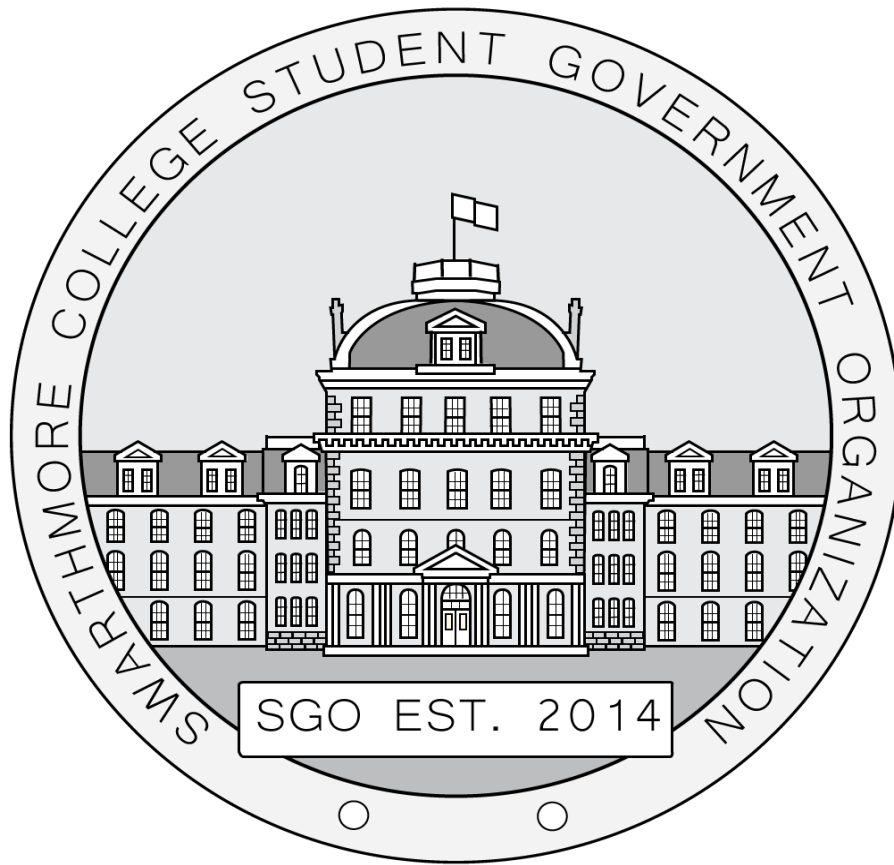


The Constitution of the Swarthmore College Student Government Organization



PURPOSE

SGO represents and serves the interests of the student body. Its principal duties include allocating the Student Activities Budget, managing the group chartering process, appointing students to committees, and meeting with Swarthmore College faculty, staff, and the Board of Managers. Additionally, SGO will encourage campus-wide discussions and engagement and actively solicit student opinion.

STRUCTURE

1. EXECUTIVE BOARD

1.1. COMPOSITION

- 1.1.1. The Executive Board has 9 members: the President, Vice President, and the Chairs of Student Life, Internal Affairs, Student Organizations, Academic Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Outreach, and Campus Climate.
 - 1.1.1.1. The Vice President is the Treasurer of SGO.
 - 1.1.1.2. The Chair of the Student Budget Committee is an ex officio non-voting advisor to SGO who must follow SGO attendance rules as outlined in (3.1).

2. STUDENT SENATE

2.1. COMPOSITION

- 2.1.1. There are three elected Senators for each class year in the Senate. There are eight At-Large Senators.
 - 2.1.1.1. Two of the At-Large Senator seats are reserved for elections the following fall semester, alongside the Freshman Senator elections.
- 2.1.2. All student groups may designate and send a representative to attend Senate meetings. Additionally, any student group may request for an SGO member to be a liaison for the group, attending the group's meetings and relaying its interests back to SGO.

3. REQUIREMENTS, EXPECTATIONS, AND ELECTIONS

3.1. REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE

- 3.1.1. All who run for the Executive Board or Senate must be full-time students at the College. They must be on campus for the entirety of the term.
- 3.1.2. Executive Board members must have studied two semesters at Swarthmore, unless elected via a special election or appointed.
- 3.1.3. Presidents and Vice Presidents must have served at least one year in SGO.
- 3.1.4. All members of SGO must attend all mandatory meetings and notify the Vice President if unable to do so. Three absences are grounds for a warning from the President. Four absences allow for impeachment.
 - 3.1.4.1. Two tardies equal one absence.

3.2. ELECTIONS

- 3.2.1. Elections are open to all Swarthmore students for elected positions in (1.1.1) and (2.1.1).
- 3.2.2. Before the election, platforms from candidates must be collected and distributed.
- 3.2.3. To win an election, a candidate must receive a plurality of votes not marked "No preference." If no candidate receives this plurality, the election must be reheld.
- 3.2.4. Students may hold only one SGO position at any given time. If an SGO member wins an election to another position, they forfeit the earlier position.
- 3.2.5. The holding and manner of elections will be determined by the President, including the ability to form an Elections Committee.
 - 3.2.5.1. No person on such a committee may also appear on the ballot for the election in question.

