



## CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

### PREAMBLE

#### Land Acknowledgement

At DePaul University, we acknowledge that we live and work on traditional Native lands that are home to well over one hundred different tribal nations.

We extend our respect to all of them, including the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa nations, who signed the Treaty of Chicago in 1821 and 1833. We also recognize the Ho-Chunk, Myaaamia, Menominee, Illinois Confederacy, and Peoria people who also maintained relationships with this land.

We acknowledge that these sacred homelands were ruptured by the European invasion of the Americas. In 1493, Pope Alexander VI promulgated the Doctrine of Discovery, which seized Native lands and resources with impunity. This doctrine has been used by countries throughout the Americas, including the U.S., to legitimize colonial policies of displacement and genocide toward Native peoples and to justify colonial legacies of white superiority and global capitalism.

We appreciate that today Chicago is home to the sixth-largest urban Native population in the United States. We further recognize and support the enduring presence of Native peoples among our faculty, staff, and student body. And in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, we reaffirm our commitment, both as an institution and as individuals, to help make our community and our society a more equitable, welcoming, and just place for all.

#### Mission Statement

The Student Government Association shall exist to represent, advocate for, provide, and act as an official voice for, and ultimately act on behalf of the student body of DePaul University and the interests thereof; to be an instrument for the cooperation of students, faculty, staff, and administration; to provide an open forum for dialogue and a voice for student opinions concerning the traditions, ideas, and affairs of the university; and to afford students the opportunity to participate in the managing of their own affairs.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

Membership, leadership, and activities will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, family relationship status, physical or mental disability, military status, genetic information or other status protected by local, state, or federal law.

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## ARTICLE I

### Scope & Policies

**Section 1.** This document shall represent the members of the student body at DePaul University

**Section 2.** All official bodies, offices, and agencies listed within this Constitution or created by the President, the Cabinet, or the House will be collectively named the Student Government Association of DePaul University

**Section 3.** A member of the Student Government Association is any student who actively serves in any capacity as outlined in Article I, Section 2.

## ARTICLE II

### The Legislative Branch

**Section 1.** The House of Student Representatives shall have the legislative powers of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** The student body will annually elect members of the House of Representatives. Representatives are apportioned as follows:

A. There shall be fifty-five voting seats in the House.

B. Five voting seats are automatically allocated to the five chair positions.

C. Twelve voting seats shall be held for class representatives, three for each of the following class groups to be elected in the Fall quarter:

1. First Year Students

2. Second Year Students

3. Third Year Students

4. Fourth- and Fifth-Year Students.

D. Seats shall be filled by representatives elected by the Student Body members in each of the University's colleges.

E. No student may hold a seat for more than one constituency simultaneously.

F. It shall be the responsibility of the Membership Committee to fill representative seats that may fall vacant throughout the year. All appointees by the Membership Committee must be confirmed by a simple majority of the House. This committee shall also be responsible for the apportioning of representative seats through a process set forth in the Student Government Code.

**Section 3.** The Vice President of the Student Body will serve as the Speaker of the House of Student Representatives. The Speaker will serve as the executive officer and preside over House of Student Representatives meetings and fulfill other roles as defined by the Student Government Code.

**Section 4.** The House shall have the following legislative responsibilities:

- A. To collaborate on legislation that is beneficial to the student body and DePaul University, bearing mind to the Vincentian mission of the institution;
- B. To hear and adjudicate appeals made to the Student Activity Fee Board;
- C. To effectively manage internal House proceedings as necessary in service of the Student Body;
- E. To adopt, modify, or revoke portions of the Constitution of the Student Body, Student Government Code, and other SGA governing documents through the proper processes laid out in governing documents; and
- F. To consider all business brought before it by its members, the Cabinet, the student body, faculty, or staff.

**Section 5.** A quorum of three-fifths of House members is needed to hold a meeting. A simple majority of those present and voting is required to pass or approve all business, except as otherwise established in this Constitution or by legislation.

**Section 6.** All meetings of the House will be open to the public unless two-thirds of the members present vote to meet in executive session.

