****

Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

Student Government Association

Constitution

# Table of Contents

Preamble

Mansfield University Mission Statement

Mansfield University Vision Statement

Mansfield University Creed

Mansfield University Student Government Association Mission Statement

Article I. Name and Source of Power

Section 1: Name

Section 2: Source of Power

Article II. Membership of the Student Government Association

Section 1: Eligibility

Section 2: The members of SGA shall be comprised of…

Section 3: Conflict of Interest.

Article III. Executive Board

Section 1: Membership.

Section 2: President and Vice President.

Article IV. Suspension, Expulsion, and Impeachment

Section 1: Suspension.

Section 2: Impeachment.

Section 3: Agenda for Impeachment.

Article V. Advisor and Faculty Representative

Section 1: Advisor.

Section 2: Faculty Representative.

Article VI. Amendments and Ratification  
 Section 1: Procedures for Amendments and Ratification  
 Section 2: Revisions Record

Student Government Association

Constitution

# Preamble

We, the students of Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, in order to form a more representative, unifying, and responsive government; to provide channels among and between the University Community and the Mansfield Borough community; to enhance the welfare and common interest of the students and the University; do hereby ordain and establish this constitution and government of the Mansfield University of Pennsylvania Student Government Association.

# Mansfield University Mission Statement

Mansfield University is dedicated to a personalized education with all programs grounded in the liberal arts. As a small, comprehensive public university, we are committed to promoting leadership development through character, scholarship, cultural awareness and service to others. Through our passion for learning, we positively influence the world.

# Mansfield University Vision Statement

The community of Mansfield University will embody the four virtues of our Creed - Character, Scholarship, Culture, and Service.

***CHARACTER***

We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethical behavior, incorporating respect for self, others, and our surroundings. We will devote ourselves to the holistic development of individuals, fostering personal accountability, honesty and advocacy through character education. Courage, integrity, and honor exemplify our core values.

***SCHOLARSHIP***

The Mansfield University community will foster a life of intellectual curiosity, celebrating the creation and dissemination of new ideas. We will embrace the use of rigorous, responsible and critical inquiry to understand, acquire and share knowledge. We apply what we learn by recognizing that each of us is both student and teacher engaged in the continuous pursuit of learning.

***CULTURE***

Mansfield University will lead the region and beyond in promoting diversity and cultural awareness. We will accomplish this mission by vigorously engaging with one another, capitalizing on the gifts bestowed on our community through the arts, and celebrating our similarities and differences. Through open discourse, we will create meaningful experiences that compel us towards understanding and compassion for all humanity.

***SERVICE***

Knowledge invests us with the power to improve our world and the responsibility to act. We will be engaged in our community. Our students, faculty, and staff will partake in volunteerism and service activities as a natural outgrowth of the University Mission in order to impact lives now and in the future.

# Mansfield University Creed

At Mansfield University, we develop leaders.

We accomplish this by focusing on the four core values that have been our tradition since 1912: Character, Scholarship, Culture, and Service.

**CHARACTER**

We believe in integrity. We act with honesty and respect toward others. We take responsibility for our actions and reflect on their impact on ourselves and others.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

We believe in learning. We use rigorous, responsible, and critical inquiry to understand existing knowledge, acquire and share new knowledge, and apply what we learn. Each of us is both student and teacher.

**CULTURE**

We believe in celebrating humanity. We enrich ourselves and others by sharing and exploring our similarities and differences. We honor the past as we invent the future.

**SERVICE**

We believe in helping others. We work with others to improve the communities in which we now live and will touch in the future. Knowledge invests us with the power to improve our world and the responsibility to act.

In 1912, our student body adopted the above words, emphasizing their order:

"Character as the essential, Scholarship as the means, Culture as the enrichment, and Service as the end of all worthy endeavors."

*Developed by the Leadership Committee of the Focus on Student Learning Forum; last revised May 19th, 2004.*

# Mansfield University Student Government Association Mission Statement

The Mansfield University Student Government Association was created by and for the students. Our mission is for students to serve students. This association conducts its business and engages in projects that are dedicated to advancing the overall quality of the total learning experience.

## Article I. Name and Source of Power

### Section 1: Name.

1. The name of this organization shall be the Mansfield University of Pennsylvania Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as SGA.

### Section 2: Source of Power.

1. All powers set forth in this constitution are delegated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the creation of the State System of Higher Education Act 188-1982, by Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and by the student body of the said institution.

## Article II. Membership of the Student Government Association

### **Section 1:** Eligibility.

1. **Mansfield University students, regardless of race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, handicap, or sexual orientation shall be considered eligible members of SGA. There shall be no financial obligation for membership in SGA.**
2. At any time during the academic year SGA is in session, candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives will be allowed to turn in an application for membership to the Parliamentarian.

