Florida Atlantic University
Student Government Constitution

Preamble

We the students of Florida Atlantic University, in order to form a Student Government that will provide effective representation in the students’ best interests, promote general welfare, ensure the continuation of self-governance, uphold the principles of the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Florida, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Florida Atlantic University Student Government.

Article I. Establishment of the FAU Student Government

Section 1. Name – The governmental agency of the Student Body of Florida Atlantic University shall be called the Florida Atlantic University Student Government, hereinafter referred to as Student Government (SG).

Section 2. Purpose – The purpose of Student Government shall be:

A. To ensure the greatest participation by students in the governance of and policy development for Florida Atlantic University.
B. To provide an official voice through which the opinion of the student body may be expressed.
C. To serve as an active participant in addressing student issues and concerns on all of FAU’s campuses.
D. To develop SG Statutes in a fair and open manner.
E. To inform all students of SG-sponsored activities and encourage participation in them.
F. To allocate Activity and Service Fees.

Section 3. Jurisdiction – All students by virtue of their enrollment in Florida Atlantic University shall be members of the Student Body and shall be subject to this Constitution.

Section 4. Franchise – All students currently registered and paying Activity and Service Fees at Florida Atlantic University during the semester in which an election takes place shall be entitled to vote in the general, run-off, special and referendum elections of the Student Body.

Article II. Organization and Composition of FAU Student Government

Section 1. The Student Government at Florida Atlantic University is organized into two (2) levels; a University-Wide level to represent the interests of all FAU students and a Campus-Based level to represent the interests of students on each individual campus grouping.

Section 2. Student Government is composed of three (3) branches: Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch.
Section 3. An elections commission is hereby established for the operation and validation of General Elections as outlined in Article VI.

Section 4. Although the Student Media is funded by Student Government it will remain editorially independent.

Article III. Legislative Branch

Section 1. Legislative Authority- The legislative authority of the Student Body shall be vested in the Senate and individual Campus House of Representatives.

Section 2. Composition of the Student Senate

A. Senate. The Senate shall consist of three (3) individuals elected at-large from each individual campus grouping.

Section 3. Powers, Duties and Limitations of Senate

A. The Student Body Vice President shall chair the meetings of the Senate and shall only vote in the case of a tie.

B. The Senate shall:
   1. Advise, consent and approve, by majority vote, all appointments made by the Student Body President.
   2. Approve the appointment of the Student Court Chief Justice by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
   3. Approve and allocate the Activity and Service Fee fiscal budget of the Student Government, as provided by statute.
   4. Establish its own meeting times, rules and procedures in accordance with SG Statutes.
   5. Propose Constitutional Amendments.
   6. Overturn a Student Body Presidential Veto by two thirds (2/3) vote.

B. 
   8. Enact by majority vote legislation necessary and proper for the general well-being of the Student Body.
   9. Enact by majority vote, constitutional bylaws to be known as Student Body Statutes, subject to the procedure described in current governing statutes.
   10. Exercise any other power or duty provided for in the Constitution or Statutes of the Student Body.

Section 4. Composition of the Campus Houses of Representatives

A. Houses of Representatives. Each campus will have a House of Representatives: Boca Raton Campus, Broward Campuses and MacArthur Campus.

B. Each Campus House of Representatives shall consist of five (5) seats plus one (1) for every five hundred (500) students represented on each of the
campus groupings based on unduplicated head count from the previous spring semester.

C. Each Campus House of Representatives shall be apportioned as established by the procedures described in the Student Body Statutes.

D. To run and hold office, Campus Senators and House of Representatives must take at least 50% of their credits each semester on their respective campus. The 50% class requirement may be waived upon request by the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee as outlined in Qualifications for Student Officers set forth by University Regulation 4.006 (10)(g).

Section 5. Powers, Duties and Limitations of Campus House of Representatives

A. Each Campus House of Representatives shall elect a Speaker of the House by a majority vote from among its membership present. The Speaker's powers and duties shall be delineated in the Student Body Statutes.

