Student Government Association

Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver

Student Government Association

Last Revised: [March-February 263, 2021]

We, the students of the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) in order to give the students effective representation in the shared governance of the campus, to provide the students with an enriching and fulfilling university experience, and to promote the general welfare of the student body, establish this Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association (CU Denver SGA). We do so in accordance with the University of Colorado Board of Regents laws and policies, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and the Constitution of the United States of America.

Article I: Declaration of Rights

A. Students shall have the right to representation by students in accordance with the University of Colorado Board of Regents laws and policies in the form of CU Denver SGA
B. Students shall have the right to participate in CU Denver SGA in accordance with the CU Denver SGA Constitution and bylaws
C. Students shall have the right to petition and appear before CU Denver SGA for matters of governance as detailed by this Constitution
D. Students shall have the right to access the decisions made by CU Denver SGA, minutes and governing documents
E. Students shall have the right to assemble, petition and protest against CU Denver SGA
F. Students shall have the right to equitable treatment and advocacy from CU Denver SGA
G. All student activity fee paying students enrolled at CU Denver are constituents of the CU Denver Student Government Association, and thereby eligible to vote in any election held under the authority granted by this Constitution
H. Students shall have the right to appear before and speak to CU Denver SGA
I. Students shall have the right to attend all committee and subcommittee meetings of CU Denver SGA
J. Students reserve all rights guaranteed and protected by the Constitution of the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, the Constitution of the United States of America and all other established legislation at the University, State, and Federal levels.

K. The University of Colorado, and thus CU Denver SGA, is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment. The University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, pregnancy, creed, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, political philosophy or political affiliation in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities.

L. No decision related to the recognition or funding of any student group, access to any of the benefits afforded by CU Denver SGA, or participation in any CU Denver SGA endeavor, shall be made from the partisan viewpoint of any individual or politically involved group.

Article II: Qualification for Office

A. Elected offices of CU Denver SGA shall be President, Vice President, Events & Planning Director and the membership of standing committees, as provided herein. Appointed offices of CU Denver SGA shall be the Parliamentarian, Judicial Council/Judicial Committee, First-Year Transfer Council, Events and Planning representatives, Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC) representatives and Election Commissioners, as provided for herein, along with any other such offices as the Senate may create between election periods after approval by two thirds (2/3) of the senate.

B. CU Denver SGA constituents are eligible to serve in elected or appointed office of CU Denver SGA, subject to the following conditions:

C. Undergraduate students must be degree-seeking and enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours for the duration of their term. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of three (3) credit hours for the duration of their term or receiving thesis/dissertation credits.

D. All students holding elected office within CU Denver SGA must disclose any affiliations with any/all recognized CU Denver and/or student fee funded organizations. The President, Vice President, SFRC Chair and Finance and Funding Chair may not concurrently hold any

Commented [PW1]: In order to better reflect the scope of work of the current “Judicial Council,” it is proposed that the name be changed to “Judicial Committee.”
Changes to the “Events and Planning Director” and “Parliamentarian” are described below.
executive office, including, but not limited to, the offices of President, Vice President,
Secretary, or Treasurer in any student fee funded organization.
E. All students holding elected or appointed office within CU Denver SGA, must remain in good
academic and disciplinary standing as defined by CU Denver and with their respective
school(s) and/or college(s)
F. No student may concurrently hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office of CU
Denver SGA or any paid staff position within CU Denver SGA, except as follows:
G. A student holding elected or appointed office within CU Denver SGA, other than the
President or Vice President, may concurrently hold one (1) paid staff position within CU
Denver SGA upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
   a. All appointed offices within the CU Denver SGA shall be considered “paid staff
   positions” except Chief of Staff Parliamentarian and Judicial Committee members for purposes
   of this provision.
G, H. A student in a non-voting position within CU Denver SGA may concurrently hold two
   (2) paid non-voting positions upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate
H. The provisions of this paragraph (iv) shall not apply to any Ad Hoc committee created by
the Senate pursuant to this Constitution
I. Failure to meet any of these conditions throughout the duration of a term of office shall
be grounds for removal from CU Denver SGA by impeachment or at the discretion of the
Chancellor
Article III: Legislative Branch
Senate Composition
A. The legislative authority of CU Denver SGA resides in the standing membership of the senate
which shall be comprised of:
   a. All standing committee members, including eight (8) College Council members, four-
to-six (4-6) representatives each to from the Finance and Funding committee, and
four-to-six (4-6) representatives from the Legislation and Outreach Civic Engagement
committees, two and two (2) Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board
members (SACAB) elected from the student body at-large in accordance with this
Constitution