### **Section 2:** The members of SGA shall be comprised of:

1. The Executive Board, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.
2. In addition to the number of seats that have voting power, there will be House of Representative Seats held by one representative from the Black Student Union (BSU,) Greek Life, and the Mansfield International Student Organization (MISO). These three organizations will have permanent seats in the House of Representatives. All organizations must submit an application to become a member of the House of Representatives. The organization must be nominated by the Parliamentarian and approved by a majority vote of the Senate. Each representative will hold voting power. Each voting representative must be approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
3. There will be no limit on the number of Senators eligible for membership in SGA.
4. There will be no limit on the number of eligible members in the House of Representatives.
5. Senators are not eligible to hold a seat in the House of Representatives, unless they first surrender their seat as Senator.
6. Senators and Representatives serve for the duration of one academic year and may be re-elected.
7. Maintain at least a 2.5 out of 4.00 GPA.
8. First semester freshmen and first semester transfers may be admitted to SGA, provided that they maintain a 2.5 GPA at the end of the semester.
9. GPA requirements for members of the House of Representatives shall be determined by the organizations they represent.

### **Section 3:** Conflict of Interest.

1. Applicable clubs, organizations, and activities are defined by any of the following criteria:
2. Student organization.
3. University sponsored activities.
4. Committees of student organizations.
5. Committees of Mansfield University.
6. Involvement/Affiliation shall be satisfied by any of the following criteria:
7. Attendance of club/organization/activity meetings for any purpose other than representing SGA.
8. Active participation in the planning or administration of a club/organization/activity.
9. Otherwise affiliating or involving with a club/organization/activity for any purpose other than representing SGA.
10. Matters pertaining to clubs/organizations/activities shall be defined by any of the following criteria:
11. Proposals made by or sponsored by the club/organization/activity.
12. Proposals which name the club/organization/activity as a direct benefactor.
13. Any other matters which are deemed connected by the Parliamentarian.
14. All decisions on conflicts of interest will be made and monitored by the Parliamentarian.
15. Decisions may be overturned by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.
16. Failure to accurately report clubs/organizations/activities shall be deemed appropriate grounds for impeachment.
17. Clubs/organizations/activities may be added to a member’s form; however, none may be removed during the balance of the current academic year.
18. Members who are required to abstain from voting shall retain all rights and privileges during discussion and debate.

## Article III. Executive Board

### **Section 1:** Membership.

1. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Director of Public Relations, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director of Information and Technology.
2. Meet all qualifications of the Senator position.
3. Maintain at least a 2.5 out of 4.00 GPA.
4. Have completed at least one semester in SGA before taking office.
5. Not have his/her term of office interrupted.
6. In the event that a leave of absence must be taken, the vacant office will be filled at the next available meeting time. If a leave of absence must be taken by the President, the Vice President will take over presidential duties and business will resume as usual.

### Section 2: President and Vice President.

1. The President and Vice President shall serve for the duration of one academic year and may be re-elected. To qualify for the offices of President and Vice President, a student must:
2. Meet all qualifications for a Senator position.
3. Have earned 45 credits at the time of application.
4. Maintain at least a 2.5 out of 4.00 GPA.

## Article IV. Suspension, Expulsion, and Impeachment

### Section 1: Suspension.

1. Suspension begins immediately following the meeting at which the suspension was announced by the Parliamentarian and entails the loss of voting rights both on the floor of the SGA and in all committees.
2. Any member of the SGA who has accumulated more than two (2) unexcused or three (3) excused absences shall be suspended from SGA.
3. Any member of the SGA who is unexcused or not exempt from two (2) meetings of their assigned committee(s) shall be suspended from the respective committee and the SGA.
4. Any member of the SGA that fails to meet any other requirement set forth in Article II Section 2 and 3 shall be suspended.
5. Any member of the SGA who fails to meet the eligibility requirements of his/her office at any time during his/her term is subject to suspension
6. A member of the SGA shall be advised of his/her suspension through a written or electronic letter from the Parliamentarian. He/she will then have seven (7) calendar days in which to justify his/her actions. Failure to justify these absences will result in automatic impeachment procedures from SGA. The President shall determine if the suspension shall be lifted or shall refer the member to the Senate for impeachment.
7. Each member of SGA will be allowed three (3) excused and two (2) unexcused absences from meetings that require their presence during each semester. An excuse must be submitted to the Secretary, in writing or through electronic mail, prior to the beginning of the meeting. All excuses are subject to the approval of the Secretary. The Secretary will determine in which cases considerations should be made for excusing members' extended absences.