B. The individual Campus House of Representatives shall:
   1. Approve legislation that is deemed necessary and proper for the general welfare of the Student Body on their specific campus by a majority vote.
   2. Advise, consent and approve, by majority vote, all campus appointments made by the Campus Governor.
   3. Confirm the appointment of the Campus Associate Justice of the Student Court by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
   4. Override the Campus Governor's veto of Campus based legislation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
   5. Oversee and approve by a majority vote the expenditure and the disbursement of Activity and Service Fees on the specific campus of jurisdiction as provided in the Student Body Statutes.
   6. Provide for the compilation and publication of legislation.
   7. Approve SG Statutes by majority vote that are necessary and proper for the general operation of Student Government on their specific campus subject to the procedures described in the Student Body Statutes.
   8. Establish its own rules and procedures, as well as meeting times, in accordance with the Statutes.
   9. Override the Student Body President’s Veto of Campus based legislation by a three-fourths (3/4) vote.

Section 6. Prohibitions – The Senate and the individual Campus House of Representatives shall not:

A. Enact any law that abridges its powers delegated by the Constitution.
B. Appropriate funds for a period of more than one fiscal year.
C. Infringe the secrecy of the ballot in any Student Body election.
D. Deny speaking privileges in any regular or special meeting of any Student Government official.
E. Meet in a closed session or violate Florida Sunshine Laws.
F. Change the dates of Student Body elections in the nine weeks before the scheduled election.

G. Change the election laws during the nine weeks before the scheduled election to be effective for that election.

Section 7. Vacancies

A. In the case of the absence, removal or vacancy of a member of Senate, the Governor from the campus in which the vacancy occurs will appoint a new member of Senate. This appointee shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the campus House of Representatives. If the Governor fails to do in 20 business days, the Student Body President shall appoint a new member to the Senate.

B. In the case of the absence, removal or vacancy of a Campus Speaker of the House, the procedure described in the Student Body Statutes shall be followed.

C. In the case of the absence, removal or vacancy of a member of a Campus House of Representatives, the procedure described in the Student Body Statutes shall be followed.

Article IV. Executive Branch

Section 1. Executive Authority- All executive powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Body President, assisted by the Student Body Vice President and the Campus Governors.

Section 2. Terms & Qualifications- To be eligible to run for and hold the position of Student Body President, Student Body Vice President and Campus Governor a student must meet the following requirements:

A. To run and hold office, the Campus Governor must take at least 50% of their credits on their respective campus. An appeal may be submitted on the respective campus as outlined in Qualifications for Student Officers set forth by University Regulation 4.006(10)(g).

Section 3. Duties and Powers of the Student Body President

A. Represent the Student Body on the Board of Trustees of Florida Atlantic University.

B. Administer, enforce, and abide by the Student Government Constitution and the Statutes of the Student Body.

C. Be the chief executive of the Student Body.

D. Call special meetings of the Senate in accordance with Florida Sunshine Laws.

E. Sign or veto legislation passed by the Senate in accordance with the Legislative Statutes.

F. Appoint students to serve on all University-Wide Committees, Councils and/or Boards.
G. Appoint or remove members of the President’s Executive Cabinet. All such appointments shall require a majority vote of the Senate to be approved.

H. Appoint a Chief Justice with a two-thirds (2/3) confirmation vote of the Senate.

I. Be the official spokesperson for the Student Government.

J. Present reports to the Senate at each of their meetings.

K. Present reports to each of the Campus House of Representatives meetings at least once per month in person or in writing.

L. Preside over a State of the Student Body Address.

M. Any other power or duty provided for in this Constitution.

N. Be the official FAU Representative on F.S.A (Florida Student Association) and vote on behalf of the Student Body.

Section 4. Duties and Powers of the Student Body Vice President

The Student Body Vice President shall:

A. Assist the Student Body President in the daily operation of the Student Government.

B. Be vested with the powers of the Student Body President if he/she temporarily cannot perform his/her duties.

C. Chair the meetings of the Senate. Only in the event of a tie vote in the Senate, the Student Body Vice-President shall have the authority to cast his/her deciding vote.