Commented [PW2]: In order to better reflect the scope of work for the current “Judicial Council,” it is proposed that the designation be changed to a “committee,” and that the members act in an as needed, volunteer capacity.

Commented [PW3]: In order to better reflect hiring and staffing needs, it is proposed that the memberships of both the current “Finance and Funding” and “Legislation and Outreach” committees be permitted to fluctuate between 4 and 6 members.
In order to better reflect the scope of work of the current “Legislation and Outreach” committee, it is proposed that the committee’s name be changed to the “Civic Engagement” committee.
b. The Chair of the Student First Year Transfer Council, Events and Planning Committee and Student-Fee Review Committee and the Events & Planning Director who shall be full voting members of the Senate

B. The Vice President shall chair and preside over meetings of the Senate, and shall not be a voting member, except in the case of a tie. The Senate shall elect from among its members a President Pro Tempore who shall preside over meetings of the Senate in the absence of or at the request of the Vice President.

C. Meetings of the Senate shall be held weekly or up to the discretion of the Vice President during the Fall and Spring semesters, and at least once during the Summer semester. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Vice President or the President Pro Tempore if the Vice President shall refuse to act, or upon affirmative vote or signature of a majority of the Senate membership.

D. The Senate may adopt legislation, upon introduction by any member of the CU Denver SGA, or upon recommendation of the Legislation and Outreach Committee. Legislation proposals introduced by any member of the Senate may be referred by the Senate to any the Legislation and Outreach Committee and to such other standing committees or Ad Hoc committees of the Senate as the Senate shall deem necessary.

E. The Senate shall approve the CU Denver SGA operating budget in accordance with CU Denver rules and procedures, including budgets adopted for the Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC) as described herein.

F. The Senate shall approve bylaws for all standing committees within CU Denver SGA with two thirds (2/3) vote. The Senate shall not act upon the presence of a quorum, which shall be two-thirds (2/3) majority of the standing membership.

G. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments as set forth herein upon presentation of said impeachments by the Judicial Council.

Committees

A. There shall be four (4) standing committees comprised of sitting membership within the Senate as follows:

a. The Civic Engagement Committee is responsible for promoting matters of civic engagement within and outside SGA. Civic involvement and participation involving civic
activism, student activism, and community engagement in Denver and beyond, including issues of public, political or civic concern. The civic engagement committee will work collaboratively with students and organizations across CU Denver’s campus in order to register students as voters and engage them in current political issues. The ultimate goal of the civic engagement committee is to encourage and promote the political involvement of our student body both within and outside the University of Colorado Denver. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Civic Engagement Committee bylaws.

a. The Legislation and Outreach Committee shall investigate, research and draft proposed legislation upon referral by the Senate, Executive Office and President Pro Tempore as provided herein, or upon request by elected officer of the CU Denver SGA, and shall timely forward any legislation so referred or requested with recommendations to the Senate. In addition, Legislation and Outreach shall actively engage the student body through Student Outreach Week and work with the parties in question in order to find a fair and amicable resolution to these issues as representatives of the student body. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Legislation and Outreach bylaws.

b. The Finance and Funding Committee shall allocate student fee funds to recognized student organizations in accordance with the Funding Guidelines, and shall review but not veto or alter budgets proposed by internal Student Government committees. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Finance and Funding bylaws.

c. The College Council shall be composed of one representative from each of the eight (8) colleges at CU Denver: Architecture and Planning, Arts and Media, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Public Affairs and Graduate School. These representatives shall participate in the administration of their respective colleges and represent the interests, initiatives, and concerns of the students within their respective colleges. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the College Council bylaws.

d. Pursuant to §23-70-102, C.R.S. (2013), as it may hereinafter be revised or renumbered, there exists a Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board of
Directors (SACAB), comprised in part of CU Denver SGA representatives who shall
be elected and shall serve in the manner prescribed by law. In the event of a vacancy
by a CU Denver SGA representative to SACAB, it shall be the highest priority of the
CU Denver SGA to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law. The Senate
shall be responsible for adopting procedures to fill vacancies as prescribed by law, and
for carrying out any other responsibilities imposed by law on the student government
or governing body related to SACAB.

