



Broward College
Student Government
CONSTITUTION

Revised 07/21/2023



Broward College Student Government Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of Broward College, through the authority of Broward College Policy, ordain and establish this constitution and follow its laws to ensure the representation of the Student Body and to provide for, the government of students and their own affairs. We seek to foster an inclusive and participatory relationship, the propagation of balance and fairness, and the well-being and prosperity of Broward College.

Name

The name of this organization shall be Broward College Student Government, herein referred to as SG.

Scope

Central Campus [Includes Willis Holcombe Center], North Campus, and South Campus [Pines Center], shall have its own Student Government functioning independently of all others. These bodies will adhere to the college-wide constitution and may establish their own campus bi-laws in accordance with Broward College policy and procedures.

Purpose

The purpose of SG shall be to:

- Serve as the voice for all students at Broward College
- Unify the student body by encouraging cooperation between the students, administration, faculty, and staff
- Enhance community and statewide relations
- Provide service to enrich BC and local community
- Participate in the Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA); which allows for statewide representation of students' views from BC
- Bring awareness to issues that directly, or indirectly, affect the student body
- Serve as a voice for campus issues affecting students
- Work to reduce inequalities on campus by increasing legislative awareness and providing information to basic resources to all BC students

Community Responsibilities

All members recognize that they are part of the Broward College community and that as such, they are subject to all College Rules and procedures and regulations set forth in the current student handbook, as well as all applicable national, state and city laws. As students, members realize that they represent the College at any time they are involved in official organization functions on or off campus and agree to do so in a responsible manner. Furthermore, all members stress that the organization does not and will not practice hazing of any kind, as outlined in College Policy 6Hx2-5.13.

Member Requirements

Student Government is open to all students of Broward College, including students from the satellite centers. SG shall be in full compliance with all Federal and State nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws, orders and regulations and shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, creed, age, disability, marital status, political opinions or affiliations, or veteran status. Membership in Student Government is open to all enrolled students at Broward College who meet the stated requirements below. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

President/Vice-President/Senators:

Scholarship positions shall be open to all Broward College students that meet the following qualifications:

- Must have graduated from high school or received a GED, or be a currently enrolled student with College Academy at Broward College
- Must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per term at Broward College (credit requirements may be waived for members in their last semester of classes)
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 and a 2.0 from the previous semester; this may be waived for first time in college students
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing

General Members:

General membership shall be open to all Broward College students that meet the following qualifications:

- Must have graduated from high school or received a GED, or be a currently enrolled student with College Academy at Broward College
- Must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per term at Broward College (credit requirements may be waived for members in their last semester of classes)
- Must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0
- Members are encouraged to participate in and/or assist during campus events and community and volunteering activities
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing

Elections and Appointments

Elected positions:

The President and Vice President shall be elected by a majority vote of the student body at their respective campus. Candidates may only run for one Student Government position per election.

Elections:

Each campus will hold elections for the term of office in April.

Term limits:

No President shall serve for more than two terms total, a term considered being in office from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

Senator Elections:

Senators shall be elected by vote within Senate Meetings for the following positions: Records & Regulations, Marketing, Events, Club Communications. One additional Senator position shall be left to the discretion of the Advisor and Executive Board each academic year.

Powers and Duties

The Student Government executive branch for each campus shall consist of a President and Vice President. President, Vice President and Senators may be eligible for scholarships based on funds availability and successful completion of duties.

The President shall:

- Assist in representing the issues of the student body to the faculty, staff and administration
- Preside over meetings and make all necessary arrangements including setting the agenda
- Attend the Florida College Student Government Association meetings
- Recommend to the Senate the creation of standing committees
- Appoint all vacant positions with the approval of the majority of the Senate members
- Serve on the College-wide committees as appointed
- Shall not run or hold any other office with any other college club or organization
- Complete 100 hours of office work per semester
- Take, sign, and uphold the oath of office

The Vice-President shall:

- Assist in representing the issues of the student body to the faculty, staff and administration
- Fulfill the presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President
- Reside over Senators and Senate meetings
- Responsible for meeting agendas and minutes
- Assist the President in appointing all vacant positions
- Shall vote during a Senate hearing only in the event of a tie
- Shall not run or hold any other office with any other college club or organization
- Complete 85 hours of office work per semester
- Take, sign, and uphold the oath of office

Senators shall:

- Assist in representing the issues of the student body to the faculty, staff and administration

- Serve on college-wide or campus committees as needed
- Serve on priority driven committees as needed to accomplish SG goals
- Complete 75 hours of office work per semester
- Take, sign, and uphold the oath of office

Meetings, Quorum, & Attendance

Meetings:

Meetings shall be held at least bi-weekly throughout the semester. Dates and times shall be publicly displayed and provided in writing a minimum of 48 hours in advance. All members of SG are required to attend Student Government meetings.