### Section 2: Impeachment.

1. Any senator of SGA shall have the right to initiate impeachment proceedings against any officer, senator, or advisor.
2. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SGA shall be needed to send the impeachment claim(s) to the SGA Administration Committee.
3. The SGA Administration Committee shall conduct an investigation into the claim(s) brought forth by SGA.
4. If the claim(s) of impeachment are justified by the Administration Committee, then this statement shall subsequently be announced to SGA. At its next meeting, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SGA removes the said individual from his/her office or seat.
5. If the claim(s) of impeachment are not justified, the Parliamentarian shall announce to the SGA that the findings do not substantiate the claim(s) and the motion for impeachment fails.
   1. A two-thirds (2/3) vote reinstates the original claim(s) of impeachment.
   2. At its next meeting, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SGA removes the said individual from his/her office or seat.
6. Any member who is impeached and removed from the SGA has the right to appeal to the Executive Board.

### Section 3: Agenda for Impeachment.

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call, announcement of quorum, attendance policy report.
3. Approval of last meeting’s minutes.
4. Impeachment proceedings:
   * 1. The person who has initiated the proceedings should present the charges.
     2. The accused member or his/her designate shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in defense.
     3. The accused member or his/her designee shall be asked to leave while the hearing proceeds and the vote is taken.
     4. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot, to be counted by the highest ranking executive officer who is not under impeachment consideration. A 2/3 vote of the senate will be necessary to remove the accused from office.
5. Business as usual resumes.

## Article V. Advisor and Faculty Representative

### Section 1: Advisor.

1. The advisor of SGA shall be a cabinet level official nominated by the President of the University and the President of SGA and approved by the Senate. The advisor shall not be considered a member of the Senate. The advisor’s responsibility is to assist the Senate and SGA by relating their experiences with past SGA’s providing information, and describing SGA’s relationship to the University community.

### Section 2: Faculty Representative.

1. The faculty representative shall be appointed by the University Senate and approved by the Senate. The representative shall not be considered a member of the Student Senate. The faculty advisor's responsibility is to assist the Senate and SGA by relating his/her experiences with past SGAs, providing information, and describing SGA's relationship to the University community.

### Section 3: Student Trustee.

1. The Student Trustee will be appointed by the Governor of the State and approved by the State Senate. The Student Trustee may be recognized by SGA. The Trustee will not be considered a member of the student senate. The Student Trustee’s responsibility is to assist the Senate and SGA by relating his/her experiences with the Board of Trustees and other officials, providing information, and describing SGA’s relationship to the Universities Community and Board of Trustees.

## Article VI. Revisions and Amendments

### Section 1: Procedures for Amendments and Ratification

1. This Constitution and its Bylaws shall be ratified by a 2/3 vote of Senate.
2. Any member of SGA may submit amendments to the Constitution and/or by-laws of SGA. Such amendments shall be submitted in writing at any regular meeting of the Senate at least one week prior to the Senate taking action on the amendment.
3. The approval of a 1/2 vote of the Senate shall be necessary for the adoption of amendments to the Constitution and/or bylaws of SGA.
4. All amendments shall take effect at the start of the next regular meeting of the Senate, and shall be the official policy of governance on all matters.

### Section 2: Revisions Record

1. Revised 1/91
2. Amended 1/97 - Attendance amendment added.
3. Amended 1/98 - University Athletic Advisory Council amendment added.
4. Revised 4/20/98 - Complete revision and several amendments added.
5. Revised 4/24/01 – Complete revision and several amendments added.
6. Amended 4/21/03 - Complete revision and several amendments added.
7. Revised 4/16/07- Complete revision and several amendments added.
8. Revised 10/12/09 - Complete revision and several amendments added.
9. Revised 3/1/2012 – Complete revision and amendments added.
10. Revised 3/26/2013 – Complete revision and amendments added.
11. Revised 9/23/2013 – Amendment to Article II, Section 2, G.
12. Revised 10/29/13 – Revision to Article II, Section 1.
13. Revised 9/30/2014 – Revision to Article II Section 1, Revision to Article IV Section 1, D, Added Article V Section 3, A,
14. Revised 3/4/15 – Removal of sub point 4 of A, Article III, Section 2.
15. Revised 9/24/18- Removal of part of Article I Section 1B
16. Revised 9/24/18- Removal of RHA and MAC from Article II Section 2B
17. Revised 9/24/18- Amendment to Article VI Section 1C to change 2/3 to ½
18. Revised 2/21/19- Removal of Article 2 Section 3A regarding COI forms