B. The Executive Branch shall nominate, for the consideration and confirmation of the Senate, a
chair for each standing committee.

C. Each committee member shall be nominated by the Executive Branch, with the consensus of
at least three (3) of the four (4) standing committee chairs for the consideration and
confirmation of the Senate. If the Executive Branch and three (3) of the four (4) standing
committee chairs do not reach consensus, the Senate may appoint members to the standing
committees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. At the discretion of the committee or the Senate,
additional non-voting members may be appointed to any standing committee upon nomination
by the committee chair or the Executive Branch and confirmation by the Senate.

D. The Senate may create Ad Hoc committees and define the membership and purpose of such
committees, without limitation, as needed.

E. A resolution depicting the purpose of the Ad Hoc, must be created and approved by a ⅔
majority vote at Senate.

Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch

There shall be a First Year Transfer Council which shall represent the voice of the first year and
transfer student population at CU Denver and provide opportunities for first time students to
become active and involved in CU Denver SGA. All CU Denver transfer students are defined as
students from any other college or university and first year students are defined as students
attending college for the first time, and are thereby eligible to serve on the First Year Transfer
Council, which shall be annually constituted by the Senate during the Fall semester. All other
duties and responsibilities are outlined in the First Year Transfer Council bylaws.

There shall be an Events and Planning Committee which shall promote, plan, execute, and
evaluate CU Denver SGA events and activities for the benefit of CU Denver students at the

Commented [PW6]: In order to better serve first year and transfer student needs, it is proposed that the current committee be dissolved, and its responsibilities assumed by the broader SGA.
A. Pursuant to CU Denver policy, there exists a Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC), which shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding the allocation of all student purpose fee dollars. This responsibility includes review of both new funding requests and current expenditures. SFRC shall ensure that all student purpose fee dollars are allocated in a manner that best serves the students of the University of Colorado Denver.

B. The Senate shall have the authority to appoint an advisory representative to serve as a member of the Senate upon 2/3 vote by the standing membership of the Senate. Examples of this representative include sustainability and DEI. Roles and responsibilities for this representative must be documented before the position may be appointed.

A. C. All Ad Hoc committees and Ad Hoc positions shall be considered Advisory Committees of the Legislative Branch unless specified otherwise.

Article IV: Executive Branch

President

A. The executive authority of CU Denver SGA shall reside in the President, who shall be responsible for oversight and general functioning of the entire body. The President shall be the liaison between CU Denver administration and CU Denver SGA, the spokesperson for the student body and shall represent CU Denver SGA; or shall designate a representative, on the system-wide intercampus forum

B. The President, together with the Vice President, shall be annually elected at-large by the Student body.

C. The President shall approve or veto, in writing, any legislation adopted by the Senate

   a. The President must approve, with a signature, any legislation adopted by the Senate within five (5) business days

   b. The President may veto any legislation brought forth from the Senate floor by expressing so within five (5) business days in writing

   c. If no action is taken upon legislation within five (5) business days, it shall be considered approved

Commented [PW7]: In order to better plan and execute student events, it is proposed that the Events and Planning committee be changed to an Events and Planning director. This will allow event collaboration across the SGA.

Commented [PW8]: In order to provide the SGA with more flexibility in responding to student needs, it is proposed that the Senate be able to appoint an advisory member annually. This will allow the SGA to better respond to current student initiatives, such as sustainability and DEI initiatives.
D. The President’s veto may be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the Senate within five (5) business days after said veto.

E. The President shall address the Senate on the state of the campus and recommend for their consideration such measures as they deem necessary and expedient.

Vice President

A. The Vice President shall aid the President in executing the duties of the office.

B. The Vice President shall serve as the chair of the Senate.

C. The Vice President shall participate in any executive committee of CU Denver SGA, having been established by the Senate in the manner prescribed by the Senate.

