## Whereas: The Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida’s Student Government given the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the Student Body of the University of North Florida; and

## Whereas: The University of North Florida’s Student Government Constitution is the governing document and takes precedence over all other forms of Student Government Law.

## Whereas: The Constitutional Convention is required by law to convene every three years and forward recommended amendments to the Senate.

## Therefore: The following necessary and proper revisions to the Student Government Constitution are being proposed to comply with Student Government laws, make necessary changes and updates in terms of language, make the Constitution broader and more fluid, and ensuring that the Constitution is in line with the University’s long-term vision and plan to expand.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT



# PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of North Florida, in order that we may maintain the benefits of

constitutional liberty and may create a representative government through which the individual student voice can be heard, and which students can actively participate in this University by promoting cooperation among the Student Body, Faculty, and Administration, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Student Government of the University of North Florida.

# ARTICLE I: THE ORGANIZATION

## Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government of the University of North Florida,

hereinafter referred to as Student Government.

## Section 2: Branches of Government

The powers of this government shall be divided into Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. No

person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers appertaining to either of the other branches unless expressly provided herein.

## Section 3: Jurisdiction

Every student is a member of Student Government and shall be allowed to participate so long as they meet all stated qualifications in this Constitution.

## Section 4: Purpose

1. The purpose of this government shall be to represent student concerns in all University standing committee matters while developing and promoting programs and activities of practical value and interest to students. This shall include but not be limited to the following:
2. The allocation of the Activity and Service Fee Budget, hereinafter referred to as the A&S Fee Budget;
3. The evaluation and establishment of student programs;
4. The support and development of student activities, clubs and organizations, publications, and services;
5. The representation of concerns for student morale, welfare, responsibility, and integrity; and,
6. Other activities as may pertain directly to students.
7. The phrase “Student Body Law” shall encompass the Constitution, Titles, Policies and Procedures, and Statutes.

## Section 5: Qualifications

Every Student Government member must be an A&S Fee paying student, enrolled in at least one (1) class during the Fall semester and at least one (1) class during the Spring semester at the University of North Florida, maintain a 2.5 institutional grade point average or higher, unless otherwise approved by the University President and/or their designee, and not be restricted from participation in Student Government by the University of North Florida’s Student Conduct Office. Students seeking membership to Student Government during their first semester shall be exempt from the GPA requirement during their first semester.

Members of Student Government may continue to serve during the summer semester without

being enrolled in a class so long as they are still considered students by the University of North

Florida, and are in compliance with the Student Conduct Office.

# ARTICLE II: THE LEGISLATURE

## Section 1: Composition

The legislative powers of the Student Government shall be vested in the Senate, which shall consist of forty (40) senators as described by Student Body Law.

## Section 2: Terms of Senators

1. Elected Senators: Elected Senators shall be elected for terms of one (1) year and shall be limited to a maximum of six (6) terms.
2. Appointed Senators: If a vacancy occurs, the Student Body President may appoint a substitute with confirmation of the Senate to serve for the remainder of the term as prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 3: Representatives of External On-Campus Student Organizations

1. Representatives of External On-Campus Student Organizations are instated by the Senate President as prescribed by statute and are filled by the current president of each group or their designee.
2. Representatives of External On-Campus Student Organizations are considered non-voting ex-officio representatives in the Senate.

## Section 4: Senate Officers:

There shall be a Student Senate President who shall act as the chief administrative officer of the

legislative branch and presiding officer of the Student Senate and a Student Senate Pro Tempore who

shall assist the Student Senate President in the performance of their duties. The Student Senate

President and the Student Senate President Pro Tempore shall be elected by the Senate from among

its members according to its Policy and Procedures.

## Section 5: Apportionment

General Apportionment:

1. The Senate shall consist of forty (40) Seats, numbered one (1) through forty (40), with one (1) senator occupying each seat.
2. The Senate shall consist of “Chair Seats,” the number of “Chair Seats” corresponds with the number of Elected Legislative Cabinet Members. “Chair Seats” are only occupied by Elected Cabinet Members.
3. The Senate may consist of representative seats for each External On-Campus Student Organization filled by one (1) representative from each group.