D. Coordinate the duties of the President’s Executive Cabinet under the direction of the Student Body President.

E. Administer, enforce and abide by the Student Government Constitution and the Statutes of the Student Body.

F. Perform other duties as assigned by the Student Body President.

G. Assume the Office of Student Body President in the event of a permanent vacancy in the position of Student Body President.

Section 5. Duties and Powers of Campus Governors

The Campus Governors shall:

A. Sign or veto legislation passed by the Campus House of Representatives in accordance with the Legislative Statutes.

B. The Campus House of Representatives may override the veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present membership in which the vote takes place.

C. Appoint or remove members of the Governor’s Administrative Cabinets for their respective campus. The appointments shall require majority vote of the Campus House of Representatives.

D. Call special meetings of the Campus House of Representatives in accordance with Florida Sunshine laws.

E. Serve as the voice of the Student Body for their respective campus.

F. Officially represent the Student Body of their specific campus at any function in or outside of the University.
G. Assist the Student Body President in the administration of the Executive Branch.
H. Administer, enforce and abide by the Student Government Constitution and the Statutes of the Student Body.
I. Present a report to the Campus House on executive activities at each of their meetings in person or in writing.
J. Issue executive orders to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as Campus Governors.
K. Any other power or duty provided for in this Constitution.

Section 6. Order of Succession

A. Absence, resignation or removal of Student Body President: In the case of the permanent absence, resignation or removal of the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President will move into the position of Student Body President. The new Student Body President will appoint a new Student Body Vice President. This appointment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
B. Absence, resignation or removal of Student Body Vice President: In the case of the permanent absence, resignation or removal of the Student Body Vice President, the Student Body President will appoint a new Student Body Vice President. This appointment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
C. Absence, resignation or removal of a Campus Governor: In the case of permanent absence, resignation or removal of a campus Governor, the campus Speaker of the House will move into the position of campus Governor.
D. Absence, resignation or removal of the Student Body President and the Student Body Vice President: In the case of a simultaneous permanent absence, resignation or removal of the Student Body President and the Student Body Vice President occurs, the Campus Governor from the campus with the largest student enrollment shall be acting Student Body President until there is a “special election”. The procedures for this special election shall be delineated in the Student Body Statutes.

Article V. Judicial Branch

Section 1. Judicial Authority – All judicial powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Court.

Section 2. Purpose – The Student Court shall have jurisdiction over cases involving questions of interpretation of the Student Government Constitution and the constitutionality or interpretation of Student Body Statutes of Student Government as follows:
A. Violations of the Student Government Constitution and the Student Body Statutes.
B. Cases involving impeachment of officials of Student Government as set forth in Article VIII of the Student Government Constitution and procedures described in the Student Body Statutes.
C. Violations of the Code of Ethics provided in the Student Body Statutes.
D. Student(s) or Student Organization(s) disputes or violations of the Student Government Constitution or Statutes.
E. Issuance of student summons for issues before the Student Court.

Section 3. Composition and Selection

A. Structure of the Student Court
   1. The Student Court shall consist of a Student Court Chief Justice and three (3) Student Court Associate Justices.
   2. The Student Court Associate Justices shall consist of: one (1) Associate Justice of the Boca Raton campus, one (1) Associate Justice of the Broward campuses and one (1) Associate Justice of the MacArthur campus.

B. Appointments
   1. The Student Court Chief Justice shall be appointed by the Student Body President and must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
   2. Each Associate Justice shall be appointed by the respective Campus Governor, and shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote on the respective Campus House of Representatives, and each Associate Justice must have taken at least fifty (50%) percent of their classes on the campus which he/she represents. The 50% class requirement may be waived by the Sr. Vice President of Student Affairs or their designee as outlined in Qualifications for Student Officers set forth by University Regulation 4.006 (10)(g).
   3. If a Chief Justice has not been appointed within twenty (20) business days of any vacancy, the Sr. Vice President of Student Affairs or designee must appoint a temporary Chief Justice into the position until a permanent Chief Justice is approved.
   4. If an Associate Justice has not been appointed within twenty (20) business days of any vacancy, the Student Body President must appoint a temporary Associate Justice into the position until a permanent Associate Justice is approved.
   5. All appointments must meet the same eligibility requirements as the Student Body President.

