Judiciary shall be the sole body to be vested with judicial power. Judicial power includes the duty of the Judiciary to settle actual controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable and to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the USG. The Judiciary shall enjoy fiscal autonomy.
- Section 2. The Judiciary shall be composed of the:
- 2.1. Chief Magistrate.
 - 2.2. Five Magistrates.
- Section 3. The Judiciary shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:
- 3.1. To sit *en banc*, hear, try and resolve, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, within three weeks any complaint involving the constitutionality, legality or jurisdiction of the acts, policies and resolutions of USG officers.
 - 3.2. To summon, order the investigation of suspension and impeach or recall USG officers.
 - 3.3. To reprimand or cite in contempt any USG officer or unit.
 - 3.6. To review and approve appointments by the officers of the USG.

- 3.7. To review and approve the budget allocation of the USG, as presented by the Executive Treasurer.
 - 3.8. To confirm all Commissioners of the Commission on Elections and Commission on Audit approved by the College Legislative Board.
 - 3.9. To appoint its Investigating Officers and Prosecuting Officers whose number shall be determined by the Judiciary.
 - 3.10. To draft and adopt a Complaint and Impeachment Code.
 - 3.11. To draft and adopt its own Rules of Internal Governance including the Rules of Court.
 - 3.12. To conduct impeachment trials for any USG officer who is subject of an impeachment complaint.
- Section 4. The LA shall prescribe the qualifications of the Magistrates, Auditor, Investigating Officers and Prosecution Officers.
- Section 5. The Magistrates shall be duly appointed by a group of representatives from both the outgoing members of the EXECOM and the Judiciary. The number of representatives of the Judiciary shall be the number of undergraduate colleges, such that each college is represented.
- Section 6. The completion of appointment of all Magistrates shall be at most a month after the General Elections. The term of the Magistrates shall commence right the completion of appointment.
- Section 7. A magistrate may hold office for more than one school year given that he/she will undergo reapplication provided that he/she has at least three terms remaining.
- Section 8. A joint EXECOM, AA and LA session, to be chaired by the President, shall be devoted to elect a Chief Magistrate. Such election shall be done at most one week after the completion of appointment of the Magistrates.
- Section 9. The Chief Magistrate shall preside over all proceedings and shall be the spokesperson of the Judiciary. In his/her absence or incapacity, he/she may appoint a replacement among the members of the Judiciary.
- Section 10. Any Magistrate who has committed his/her third unexcused absence from its sessions shall automatically be investigated for impeachment.
- Section 11. The Magistrates shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.
- Section 12. Any Magistrate may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.
- Section 13. The Judiciary shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members, except on impeachment proceedings which require complete attendance.
- Section 14. Cases concerning violations of any USG officer of this constitution and its bylaws shall be heard and decided upon by a magistrate from the college to which the accused belongs. Decisions made by a sole magistrate can be subject to appeal provided that new evidences and/or points supporting the case of the accused are found. Such appeal process shall be provided for in the Rules of Court.

Article XIX CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS

COMMON PROVISIONS

- Section 1. There shall be two independent Constitutional Commissions that shall report directly to the Judiciary:
- 1.1. Commission on Elections.
 - 1.2. **Commission on Audit.**

- Section 2. The LA shall prescribe the qualifications of the Commissioners of the Commission on Elections and the Commission on Audit.
- Section 3. The Commissioners shall be appointed and approved by their respective College Legislative Board and shall be presented to the Judiciary for confirmation.
- Section 4. The completion of appointment, approval and confirmation of all Commissioners shall be at most a month after the General Elections. The term of the Commissioners shall commence right the confirmation of all the Commissioners of each Constitutional Commission.
- Section 5. The Commissioners shall hold office for one complete school year, beginning in the first trimester and ending in the third trimester.
- Section 6. All Commissioners shall be prohibited from appointed position/s in any USG unit.
- Section 7. The Commissioners of each Constitutional Commission shall elect among themselves a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They shall also be given the prerogative to recruit members who shall help them in discharging their functions.
- Section 8. The Chairperson of each Constitutional Commission shall preside over all proceedings and shall be the spokesperson of his/her respective Constitutional Commission.
- Section 9. The Commissioners of each Constitutional Commission shall determine the frequency and the time of their meetings.
- Section 10. Any Commissioner of each Constitutional Commission may call special meetings if he/she deemed it necessary.
- Section 11. Each Constitutional Commission shall constitute a quorum of no less than two-thirds of its members.
- Section 12. A final decision must be reached via a majority (50% + 1) of those present. Decisions made outside this provision are tentative and unofficial until majority of the members of each Constitutional Commission are informed and have agreed.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

- Section 13. The Commission on Elections, which shall hereinafter be referred to as COMELEC, shall decide on all electoral exercises within the University.
- Section 14. The COMELEC shall be composed of two Commissioners from each college.
- Section 15. The COMELEC shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:
- 15.1. To adopt and uphold the Election Code passed by the LA.
 - 15.2. To serve as the steering committee for the USG elections.
 - 15.3. To certify qualifications of candidates.
 - 15.4. To penalize or disqualify candidates and/or political parties who violate the Election Code.
 - 15.5. To educate voters on the voting process to be used in the USG elections.
 - 15.6. To encourage students to vote.
 - 15.7. To enforce and administer all rules and regulations relative to the conduct of an election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum and recall.
- Section 16. The decision of the COMELEC on all electoral practices shall be considered final unless appealed in the Judicial department.