## Section 6: Meetings of the Senate

1. Organizational Meeting: Within ten (10) business days of each Spring installment, the Senate shall convene for the purpose of organization and selection of all officers as prescribed by Student Body Law.
2. Regular Meeting: A regular meeting of Senate shall convene during each academic semester a minimum of two (2) times each thirty-one (31) day period, excluding the last week of each semester. The Senate can waive this requirement, for only one (1) meeting per semester, by two-thirds (2/3) vote.
3. Special Meeting: The Student Body President, by written proclamation, presented to the Senate President, stating a legitimate purpose, may convene, forty-eight (48) hours after the presentation, the Senate, in special meeting during which only such legislative business may be transacted as is within the purview of the proclamation, or of a communication from the Student Body President, or is introduced by consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate. The Student Body President’s power to convene the Senate may be prevented only upon a petition of one-half of the Senate’s membership. The Senate’s power of prevention cannot be general in nature and must apply only to the Student Body President's respective proclamation and order to convene.

## Section 7: Definition of Legislation

1. Bills: Bills shall be legislative proposals to appropriate finances, approve Constitutional amendments and revisions, adopt statutory amendments and revisions, and other binding acts.
2. Joint Resolutions: Joint Resolutions shall be resolutions stating the will of Student Government.
3. Senate Resolutions: Senate Resolutions shall be the formal expression of the opinion of the Senate, or the legislative vehicle used for the internal regulation of the senatorial policies and procedures.

## Section 8: Passage of Legislation

1. The origination and passage of legislation in Senate shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.
2. The passage of Senate Resolutions that only express the official opinion of the Senate shall require a majority vote and are not subject to the executive veto power outlined in Section 8 of this Article.
3. The passage of Senate Resolutions that amend or revise Senatorial policies and procedures shall require a simple majority vote of Senate and are not subject to the executive veto power outlined in Section 8 of this Article.

## Section 9: Approval and Veto

1. Every Bill or Joint Resolution passed by majority vote of the Senate shall be presented, by the Senate President, to the Student Body President as prescribed by Student Body Law, but not to exceed five (5) business days.
2. The Bill or Joint Resolution shall become Student Body Law if the Student Body President approves and signs it or fails to veto it within five (5) business days after its presentation.
3. If any legislation, except a General Appropriation Bill, is vetoed by the Student Body President the Student Body President, a presidential veto shall extend to the entire Bill or Joint Resolution.
4. If a General Appropriation Bill is vetoed by the Student Body President, the Student Body President may veto any specific appropriation, but may not veto any qualification or restriction without vetoing the appropriation to which it relates. The Student Body President may not approve any general appropriation which becomes Student Body Law or is appropriated after their term of office.
5. If a Joint Resolution is vetoed by the Student Body President, it shall automatically return to the Senate as a Senate Resolution.
6. After a Bill, Joint Resolution, or specific appropriation has been vetoed, the Student Body President shall transmit written and/or oral objections to the Senate at the next regular meeting.
7. Once the vetoed legislation is presented to the Senate, the Senate has three options:
8. **Override the Veto:** If any Senator motions to override the vetoed legislation at the next Regular Meeting following the Student Body Presidential veto, the vetoed legislation shall be placed on the floor of the Senate and be subject to normal parliamentary motions. It must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. By overriding the veto, the bill can be reenacted, or the specific appropriation be reinstated over which the Student Body President shall have no veto authority. Any bill reenacted under this provision shall immediately become Student Body Law. Any specific appropriation re-instated under this provision shall be allocated with all reasonable brevity.
9. **Amend the Vetoed Legislation:** Vetoed Bills or specific appropriations that are amended in any way after Senate reconsideration shall become de facto a new piece of legislation and be subject to Presidential veto authority.
10. **No Action Taken:** If no Senator motions to override the veto at the next regular session, the vetoed Bill or specific appropriation cannot be brought back to the floor. This provision applies only to vetoed legislation for the purpose of Senate re-enactment or reinstatement and in no way shall infringe upon the ability of Senate to bring any previously vetoed Bill or specific appropriation back through normal legislative procedures, subject again to presidential veto.
11. The University President and/or designee may veto a proposed Student Body Law. The Student Body President must notify the Senate President in writing no later than ten (10) business days after receiving the veto stating the reasons for the University President and/or designee’s veto.