C. Term of Office - Office of Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall be held for two (2) years from the date of appointment.

Section 4. Administration, Practice and Procedure
A. Student Court Chief Justice

The Chief Justice of the Student Court, as chief administrative officer of the Judicial Branch, shall be vested with and shall exercise, in accordance with rules adopted by the Court, the authority to:

1. Supervise the administration of the Student Court.
2. Call and preside over all sessions of the Student Court.
3. Keep all permanent records of the Student Court and release them in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida and any other statewide Governing Body’s rules and regulations, and deliver them into the hands of his/her successor.
4. Sign all Court documents.
5. Serve as the official Student Court Spokesperson.
6. Shall publish written reports to inform on the status of cases on the Student Government website.
7. Shall update all changes and amendments to the Student Government Constitution and/or the Student Body Statutes.
8. The Student Court shall keep all official Student Government records, with the Chief Justice acting as the Clerk of the Court.
9. Serve as student member of the University Code of Conduct Hearing Board.

B. Campus Associate Justices

1. Campus Associate Justices serve the Student Body as unbiased members of the Student Government.
2. Campus Associate Justices shall have the following powers and duties:
   a. Attend all meetings of the Student Court as voting members.
   b. Serve as student members of the University Code of Conduct Hearing Board on the campuses they represent.
   c. Perform duties as assigned by the Chief Justice.

C. Attendance

1. If a Chief Justice or Campus Associate Justice fails to attend two (2) court proceedings in a term, they shall be considered resigned from the position.
2. A majority vote of the active membership of the Student Court, not including the judge petitioning the absences, may vote to expunge a Justice’s absences if there is just cause.

D. The Student Court shall meet as necessary to conduct business.

E. All meetings of the Student Court shall be open to the public.

Section 5. Complaint Process and Hearing Procedures

A. Complaint Process
1. Any student and/or student organization may file a petition with the Student Court against the Student Government and/or any of its officers, members and/or student employees.

2. Any student, student organization, and/or Student Government Officer, member and/or Student Employee may appeal to the Student Court any nonlegislative action taken against them by the Student Government and/or any of its officers, members and/or student employees.

B. The process of petitioning the Student Court shall be:
   1. Filing a written petition form with the Office of the Student Court Chief Justice.
   2. The petition shall include:
      a. Name of petitioner and address.
      b. Name of respondent(s) and address (if known).
      c. Detailed description of the complaint including names, dates, and locations.
   3. All court petitions must be signed by the petitioner.
   4. If appropriate, cursory evidence, or copies thereof, shall be presented with petitions.

C. Hearing Procedures
   1. Quorum is defined as three of four Justices present for all court proceedings, one being the Chief Justice.

Article VI. Elections

Section 1. Qualifications for Office – To be able to run for and maintain an elected office in Student Government or hold any Student Government position, a student must obtain verification from the Student Affairs office that they meet the minimum qualifications as stated in University Regulation 4.006.

Section 2. General Procedures

A. All elections shall be decided by a Plurality of those voting.

B. Fall Semester General Election
   1. The fall election shall occur on two consecutive days between Monday and Friday no later than the sixth week of the fall semester.
   2. The fall election will be held for:
      a. All seats in Senate
      b. All seats in each of the Campus Houses of Representatives

C. Spring Semester General Election
   1. The spring election shall occur on the last Tuesday and Wednesday in February.
   2. The spring election will be held for:
      a. The offices of Student Body President and Student Body Vice President
      b. The office of Campus Governor for each campus
3. The Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall be elected jointly University-Wide by a Plurality of those voting in the Student Body election.

4. The Campus Governor will be elected by a Plurality of those voting in each Campus Student Body election.

D. The only exceptions to these procedures would be in case of emergency as defined by the Student Body Statutes.

Section 3. Installation of Officers

A. The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Campus Governors elected during the spring semester election shall be administered the oath of office and assume his/her term of office at a University ceremony coordinated by Student Affairs.

