**Appendix I: Associated Students Supreme Constitution**

**University of Arkansas**

**Associated Students Supreme Constitution**

Introduction

The University of Arkansas student body passed the first Associated Students Constitution on June 1, 1922. Since then, the University of Arkansas has fundamentally changed, and with it so has the Associated Students, which over time adopted the name Associated Student Government (ASG).

On April 19, 2004, the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees conferred upon the chancellor of each campus the responsibility and authority to approve and establish a structure of student government.

The undergraduate, graduate, and professional students of the University of Arkansas do establish the Associated Students Supreme Constitution for the preservation and improvement of a democratic student government, in order to make ours a more perfect association. The Associated Students Supreme Constitution acknowledges that there are two student bodies at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville: the undergraduate student body, and the graduate and professional student body.

**Associated Students Supreme Constitution**

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**University of Arkansas**

**Associated Students**

**Supreme Constitution**

## Preamble

The Associated Students shall be a democratically elected body that acts as an organized voice for all students at the University of Arkansas. The Associated Students effectively represents students in the University’s decision and policy making process while also promoting citizenship on campus and in the greater community. In doing so, the Associated Students knowingly and responsibly recognizes the role of students in the shared governance of the University of Arkansas.

## Article I – Composition of the Associated Students

### Section 1 – Two Student Bodies

1. The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville consists of two student bodies, the undergraduate student body, and the graduate and professional student body.
	1. Undergraduate students are those students defined by the university as undergraduate students, unclassified pre-baccalaureate students, and unclassified post-baccalaureate students.
	2. Graduate and professional students are those students defined by the university as graduate students, doctoral students, and unclassified post-baccalauarate students. This shall include all students pursuing a master’s degree, a specialist degree or certificate, a doctoral degree, or a professional degree.

### Section 2 – Co-Equal Branches

1. The Associated Student Government shall have two co-equal branches: one for undergraduate students, known as the “Associated Student Government,” or “ASG,” and one for graduate and professional students, known as the “Graduate and Professional Student Congress,” or “GPSC.”
2. ASG and GPSC may both refer to “students” and “the student body” in action and legislation, with the understanding that each speaks and acts only on behalf of their own constituencies.
3. ASG and GPSC relations shall be additionally governed by the Articles of Cooperation, passed and amended by separate two-thirds votes in both the ASG Senate and the GPSC.

### Section 3 – Associated Student Government (ASG)

1. ASG shall be governed by the ASG Constitution, ratified through the process found in Article IV of the Supreme Constitution, and thenceforth amended by the procedures enumerated in the ASG Constitution.
2. ASG has the authority to establish the structure, composition, formation, membership requirements, and all other aspects of design with regard to ASG.
3. Executive powers within ASG shall reside in the office of the ASG President, who shall have the authority to recommend legislation to the ASG Senate, create committees and cabinet positions to address concerns of the undergraduate student body, advocate and lobby for the will of the undergraduate student body to the administration, and otherwise act as the director of the undergraduate student body. No action of the Executive Branch of ASG may directly impact the graduate and professional student body or GPSC without explicit exception provided for by the GPSC President.
4. Legislative powers within ASG shall reside in the ASG Senate, which shall have the right to enact legislation to, in any respect, impact the undergraduate student body or ASG, or to represent the official opinion of the undergraduate student body. Such legislation may not directly impact the graduate and professional student body or GPSC without explicit exception provided for by the GPSC.

### Section 4 – Graduate and Professional Student Congress (GPSC)

1. GPSC shall be led by the GPSC President and governed by the GPSC Constitution, ratified through the process found in Article IV of the Supreme Constitution, and thenceforth amended by the procedures enumerated in the GPSC Constitution.
2. GPSC has the authority to establish the structure, composition, formation, membership requirements, and all other aspects of design with regard to GPSC.
3. Executive powers within GPSC shall reside in the office of the GPSC President, who shall have the authority to recommend legislation to the GPSC, create committees and cabinet positions to address concerns of the graduate and professional student body, advocate and lobby for the will of the graduate and professional student body to the administration, and otherwise act as the director of the graduate and professional student body. No action of the Executive Branch of GPSC may directly impact the undergraduate student body or ASG without explicit exception provided for by the ASG President.
4. GPSC shall have broad legislative powers, including the right to enact legislation to, in any respect, impact the graduate and professional student body or GPSC, or to represent the official opinion of the graduate and professional student body. Such legislation may not directly impact the undergraduate student body or ASG without explicit exception provided for by the ASG Senate.