3.3. EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

- 3.3.1. Electing Executive Board members will be done towards the end of the spring semester. They must be eligible as per the requirements in (3.1).

3.3.2. For President and Vice President, Declarations of Intent will be collected. The Declarations will be circulated to all individuals interested in running, who then may form tickets during an appropriate period. United ticket platforms will be collected, distributed, and the election will be held.

3.3.2.1. To run for President and Vice President, one member of the ticket must be on campus for the transition period after the election.

3.4. SENATE ELECTIONS

3.4.1. Electing Senators will be done in the weeks after the Executive Board elections of the spring semester. They must be eligible as per the requirements in (3.1). Freshman Senators will be elected as per section (2.1.1.1).

3.5. FRAUD

3.5.1. Any student may contest the results of an election by submitting a complaint, in writing, to the President.

3.5.2. Upon reasonable evidence of fraud, the Executive Board has the power to void a contested election with a two-thirds vote of members present.

3.5.3. If fraud can be definitively proven, the election will be void and must be reheld.

3.6. VACANCIES

3.6.1. The President, in deliberation with the Executive Board, reserves the right to appoint interim Chairs or Senators should vacancies arise until a special election can be held.

3.7. SPECIAL ELECTIONS

3.7.1. The holding and manner of special elections will be at the discretion of the President, including the ability to form an Elections Committee. Current SGO members are eligible to run in all special elections.

3.7.1.1. If a vacancy, the Presidency exempted, occurs in the first semester of office, an open election will be held. If a vacancy occurs in the second semester, an internal decision will be made.

3.7.1.1.1. Vacancies for Appointments or Student Organizations will be filled by a current committee member, appointed by the President with a vote confirmation of the Senate.

4. MEETINGS

4.1. EXECUTIVE BOARD

4.1.1. The Executive Board must hold open meetings on a weekly basis throughout the year. The holding and manner of these meetings is to be determined by the President and the Executive Board. Additional, non-mandatory meetings can be held as needed.

4.1.1.1. A closed meeting must be approved by two-thirds of present Executive Board members to be held.

4.2. SENATE

4.2.1. SGO must hold open meetings on a weekly basis throughout the year. The holding and manner of these meetings is to be determined by the President and Vice President.

4.3. QUORUM

4.3.1. Quorum is three-fifths of Executive Board members present or SGO members, both Executive Board and Senate, present. Quorum must be met for votes to be valid. Quorum is not required for anything outside of voting.

4.4. VOTING

- 4.4.1. Given quorum: for any vote to pass in the Executive Board, unless otherwise noted in this Constitution, it must have a simple majority of Executive Board members; for any vote to pass in the Senate, it must have a simple majority of SGO members.

4.5. AGENDA, MINUTES, AND ATTENDANCE

- 4.5.1. The Vice President is in charge of recording the minutes of all meetings and setting the agenda. These minutes will be archived at the end of the year. The Vice President is also in charge of taking attendance. Members arriving late or leaving early will be marked tardy at the discretion of the Vice President.

5. DISCUSSION, REFERENDA, RESOLUTIONS

5.1. DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1. Discussion is the primary way of advancing the projects, goals, and ideas of SGO and its members. Formal deliberation or open discussion are both allowed. The holding and manner of the discussion, in Executive Board and the whole SGO, is at the discretion of the President and Vice President.

5.2. REFERENDA

- 5.2.1. Any student may initiate a referendum after submitting to SGO a petition, clearly stating the resolution, containing the signatures of at least 15% of the student body. SGO may also initiate referenda through approval of resolutions within SGO. These referenda resolutions may not supersede this Constitution.
- 5.2.2. SGO must pay all costs of the referendum, excluding the cost of publicizing the resolution. SGO will notify the student body of the vote, and the vote must be held within three academic weeks of SGO receiving the petition.
 - 5.2.2.1. There must be a debate on the referendum in question by those who propose the referendum and an opposing party. This requirement can be waived by a two-thirds vote of present members of SGO.
- 5.2.3. A referendum passes if a majority of those not voting “No preference” vote affirmatively and if at least one-third of the student body votes.
- 5.2.4. If a referendum passes, SGO will comply with the results within its limits.
 - 5.2.4.1. No referendum may supersede this Constitution.

5.3. RESOLUTIONS

- 5.3.1. Any student of Swarthmore College may initiate deliberation on a resolution by submitting a written form of said resolution to the President at least one day before its next scheduled meeting. This will be debated, pursuant the guidelines above.
 - 5.3.1.1. SGO itself may pass resolutions regarding issues as necessary.

6. COMMITTEES

6.1. GUIDELINES

- 6.1.1. Executive Board Chairs are responsible for organizing and leading committees comprised of Senate members to accomplish initiatives and goals as they wish.
- 6.1.2. Committee assignments are at the discretion of the President in consultation with the Chairs.
- 6.1.3. Any member of SGO can propose for the creation of a new committee.
- 6.1.4. Institutional committees and College committee appointments are decided by the Appointments Committee.