B. The Senate and Campus House of Representatives elected officials in the fall election shall be administered the oath of office and assume his or her term of office at the first legislative session of that fall semester.

C. No student may concurrently hold more than one (1), elected or appointed office within the three branches of Student Government.

D. No student shall serve in the same position/office within the Executive Branch more than twice.

E. No student shall be sworn into office whose election is being contested in the Election Commission and/or Student Court.

F. Oath of Office

1. All elected and appointed Student Government positions shall be administered the following oath of office upon the commencement of their term: I, [name of the individual], do hereby affirm to uphold the office of [title], and to abide by the Constitution of the Student Government of Florida Atlantic University, the Statutes incorporated thereto, and to strive for the betterment of the Student Body through which I was elected (appointed).

2. At the University ceremony, the University President or a Board of Trustee member will swear in the Student Body President elect into office. The Student Body President or designee will administer the Oath of Office for the remaining elected and/or appointed officers during the University ceremony.

3. All Student Government elected and appointed positions shall have terms of office of one (1) calendar year beginning upon installation and ending upon the installation of their successor.

Section 4. Other requirements may be set forth in the Student Body Election Statute as long as they do not conflict with the Constitution.

Section 5. There will be an Elections Commission led by the Supervisor of Elections

Article VII. Constitution Amendment Process
Section 1. Proposal by a Campus House of Representatives.

A. A Campus House of Representatives may propose amendments to the Constitution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of present membership in two (2) regular meetings. Each amendment proposed shall embrace only one subject and matter directly connected to that subject.

B. Upon approval, the proposed amendment shall be sent to the other Campus Houses of Representatives for placement on the agenda at their next meeting.

C. Upon approval of two (2) of the Campus Houses of Representatives, the proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda of the Senate at their next meeting.

D. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present membership of the Senate, the proposed amendment shall be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled Student Body election.

Section 2. Proposal by the Senate

A. The Senate may propose amendments to the Constitution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present membership in two regular meetings. Each amendment proposed shall embrace only one subject and matter directly connected to that subject.

B. Upon approval, the proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda of each of the Campus Houses of Representatives at their next meeting.

C. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present membership of the Campus Houses of Representatives, the proposed amendment shall be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled Student Body election.

Section 3. Proposal by Initiative. Students may propose amendments to the Constitution upon submission of a petition to the Student Court signed by ten (10%) percent of the Student Body no later than twenty (20) days before the ratification election. Each proposed amendment shall embrace only one subject and matter directly connected to that subject.

Section 4. All approved proposed amendments shall be disseminated through all FAU media agencies and made accessible to the Student Body no less than five (5) business days before the Student Body vote.

Section 5. Requirement for Ratification

A. A majority approval vote of those voting in the Student Body election is necessary to ratify all constitutional amendments.

B. Upon Student Body ratification, the amendment shall be sent to the Board of Trustees for consideration at their next meeting according to University Regulations.
Section 6. No new adoption, amendment, or repeal of any Student Government internal procedure, including Constitution, Statutes and all other legislation, shall become effective until approved by the Board of Trustees or its designee pursuant to University Regulations.

Article VIII. Impeachment & Recall of Student Government Officers

Section 1. Impeachments – Procedural requirements of the impeachment of Executive, Legislative and/or Judicial Members shall be prescribed in the Statutes, consistent with the following requirements:

A. The Student Body President or Student Body Vice President may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and a two-thirds (2/3) vote in two (2) of the Campus Houses of Representatives and be filed with the Student Court.

B. A Campus Governor may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of that Governor’s Campus House of Representatives and be filed with the Student Court.

C. A Senator may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and be filed with the Student Court.

D. A Campus House Representative may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the member’s Campus House of Representatives and be filed by the Student Court.

E. The Chief Justice may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate with approval of the Student Body President. If the Student Body President does not concur, the Senate may still impeach the Chief Justice with a three-fourths (3/4) vote.