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

- Section 20 The Commission on Audit, which shall hereinafter be referred to as COA, shall be composed of a chairman and two commissioners, who shall be legitimate students of DLSU, and at the time of their appointment, has at least one year of tenure in DLSU, and must not have been candidates for any position in the election preceding their appointment.
- Section 21 The Chairman and the Commissioners shall be appointed by the President with consent of the EXECOM, Chief Legislator and Chief Magistrate, for three consecutive terms without reappointment.
- Section 22 In cases of early vacancy, the President with consent of the EXECOM, Chief Legislator and Chief Magistrate must appoint a new commissioner who will serve the unexpired term of the commissioner preceding his appointment.
- Section 23 The Commission on audit shall have the power, authority, and duty to examine and audit all accounts pertaining to the revenue and receipts of, and to the expenses and disbursements of every USG unit
- Section 24 The Commission on Audit shall create a COA Manual to be approved by the Legislative Assembly
- Section 25 The COA Chairman shall have 1 year experience of being an auditor in the Office of the Treasurer.
- Section 26 The Commission on audit has the responsibility of filing a complaint to the USG-SC or to lower courts, whichever is deemed necessary, against any USG official accused to be misappropriating fund.
- Section 27 The COA shall create their own structure relevant to their operations.
- Section 27 The Commission on Audit shall submit trimestral COA reports to the President, Chief Legislator and Chief Magistrate.

Article XX ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

- Section 1. All USG elected officers may be removed from office, on impeachment for, and conviction of, culpable violations of this Constitution and betrayal of public trust.
- Section 2. The following may be grounds for impeachment:
- 2.1. Any willful violation of this Constitution and its bylaws.
 - 2.2. Gross negligence of duty.
 - 2.3. Illegal disbursement of funds.
 - 2.4. Any behavior which undermines the integrity of the USG.
 - 2.5. Any other forms of gross misconduct as provided by the USG policies.
- Section 3. Any student or officer of the USG may file a resolution of impeachment against any USG officer. The resolution must be addressed to the Chief Magistrate.
- Section 4. The policies on impeachment shall be as follows:
- 4.1. The Judiciary shall order investigations of cases of impeachment and recall at its own discretion or on the basis of written complaints from any student or officer of the USG within seven regular school days (not including Sundays and holidays). The Judiciary shall then decide whether to initiate impeachment or recall proceedings or not. Should the Judiciary fail to meet this deadline, complaints shall automatically be dismissed.
 - 4.2. The Judiciary shall serve notice of impeachment or recall to the official/s concerned at least four days before the set hearing date. Any USG officer must take a leave of absence once notice of impeachment or recall is served to him/her.

- 4.3. All matters of impeachment and recall shall be heard and tried with all the Magistrates in attendance. Decisions on impeachment shall be made upon two-thirds vote of the Judiciary.
- 4.4. The Judiciary shall impose the necessary sanctions. All decisions of the Judiciary on matters of impeachment and recall are final and executory, except for meritorious cases.
- 4.5. Should any Magistrate be the subjected to an impeachment complaint, he/she must take a leave of absence before any investigation on the complaint is conducted. He/She shall be temporarily replaced within twenty-four hours by a prosecuting officer of his/her choice. A special body, chaired by the President, with five unconfirmed impartial appointees from the students, shall initiate impeachment proceedings on the Magistrate/s concerned. It shall resolve the matter unanimously within three weeks.

**Article XXI
THE COUNCIL OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

- Section 1. The Council of Student Organizations, which shall hereinafter be referred to as CSO, shall be the union of all the duly accredited organizations in the University. The CSO shall create and maintain conditions and opportunities for the full realization of the organizations' goals. It shall deliver quality services and activities and develop proactive and dynamic leaders.
- Section 2. The CSO shall be an autonomous body that may work closely in coordination, in the principle of synergy, with the Vice President for Internal Affairs.
- Section 3. The CSO shall:
- 3.1. Adhere to the policies of cooperation and harmonious relations with all the units of the USG.
 - 3.2. Be responsible for its member organizations and be answerable to the student body, subject to agreements entered into by the CSO and its member organizations.
- Section 4. The CSO shall have the right to:
- 4.1. Operate on its own with regards to CSO-related matters.
 - 4.2. Implement full decision-making capability on matters concerning its member organizations.
 - 4.3. Draft its own by-laws to guide its operations and policies subject to the consultation and approval of the Council Body and in reference to the policies of the USG.
- Section 5. The policy-making body of the CSO shall be the Council Body composed of all the existing organizations.
- Section 6. A student organization shall be recognized for membership in CSO subject to the policies of the Aspiring Organizations Accreditation Committee (AOAC).
- Section 7. The CSO as a body shall not be empowered to make stands on national and University issues but individual organizations may do so. CSO as a body, however, upon a unanimous decision, may take stands on University issues affecting the interests of the member organizations upon the discretion of the CSO Executive Board.
- Section 8. The CSO and its member organizations are prohibited from endorsing any political party or candidate for the USG Elections.