## Section 10: Exceptions

1. Senate shall not enact a Bill or Joint Resolution that conflicts with or violates any Federal Student Body Law, State Student Body Law, Local Student Body Law or ordinance. This shall include but not be limited to Bills of Attainder and Ex Post Facto Student Body Laws The Student Government Judicial Branch shall negate and remove, if presented for Judicial Review, existing Student Government Student Body Law if it conflicts with this provision.
2. Senate shall not enact a Bill or Joint Resolution which adds any qualification or restriction for membership in the Student Government not already outlined in Article I, Section 4. The Judicial Branch shall negate and remove, if presented for Judicial Review, existing Student Government Student Body Law if it conflicts with this provision.
3. A request for speaking privileges during Senate, may not be denied if requested in writing ten (10) business days by the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Executive Cabinet, agency heads, Chief Justice, or any university official.

## Section 11: Enactment of Student Government Statute

1. The Senate shall enact under the procedures outlined in Section 8 of this Article, constitution by Student Body Laws to be known as Student Government Statutes, with the exception of by Student Body Laws concerning elections, which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
2. Enacted Student Government Statutes shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year, unless the Senate votes to immediately enact the statute.
3. Student Government Statute may be enacted sooner if three-fourths (3/4) of the Senate determines the issue to be of urgency to the wellbeing of Student Government and the Student Body after which it will follow the normal legislative process.

## Section 12: Additional Powers and Duties

The Senate shall:

1. Approve and allocate the fiscal budget of the Student Government, subject to the provisions of Section 9 of this Article and Chapter 1009.24 of the Florida Statutes.
2. Establish its own meeting times, rules, procedures, and may with two-thirds (2/3) concurrence remove a member due to the excessive accumulation of absence points.
3. May request information and appearance from any Student Government student official or student officer of any student organization receiving A&S funds.

# ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE

## Section 1: Executive Powers

All Executive Powers of the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Body President of the Student Government assisted by the Vice President and such administrative officers as the Student Body President shall appoint in accordance with this article. The Student Government President shall hereinafter be referred to as the Student Body President, the Student Government Vice President as the Vice President.

## Section 2: Terms of the Student Body President and Vice President

1. Terms: The Student Body President and Vice President shall be elected for terms of one (1) year and shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) terms.

## Section 3: Vacancies

1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Student Body President, the Vice President shall assume office for the remainder of the term.
2. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Vice President, the Student Body President shall have the power to appoint a new Vice President, subject to majority approval from Senate.
3. If a vacancy occurs in both the office of the Student Body President and the office of the Vice President, the Senate President shall assume the office of the Student Body President for the remainder of the term.

## Section 4: Executive Cabinet

1. The Student Body President shall have the power to appoint all Executive Cabinet Officers with majority approval from Senate. The removal of Executive Cabinet Officers shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.
2. The creation, termination, and/or funding of Executive Cabinet Positions shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.
3. The Student Body President must appoint a qualified individual to the position of Treasurer within the first thirty 30 days of taking office. An extension may be filed for approval to the Senate President for an additional thirty (30) days.

## Section 5: Additional Duties and Powers of the Student Body President

The Student Body President shall:

1. Be the chief executive of Student Government; and administer and enforce all Student Body Laws of Student Government while upholding the Student Government constitution; and
2. Co-sign, along with the Student Government Director, on all expenditures from Executive Branch indexes; and
3. Call and preside over executive meetings of Student Government and student assemblies when appropriate; and
4. Oversee executive cabinet and agency operations; and
5. Create and appoint committees, commissions, or agencies not provided in this Constitution, if deemed necessary, provided that these bodies do not contravene Student Body Law; and
6. Appoint aides or other officials not provided for by Student Body Law; and
7. Exercise all other powers and duties provided by Student Body Law; and
8. Address the Student Body using the most popular form of communication regularly throughout their term.

