Preamble

We, the students of Mars Hill University, in order to effectively represent our needs, interest, and options as students, hereby establish this Constitution, to ensure our rights as citizens of this University community.

Article I. The Student Body

A. The name of the body shall be the Student Government Association of Mars Hill University, hereafter referred to as SGA; in assembly, otherwise known as Congress.

B. All registered students at Mars Hill University shall be members of the student body and follow the provisions within this Constitution.

C. All registered students at Mars Hill University have the right to vote, be heard by, and be represented by the Student Government.

Article II. Purpose

The purposes of SGA shall be:

A. To represent the interest of the student body.

B. To serve as a liaison between students, faculty, and the administration.

C. To provide service involvement opportunities to the student body.

D. To provide an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills.
E. To promote Mars Hill University and its students to the surrounding community.

F. To provide representation for the student body to the University, the Institutional Administration, and the Board of Trustees.

G. To provide opportunities on the Mars Hill University campus for students to work together to benefit the university community.

**Article III. Structure**

A. Executive Board Membership

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Chaplain.

2. The President
   
   a) Qualifications:
      
      i. Have a minimum grade point average of (3.0).
      
      ii. Attain Junior classification, which is defined as the completion of sixty credit hours, prior or within thirty days of his/her inauguration.
      
      iii. Have served at least one semester in the Student Government.

   b) Duties:
      
      i. To appoint the Treasure, Parliamentarian, and Chaplain in accordance with this Constitution.
      
      ii. To attend the Parliamentary course held by the current Parliamentarian, ensuring a basic working knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure
      
      iii. To approve or veto, as he/she sees fit, legislation passed by the Student Senate in accordance to this Constitution.
      
      iv. To remove from office for just reason any person he/she has the power to appoint.
      
      v. To present executive reports at SGA meetings.
      
      vi. To hold six office hours per week.
      
      vii. To represent the study body at university functions such as SOAR, convocation, graduation, dedication ceremonies, board meetings, etc.
viii. The President and Vice President shall be elected on the same ballot by plurality of those members of the student body casting ballots.

3. The Vice President

a) Qualifications:

i. Have a minimum grade point average of (3.0).

ii. Attain junior classification, which is defined as the completion of sixty credit hours, prior or within thirty days of his/her inauguration.

iii. Have served at least one semester in the Student Government.

b) Duties:

i. To assist the President in the execution of his/her duties.

ii. To attend the Parliamentary course held by the current Parliamentarian, ensuring a basic working knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure

iii. To preside over the meetings of the Student Senate in accordance with the Constitution.

iv. To exercise the powers of the President in the latter’s absence or inability to serve.

v. To call special meetings of the student Senate by having notices of meeting issued to the members forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

vi. To hold six office hours per week.

vii. To preside over the elections process unless running for a leadership position, in which case he/she must appoint a qualified person to take over the coordination of the election.

viii. The President and Vice President shall be elected on the same ballot by plurality of those members of the student body casting ballots.

4. The Secretary

a) Qualifications:

i. Have a minimum grade point average of (3.0).
ii. Attain junior classification, which is defined as the completion of sixty credit hours, prior or within thirty days of his/her inauguration.

iii. Have served at least one semester in the Student Government.

b) Duties:

i. To take minutes at all scheduled SGA and Executive Board meetings.

ii. To attend the Parliamentary course held by the current Parliamentarian, ensuring a basic working knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure.

iii. To coordinate the display of the minutes to the general membership and to the public.

iv. To present minutes from the last meeting for approval by the SGA.

v. To keep and maintain attendance records at meetings and events, and to place this information in the minutes.

vi. To facilitate and distribute agendas.

vii. To notify organizations of potential Constitutional infractions.

viii. To hold six office hours per week.

5. The Treasurer

a) Qualifications:

i. Have a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

ii. Must be in good judicial standing at Mars Hill University.

b) Duties:

i. To keep accurate records of SGA’s financial status.

ii. To provide budget updates to the General Assembly twice in the Fall and Spring semesters.

iii. To attend the Parliamentary course held by the current Parliamentarian, ensuring a basic working knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure.