### ARTICLE III

#### The Executive Branch

**Section 1.** The Executive Branch, otherwise known as the Cabinet, will have the executive powers of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** Cabinet will consist of the following members:

- A. Student Body President;
- B. Student Body Vice President;
- C. Student Body Treasurer;
- D. The Chief of Staff;
- E. The Chair of Academic Affairs;
- F. The Chair of Campus Affairs;
- G. The Chair of Membership;
- H. The Chair of Marketing and Communication;
- I. The Chair of Diversity and Equity;
- J. The Vincentian Liaison (non-voting);
- L. The Advisor to the Student Government Association (non-voting); and
- M. Up to three additional non-voting members appointed by the President with the approval of the House.

**Section 3.** The Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected annually in the Spring quarter by a vote of the student body. Each elected official shall serve a term of one year and may not fill more than one office in the Student Government Association simultaneously. In order to be eligible to run for President and Vice President, candidates must have served at least one full term in SGA.

**Section 4.** The roles of the elected officers shall be defined in the Student Government Code.

**Section 5.** Cabinet will have the following responsibilities:

- A. Serve as the executive representatives of the Student Body to DePaul's administration;
- B. Assist in the implementation of legislation;
- C. Consider proposals for legislation or programming to be endorsed by Cabinet;
- D. Perform additional duties prescribed by the House; and
- E. Consider all other business brought before it by the administration, the student body, and its own members.

**Section 6.** A simple majority of the voting members of the Cabinet are needed to hold a meeting. A simple majority of voting members present are required to pass or approve all business, unless otherwise established in this Constitution or legislation.

**Section 7.** The Cabinet shall conduct the operations of the House of Student Representatives between academic quarters.

(a) In this capacity, the Cabinet may not pass any legislation altering any governing documents, confirm appointments to the Judicial Board, or remove any officer within the Student Government Association.

(b) The Speaker must report on all recess activities at the next general meeting of the House.

**Section 8.** The order of seniority and succession of the Executive Branch shall be established within the Student Government Code.

## ARTICLE IV

### SGA Sponsored Events

**Section 3.** All members of SGA may propose and plan programming in their official capacity. Event proposals and associated costs shall be subject to approval of the standing committee of which the member sits on.

## ARTICLE V

### The Judicial Branch

**Section 1.** The Judicial Board will have the judicial powers of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** The Judicial Board will have the final decision on judicial questions and serve as an appellate body as defined by the Student Government Code and the Judicial Board Bylaws.

## ARTICLE VI

## Advising and Affiliation

**Section 1.** The Student Government Association shall be a direct affiliate of the Office of Student Involvement and the Division of Student Affairs.

**Section 3.** The Director of the Office of Student Involvement shall serve as the primary advisor to the Student Government Association. In addition, the advising team may be comprised of the following:

- A. One Graduate Advisor;
- B. One Staff Advisor; and
- C. One Faculty Advisor.

The faculty advisor shall be selected by the President and confirmed by a simple majority vote of the House. The staff advisor and graduate advisor shall be appointed by the Director of the Office of Student Involvement and shall be employees of the aforementioned office.

## ARTICLE VI

### Impeachment

**Section 1.** Impeachment proceedings may be initiated against any member of the Student Government Association by submission of a petition signed by at least 25 percent of the members of the House or by submission of an order to remove signed by the Judicial Board.

**Section 2.** Members and officers may be impeached only in the following cases:

- A. The member has violated the Constitution of the Student Body or the Student Government Code;
- B. The member has shown conduct grossly unbecoming of an officer or received undue personal financial or material gain through their actions.

**Section 3.** After the petition or order to remove has been submitted, the Judicial Board will hold a hearing to determine if a violation occurred. If the Judicial Board finds the member or officer in violation, they will recommend sanctions, as outlined in the Student Body Code, to the House. Sanctions will be enforced by the SGA advising team.

## ARTICLE VII

### Amendments

**Section 1.** All proposed amendments to this Constitution must be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the House. The amendments will then be voted on by the Student Body within the quarter of House's consideration, except in those cases where amendment(s) would be required to remain compliant with university policy. In such instances, amendment(s) may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the House and Cabinet. All other amendment(s) will be adopted upon approval by a simple majority of the Student Body.

