

Bryn Athyn College Student Government Association Constitution



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

BRYN ATHYN COLLEGE® OF THE NEW CHURCH

Article I. Name and Requirements

The official name of this organization will be the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church Student Government Association (henceforth referred to in these Bylaws as Student Government).

The requirements to be an active member in Student Government are the following:

1. A minimum GPA of 2.5
2. One letter of recommendation from a faculty/staff member of Bryn Athyn College that is submitted during the nomination and election process.
3. Positive academic status and record of behavior prior to the nomination and election process and during the time that the individual serves an active member of Student Government. Any disciplinary infractions that occur will be reviewed by the Coordinator of Student Activities and Dean of Students and may result in removal from office.
4. Reading and signing a copy of the Student Government constitution that will act as a statement of understanding.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of Student Government is to represent and serve the student body and to work to improve student life at Bryn Athyn College. To this end, Student Government shall:

1. Address issues within the college that pertain to the lives of the students.
2. Uphold the mission of Bryn Athyn College in all student club and organization activities.
3. Serve as a communication link between the student body and the college faculty and administration.
4. Assist the Coordinator of Student Activities to promote and approve the establishment of officially recognized student clubs and organizations.
5. Serve as the initial screening body for funding proposals from student clubs and organizations.
6. Organize and/or sponsor events.

Article III. Voting Membership

Section 1: The voting membership of Student Government shall consist of:

1. A student Body President.
2. A Student Body Vice-President.
3. Two Representatives from each class
4. Representatives from each officially recognized student club or organization that has been granted a Voting Seat on Student Government (Article III, section 3).
The recipient of a Voting Seat may begin fulfilling their role in Student Government as soon as they have read and signed a copy of these bylaws.

Section 2: Voting Members may

1. Vote during official meetings.
2. Serve on Student Government committees that have been delegated decision-making powers.
3. Represent Student Government as members or guest on college committees.

Section 3: Student Clubs/Organizations may be Granted a Voting Seat on Student Government if:

1. They are officially recognized as Bryn Athyn College Student Club or Organization as described in Article VII, Section 2.
2. It is determined by Student Government that the student club or organization represents a substantially supported student interest that is not otherwise adequately represented on Student Government. This decision will be made by a majority vote of Voting Members at an official meeting.
Effective immediately, following an affirmative vote, the organization can send one representative to Student Government as a Voting Member (the individual will be determined by the student organization, as decreed in the organization's bylaws and/or constitution).

Section 4: A student club or organization with a Voting Seat retains its seat until such time as Student Government votes that their seat be removed by majority vote. Student Government is obligated (but not required) to remove the seat of any organization that has significantly failed to uphold their own bylaws, or who ceases to represent a substantially supported student interest. A seat should also be removed based on repeated failure to attend meetings.

Section 5: Duties and responsibilities of Voting Members

All Voting Members are expected to attend all official meetings, unless excused by the Student Government Chair (Student Body President).

1. The primary responsibility of all Voting Members is to adequately, and from an informed position, represent their constituents. Representatives should frequently meet with their constituents and seek to continually offer an ear to their college.
2. Class representatives will meet with their class once per trimester at minimum.
3. Voting Members of Student Government should work to aid in student life of Bryn Athyn College (encouraging the establishment of student clubs and organizations, organizing their own projects to improve student life, etc).
- 4.

Article V. Officers

Section 1: The officers of Student Government shall be the:

1. Chair, who is the Student Body President.
2. Vice-Chair, who is the Student Body Vice-President
3. Treasurer.
4. Secretary.

Section 2: As a Voting Member of Student Government, the Chair may vote at official Student Government meetings. The duties and responsibilities of the Chair are:

1. Be chief executive of Student Government.
2. Call meetings of Student Government.
3. Set agenda for and preside over Student Government meetings.
4. Serve as the official liaison between the organization and the college administration.
5. Appoint committee or commission that are deemed necessary to carry out the function and responsibilities of Student Government.
6. Meeting regularly with the Advisor of Student Government.
7. Hold at least one meeting open to the entire student body per trimester.
8. Ensure that these Bylaws and the laws of Student Government are faithfully executed.
9. Performed any necessary administrative power or duty not provided for in this constitution.

Section 3: As a Voting Member of Student Government, The Vice-Chair may vote at official Student Government meetings. The duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Chair are:

1. Exercise presidential duties in absence of the president.
2. Assume presidential office upon vacancy.
3. Make sure that forms and paperwork are completed.
4. Meet regularly with Advisor.
5. Hold the President and members accountable to these Bylaws.

Section 4: The Treasurer is elected by the Voting Members of Student Government from within Voting Membership. In this case, the Treasurer retains his or her vote at official Student Government Meetings. If no Voting Members of Student Government are capable of serving as Treasurer, the Chair may appoint a Treasurer from within the student body. In this case, the Treasurer shall be a Non-Voting Officer of Student Government. The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer are:

1. Keep complete and accurate accounts of the organization's funds.
2. Maintain a template for funding proposals.
3. Review all funding proposals with Student Government.
4. Report to the President
5. If the Treasurer is not appointed within the Voting Membership, this person holds no authority within Student Government, and it is inappropriate for him or her to offer his or her opinion during a meeting unless it relates directly to funds.