7. APPOINTMENTS

7.1. COMPOSITION

- 7.1.1. Appointments Committee shall be composed of five Senate members, including its Chair.
- 7.1.2. The Executive Board will vote on the Senators to serve on the Committee, requiring a majority vote.
- 7.1.3. When appointing students to outside seats, a representative from the committee requiring a vacancy to be filled can be invited to participate in the selection process as a voting member.
- 7.1.4. For SBC, a committee representative must be present during the interview process for their respective committee.

7.2. VOTING

- 7.2.1. Appointments Committee must have three members present when making appointments.
- 7.2.2. If consensus cannot be reached, the decision is made by majority vote.
- 7.2.3. Appointments Committee can establish its own guidelines for dealing with evaluation, conflicts of interest, and timing issues. These guidelines may not supersede this Constitution.

7.3. CHAIRS AND INSTITUTIONAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- 7.3.1. Each semester, Appointments Committee will advertise all open committee positions for the coming semester or year, leaving sufficient time to complete the process before the end of the semester.
- 7.3.2. The necessity of interviews is at the discretion of the Committee.
 - 7.3.2.1. SBC appointments require interviews.
- 7.3.3. Appointments Committee reserves the right to appoint members to committees with vacancies should they fail to be filled through the normal process.

7.4. APPEAL

- 7.4.1. An individual denied an appointment may appeal the decision by notifying Appointments Committee within two days. The Committee must, within two days of receiving the notification, detail the reasons for rejection. Should the appellant wish, the Executive Board can hear the merits of the appeal and override the decision by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the original decision is upheld.

8. CHARTERING AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE

8.1. COMPOSITION

- 8.1.1. Student Organizations Committee (SOC) shall be composed of five Senate members, including its Chair. They reserve all voting rights for chartering and Seed Funding decisions.
- 8.1.2. The Executive Board will vote on the Senators to serve on the Committee, requiring a majority vote.
- 8.1.3. If SOC senators would manage more than three clubs each, SGO senators outside of SOC will be assigned a student group to observe and ensure the group meets chartering standards before they submit the charter application for review.
 - 8.1.3.1. No senators will be assigned more than one club, except for those in SOC. Senators do not have voting rights except for their assigned club.

8.2. CHARTERING AND ITS PROCESS

- 8.2.1. Any student group wishing to receive SBC funding must be chartered.
- 8.2.2. The chartering process happens each semester. Statement of Interests are due before fall break to be considered for first semester chartering and before spring break to be considered for second semester chartering.

- 8.2.3. Only student groups with active members and consistent meetings should begin the chartering process by filling out the Statement of Interest.
- 8.2.4. An SGO member will observe the student group for an appropriate amount of time. This SOC liaison is required to ensure the group meets the standards of chartering before they submit the charter application for review.
- 8.2.5. Should a group need funding during this observation period, it can request an allocation from SOC. The use of these funds is to be taken into consideration when deliberating on the group's ability to effectively use Student Activities Budget money.
- 8.2.6. Once SOC approves the charter, the student group is an officially chartered organization of SGO and is eligible for SBC funding.
- 8.2.7. All chartered groups must renew their charter yearly and update their contact information yearly.

9. BUDGETING

9.1. STUDENT ACTIVITIES BUDGET

- 9.1.1. The President shall work with members of the Executive Board to propose a budget for the following year, before Spring Budgeting.
 - 9.1.1.1. The proposed budget must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board, and must be submitted to SBC according to the Spring Budgeting guidelines.
 - 9.1.1.2. The President has a veto over funding requests.
 - 9.1.1.2.1. A rejection of funding by the Executive Board or the President can be overruled by a two-thirds vote of SGO.

10. AMENDMENTS

- 10.1. Proposals to amend the Constitution must be discussed and voted on by the entire SGO and submitted to the entire SGO before the meeting where it will be discussed. Amendments require two-thirds of SGO members to vote affirmatively for them to pass.
 - 10.1.1. Only SGO members may submit amendments.

11. IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

11.1. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS APPOINTED BY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

- 11.1.1. Committees reserve the right to establish grounds for the removal of members, including its Chair. The individual must be notified of the possibility of removal and may appeal it to the Executive Board, the holding and manner of such discussion being at the discretion of the President.
 - 11.1.1.1. The Executive Board reserves the right to remove any individual appointed by the Appointments Committee.

11.2. REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND SENATORS

- 11.2.1. The Executive Board may remove any member that does not carry out their duties as outlined in this Constitution.
- 11.2.2. Two-thirds of the Executive Board, not including the individual to be impeached, must vote to impeach the Executive Board member.
 - 11.2.2.1.1. An appeal will trigger a second, final vote, after more deliberation. Two-thirds of the Executive Board will again be required to vote to impeach, definitively, the appellant.
- 11.2.3. The President is not allowed to preside over their own impeachment deliberation.
 - 11.2.3.1. Should the President be in threat of impeachment, the Vice President is barred from voting for such an impeachment.

11.2.3.2. The Vice President will become President should the Executive Board vote to impeach. In the case of the Vice President being impeached, a special election must be held for the position.

11.2.4. The impeachment of Senators follows the process outlined in (13.2.1).