

**Constitution of the
Student Government
Of
Sarasota High School**

Article I: Name and Purpose

- Section I: The name of this organization shall be the Student Government of Sarasota High School.
- Section II: The purpose of this Student Government shall be to:
- a) Provide a democratic forum in which students can address school-related issues.
 - b) Act as the voice of the student population.
 - c) Maintain a continuous communication channel from students to faculty and administration through the School Decision Making Team (SDMT)
 - d) Maintain the treasury of all Classes.
 - e) Issue warrants against the treasury of all Classes.
 - f) Offer a year-long program of social functions and community involvement projects for students.
 - g) Handle those responsibilities inherent in a student government and those responsibilities assigned by the Administration.

Article II: Membership

- Section I: The Student Government shall be composed of:
- a) The executive board as defined in Article III.
 - b) Two elected officers of each class defined by Article III.
 - c) One voting delegate and one alternate from each English class
 - d) Two SDMT representatives as defined by Article III.
- Section II: Attendance:
- a) Delegates must be excused from a meeting by their respective class officer.
 - b) Officers must be excused from a meeting by the executive board.
 - c) The executive board can only be excused by the club sponsor.
 - d) In order to remain a delegate, said delegate must maintain a progressive 80% attendance record.
- Section III: All members must maintain a 2.0 Unweighted Grade Point Average.
- Section IV: Any student of Sarasota High School in good standing can attend meetings in a non-voting capacity

Article III: Officers

- Section I: The elected Officers of Student Government shall be:

- a) Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, Student Body Secretary, and Student Body Treasurer alias the Executive Board.
- b) President and Vice-President alias the Class Officers for each grade level (9-12).
- c) SDMT junior and senior representatives.

Section II:

The Student Body President shall:

- a) Preside at all Student Government and Officer Meetings.
- b) Create any committees as he may deem necessary.
- c) Hold at least monthly meetings with the principal.
- d) Serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
- e) Sign all resolutions past by the Student Government.
- f) Only votes in the event of a tie.
- g) The liaison between Student Government and the administration.
- h) Responsible for planning meetings, and preparing and publishing agendas with the help from the Executive Board, Class Officers and advisor.

Section III:

The Student Body Vice-President shall:

- a) Assist with all duties of the President and shall preside over the Student Government and/or Officer meeting in the event of the President's absence.
- b) Assume the duties of the President upon the President's resignation or removal.
- c) Perform any additional responsibility that may be delegated by the President, Executive Board, and/or Student Government.

Section IV:

The Student Body Secretary shall:

- a) Keep the minutes of all Student Government and Officer Meetings.
- b) Maintain the records of all business and activities.
- c) Keep record of attendance taken by class officers.
- d) Prepare Student Government Directory.
- e) Maintain a file of organized attendance, applications, agendas and minutes and provide a typed copy of minutes and attendance to the advisor within a week of the meeting.
- f) Be responsible for the enforcement of attendance policies, and rules and regulations pertaining to conduct of members, and shall report deficiencies to the Executive Board.
- g) Notify members in writing, of dismissal or impeachment upon direction from the Executive Board.
- h) Carry on all necessary correspondence.
- i) Perform any additional responsibility that may be delegated by the President, Executive Board, and/or Student Government.

Section V:

The Student Body Treasurer shall:

- a) Maintain all accounts receivable and payable.
- b) Perform any additional responsibility that may be delegated by the President, Executive Board, and/or Student Government.

Section VI:

The Class President shall:

- a) Be responsible for and oversee all class participation in functions and events including, but not limited to: Homecoming week and other activities.
- b) Take attendance of respective delegates at each meeting and report them to the student body president.
- c) Perform any additional responsibility that may be delegated by the President, Executive Board, and/or Student Government.

Section VII: The Class Vice-President shall:

- a) Preside over the respective class in the event or absence of the president, either temporary or permanent, or simply by the direction of the president.
- b) Perform any additional responsibility that may be delegated by the President, Executive Board, and/or Student Government.

Section VIII: The SDMT officers shall:

- a) Serve as a student representative at SDMT meetings.
- b) Be the liaison between student government and SDMT.

Article IV: The Executive Board

Section I: The Executive Board shall consist of the four elected officers as defined by Article III Section I and the faculty sponsor who shall serve as ex-officio advisor.

Section II: The Executive Board shall have general charge of the meeting and business of the Student Government, but any action on the part of the Executive Board may be subject to review by said governmental body. The Executive Board shall not be empowered to pass any resolution on behalf of the student population.

Section III: The Executive Board with the approval of the Principal and faculty sponsor may reprimand, suspend, or expel non-executive members for failure to keep grades, failure to participate in Governmental Activities, and continued disruptive behavior.

Article V: Elections

Section I: Delegates:

- a) Must maintain an unweighted GPA of 2.0 at all times during candidacy and term.
- b) Elections will occur during the first week of each English class in each semester.
- c) English teachers will hold a closed ballot election to select one delegate and one alternate from each class. The winner will be selected by the greatest amount of votes and the alternate will have received the second highest amount of votes. They will report both names to the faculty sponsor and executive board.