6. The Parliamentarian

a) Qualifications:
i. Have a minimum grade point average of (2.5).

ii. Must be in good judicial standing at Mars Hill University.

b) Duties:

i. To faithfully and diligently execute the Constitution and laws of Student Government.

ii. Inform the President of errors in parliamentarian procedures if they affect the basic rights of the members.

iii. To have a knowledge and understanding of basic Parliamentary Procedure; this knowledge being defined as an understanding of basic motions and procedures necessary for proper meeting conduct including but not limited to: making motions, amending motions, tabling motions, bringing motions from the table, referring motions to a committee, and the duties of the chair during a meeting.

iv. Hold and instruct course on Parliamentary Procedures for all Executive Board members.

7. The Chaplain

   a) Qualifications:

      i. Have a minimum grade point average of (2.5).

      ii. Must be in good judicial standing at Mars Hill University.

   b) Duties:

      i. Provide devotion and prayer at the beginning of each SGA meeting.

      ii. Promote spiritual growth within the student body.

      iii. To attend the Parliamentary course held by the current Parliamentarian, ensuring a basic working knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure

B. The Legislative Branch

1. The Student Senate shall be the law making body of the Student Government and shall be composed of members elected in the general elections by the student body or a
representative of a student organization of Mars Hill University, or appointed in compliance with this Constitution.

2. Qualifications for the Senate
   a) All SGA Senate members must have a minimum GPA average of (2.0)
   b) Senate members must be registered as a full time student of Mars Hill University
   c) All SGA members must be in good judicial standing at Mars Hill University

3. Duties of the Senate
   a) To serve on SGA Special Interest Committee
   b) Faithfully perform assigned duties to the best of their ability
   c) To represent the student body in a positive and beneficial way
   d) To represent to the best of his/her ability the study body of Mars Hill University
      voicing the concerns of the student body as they arise
   e) To author and co-author pieces of legislation and micro-grant proposals
   f) To vote on pieces of legislation and micro-grant proposals (1 vote per Senator)
   g) To notify the proper person in case of any failure to complete any assigned duties
      or of any inability to attend scheduled meetings
   h) To keep their personal contact information updated

4. Offices of the Senate. The Senate shall be made of two types of members:
   a) Class Offices: each class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, & Senior) shall elect a President, Vice President, and Treasurer/Secretary to represent their class. Class Officers shall be elected in accordance to this Constitution.
      i. Senior Class Officer Responsibilities
         a. The President of the Senior Class shall serve as the lead office/officer of the Senate
         b. Attend and represent the Senate Body at Executive Board Meetings
         c. The Vice President of the Senior Class must chair the Graduation Committee
         d. Plan and coordinate all graduation celebrations
e. Have a working basic knowledge and understanding of Parliamentary Procedures

ii. Junior Class Officers Responsibilities

a. Serve on one committee, outlined in the Bylaws, of their choice.

b. Class officers must serve on a minimum of one SGA committee per year.

c. Have a working basic knowledge and understanding of Parliamentary Procedures

d. The Junior Class President shall serve as the Head of Committees, whose responsibilities include: Overseeing all SGA committees.

e. Attending at least one meeting of every SGA committee per semester.

f. Collecting data from student committees, and presenting these findings to the Executive Board and Congressional body when asked.

iii. Sophomore, & Freshman Class Officers Responsibilities

a. Serve on one committee, outlined in the Bylaws, of their choice.

b. Have a working basic knowledge and understanding of Parliamentary Procedures

5. Student Organization Representative: Each SGA-approved student organization will appoint one person to represent their organization in the SGA Senate

6. Removal from Membership

a. Initial Action:

a.i. Any SGA membership can request the removal from office of any member of SGA by submitting an official letter requesting this action to
the SGA Executive Board. Only reasons of dereliction of duty or unethical behavior are valid reasons for authoring such a letter

b. Executive Board Action:

b.i. The Executive Board, on receiving this letter, will notify the concerned parties as soon as possible, in order to allow the accused member to refute the charges at the next scheduled Executive Board meeting.

b.ii. If a member of the Executive Boards is the author of a recommendation to remove a member, they are thereby suspended from participating in the removal procedure except as the complainant.