## Section 6: Duties and Powers of the Vice President

The Student Body Vice President shall:

1. Assist the Student Body President in the conduct of government; and
2. Exercise the powers and duties of the Student Body President in their absence and assume the duties of Acting President in extreme circumstances which make it impossible to discharge the duties of the office, or upon their request; and
3. Coordinate alongside the efforts of the Cabinet and assist in the formulation of Cabinet projects, and;
4. Coordinate with the Student Body President, Student Body Treasurer, and Executive Cabinet to accomplish executive projects, and;
5. Appoint aides or other officials not prescribed by Student Body Law; and;
6. Exercise all other powers and duties as prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 7: Duties and Powers of the Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall serve as the executive liaison to the Student Body on all matters pertaining to A&S Fee procedures.
2. The Treasurer shall work with the Senate, Student Government Accountant(s), and Student Government Business Manager in monitoring all A&S Fee accounts and advising all A&S Fee requesters on proper procedure and regulations.
3. The Treasurer shall fulfill all job responsibilities as well as duties prescribed by Student Body Law.
4. This position shall be a member of the Executive Cabinet and regularly report to the Senate
5. The appointment, termination, and duties of this position shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 8: Duties and Powers of the Attorney General

1. The Attorney General shall be an executive position appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
2. The Attorney General shall be the Chief Executive Prosecutor in all Student Government matters.
3. The Attorney General shall fulfill all job responsibilities as well as duties prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 9: Duties and Powers of the Student Advocate

1. The Student Advocate shall be in an executive position appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
2. The Student Advocate shall be the Chief Public Defender in all Student Government matters.
3. The Student Advocate shall fulfill all job responsibilities as well as duties prescribed by Student Body Law.

**Section 10: Executive Agencies**

1. Executive Agencies may be established by the Student Body President, with the head of each agency to be appointed by the Student Body President. Officers of the Executive Agencies shall be responsible to the Student Body President or designee for the execution of their duties and shall be subject to removal by the Student Body President or designee. The heads of the executive agencies may appoint subordinate aides or other officials not provided for by Student Body Law.
2. Courts shall afford considerable deference to the reasonable interpretations of ambiguous or unclear statutes by agencies.
3. Deference for agencies shall be granted when the following conditions are met:
   1. The statute in question is genuinely ambiguous or unclear.
   2. When an agency makes an interpretation of a statute it shall be recorded in that agencies policies and procedures and approved by the Student Body President and/or designee.
4. Courts shall retain the authority to review agency interpretations for arbitrariness, capriciousness, abuse of discretion, or violation of Student Body Law.

# ARTICLE IV: THE JUDICIARY

## Section 1: Judicial Powers

The Judicial Power of Student Government shall be vested in the Judicial Branch.

## Section 2: Composition of the Judicial Branch

1. The Judicial Branch shall be composed of nine (9) total justices.
2. A Chief Justice shall be elected annually from within the Judicial Branch to serve as the presiding officer and shall serve a one (1) year term.
3. A Deputy Chief Justice shall be appointed annually from within the Judicial Branch by the Chief Justice and shall assume the duties of the Chief Justice in the event of their absence.
4. Other officers that the Judicial Branch deems necessary shall be chosen according to the Judicial Policies and Procedures.

## Section 3: Terms of Justices

Terms: Upon installation, Justices may serve a maximum of four(4) years as long as they remain qualified. Acting Justices may also resign their position at any time for any reason.

## Section 4: Installation of Justices

Procedure: When there is a vacancy on the Judicial Branch, the Student Body President shall forward a Judicial Nominee to the Senate to be vetted and confirmed as prescribed by Student Body Law. Upon majority confirmation from Senate, the Judicial Nominee shall immediately be installed as an Associate Justice with all the powers delegated by the constitution and statues.