### Section 5 – Associated Students Supreme Court (ASSC)

1. All Judicial Power shall be vested in the ASSC, consisting of twelve justices.
2. Justices shall serve three-year terms, appointed by the ASG President, and independently confirmed by both ASG and GPSC.
	1. ASG and GPSC may independently determine their own approval processes.
3. The twelve justices shall nominate from within their own membership a Chief Justice to serve a one-year term as the presiding officer of the ASSC, pending independent confirmation by both ASG and GPSC.
	1. ASG and GPSC may independently determine their own approval processes.
4. The Supreme Court shall be governed by the ASSC Constitution, created and maintained by the Justices, and independently approved by both ASG and GPSC. All amendments to the ASSC must be approved independently by both ASG and GPSC.
	1. ASG and GPSC may independently determine their own approval processes.
5. Any student shall have the right to request the Supreme Court interpret the Associated Students Supreme Constitution.
6. All students have the right to appeal initial decisions of the Court.
7. The Supreme Court shall have the authority to settle questions regarding the separation of authority between ASG and GPSC, by interpreting the Associated Students Supreme Constitution.
8. ASG and GPSC may independently establish regulations to utilize the Supreme Court in their respective branches, to create lower courts, to preside over hearings, to settle internal questions regarding the separation of authority within the respective branches, and to interpret the ASG and GPSC Constitutions.
9. No undergraduate student or ASG member may request an interpretation of the GPSC Constitution.
10. No graduate and professional student or GPSC member may request an interpretation of the ASG Constitution.

Section 6 – Joint Resolutions

1. The Associated Students may from time to time pass Joint Resolutions on issues that impact both the undergraduate and graduate and professional student bodies.
2. Joint Resolutions shall be enacted in the following manner:
	1. After passage from its originating legislature by a simple majority, a Joint Resolution will head to the other branch of the Associated Students for passage in its legislature by a simple majority.
	2. Both ASG and GPSC must pass identical versions of a Joint Resolution.
		1. The ASG Senate and the GPSC may create an ad hoc committee to address amendments, although no committee is required.
	3. Joint Resolutions shall require the signatures of both the ASG President and the GPSC President.
		1. If either the ASG President or the GPSC President refuses to sign a Joint Resolution, it fails to pass.
3. Joint Resolutions shall expire:
	1. at the end of the academic calendar year upon which they originally passed; or,
	2. at a time stipulated within a joint resolution; or,
	3. when replaced by subsequent joint resolutions.

## Article II – Finances

### Section 1 – ASG Operating Budget

1. The ASG shall budget shall be allocated, collected, accounted for, and expended in accordance with university policy and all applicable state and federal laws.
2. ASG shall receive funding from undergraduate student fees, donations, the ASG endowment, and any department or campus body that wishes to contribute to ASG.
3. The ASG budget shall be publicly posted on the ASG website, and shall include all revenue and expenses, updated monthly.
4. The Associated Students Supreme Court shall receive funding from the ASG budget.

### Section 2 – GPSC Operating Budget

1. The GPSC budget shall be allocated, collected, accounted for, and expended in accordance with university policy and all applicable state and federal laws.
2. GPSC shall receive funding from graduate and professional student fees, donations, the GPSC endowment and any department or campus body that wishes to contribute to GPSC.
3. The GPSC budget shall be publicly posted on the GPSC website, and shall include all revenue and expenses, updated monthly.

## Article III – Registered Student Organizations (RSOs)

### Section 1 – Classification as Graduate or Undergraduate RSO

1. All RSOs must determine whether to be classified as either an undergraduate or a graduate and professional student RSO.
2. Undergraduate RSOs must register following the process determined by ASG.
3. Graduate and professional student RSOs must register following the process determined by GPSC.

### Section 2 – Regulations and Funding

1. Undergraduate Registered Student Organizations shall receive funding from the ASG Operating Budget and shall be subject to RSO regulations as determined by the ASG Senate and University Policy.
2. Graduate and professional student Registered Student Organizations shall receive funding from the GPSC Operating Budget and shall be subject to RSO regulations as determined by the GPSC and University Policy.

## Article IV – Approval and Amendment

### Section 1 – Ratification

1. Upon passage by separate two-thirds votes in both the ASG Senate and the GPSC, the Supreme Constitution shall go before a vote of both the undergraduate, and graduate and professional student bodies.
2. The undergraduate student body must vote in favor of ratification by a 50% plus-one margin of all votes cast.
3. The graduate and professional student body must vote in favor of ratification by a 50% plus-one margin of all votes cast.
4. After successful votes in both student bodies, as authorized by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, the Supreme Constitution shall be deemed ratified and enacted once signed by the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas.

