



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
OF GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY  
CONSTITUTION**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Associated Students of Grand Canyon University, are an organization created for students, by students, of Grand Canyon University (“GCU”). It is of the utmost priority to both uphold the Christian values instituted by GCU and to represent all of the students of GCU (“Students”). Through a firm grounding in honesty and truth, we establish this as the constitution of the Association.

***ARTICLE I – Name and Membership***

**Section 1:     Name**

The name of this organization established under this constitution shall be the Associated Students of Grand Canyon University (the “Association”).

**Section 2:     Membership**

All matriculated Students attending a GCU traditional, ground campus on a full-time basis, along with Students who are attending GCU-sponsored study abroad academic programs on a full-time basis, shall be members of the Association (collectively referred to herein as “Association Members” or “Members of the Association”).

**Section 3:     Acceptance Clause**

The Association, while reserving its lawful rights where appropriate to take actions designed to ensure and promote the Christian principles that sustain the Association and the University’s mission and heritage, prohibits unlawful discrimination against an individual based on age, disability, national origin, race, color, religion, sex, veteran status, or any other classification protected by applicable law.

**Section 4:     Voting Members**

Students become voting members of the Senate by following the election procedures outlined in this Constitution.

Section 5: Oath

All elected Members of the Association shall take an oath, upon ratification of the Constitution and at the beginning of each term of office thereafter, affirming that they will faithfully support and uphold this Constitution of the Student Government as well as the policies of the University and will conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the mission and vision of the University.

***ARTICLE II - Rights***

Section 1: Membership Rights

All Association Members have the right to vote in all Association elections, establish and participate in Association organizations, attend Association Senate meetings, attend activities sponsored by the Association, and be considered eligible to hold student government positions.

Section 2: Association Service

All Association Members have the right to be considered for student government offices. Association positions shall be elected or appointed in the means described within this Constitution. All appointments shall be made through a competitive application, interview, and hiring process.

Section 3: Right to Public Record

All Association Members shall have reasonable access to records concerning the Association except those records protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

***ARTICLE III- Object and Authority***

Section 1: Object

In accordance with GCU's Christian mission, the Association exists to serve the Students of GCU. The mission of the Association is to create an enveloping community where fellowship and faith coincide for the benefit of the Students of GCU. The object of the Association is to:

- A. Act as a liaison between the Students, faculty and staff at GCU;
- B. Act in an advisory capacity to the Students, faculty and staff at GCU;
- C. Strive to assist the University in its efforts to ensure the best possible experience for Students; and
- D. Serve as a means by which the student body of the University can efficiently communicate with GCU's Students, faculty and staff.

Section 2: Purpose

The Association is a means by which Students are represented in the governance of the University. The Association is therefore the general interest group on campus advocating in the interest of the University and its Students. This attitude of service will be displayed through addressing Student concerns and building community through various forms of programming. The Association's activities are carried out by two (2) active service branches as described herein, which are open to all Members of the Association in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.

Section 3: Community Respect

The Association and its Members are expected to respect, understand, and accept the differences and similarities that exist within and outside the University community and to balance the interests of all University constituents in the conduct of its business.

Section 4: Authority

The authority exercised by the Association is conferred by the University President and all official actions of the Association are subject to review and revision by the University President or his designee. The Association cannot adopt any policy or take any action that contradicts the University's mission or vision. Only the powers specifically enumerated within this Constitution shall be granted to the Association.

The University President reserves the right, at his/her sole and absolute discretion, to disband the Association and/or revoke the University's consent and approval to utilize the GCU name and its endorsement of the Association at any time.

***ARTICLE IV – Governance and Structure***

Section 1: Structure

The Members of the Association, in accordance with this Constitution, shall govern the Association and comprise the two (2) branches of the Student government, the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch.

Section 2: Executive Branch Governance

The purpose of the Executive Branch is to manage the programs, processes, and services authorized by the Senate in accordance with this Constitution.