Quorum:

Voting/official business at meetings shall commence after quorum has been met. Quorum shall be defined as the attendance of the voting majority (50% + 1).

Attendance:

A total of three (3) unexcused absences from meetings, office hours and/or SG functions shall be grounds for automatic removal from office. Two (2) consecutive absences from meetings, office hours and/or SG functions shall result in removal from office. This member may not assume a Student Government position until the subsequent academic year.

Impeachment/Removal from Office

An elected or appointed official may be removed from office by a voting majority (quorum). A letter of Impeachment outlining the alleged violations must be submitted in writing and presented to the Vice President and Student Government Advisor. This letter shall be presented to the Senate and requires a majority vote should the allegations be deemed impeachable.

Notice of an impeachment/removal hearing must be announced two (2) weeks prior at a general meeting and is run by the Vice President. If the Vice President is the subject of the removal proceedings, the President will serve or elect an acting chair that will preside over the meeting.

The official who has Articles of Impeachment drawn up against him or her shall, if he or she be present, have the opportunity to make his or her case to the Senate why he or she should not be impeached. Following the SG official, the Vice President shall present reasons for the impeachment. Once the official and VP have presented their cases to the Senate, the Senate shall vote. Should the official not be present, the VP shall present the reasons for the Impeachment, and then the Senate shall vote. A majority vote in favor of Impeachment shall result in the removal from office.

Impeachable offenses:

An official may be removed for misconduct, wrongdoing, improper and unlawful execution of an act, or failure to perform an act that is an official duty.

A SG member is subject to removal from office at the discretion of the SG Advisor/Student Life Director when the member does not maintain membership status, and/or the Dean of Students when the member violates any college procedure.

All members shall be liable for removal from office for violating the Rights and Responsibilities of the Student Body and SG Constitution, for using their positions for personal or material gain, or by overruling the judgment of the SG Advisor and/or the Director of Student Life.

Members who are both on academic and disciplinary probation will be removed immediately from the organization.

All members of the Student Government will conduct themselves in a way that reflects the qualities of a student leader. Positive communication and respect of all members of Broward College is a requirement and misrepresentation will not be tolerated and may result in removal from office.

Resignation and Succession

Resignation:

An official's resignation must be documented two weeks before his/her final day in Student Government.

Succession:

In the event of temporary or permanent vacancy of the office of the President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Vice President. Upon the Vice President assuming the role of President, the Vice President's vacancy shall be appointed by the new President with the approval of the majority of the Senate/Executive Board members.

Advisor

The Student Life Department shall designate an advisor to the Student Government Association. The Advisor shall counsel as to legality, policies and procedures of the College. The advisor is responsible for assuring that all Student Government members are adhering to their responsibilities.

The duties of the Advisor shall be to:

- Provide proper training to assure that the members have the necessary knowledge/information to fulfill their roles as student leaders
- Be available to members for clarification, feedback and opinions on all SG related issues
- Act as a liaison between the SGA, faculty, staff, and administration when appropriate
- Meet with the SG regularly
- In the event a student conducts themselves unbecomingly as a SG member (violation of the student code of conduct), the SG advisor may remove that member or members without the approval of the executive board.

Amending the Constitution

A proposed amendment must be approved by 2/3 vote before it can be sent to the Student Government Advisor and/or Student Life Director for ratification. The constitution can only be amended once a year and shall become effective immediately upon ratification when approved by the SG advisors and/ or Senior Director.

Oath of Office

“I (state your name), do solemnly swear to carry out my duties and responsibilities as (state position) as stated in the Broward College Student Government Constitution and my campus to the best of my abilities. I understand and freely set aside personal opinions to uphold the interest of the study body. As a member of Student Government, I will conduct myself ethically at all times and in a way that accurately represents Broward College and its students.”