Chief of Staff/Parliamentarian

A. The Parliamentarian shall serve as the chief facilitator of SGA proceedings.

B. The Parliamentarian shall serve as chair of the Judicial Committee.

C. The Chief of Staff/Parliamentarian shall act as recordkeeper and Parliamentarian for all Senate meetings, and shall keep records of attendance and voting tabulations for all Senate meetings.

D. The Chief of Staff/Parliamentarian shall nominate and advise the Elections Commissioners and if the Elections Commissioners are unable or unwilling to administer regular or special elections as provided herein, or if all commissioner offices are vacant, shall carry out the duties of the Elections Commissioners as described herein until a suitable replacement may be appointed.

E. The Chief of Staff/Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

Events & Planning Director

A. The Events & Planning Director shall promote, plan, execute, and evaluate CU Denver SGA events and activities for the benefit of CU Denver students at the Denver campus.

B. The Events & Planning Director will work with the President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, and members of the Senate legislature to ensure all events promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and a safe learning environment for all CU Denver Students.

C. All others responsibilities and powers of the Events & Planning Director are outlined in the Events & Planning bylaws.

Commented [PW9]: In order to assist in the running of SGA Senate meetings, it is proposed that a Parliamentarian be appointed annually to carry out the proposed duties listed below the position.

Commented [PW10]: In order to better plan and coordinate student events, it is proposed that the Events and Planning committee be changed to an Events and Planning director. This will allow event collaboration across the SGA. The director will be responsible for the duties listed below the position.
Article V: Judicial Council

A. The Judicial Council shall consist of one (1) Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices, the Chief of Staff, Parliamentarian, and two-to-four (2-4) volunteer students-at-large having been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

B. The Judicial Council shall oversee all activities of the CU Denver SGA, ensuring that the creation and implementation of the CU Denver SGA policies and legislation coincide with the interests of the University of Colorado Denver and its students. All judgments of the Judicial Council shall be binding on the SGA. All other duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Judicial Council bylaws.

C. The Judicial Council shall advise the Election Commissioners and if the Election Commissioners are unable or unwilling to administer regular or special elections as provided herein, or if both election commission offices are vacant, shall carry out the duties of the Election Commissioners as described herein.

Article VI: Elections and Terms of Office

Election Commissioners

A. There shall be two-to-three (2-3) Election Commissioners who shall be nominated by the Judicial Council Executive Branch and confirmed by the Senate. The Election Commissioners shall be responsible for conducting all CU Denver SGA elections in accordance with the Election Code, which shall be proposed by the Election Commissioners and approved by the Senate; except that the Senate may adopt revisions to the Election Code not proposed by the Election Commissioners upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its standing membership.

General Elections

A. Elections shall be held at the time and manner set forth in the Election Code. The general elections for all elected CU Denver SGA offices shall be held annually during the Spring semester and no election may occur during the Summer semester or during any break in the academic year.

Terms of Office

A. The terms of all regularly elected offices established herein shall be one (1) year, of which shall begin the day after CU Denver graduation following the General Election and end on the...
day prior to graduation of the following year. Any member elected to fill a vacancy under
a special election as set forth herein shall serve the remainder of the regular term of such
office. All appointed offices of CU Denver SGA shall be coterminous with the regular
elected term, except as otherwise provided herein or as approved by the Senate

Referenda
A. Upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the standing membership of the Senate, or upon
petition by at least ten percent (10%) of the CU Denver student body, and subject to prior
approval by the Chancellor, any question may be submitted to the student body for approval at
the next general election or at a time and place set forth in the Election Code
B. A referendum shall consist of a single question such that a student may vote either “yes” or
“no”, and any referendum submitted to the student body by student petition shall have the
exact wording of the petition or motion initiating the election. A referendum requires a simple
majority to pass

Special Elections
A. Special elections shall be conducted as set forth in the Election Code or as determined by the
Senate