Section 3: Legislative Branch Governance

The Senate is the representative body of GCU Students that governs the Association and carries out the legislative process of the Association.

Section 4: Association Advisor

The Office of Student Engagement shall assign an advisor to the Association.

Section 5: Academic Requirements

Members of the Association must maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and be in good academic standing at the time of election and at all times in service as a Member of the Association.

Section 6: Conduct Requirements

Members of the Association must be in good standing with the Office of Student Affairs conduct committee at the time of election and at all times in service as a Member of the Association.

***ARTICLE V – Executive Branch***

Section 1: Officers

The Association Executive Branch shall consist of the Association President, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, and any Cabinet members appointed by the President (each an “Executive Branch Officer”).

Section 2: Term of Office

The Executive Branch Officers are required to perform the functions of their offices on a year-round basis, beginning in the summer, with the exact date to be determined by the Association advisor preceding the election of the Officers. This excludes all official University holidays, winter break and spring break.

Section 3: Powers and Duties of the Association President

1. The Association President shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
2. The Association President shall be the chief spokesperson of the Association and all its Members.
3. The Association President shall appoint the Association Chief of Staff, Cabinet Members, Freshman Class Council, and representatives to any University committees or community groups requiring student representation subject to this Constitution.
4. The Association President shall have the power to create any Association committee, program, service or project deemed necessary and in accordance with this Constitution.
5. The Association President shall have the power to request reports of a general or specific nature of the Senate, or any member of the Executive Branch.
6. The Association President shall be responsible for submitting the quarterly budget. The Association President shall be responsible for all Association funds, and shall be responsible for insuring that these funds are spent according to Legislative Branch funding and GCU policies.

7. The Association President shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Senate.
8. The Association President will attend all regular meetings requested by the University President.
9. The Association President may issue executive mandates at the direction of the University President, which shall not be overturned.
10. In the absence of the Association President, the individual whom will act on behalf of the Association President shall be the Executive Vice President. In the event that two of the above individuals are absent, the Administrative Vice President shall serve as interim Association President until the Senate can appoint one of the remaining members to represent the Association President.
11. The Association President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the Senate within five (5) academic days of Senate approval.

Section 4: Powers and Duties of the Executive Vice President

1. The Executive Vice President shall be the chief spokesperson of the Senate and will preside over and serve as President of the Senate at all regular and special sessions. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining the legislative and business records of the Association Senate.
2. The Executive Vice President shall aid the Association President in carrying out the duties of that office and shall act on the Association President's behalf in his/her absence.
3. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating committees under his/her jurisdiction.
4. The Executive Vice President shall have the power to create any Association Senate subcommittee subject to this Constitution.
5. The Executive Vice President shall only vote in the Senate to break a tie and shall not be considered for quorum.
6. The Executive Vice President, as well as any two (2) senators, shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Senate.
7. The Executive Vice President shall appoint from its Association Members a Vice-Chair who will assume the chair in the case it is surrendered by the Executive Vice President.
8. The Executive Vice President shall appoint from its Association Members an alternate to the Vice-Chair who will assume the chair in the case it is surrendered by the Executive Vice President and the Vice-Chair. All meetings must be chaired by either the Executive Vice President or one of the designated senators.
9. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for finalizing the club recognition process with the Senate subject to this Constitution.
10. All powers incidental to the proper functioning of the Executive Vice President shall be vested in the Executive Vice President unless otherwise stated herein.

Section 5: Powers and Duties of the Administrative Vice President

1. The Administrative Vice President shall have the power to initiate new programs and services subject to this Constitution.
2. The Administrative Vice President shall have the power to appoint Association staff for all programs, services and activities under his/her purview subject to this Constitution.

3. The Administrative Vice President shall aid the Association President in carrying out the duties of that office and shall act in absence of the Association President and Executive Vice President.
4. All powers incidental to the proper functioning of the Administrative Vice President shall be vested in the Administrative Vice President unless otherwise stated herein.