Section 5: The Secretary is elected by the Voting Members of Student Government from within Voting Membership. In this case, the Treasurer retains his or her vote at official Student Government Meetings. If no Voting Members of Student Government are capable of serving as Secretary, the Chair may appoint a Secretary from within the Student body. In this case, the Secretary shall be a Non-Voting Officer of Student Government. The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary are:

1. Record attendance at all official meetings/
2. Take careful meeting minutes at all official meetings.
3. Make all meeting minutes, including proposals reviewed, available to any interested party, and post them in such a way to give public access to all records.
4. Perform other secretarial duties (official Student Government letter writing, etc.) as deemed necessary by the President.
5. Report to the President.
6. If the Secretary is not appointed within the Voting Membership, this person holds no authority within Student Government, and it is inappropriate for him or her to offer his or her opinion during a meeting unless it relates directly to funds.

Article VI. Serving on College Committees

Section 1: Student Government will promote and aid in the process of establishing official student clubs and organizations.

Section 2: Student Government will consider a student club or organization as officially recognized only if it:

1. Has a constitution and or Bylaws that are satisfactory and consistent with the College's mission and Student Handbook.
2. Has a faculty or Staff Advisor.
3. Can report a list of students who consider themselves members.

Clubs or organizations that wish to become officially recognized by Student Government should first request assistance and/counsel in writing Bylaws, and then submit a proposal to student Body President when they are confident that they can fulfill all three requirements. The Student Body President will submit the proposal to Student Government prior to or at an official meeting. Any Voting Member of Student Government may make a motion that the proposed student club or organization be approved. If a motion is second by a Voting Member of Student Government, the proposal can be discussed prior to the motion being voted on. A motion must be approved by a majority vote of those Voting Members present. If clubs or organizations wish to create and host their own events, requests can be submitted to the President and the Coordinator of Student Activities which will then be approved or denied with the rest of the Voting Members of Student Government.

Article VII. Finances and Allocating Funding

Section 1: Student Government will have a Treasurer designed as the party responsible for finances.

Section 2: All monies raised through institutional allocation, dues, donations, or fundraisers, are acknowledged as Bryn Athyn College Student Government funds and will be maintained in Bryn Athyn College account. No monies associated with Student Government will be held in accounts outside the college.

Section 3: Transfer of funds from Student Government to student clubs and organizations or other parties will be handled by the Coordinator of Student Activities and must be approved by (and carry the signature) the Coordinator of Student Activities. The Treasurer is required to carefully document all transfer of funds and make this document available to anyone who is interested.

Section 4: All requests for funding will be in the form of written proposals given to the Student Government Chair at least twenty-four hours before the official meeting in which they will be reviewed. The Student Government Chair will reject any proposals that do not conform to the requirements established by the treasurer (Article V, section 4). Any proposal that is approved will be submitted to the voting Members of Student Government at least twenty-four hours before the official meeting in which it will be reviewed.

Section 5: At the official meeting where a funding proposal is reviewed, any Voting Member of Student Government may make a motion that the proposal be approved. If a motion is second by a Voting Member of Student Government, the proposal can be discussed prior to the motion being voted on. A motion must be approved by a majority vote of those Voting Members present.

Section 6: Once a funding proposal has been brought before a meeting and is proposed, the Treasurer will send the request to the Coordinator of Student Activities. The Coordinator of Student Activities will transfer the appropriate funds to the recipient in a reasonable amount of time.

Section 7: if, after an official meeting, a funding proposal remains denied or has been voted denied the proposal can be amended and reissued at any time.

Article IX. Elections

Section 1: Student Body President and Vice-President

The election of Student Body President and Vice-President will take place in the Spring Term of the school year preceding the year in which the elected are to take office. The Student Body President and Vice-President will be elected by a single vote cast by freshman, sophomores, and juniors (thus, during the year that the President and Vice President serve, their constituents are all of the returning students). The candidate with the most votes becomes the President, and the runner-up becomes the Vice-President. All students who are in good standing and will be students in the following year are eligible to run for these offices.

Section 2: Class Representatives

Class representatives will be elected by a single vote cast by the members of their class. All members of a class who are in good standing are eligible to run for the office of Representatives of that class. The elections for Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class Representatives will take place in the Spring Term of the school year preceding the year in which the elected are to take office (thus Freshmen run for and elect Sophomore class Representatives, etc). The two students who receive the most votes in each class election will take their seat at the beginning of the following year. The Freshman Class Representatives will be elected in the first term of the year and will take office as soon as their elections are finalized, and they have read and sing the Bylaws.

Section 3: The Advisor will determine whether or not an election was conducted in a free and fair manner and can require that an election be re-administered or recounted.

Section 4: Student Government Voting Members will run elections, or form a subcommittee to run elections, but no person running for a position may be involved in the process.