Section II: Class Officers:

- a) Must maintain a weighted GPA of 3.0 at all times during candidacy and term.
- b) Elections will occur in the beginning of the year and the term will last both semesters.
- c) All students in the class will vote for their respected officers.
- d) In order to on the ballot, candidates must:
 - 1. Be interviewed by faculty sponsor and the executive board.
 - 2. Be recommended by three teachers.
 - 3. Present a speech during a designated time on the school announcements during campaign week.
 - 4. Officers will have a \$25 campaigning limit.

Section III: The Executive Board

- a) Elections will be held during the last month of the school year. Each member will be voted by all members (as defined in Article II, as of 2008) of student government regardless of class.
- b) In order to be on the ballot, candidates must:
 - 1. Submit a resume to the faculty sponsor.
 - 2. Be recommended by three teachers.
 - 3. Have an unweighted GPA of 3.0.
 - 4. Be interviewed by the current executive board and faculty sponsor.
 - 5. Have been a member (as defined in Article II, as of 2008) for at least 1 year.

Section VII: SDMT representatives are placed into nomination at the final Student Government meeting of each school year or the first meeting of the new school year.

- a) Eligibility for student representatives shall be limited to rising juniors and seniors.
- b) Runners up in SDMT election will serve as alternates
- b) The junior representative shall serve a two-year term.
- c) The initial senior representative shall serve a one year term.
- d) In the event that either student rep cannot serve his term, a new election will be held as soon as possible.

Article VI: Committees

Section I: All standing and special committees shall consist of a chair, co-chair, and members. All members of a committee must be a member of Student Government.

Section II: The committee chairs are to report the progress of the committee at general meetings. Student Government is to vote on any major decision that the committee makes.

Section III: Standing Committees

- a) Fundraising
- b) Advertising
- c) Community Service

- d) Prom.
- e) School Improvement
- Section IV: Special Committees will consist of the following, but others may be created as deemed necessary.
 - a) Homecoming Week.
 - b) Design

Article VII: Faculty Supervision

- Section I: The activities of Student Government shall be subject to the approval of the faculty sponsor and the principal.

Article VIII: Meetings

- Section I: The Executive Board and Class Officers must meet on the Monday before each Student Government meeting, unless deemed unnecessary.
- Section II: Student Government meetings shall be called by the Student Body President when it is deemed necessary. However, meetings should be held the first and third Wednesday of each month.
- Section III: Meetings must be advertised through school announcements at least 24 hours before the meeting.
- Section IV: The Student Government shall conduct its meetings according to this Constitution, by policy of the Executive Board, and by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order for all other points.
- Section V: The representatives present at any Student Government meeting shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the quorum number is necessary to pass any motion.
- Section VI: Officers are expected to attend all regular Student Government meetings. Two unexcused absences may result in expulsion after the Executive Board and faculty sponsor have exhausted attempts to solve the truancy, by an affirmative ballot by three officers.
- Section VII: Any member of the student body may attend Student Government general meetings and participate constructively in the process in a non-voting capacity.
- Section VIII: Special Meetings can be scheduled with adequate notice given to members.

Article IX: Vacancy and Removal from Office

- Section I: If for any reason the Office of President is vacant, the Vice-President shall become President.
- Section II: If for any reason any other Elected Office becomes Vacant, the Student Body President shall be empowered to appoint a replacement who shall assume the duties of office upon a majority conformation vote of the Student Government and prior approval by the faculty sponsor.

- Section III: Whenever it becomes apparent to the Executive Board and faculty sponsors that an Officer is failing to perform his duties, the faculty sponsor may call an emergency meeting of the Executive Board to consider facts and any reason why the Office shall not be declared vacant. The faculty sponsor shall preside at this meeting with the principal acting as an ex-officio member. The Officer shall be allowed to provide any defense to the allegations that he deem appropriate. If the other three officers find the alleged facts true and fell that it is in the best interest of the governmental body and for the student population for the Officer to be removed from office, the student body officers shall ask for the resignation of the officer.
- Section IV: If resignation is not offered, the faculty sponsor shall confer with the Principal. If the Principal feels that the removal of the Officer is necessary for the well-being of the student population, he shall authorize the faculty sponsor to call an emergency Student Government meeting.
- Section V: The sponsor shall preside at this meeting. The Officer shall be allowed to present his defense to the entire Student Government. Then the faculty sponsor shall put the following question before the Student Government: "Shall the Office of President be declared vacant?" If two-thirds of the Representatives present vote in the affirmative, then the Office shall be declared vacant.

Article X: Terminology

- Section I: The language used in this Constitution is gender neutral and shall not be construed as prohibition for any person qualified to run for or hold office because of their sex.

Article XI: Amendments

- Section I: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Student Government.

Article XII: Ratification

- Section I: This Constitution will become effective immediately after the endorsement of the Principal, faculty sponsor, and majority vote of the Student Government.