### ***ARTICLE VI- Legislative Branch***

#### Section 1:     Membership

The Association Senate shall consist of eight (8) appointed Members of the Association. The eight (8) Association Members shall exercise full voting rights and privileges. The Executive Vice President, serving in the capacity of President of the Senate, shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the Senate and shall vote as stated in this Constitution.

#### Section 2:     Duties of the Senate

1. The Senate shall hold regular meetings as stipulated in this Constitution.
2. All Senate meetings shall comply with Bylaws to be established by the Association pursuant to Section 2(5) below, which shall not conflict in any way with this Constitution (the “Bylaws”).
3. Any two (2) senators shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Senate. To call a special meeting, notice must be presented in writing to the President of the Senate at least two (2) full business days in advance of the requested special meeting.
4. The Senate shall keep records of its proceedings that shall be available to any Association Member.
5. The Senate must adopt Bylaws before any legislative session that shall not conflict in any way with this Constitution. The Senate may act to change, add or delete the Bylaws at any time during the legislative session, provided such Bylaws do not conflict in any way with this Constitution. The Bylaws shall be available to any Association Member. In the event of a conflict between this Constitution and the Bylaws, the terms and conditions of this Constitution shall take precedence.
6. The Senate shall approve an Association Elections Manual to govern all conduct during Association elections prior to the last meeting in the month of October, preceding elections.
7. A quorum of the Senate will be one half of the members of the Senate plus one, excluding the Executive Vice President.
8. The Senate shall create any Senate Committees it deems necessary subject to the limitations of its authority as outlined in this Constitution. The Executive Vice President shall appoint the members of all Senate Committees.
9. Each member of the Senate shall have one (1) vote and cannot vote by proxy.
10. Senate Members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) academic year and shall serve from the first meeting of the Student Senate in the Fall semester until the last meeting of the Student Senate in the Spring semester.

#### Section 3:     Power of the Senate

1. The Senate shall propose and consider all legislation, including, but not limited to, Senate policies and appropriations.
2. The Senate shall be responsible for approving the quarterly allocation of the Association budget to be submitted by the Association President in accordance with the Constitution.
3. The Senate may establish and be responsible for any official Association programs, services, committees, projects or task forces to further the stated goals of the Association subject to approval of the Association President and to all rules and procedures as stated in this Constitution.
4. The Senate shall approve all official Association programs, services, committees, projects or task forces prior to their functioning.
5. The Senate shall maintain the final approval authority on all official Association recognized student Clubs and Organizations, subject to the procedure outlined in Article VI, Section 5 below.
6. No individual Senate project shall be considered an official Association project without the Association Senate approval.
7. All powers incidental to the proper function of the Legislative Branch shall be vested in the Senate unless otherwise stated herein.
8. All official Association policy must be approved by the Executive Branch and passed by the Senate.

Section 4: Legislation

1. Any Association organization or member may submit legislation to a Senator. The Senator may submit this legislation as a bill or resolution to the President of the Senate for consideration. If approved, the sponsoring Senator may proceed with investigation and research with the intent to recommend to the full body of the Senate.
2. Upon completion of research and investigation, the Senator, in person, shall present his/her findings to the President of the Senate. After this meeting, if allowed by the President of the Senate, the Senator shall present the legislation to the full body of the Senate for a vote.
3. Upon majority vote to pass a bill, resolution, or appropriation, the President of the Senate, on behalf of the Senate, shall formally submit the legislation to the Association President in writing.
4. The Association President shall consider the legislation and shall either:
  - a. Sign the Legislation, thus enacting the bill or appropriation, or:
  - b. Veto the Legislation, thus returning the bill or appropriation to the Senate, or:
  - c. Neither sign nor veto the legislation for a period of five (5) academic days, thus enacting the bill or appropriation.
5. If the Association President vetoes the bill or appropriation, a veto message shall be submitted to the Senate by the next scheduled meeting in written form. Any Senator may call for a veto override. All Senators will have the power to vote. The President of the Senate will chair the meeting. Quorum for the meeting will be six (6) Senators. The Association President's veto can be overridden by six (6) votes. If the Senate overrides the veto, the legislation shall be considered valid.