Article X. Voting Practices

Section 1: Voting will take place at official meetings as set by the Chair (or under special circumstances by the Advisor) and made known to the Voting Membership at least one week in advance.

Section 2: Absentee ballots sent to the Chair by email will be accepted as legitimate votes at the time of a meeting, if the issue at hand has been discussed at a previous meeting.

Section 3: For any voting to take place at a meeting a quorum must be present. A quorum will consist of two-thirds of Voting Members.

Section 4: A majority vote is defined as a vote cast by two-thirds of those present at an official meeting.

Article XI. Vacancy of Office

Section 1: In the event that the position of Student Government Chair becomes vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by the Vice-Chair as interim Chair until a new Student Body President can be elected.

Section 2: In the event that the position of Vice- Chair of Student Government becomes vacant, the Voting Members of the Student Government shall elect the new interim Vice-Chair from within the Voting Members of Student Government until a new Student Body Vice-President can be elected.

Article XII. Impeachment

Section 1: The Student Body President, Vice-President and all Class Representatives may be impeached for abuse of power, poor academic standing, negative record of behavior, or conviction of criminal offense while in office. Impeachment decisions of Class Representatives will be led by the Student Body President, Coordinator of Student Activities, and Dean of Students. Impeachment decisions of the Vice- President or President will be led by the Coordinator of Student Activities and Dean of Students.

Section 2: A petition containing signatures of at least thirty percent of the Voting Members of Student Government may be presenting to the Student Body President and Advisor, effectively calling no confidence vote for either the President or the Vice-President. Also, the Student Body President can call a no confidence vote for a class Representative or the Vice-President at any official meeting (if his intention is made clear to Student Government at least a week in advance). Also, a Class Representative or the President or Vice-President can immediately be impeached by a petition signed by the majority of their constituents and delivered to the Advisor.

Section 3: No Confidence Votes

The Student Body President (or the Advisor if the Student Body President is the one in question) will call a meeting within one month of legitimate petition. At this meeting votes will be cast for and against the person in question. If the majority of votes are against the person in question, that person is impeached.

Section 4: Impeachment shall result in the immediate removal from office. Following this, an election will be held to replace the Representative. The person who was just impeached may run for the position again, and if they are voted in Student Government cannot call a no confidence vote against this person unless they commit entirely new grievances.

Section 5: Student Government is obligated to impeach any Class Representative or the President and Vice-President if they fail to adequately represent their constituents (either by failing to attend Student Government meetings and/or failing to meet with theta constituents).

Section 6: if a Class Presentative or the President or Vice-President should ever cease to be a Student of Bryn Athyn College, he or she is automatically impeached.

Article XII. Advisors

Section 1: The Coordinator of Student Activities and Dean of Students shall serve as the official advisors to Student Government.

Section 2: Duties and responsibilities of the Advisor(s)

1. Be available to all members for advice, counsel, and as a resource.
2. Meet regularly with Student Government Chair and Vice-Chair.
3. Be familiar with college rules and regulations and hold the organization accountable.
4. Keep open lines of communication between Student Government, faculty, and administration as necessary.

Article XIV. Amendments

After deliberation over a proposed amendment, it shall be tabled until the next meeting, at which time it will be brought up for a vote. A two-third majority will be required to pass amendments. Any amendments will be added following Article XIV. If there is a change made to the precious article, the changes will supersede the previous conditions. There is no need to continually change the document.

Amendment I. Representation and Authority

Student Government, subject to its proper authority, represents all students without exception. This statement does not limit the college administration's authority to establish or enforce student conduct policy.

Amendment II. Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections

Section 1: To represent the Student Body and offer a greater opportunity to be involved within Student Government, the electoral process of President and Vice-President will be made separate more adequately.

Section 2: These elections will proceed the following way:

1. After one week of nominations (for all positions), an optional one week of campaigning may take place. Following that week, one week of voting will take place for the position of President for Student Government. The votes must be tallied at the end of the week and the President must be announced by Friday of that week.
2. After the week of voting for President, student who ran, but were not elected for the position of President may choose to run for the position of Vice-President along-side student who were nominated for the Voice-President position. This election will also take place within a week's time.

Amendment II. Excused Absence and Tardiness

Section 1: Excused Absences

All Voting Members are permitted three approved absences by Student Government chair (members are asked to notify at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting).

1. If a Voting Member is unable to attend a meeting due to emergency absence, please notify chair at earliest convince.
2. The continuation of unapproved excused absences will result in an immediate vote for removal of office.

Section 2: Lateness

All Voting Members are asked to be on time for every meeting and not be late. If a Voting Member is going to be late, please notify another Voting Member and that member will tell the rest of the members at the meeting.

3. A repetition of being late without notification will result in an immediate vote for removal of office.

Statement of Understanding

By signing this document, I hereby affirm that I have read and understand this document in its entirety. I accept the Student Government position that I was nominated and elected for and will serve this position for the 2024 – 2025 academic year.

Signature: _____

Date: _____