Article VII: Removal and Vacancies

Impeachment
A. Any elected or appointed member of CU Denver SGA, who fail to substantially fulfill the
duties of the office, may be impeached
   a. Possible grounds for impeachment include, but are not limited to the following
      i. Failure to abide by all adopted Bylaws, Resolutions, and this Constitution
      ii. Violation of University policies and procedures
      iii. Any other offenses the Senate sees fit
   b. Remedies allowed for impeachment process
      i. Removal of Office
      ii. Any other remedy determined by the Senate
B. Articles of Impeachment may be filed with Judicial Council at any
time by any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA
   a. Articles of Impeachment must state all grounds and factual evidence for impeachment
C. Inquiry Process

a. Judicial Council/The Judicial Committee will conduct an inquiry for all impeachment allegations and present findings to the Senate body with a recommended action

i. In the event that impeachment is brought forward against Judicial Council/Judicial Committee members, the President and Vice President will preside over the inquiry

b. From the date of submission of Articles of Impeachment, Judicial has 10 (ten) business days to finish inquiry process

c. After the inquiry process, Judicial Council/Judicial Committee shall notice the President, Vice President, and Ex-Officio of the findings and request to be on the following agenda of a regular Senate Meeting

i. A special Senate Meeting may be called for the expressed purpose of the impeachment procedures

1. 2 (two) business days advanced notice must be given to the members of SGA

2. The Student Body must be informed of the special session 24 hours before the meeting occurs

3. Quorum will be the same as a regular Senate Meeting

D. Impeachment Procedure

a. A motion shall be made and seconded to review impeachment of the member in question

b. The member in question shall be given the opportunity to speak on their own defense and offer evidence as they deem necessary

c. Following full discussion, the motion of impeachment shall be voted on immediately

d. All members of CU Denver SGA present, including the member in question, but not including the President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Judicial Council/Judicial Committee members, and ex-officio shall have voting rights in the process of impeachment

E. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, the judgement of impeachment shall be determined
F. A member who is removed from office, may not hold any position in CU Denver SGA for at least two (2) years after removal.

G. If the Vice-President is subject to impeachment the President Pro Tempore will preside over Senate.

Recall

A. Any constituent may initiate removal of any elected or appointed officer of CU Denver SGA by submitting a recall petition to the Judicial Council.

B. A petition must contain a statement of specific reasons for proposed removal and be signed by at least 15 percent of the CU Denver student body.

C. Upon submission of the recall petition, the Judicial Council shall certify that the recall petition meets the following requirements:
   a. Printed full legal name
   b. CU Denver email address
   c. Signature

D. After approval, Judicial Council shall forward such petition to the Senate within at least 2 (two) business days.

E. If the Senate determines a recall questionnaire to the student body is appropriate, a special election shall be held as described in this Constitution and the Election Policy.

Termination

A. All CU Denver SGA members are student employees and thus are “at will” employees who can be terminated by their respective hiring department at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, the following reasons:
   a. Lack of performance or attendance
   b. Falsifications of timesheet
   c. Releasing of restricted information
   d. Theft
   e. Unauthorized or fraudulent use of equipment and/or property
   f. Violation of University policies and procedures
B. A member who is terminated, may not hold any position in CU Denver SGA for at least two years after termination

Vacancies
A. Should the office of President become vacant during the term, the Vice President shall serve as President, and the Senate shall select and confirm a Vice President from the standing membership of the Senate.
B. Should President and Vice President become vacant the President Pro Tempore will serve as an interim President for the remaining semester.
a. If the President Pro Tempore assumes the office of President during the Fall semester, a special election shall be held prior to start of the Spring semester
C. Should any elected or appointed office of CU Denver SGA, other than President, become vacant during the term, the Chair of the committee and/or committee shall nominate and the Senate shall confirm an eligible student to hold such office; except that any vacancy within SACAB shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law

Article VIII: Amendments
A. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by the Senate before the last Friday in February, approved by the Chancellor, and submitted to the student body at a special election or the next general election, as determined by the Senate
B. Any amendment to this Constitution shall be deemed adopted and effective immediately if approved by a majority of the students who vote in the general or special election at which such amendment is submitted to the student body

RATIFICATION: This document is effective upon approval by the student body and replaces/supersedes any other constitution or governing document of CU Denver SGA now or previously in effect.

Last ratified by vote of the student body April 2020.