**Article XXII
CONVENTION OF LEADERS**

- Section 1. The Convention of Leaders, which shall hereinafter be referred to as COLE, shall serve as an advisory body to the President, without any executive or legislative functions.
- Section 2. The COLE shall be composed of the:

- 2.1. All members of the EXECOM.
- 2.2. Chief Legislator.
- 2.3. Chief Magistrate.
- 2.4. All Batch Presidents.
- 2.5. One representative from each recognized student organization.
- 2.6. One representative from each unrecognized student organization.
- 2.7. One representative from each major student publication.
- 2.8. One representative from each support group of administrative unit.
- 2.9. One representative from each cultural arts group.
- 2.10. One representative from each athletic and varsity team.
- 2.11. One representative from each other student organization or unit not listed.
- 2.12. Immediate past members of the USG EB.

Section 3. The COLE shall serve as a venue where:

- 3.1. The student leaders can suggest projects, programs and actions to the USG regarding national, sectoral and University-wide and academic-related issues.
- 3.2. The USG leadership can gather feedback on the projects, programs and actions being undertaken by the USG.
- 3.3. The student leaders can assess the performance of the USG and recommend necessary steps to further attain its objectives
- 3.4. Information regarding USG affairs can be disseminated directly from the EB to the student leaders.
- 3.5. Other functions as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 4. The COLE shall convene once a term. The President shall have the prerogative to call emergency meetings at times which warrant the immediate advice of the COLE.

Article XXIII ELECTIONS

Section 1. The elections of the USG officers shall be held every third trimester of the preceding school year, with the exception of the election of incoming freshmen officers, which shall be held during the first trimester of the school year.

Section 2. USG officers shall be elected by the plurality of all votes cast. Protest of a majority (50% + 1) against any officer by his/her constituent population shall render the election of such an officer invalid.

Section 3. The qualifications to be a candidate for the USG elections shall be provided by the Election Code.

Section 4. The members of the EB shall be voted into office by the members of the entire student body.

Section 5. The College Presidents shall be voted into office by the members of their respective colleges.

Section 6. The Batch Presidents and the LA Representatives shall be voted into office by the members of their respective batches of their respective colleges.

Section 7. The COMELEC shall call a special election within the first four weeks of the first trimester of the school year for vacancies arising from the disqualification of candidates.

Section 8. The term of the USG officers shall begin on the last day of the preceding school year and end on the last day of the same school year.

Article XXIV VACANCIES

- Section 1. The LA shall decide on actions required for vacancies in the USG following a special session.
- Section 2. In case of incapacity in the discharge of duties, removal from office or resignation of the President, the Vice President for Internal Affairs shall take the position of the President while maintaining his/her functions and powers as Vice President for Internal Affairs until the necessary appointment is made.
- Section 3. In case of incapacity in the discharge of duties, removal from office or resignation of any EB member excluding the President, the President shall endorse a USG officer excluding the Judiciary department, and the LA shall decide on the endorsement of the USG officer into position.
- Section 4. In case of incapacity in the discharge of duties, removal from office or resignation of a Batch Vice-President or LA Representative, the College President shall decide on what action/s to take in such circumstance, upon confirmation of the LA.
- Section 5. Resignation shall only be valid if it concerns health, academics, among others, subject to the approval of the LA. There shall be no leave of absence from the USG duties, except for the case of incumbent USG officers seeking to run for office in the next general elections. Such officers are, however, required to resume their original posts and complete the term of their original office after election.

**Article XXV
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- Section 1. The results of all referenda and plebiscites not provided herein shall be valid upon a majority turnout of voters.
- Section 2. All incumbent COMELEC Commissioners shall remain in office until after the newly appointed Magistrates assume their office.

**Article XXVI
AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Any amendment or revision of this Constitution may be proposed by the students through an initiative upon a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the LA.
- Section 2. Any amendment or revision of this Constitution under Section 1 hereof shall be valid only when ratified by a majority of all votes cast in a plebiscite.
- Section 3. No amendment or revision of this Constitution shall be authorized within three years following the ratification of this Constitution.

**Article XXVII
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

- Section 1. All existing resolutions, codes, Rules of Internal Governance and policies consistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked.
- Section 2. The term of incumbent officers shall be extended until such time that matters pertaining to their term of office require representation of the studentry.

**Article XXVIII
SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any provision of this Constitution is declared invalid, the remainder thereof not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

**Article XXIX
EFFECTIVITY**

This Constitution shall take effect the school year following the ratification by a majority of fifty percent plus one votes cast by the members of the USG at a plebiscite called for by this purpose and shall supercede all previous constitutions.