F. A Campus Associate Justice may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Justice’s Campus House of Representatives and with approval of the Campus Governor. If the Campus Governor does not concur, the Campus House of Representatives may still impeach the Associate Justice with a three-fourths (3/4) vote.

G. All impeachments are subject to appeal as prescribed in the SG Statutes.

Section 2. Recall

A. Upon receipt of a petition of ten (10%) percent of the currently enrolled students of Florida Atlantic University requesting that a official in a University-Wide elected Student Government position be removed from office, a referendum must be held in which a majority vote of the students will remove the Officer from their position within 20 business days after the filing of the petition.

B. Upon receipt of a petition of ten (10%) percent of the currently enrolled students on a specific campus of Florida Atlantic University requesting that an official in a campus elected Student Government position be removed from office, a referendum must be held in which a majority vote of the
students on the campus will remove the Officer from their position within 20 business days after filing of the petition.

C. The grounds for removing the Student Government Officer must be expressly contained within the petition.

Section 3. An impeached official shall immediately be removed from office and may not seek another Student Government Office.

Article IX. Ratification and Review of Student Government Constitution

Section 1. Ratification

A. This Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of those voting in a University-Wide election. This Constitution shall become effective on the date of the Board of Trustees of Florida Atlantic University adoption with the following conditions:

Section 2. Review

A. During the summer of 2018 and every third year after, the Student Body President must call a Constitutional Revision Committee (CRC).

Section 3. Membership

A. The membership of the CRC shall consist of:

1. Three (3) students appointed by the Student Body President, of which one shall not have held a position within Student Government during the previous one (1) year, and approved by a majority vote of the Senate.

2. Four (4) students appointed by each of the Campus House of Representatives, of which one shall not have held a position within Student Government during the previous one (1) year and approved by a majority vote of the Campus House of Representatives.

3. Two (2) students selected by the Chief Justice and approved by a majority vote of the Senate.

4. The Dean of Students, his or her designee.

5. SG Advisors who sit on the commission will serve as non-voting members.

6. Two (2) faculty or staff members selected by the Sr. Vice President of Student Affairs.

7. The 20 members prescribed are the only members that count toward quorum.

8. A minimum of 50% of active Constitution Revision Commission members must be present (in person) for the Commission to convene.

B. The Student Body President shall designate one member of the Constitution Revision Commission as its Chair. Vacancies occurring on
the Commission shall be filled through appointment by the Chair from the same constituency as the original member with approval by majority vote of the Constitution Revision Commission.

C. Each Constitution Revision Commission shall convene at the call of its Chair, adopt its own rules of procedure in alignment with SG Statutes and in compliance with Florida Sunshine laws, and hold public hearings regarding the Constitution. The Commission shall submit its proposed amendments to the Chair of Elections Board not later than twenty-eight (28) days before the Fall semester elections of the same year. Amendments may be to the whole document, or any of its articles, sections, or provisions.

D. Once a member is appointed, the appointing authority may not rescind the appointment.

E. All proposed revisions done through this review procedure are not subject to Senate or Campus House of Representatives review or approval and shall follow the requirements as set forth in Article VII, Sections 4 and 5.

Article X. University Endorsement

Section 1. Hierarchy of laws. The provisions of the Student Body Constitution are governed by and subordinate to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Florida as well as the regulations and policies of the Board of Governors and the regulations and policies of Florida Atlantic University.

Section 2. To become binding on Florida Atlantic University, this Constitution and any subsequent amendments shall require adoption by the Board of Trustees of Florida Atlantic University. However, to the extent that any provisions within this Constitution afford greater individual rights than those rights provided by law, such provisions are understood to be aspirations of the students of Florida Atlantic University and not statements attributable to the University.

Enacted February 21, 2007, Amended and Ratified by the Board of Trustees January 21, 2009, Amended and Ratified by Vice President of Student Affairs on behalf of the Board of Trustees November 6, 2015. Amended and Ratified by Vice President of Student Affairs on behalf of the Board of Trustees November 3, 2018 (IXM).