



Article I Supremacy and Powers

1. The association shall understand that the President and Board of Trustees of the University have the ultimate authority in all matters governing Mars Hill University.
2. The association shall do all that is possible to achieve the representation of all students at Mars Hill University.
3. The association shall be the primary organization to advocate student right and promote the general welfare of all students.
4. The association shall be the governing body over all organizations recognized by Student Affairs Council, except the Inter-Greek Council and National Greek Councils.

Article II Election

1. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary, shall be nominated by petition of 100 signatures of currently enrolled students and shall be elected by the student body at large.
2. Senators shall be nominated by petition of 25 signatures of currently enrolled students and shall be elected by the student body at large.
3. The election committee is appointed by the executive board and consists of Senators not running for office.
4. Election Procedure:
 - a. The election date shall be announced at least two weeks in advance and the voting station shall be available from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on that date.
 - b. The voting station shall be attended at all times by a member of the elections committee.

- c. Candidates for any office may not serve on the elections committee.
 - d. Eligible voters shall consist of all students who are not candidates for graduation.
 - e. The votes shall not be counted until after 5:00 p.m. on Election Day.
 - f. The votes shall be counted by at least three members of the Senate and SGA advisor.
 - g. The elections committee shall determine winners on the following criteria:
 - i. The candidate with the highest vote count (counted twice).
 - ii. A run-off shall decide the election only in the event of an actual tie. The decision for a run-off shall be made by a majority vote taken by the elections committee.
 - iii. Improperly marked votes may be discarded at the discretion of the election committee after the majority vote calls for such action.
 - h. After the votes have been counted the elections committee shall notify the candidates of the decision of the decisions. After the notification the candidates shall be given twenty-four hours to accept the decisions or file a written complaint with the elections committee. After this specified period all offices shall be considered filled or hearing arranged with candidates of the contested offices. In the event the election is contested the election committee shall hear the complaint and render the final decision.
 - i. The election committee shall be vested with the authority to enforce the election procedure. The decision to release the actual vote count for the candidates rest with the committee and the SGA Advisor. Questions regarding matters not covered in these procedures should be directed to this committee. The SGA Advisor shall have the final decision in all election matters.
 - j. Write-ins
 - i. Students wishing to run for SGA office who do not meet the deadline for their signed petitions, shall be allowed to run as write-in, provided they do get the required signatures and meet all other requirements to run for office.
 - ii. Students running for write-in are not allowed to make posters or flyers to be posted around campus, nor will they be allowed to speak at the SGA speech session. Students are allowed to hand out items, just not post them. Their campaign must be run as a “grass-roots” movement.
 - iii. There shall be no published list of write-ins available at the voting station.
5. Installation:
- a. The term of office of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be for one year beginning with their installation on or before April 30 of each year.
 - b. The newly elected officers shall be installed in public ceremony with outgoing President administering the “Oath of Office.”
 - c. The “Oath of Office” shall be as follows: “I...(name)...as...(office)... of the Student Government Association of Mars Hill University, do solemnly promise to uphold the constitution and by-laws of the association and the rules and regulations of Mars Hill University without fear or favor, reward or hope of reward, so help me God.”

- d. Elections must be held on or before April 15.
6. Vacancies and Succession
 - a. If vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall automatically assume the responsibilities and position of the office of the President.
 - b. If vacancy occurs in the positions of Vice-President and/or Secretary, then the Executive Board shall nominate and the Congress shall elect persons to assume the responsibilities of these positions. Persons elected into these offices cannot hold other offices in the Student Government Association.
7. Freshman Elections
 - a. Election of senators to represent the freshman class shall be held in the fall semester during the first twenty days of the semester.
 - b. Freshman senators shall be elected:
 - i. By open nomination and simple majority vote.
 - ii. Questions regarding the process may be directed to the elections committee.
 - iii. These officers shall be elected under the rules set by the elections committee.

Article III Congress

1. Powers and Duties
 - a. Pursue recommendations from the students of Mars Hill University and from the SGA Executive Board.
 - b. Receive and act on all petitions from the student body.
 - c. Ratify the budget of the Student Government Association as proposed by the Executive Board.
 - d. Perform all other duties deemed necessary by the branches of the Student Government Association and as provided for in the by-laws.
2. Voting Membership – the voting membership of the congress shall consist of:
 - a. The Vice-President of the SGA, in the result of a tie.
 - b. One representative from each recognized club and organization.
 - c. The officers of each of the four academic classes.
 - d. One representative from the Inter-Greek Council.
3. Non-Voting Membership
 - a. The President of SGA
 - b. The Parliamentarian
 - c. The Secretary of SGA
 - d. The Treasurer of SGA
 - e. The Chaplain

Article IV Amendments

1. Any of these articles may be amended or repealed, and/or supplementary articles added hereto, so long as such revision shall not change the purposes, as stated in the preamble of the Constitution, for which the Student Government Association is organized and operated. Any revision may be made by a 2/3 vote of the total membership of the Congress and by a 2/3 vote of those voting from the Student Body.

Article V Interpretation

1. Questions regarding the interpretation of the constitution or by-laws, or matters not covered herein may be handled informally by the President's Cabinet. In the event that the body is unable to reach an acceptable decision the matter must be taken before the Congress for the formal introduction by the appropriate committee. The SGA advisor shall have the final interpretation of the Constitution and by-laws. If necessary, changes may be made to the constitution and the handbook during the year by the SGA advisor.