6. Resolutions are the sole opinion and expression of the Senate and do not require approval of the Association President.
7. All bills, appropriations and resolutions shall pass with a simple majority vote in the legislative session at which at least a quorum of Senators is present.

Section 5: Student Clubs

The University President, or his designee, shall accept and review all applications for the establishment of a Student Club. Upon review, the University President or his designee shall determine whether to make a formal recommendation to Student Senate for formal approval as a University-recognized Student Club.

***ARTICLE VII – Qualifications, Elections, Tenure, and Vacancies***

Section 1: Qualifications

1. All persons holding Association elected or appointed positions under this Constitution must meet Grand Canyon University Student Affairs student leadership eligibility requirements.
2. All candidates for election to office as Association President and Executive Vice President under this Constitution must meet Grand Canyon University Student Affairs student leadership eligibility requirements, must have been enrolled in the University the semester immediately prior to seeking office, and must have served two consecutive semesters on student affairs' student leadership.
3. All candidates for election to office as Association Senators under this Constitution must meet Grand Canyon University Student Affairs student leadership eligibility requirements and must have been enrolled at the University the semester immediately prior to seeking office (except for special elections as allowed in the Association Elections Manual) as a full-time, traditional, undergraduate student.
4. No student shall serve in more than one Association office/position concurrently, except as stated in this Constitution.

Section 2: Election Procedure

1. All elections shall be coordinated and supervised by an Association Elections Commissioner, which shall be appointed by the Association President.
2. Elections shall be governed by an Association Elections Manual which shall be created and adopted by the Senate.
3. All Elections Manual revisions shall be made prior to the end of October, immediately preceding the semester in which the elections shall be held pursuant to Article VII, Section 5 below.
4. Special elections may be called from time to time in accordance with the terms of this Constitution.

Section 3: Term Commencements

Tenure of all Association offices, except as stated otherwise herein, shall be one (1) year beginning May 1 to April 30 of each year.

Section 4: Vacancies

1. In the event of a vacancy in the Senate, the vacant Senator's seat shall be filled by an appointment by the Association President and confirmed by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of approval in the Senate pursuant to a special election.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Association President the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Article V, Section 3.
3. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Executive Vice President, the vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by the Association President and a simple majority vote of approval in the Senate pursuant to a special election.

Section 5: Election dates for Executive Offices and Senate

The Association election dates shall occur no earlier than the third week in January and no later than the second week in April.

***ARTICLE VIII – IMPEACHMENT***

Section 1: Eligibility

Articles of Impeachment may be brought against any elected or cabinet member of the Association.

Section 2: Grounds for Impeachment

Violations of this Constitution, nonfeasance and/or malfeasance, and/or failure to meet eligibility requirements in office shall constitute grounds for impeachment.

Section 3: Power of Impeachment

Impeachment charges may be brought forward by the Senate.

Section 4: Voting Requirement

A majority of the total voting membership of the Senate shall be necessary to bring forth impeachment charges.

Section 5: Due Process

Any person impeached shall be tried within two (2) weeks.

Section 6: Trials

The Senate shall determine the process for trying charges of impeachment.

Section 7: Vote Requirements

A person must be convicted by at least three-fourths (3/4) of the total voting memberships of the Senate. Quorum will be the full membership of the Senate.

Section 8: Consequences

All persons convicted of impeachment shall be suspended from office and the rights and privileges therein.

Section 9: Subsequent Action

Any person relieved of impeachment charges shall have the full rights and privileges of the office restored. Any person convicted of impeachment charges shall be removed from office.