## Section 5: Jurisdiction and Judicial Processes

1. Powers: The Judicial Branch shall have the power of Judicial Review over all matters under the purview of Student Government. This power shall include and be limited as prescribed by Student Body Law.
2. The Judicial Branch must negate and remove existing Student Government Statute, appropriation, Student Body Law, Joint Resolution, Executive Order, and/or ~~Senatorial~~ policy and procedure when it conflicts with any provisions of the Student Government Constitution.
3. Prior to any judgment that negates or removes existing Student Government Statute, appropriation, Student Body Law, Joint Resolution, Executive Order, and/or policy and procedure that is being challenged on the grounds that it violates Federal Student Body Law, State Student Body Law, Local Student Body Law or ordnance, or University regulation and policy, the Judicial Branch must consult with the University of North Florida’s General Counsel.
4. The Judicial Branch may issue a temporary stay against the application of a Student Government Statute, appropriation, Student Body Law, Joint Resolution, Executive Order, and/or Senatorial policy in time sensitive matters not to exceed ten (10) business days, in order to provide ample time for a judicial hearing and decision. The Judicial Branch shall not issue more than two (2) stays for any one complaint or issue.
5. The Judicial Branch shall serve as the final deciding body for all disputes between Student Government student employees, student members, funded entities such as Registered Student Organizations, and/or elected officials which involve Student Government Student Body Law. Judicial relief in such cases shall be prescribed by Student Body Law but must always be comparable to the judicial power exercised by courts in the United States Federal Court System.
6. General Restrictions: The power of the Judicial Branch outlined in Section 5 of this Article cannot be enacted unless an A&S fee paying student files a written complaint. Furthermore, the complainant cannot be a member of the Judicial Branch and any judgment rendered must be within the purview of the complaint. The Judicial Branch may not exercise legislative authority to Student Government Student Body Law for any purpose.
7. Constitutional Restriction: The Judicial Branch may not change, amend, negate, or remove any provision of the Student Government Constitution at any time for any reason.

## Section 6: Administration Practice and Procedure

1. Quorum for all Judicial Branch hearings shall be set at more than half of the current membership of the Judicial Branch. Membership shall be defined as the total number of Justices, excluding vacant seats and those on a leave of absence.
2. The Chief Justice shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the judiciary, and, in accordance with the Judicial Policies and Procedures, shall be vested with the authority to:
3. Assign duties among the Justices of the Judicial Branch;
4. Conduct and preside over Judicial Branch proceedings;
5. Rule on procedural questions that arise during the course of the judicial proceedings;
6. Report in writing to the Respondent of any complaint filed with the Judicial Branch;
7. Be responsible for administering the “Oath of Office” to all Student Government officers;
8. Inform the Senate of the condition of the Judicial Branch; and
9. Report to the Senate such defects in the Student Body Laws as may have been brought to the attention of the Judicial Branch and suggest such amendments or additional legislation which is deemed necessary.
10. The Judicial Branch shall establish its own meeting times, rules, and procedures as prescribed by Student Body Law.
11. The Judicial Branch may, with two-thirds (2/3) concurrence of all active justices, remove a justice due to the excessive accumulation of absence points.
12. The Judicial Branch shall conduct open hearings for all cases.

## Section 7: Mock Trial

1. Each semester the Judicial branch shall conduct two (2) mock trials. One mock trial should concern a Student Body Title and/or Policy and Procedure and the second mock trial shall consist of the Student Body Constitution.
2. The Chief Justice shall be in charge of all mock trials to further the education of all associate justices in SG Student Body Law.

# ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

## Section 1: Organization

1. There shall be an Office of Elections responsible for the unbiased production and maintenance of all Student Government elections.
2. The leadership of the office of Elections shall consist of a Supervisor of Elections whose qualifications, purpose, and duties shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 2: Eligible Voters

1. Every student currently registered and paying A&S Fees to the University of North Florida shall be entitled to vote in all General and Special Elections.
2. All Students paying A&S fees to the University of North Florida shall be eligible to vote for Senatorial Seats one (1) through forty (40).
3. Student Government will enact no Student Body Law to this section which adds any additional eligibility criteria or Student Body Law which unfairly hinders a registered student’s right to vote.

## Section 3: Candidacy

1. To qualify as a candidate for Student Government Presidential/Vice Presidential elective office and/or Senatorial elective office, one must:
   1. Be an A&S Fee paying student.
   2. Be enrolled in at least one (1) class during the semester in which the election is taking place.
   3. Currently hold a 2.5 institutional grade point average or higher, and not be restricted from participation in Student Government by the University of North Florida’s Student Conduct Office. A student is exempt from the GPA requirement if this is their first semester with the University.
   4. Be capable of fulfilling a full term.
   5. A student who is graduating at the end of the semester in which the election is taking place is not qualified for Student Government elective office.
   6. Exclusive qualifications for Student Government Presidential/Vice Presidential elective office, one must run on a two-person ticket, with a clear distinction of which office each individual is seeking.

## Section 4: Types of Elections

1. Fall Mid-Term Election: The fall mid-term election shall be held once during the fall semester for the purpose of determining which candidates will assume Student Government elective offices Senate Seats one (1) through twenty (20), with the exception of any Special Election called.
2. Spring General Election: The spring general election shall be held once during the spring semester for the purpose of determining which candidates will assume Student Government elective offices Senate Seats twenty-one (21) through forty (40) and Student Body President and Vice President, with the exception of any Special Election called.
3. Special Elections: All other elections which are not General or mid-term Elections.

## Section 5: Senatorial Elective Offices

1. Senatorial Seats one (1) through twenty (20) shall be at-large open for election during the Fall Mid-Term Election.
2. Senatorial Seats twenty-one (21) through forty (40) shall be elected in the Spring semester as described in Student Body Law.
3. The Student body may, upon written petition presented to the Supervisor of Elections bearing the names, student N numbers, and signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the student body call a Special Election for one, several, or all of the seats occupied by appointed Senators or left vacant by elected ones. This Special Election shall be held within twenty (20) business days from the date of the presentation.
4. All further Senatorial election requirements and procedures shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 6: Executive Elective Offices

1. The Student Body Presidential/Vice-Presidential Election shall be held during the spring General Election.
2. All further executive election requirements and procedures shall be prescribed by Student Body Law.

## Section 7: Validation

In the absence of a legitimate challenge to the validity of the entire General, Mid-term, or Special Elections, the Senate shall validate election results no later than the first senate meeting after the last day of the election if all appeals to the Judicial Branch have been resolved.

## Section 8: Installation

1. The installation process shall begin at the next Senate meeting following the validation of either the General, or Special Elections results, as in accordance with Section 6 of this Article. Upon installation, elected officials shall assume all abilities and responsibilities of their respective office.
2. The swearing in of elected candidates must be held within fifteen (15) business days after the election has been validated by the Senate.
3. Elected candidates shall be sworn into office by the Chief Justice, or another member of the Judicial Branch as designated by the Chief Justice, using the following oath:

“I (name of Individual), do hereby swear (or affirm) to uphold the office of (Title), and to abide by the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Florida, the Constitution of the Student Government of the University of North Florida, and to represent the student body to the best of my ability, so help me God.”

1. If one affirms, they may omit the words, “so help me God.”

# ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENT PROCESS

## Section 1: Proposal of Amendments

The following shall be the two processes for the proposal of amendments to this Constitution:

1. Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by a Constitutional Convention formed and established by the Senate President and the Student Body President concurrently no more than once every three (3) years, with equal representation from both branches. The Chief Justice, or any justice designated by the Chief Justice, shall serve as the chair of the committee and shall vote only in the event of a tie.
2. All proposals recommended by majority vote of the Constitutional Convention shall be forwarded to the Senate and must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Senate, or a written petition presented to the Supervisor of Elections bearing the names, student N numbers, and signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the student body.
3. The Senate President and the Student Body President may serve on the committee as ex-officio non-voting members.

## Section 2: Procedure after Proposal

1. All proposed amendments shall be published in the major student publication and/or online in a conspicuous place and otherwise made available to the Student Body for ten (10) business days prior to the vote by the Student Body.
2. Proposals made via the Constitutional Convention and approved by Senate or as written petition bearing the names and signature of at least ten percent (10%) but less than twenty percent (20%) of the student body shall be introduced as a constitutional referendum at the next General Election.
3. Proposals made via a written petition bearing the names and signatures of twenty percent (20%) or more of the student body may be introduced, at the discretion of the petitioner(s), as a Special Constitutional Referendum, which shall be voted on by the student body within fourteen (14) business days of its presentation and shall have the following restrictions:
4. Special Constitution Referendums can individually encompass only a singular subject.
5. Special Constitutional Referendums cannot be proposed during the summer semester.

## Section 3: Ratification

The proposed amendment shall immediately become part of this Constitution if more eligible students vote “Yea” than “Nay” at the General or Special Election and upon Senate validation of said

election.

