



# **Ratified Constitution of the Gordon College Student Association**

Ratified April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Effective May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **PREAMBLE —**

We, the Student Body of Gordon College, establish this Constitution for an association of students that serves and represents our interests. The Gordon College Student Association (GCSA) shall be led by a representative and administrative body to be known as the Student Government. The GCSA shall endeavor to honor the Lord our God and serve the community of Gordon College by enhancing the lives of students academically, spiritually, physically, and socially. By the authority given to it by the students and the administration of the College, the Student Government shall hereby be the official, representative voice of the students to the faculty, staff, trustees of the College, and to outside interests.

## **ARTICLE ONE —**

SECTION 1. The legislative power of the Student Government shall be vested in a Senate of the Student Body, which shall be composed of a Senator from each campus residential district, chosen by students thereof, and a senator representing the off-campus students. The drawing of on-campus residential districts shall be determined by legislation, and each district may include a singular or a multitude of residential halls, or any other such residential configuration, given that all districts must be constituted in a manner that is reasonable to ensure fair representation.

SECTION 2. The Senate shall have the power, by legislation, to act and advocate in the name of the Student Body, to ratify any binding agreements between the Student Government and outside organizations, to determine the appropriation of funds within the student association, to determine the responsibilities of all executive

officers and programs, to establish student organizations and entities within the association, and to establish any policies that are necessary and proper for the operation and management of the association.

SECTION 3. The times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senate, the qualifications for office, and the process for filling Senate vacancies, shall be provided by legislation.

SECTION 4. A majority of duly elected Senators shall constitute a quorum to conduct business. The Senate shall keep and publish a record of its proceedings and its meetings shall always be public. However, upon the agreement of two-thirds, the Senate may from time to time, convene in executive session and withhold portions of their deliberations from public record. The President of the Student Body shall be President of the Senate but shall have no vote unless they be equally divided.

SECTION 5. Every bill which shall have passed the Senate, shall, before it goes into effect, be presented to the President of the Student Body who shall review the bill within three business days; if they approve, they shall sign it, but if not, they shall return it, with their objections to the Senate. If after such reconsideration, two thirds of the Senate pass the bill, it becomes valid legislation. If upon reviewing the bill, the President takes no action within three days, the bill shall become valid legislation as if the President had signed it.

## **ARTICLE TWO —**

SECTION 1. The executive power of the Student Government shall be vested in a President of the Student Body. They shall hold their office during the term of one year, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected by the popular vote of the student body.

SECTION 2. The President shall be chief executive officer of this association and shall ensure that all provisions of the Constitution and all legislation are carried out faithfully.

SECTION 3. The President shall have the power to nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint all other officers of the executive office, who shall be subordinate to the President, whose positions are not herein provided for, and which shall be established by legislation; but the Senate may by legislation vest the appointment of other certain officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, or in other officers. The Senate may also determine by legislation, a manner by which the President-elect can submit their nominations for consideration and

confirmation prior to the beginning of the upcoming presidential term.

SECTION 4. The Vice President of the Student Body shall be the principal deputy to the President and shall possess additional responsibilities as established by legislation. In case of the President's removal or resignation from office, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. A further line of succession to the Presidency may be provided by legislation.

SECTION 5. Whenever the President transmits to the Senate a declaration that the President is unable to carry out the powers and duties of their office, and until the President transmits to them a declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be carried out by the Vice President as Acting President.

SECTION 6. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by the Senate.

### **ARTICLE THREE —**

SECTION 1. Except as otherwise provided for by the official policies or directives of Gordon College, or by state or federal law, this Constitution shall be the highest governing legislation in the association. All Senators and Officers of the association shall be bound to abide by this Constitution.

SECTION 2. Cases and controversies regarding the application or interpretation of this Constitution, and all legislation and policies made pursuant thereof, shall be resolved by the Senate. However, the Senate may by legislation, provide for alternative means of adjudication and may vest such responsibilities in a student government entity or process as they may direct.

### **ARTICLE FOUR —**

SECTION 1. The Senate shall have the power, by legislation, to define policies regarding ethics, conduct, and professional expectations, which, in addition to the Student Life Handbook of the College, shall apply to all Senators and Officers of this association.

SECTION 2. In the case of an alleged violation of such policies or expectations, official charges shall be in the form of Articles of Impeachment, which shall be issued in accordance with procedures provided by legislation. However, the Staff Advisor for

Student Government must be consulted prior to the issuance of any Article.

SECTION 3. All Articles of Impeachment shall be exhibited to the Senate, which shall hold a fair trial ensuring due process for all parties involved. The respondent shall stand convicted upon the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senate. Conviction on any Article shall extend no further than removal from office. However, the convicted party shall nonetheless be subject to other disciplinary proceedings of the college if appropriate.

#### **ARTICLE FIVE —**

SECTION 1. The Senate, whenever three-fourths shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by an election with two-thirds of the voting student body.