### Section 2 – Implementation

1. Upon ratification of the Supreme Constitution, it shall go into effect the following Fall Semester.
2. The existing ASG and GSC elected and appointed officials shall finish their term, unless otherwise noted in either the ASG Constitution or the GPSC Constitution;
	1. The standing GSC Speaker will thenceforth be the GPSC President;
	2. ASG Judicial shall thenceforth be the Associated Students Supreme Court.
3. All mention of graduate students, law students, or the GSC in the existing ASG Constitution or Code that disagrees with the Supreme Constitution shall be considered void.
4. ASG and GPSC must ratify the Articles of Cooperation by the end of the following school year after the ratification of the Supreme Constitution.
5. The ASG Senate must ratify a new ASG Constitution by the end of the following school year after ratification of the Supreme Constitution through the following process:
	1. The ASG Senate shall pass the ASG Constitution by a two-thirds vote;
	2. The ASG President shall sign the ASG Constitution;
	3. The undergraduate student body shall pass the ASG Constitution by a 50% plus-one margin of all votes cast held in a widely publicized referendum, following the publicity requirement for constitutional amendments;
	4. The ASG Constitution shall be deemed ratified and enacted once signed by the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas.
	5. All amendments to the ASG Constitution will thenceforth follow the procedures enumerated in the ASG Constitution.
6. The GPSC must ratify the GPSC Constitution by the end of the following school year after ratification of the Supreme Constitution through the following process:
	1. The GPSC shall pass the GPSC Constitution by a two-thirds vote;
	2. The GPSC President shall sign the GPSC Constitution;
	3. The graduate and professional student body shall pass the GPSC Constitution by a 50% plus-one margin of all votes cast held in a widely publicized referendum, following the publicity requirement for constitutional amendments;
	4. The GPSC Constitution shall be deemed ratified and enacted once signed by the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas.
	5. All amendments to the GPSC Constitution will thenceforth follow the procedures enumerated in the GPSC Constitution.
7. The Associated Students Supreme Court shall continue to follow the regulations pertaining to the ASG Judicial Branch found in the ASG Constitution, until ratification of the ASSC Constitution, which ASSC must produce and ASG and GPSC must ratify by the end of the following school year after ratification of the Supreme Constitution.
	1. ASG and GPSC may independently determine their own approval processes.
8. An interim GPSC budget shall remain in effect for two years, or until the GPSC, ASG, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, and the Associate Dean of Students for Campus Life agree to an amendment to the white paper governing the Programs Allocation Board.
	1. The interim GPSC budget shall be equal to 14% percent of the ASG PAB Allocation;
	2. If the aforementioned parties do not reach an agreement by the end of the second post-ratification school year, the GPSC budget shall be equal to 20% of the ASG PAB Allocation.

### Section 3 – Amendments

1. Amendments to the Supreme Constitution may be proposed by a concurrent legislation passed with a two-thirds vote by the ASG Senate and a two-thirds vote of the GPSC or by a petition of ten percent of the undergraduate student body and ten percent of the graduate and professional student body.
2. Amendments proposed must be approved by the undergraduate student body and the graduate and professional student body in a referendum by a 50% plus-one margin of those undergraduate students voting and by a 50% plus-one margin of those graduate and professional students voting and signed by the Chancellor.
3. The ASG President and the GPSC President are responsible for ensuring that all proposed amendments to the Supreme Constitution are posted prominently on the Associated Students webpage, the webpages of both the ASG and the GPSC, and on all social media accounts operated by the Associated Students two weeks before a referendum. Failure to follow this publicity requirement shall result in automatically rescheduling the referendum to a date that meets this requirement.

## Article V – Supremacy

1. This Supreme Constitution shall be the supreme governing authority of ASG, GPSC, and the ASSC, and is supreme in all respects to the Articles of Cooperation, the ASG Constitution, , the GPSC Constitution, and the ASSC Constitution.
2. The Chancellor must approve of all amendments to the Articles of Cooperation, the ASG Constitution, the GPSC Constitution, and the ASSC Constitution.
3. The Articles of Cooperation supersedes any rules and regulations found in the ASG Constitution, the ASG Code, the GPSC Constitution, the GPSC Code, and the ASSC Constitution.

## Amendments