## Section 4: Friendly Amendments

1. Friendly amendments shall be defined as those amendments that do not alter the intent or any possible legal interpretation of our Constitution.
2. Friendly amendments may be made to this Constitution in the form of a Special Joint Resolution. This Joint Resolution must include all the friendly amendments that are to be made and must present them in their full context. For any such joint resolution to take effect the following procedure must be adhered to:
3. Senate must pass any such resolution unanimously.
4. The resolution must be signed by the Student Body President.
5. The Joint Resolution shall be submitted to the Judicial Branch and prior to the bill taking effect the entire Judicial Branch must meet to discuss the proposed changes and determine if there is conflict with the above definition of a friendly amendment.
6. If the changes are approved unanimously by the Judicial Branch the Joint Resolution shall take effect.

# ARTICLE VII: IMPEACHMENT

## Section 1: Method

Procedural requirements of the impeachment of Senatorial, Executive, Judicial Members and/or independent offices of Student Government shall be prescribed by Student Body Law, pursuant to the following requirements.

1. For a member of the Executive Branch to be impeached, two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate and a majority of the Judicial Branch must concur.
2. For a member of the Legislative Branch to be impeached, two-thirds (2/3) of Senate and a majority of the Judicial Branch must concur.
3. For a member of the Judicial Branch to be impeached, two-thirds (2/3) of Senate and the Student Body President must concur. If the Student Body President does not concur, the Senate may still impeach the Justice with a three-fourths (3/4) vote of concurrence.
4. For a member of any independent office in Student Government to be impeached, two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate and a majority of the Judicial Branch must concur.
5. Upon receipt of a petition of 20% of the currently enrolled A & S Fee paying students of the University of North Florida requesting that an elected or appointed Student Government official be removed from office, within 60 days after the filing of a petition, a referendum must be held in which a majority vote of the students will remove the officer from their seat. Also, the grounds for removing a Student Government officer must be expressly contained within the petition and are limited to the following: malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or conviction of a felony.

## Section 2: Removal

Upon fulfillment of the requirements enumerated in Section 1 of this Article, the impeached official shall immediately be removed from office and may not seek appointment for any Student Government Office until after the next General Election.

# ARTICLE VIII: FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW

## Section 1: Removal

1. All Student Government Members are responsible for adhering to the requirements of the Florida Sunshine Law, the policies and procedures of the University of North Florida, and all other requirements of the Sunshine Act and, the Public Records Act, as specified by law.
2. All individuals requesting to inspect or obtain copies of public records from Student Government shall be permitted to do so as specified in the Public Records Act in Florida Statutes.
3. A statement must be placed in a conspicuous location on the Student Government website and all e-mails sent from Student Government e-mail accounts notifying the recipient(s) that Student Government communications may be subject to public records laws.
4. The Attorney General shall be responsible for educating Student Government members on all provisions and changes to the Sunshine Act and Public Records Act as they relate to Student Government.

# HISTORY

SB-96S-917 (April 4, 1996)

SB-97S-979 (February 24, 1997)

CA-00S-1325 (March 17, 2000)

CA-02SB-1567 (July 26, 2002)

CA-03S-1653 (March 13, 2003)

CA-05S-1854 (NO DATE)

CA-05S-1855 (NO DATE)

CA-05S-1866 (February 27, 2005)

CA-05S-1867 (February 27, 2005)

CA-05SB-1930 (July 25, 2005)

CA-05SB-1932 (October 10, 2005)

CA-06S-1982 (February 13, 2006)

CA-06S-1983 (April 3, 2006)

CA-06S-1984 (February 13, 2006)

CR-08F-2251 (September 15, 2008)

CR-08F-2257 (September 15, 2008)

CR-08F-2263 (November 24, 2008)

CR-09F-2356 (September 28, 2009)

CR-10F-2430 (August 30, 2010)

CR-10F-2448 (October 4, 2010)

CR-12F-2629B (September 24, 2012)

CR-12F-2629B(A) (September 24, 2012)

CR-13S-2680 (February 25, 2013)

JR-13F-2705 (October 21, 2013)

CR-13SB-2700 (December 6, 2013)

CR-14SA-2772 (November 17, 2014)

CR-14SB-2776 (November 17, 2014)

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