b.iii. The Executive Board will allow each side an even amount of time to present their cases. The Executive Board must pass the recommendation by a minimum of (2/3) votes for it to stand.

b.iv. In the event the Executive Board votes to accept the removal recommendation, the member will be brought before the General Assembly at the next General Assembly meeting. At that meeting, over (2/3) of the SGA General Assembly members, excluding Executive Board members, must be present before a vote can be called.

c. Party Action:

c.i. The member of SGA who is brought forth on a recommendation for removal is thereby temporarily suspended from all rights and privileges until the issue is resolved.

d. Decisive Action:

d.i. The Senate will allow each side an even amount of time to present their cases. The General Assembly must pass the recommendation by a minimum of 2/3 votes for it to stand.

d.ii. If the Senate passes the recommendation, the member will be immediately removed from the Student Government Association and lose all privileges and rights thereof. If the Senate votes to reject the recommendation, the member remains in good standing with the organization and cannot be brought back without new evidence and a new recommendation.
d.iii. Any student who is removed from the SGA by these means may ask for a vote of appeal if new evidence is found. This must take the form of a written request to the Executive Board. The issue will then be discussed at the next General Assembly meeting. Should the removed member receive a 2/3 vote to overturn the previous ruling, he or she will be immediately reinstated to full rights and privileges as a member of the SGA.

Article IV: Appointments and Election

A. Selection of President, Vice President, and Secretary.

a. Regular Elections

a.i. The positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary will be chosen by yearly elections to be held each spring, with the exception of a single office vacated within a year.

a.ii. Elections will be overseen by the SGA Vice President on each campus, or his/her designee, who will set the official campaign event schedule.

a.iii. All candidates must submit applications for office to the Vice President, or his/her designee by the agreed-upon deadline.

a.iv. All students, including the candidates, have the opportunity to vote. One vote is allowed per student for each position.

b. Succession

b.i. At various times throughout the year, an office may become vacant. In such an event, the procedures set out herein are to be followed.

b.ii. If the presidency becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the rank of President.

b.iii. If the Vice President or Secretary office becomes vacant, replacements will be nominated by the remaining members of the Executive Board.

b.iv. Nominations for the Vice Presidency and Secretary must be approved by 2/3 vote of the SGA’s Senate.

c. Term of Office

c.i. Will begin and end at the last SGA meeting of the Spring Semester.
Article V: Meetings and Governance

A. Meetings
   a. The Executive Board will hold meetings weekly.
   b. The President and Vice President will be with Mars Hill University Administration every two weeks.
   c. The General Assembly will meet every Thursday, with the exception of the third Thursday each month.
   d. Meetings will be publicized to the general population of Mars Hill University.

B. Governance
   a. The agendas for all General Assembly meetings will be set by the Executive Board at the weekly Executive Board meetings.
   b. Micro-grant proposals must reviewed by the Executive Board prior to being voted upon in the General Assembly.

Article VI: Amendments and Bylaws

A. Amendments will be binding on the Campus of Mars Hill University
   a. A new amendment can only be introduced to discussion at the General Assembly by a member of SGA. At that time, the new amendment must also be submitted in writing
   b. A two thirds vote must pass in favor of the amendment in order for the amendment to pass
   c. Once the Amendment has passed, the amendment is adopted into this Constitution and will take effect at the start of the next semester to allow for thorough organization and publishing to the student body
   d. The new amendment will alter the original text and will contain an endnote with the date of the revision and reference to the article
   e. Amendments to the constitution must be completed before the end of the last full month of the spring semester
   f. The draft SGA Constitution and Bylaws for the next operating year, amended or not, must be introduced no later than four Congressional meetings from the last meeting of
the year. The Constitution and Bylaws must be voted on before the last Congressional Meeting of the year

B. Bylaws will be binding and cannot override this constitution.

a. A new bylaw can be introduced to discussion by a member of the General Assembly. At this time, the new bylaw must also be submitted in writing

b. A two thirds vote of the General Assembly must vote in favor of the bylaw in order for the bylaw to pass and take effect immediately

c. The new bylaw will then be signed and dated by the President of SGA