***ARTICLE IX – Recall, Initiative and Referendum***

Section 1: Right of Recall

The right of recall belongs to all members of the Association, as defined in the Constitution.

1. Upon petition of ten percent (10%) of the Members of the Associated Students, the Legislative Branch shall hold a recall election. Elections called in this manner shall include only the elected official(s) name in the petition, and term(s) of the incumbent(s) of said office(s) shall terminate upon the election of successor(s).
2. Any elected officer may be replaced in office through defeat in the recall election, provided that the total ballots cast in the recall election amount to two-thirds (2/3) of the total votes cast at the election in which the officer being recalled was originally elected.
3. Any act of the Legislative Branch may be modified or rejected by a majority of the votes cast at a special election, provided that the matter upon which action is taken shall have been presented to the Legislative Branch by a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the Association's Members. Upon receipt of the petition, the Legislative Branch shall call a special election.

Section 2: Referendum Procedure

1. The Legislative Branch may submit, with a simple majority vote, any proposed legislation to the Association for vote, pursuant to this Constitution.
2. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for passage of the proposed legislation.

***ARTICLE X – Constitutional Amendment Procedure***

Section 1: Initiative and Referendum

Any article or section of this Constitution may be amended by passage by three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Senate, subject to final approval of the University President; provided, however, that should the University President amend or modify the proposed amendment, such proposed amendment shall be re-submitted to the Senate for final approval by three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Senate. All Senators will have the power to vote. Quorum for the meeting will be the full membership of the Senate.

Section 2: Announcement of the Public Change

Upon the passage of any amendment to this Constitution, this Constitution shall be promptly revised to reflect such amendment and made available to any Member of the Association..

***ARTICLE XI – Association Budget***

Section 1: Budget Origination

The Senate shall approve the quarterly allocation of the Association’s budget into specific funds as proposed by the Association President. Funds, whether broad or narrow in scope, are general allocations of the budget towards an Association program or service.

Section 2: Budget Submission

The Association President must prepare and submit the quarterly budget two weeks prior to the end of the quarter preceding budget implementation. Such budget will provide for Association operations through the end of the quarter. Upon submission, it will be considered at the next Senate meeting.

Section 3: Vote Requirements

The budget may be passed by a simple majority vote in the Senate pursuant to the Association Constitution.

Section 4: Failure of Passage

Should the budget fail to pass, the Association President shall submit a revised budget to the Senate pursuant to the Association Constitution within three (3) days.

***ARTICLE XII – Association Advisor***

Section 1: Power of the Advisor

The Association Advisor will be a full-time faculty/staff member of the University and shall have the following powers and responsibilities.

1. Provide advice and guidance to the members of the Association on all matters of importance to the Association.
2. Serve as a conduit, when requested, between the Association and the University President or his designee.
3. Preside over the counting of ballots for all Association elections.
4. Serve as a repository of Association knowledge and provide this information when requested and as necessary to the members of the Association.
5. Serve as an ex-officio non-voting member on all Association boards, committees, and task forces. Attendance at these meetings will not be considered mandatory.
6. Possess the privilege to exercise the final rule on all Association related business, legislation, and dealings, if necessary.

### ***ARTICLE XIII – Rules and Procedures***

1. The Association shall conduct its business according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.
2. This Constitution shall be reviewed in its entirety by the elected members of the Association at the beginning of each fall semester.
3. This Constitution will become effective on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and shall remain in full force and effect until such time as it is amended or terminated in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

*ARTICLE XIV – Approval*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE ASSOCIATION and UNIVERSITY have executed this Constitution on the date first written above.

ASSOCIATION APPROVAL

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Slate Herman  
President  
Associated Students  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Loudon  
President of the Senate  
Associated Students  
Date:

UNIVERSITY APPROVAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Mueller  
University President  
Grand Canyon University  
Date: