

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY

OF

GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Gainesville, Fl.

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Gainesville High School Student Government.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE

The purpose of the Senators and the House of Representatives shall be to provide the students of Gainesville High School a voice in the regulations of all school functions, to provide the students with activities, programs and events to stimulate their education, to unify all student organizations under one controlling body, to promote understanding and communication between faculty, administrators, and students, and to provide students with an active government, where they can voice their opinions, suggestions and complaints.

ARTICLE III
SOURCE OF POWER

The power of the Student Government are those granted by the principal and maintained by the students of Gainesville High School.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Section A- Student Congress

I. Senate

a) Membership

The Senate of Gainesville High School shall be composed of the President of the Student Body, the Vice President of the Student Body, the Secretary of the Student Body, the Speaker of the House, the President of each of the respective classes, and six Senators elected from each of the respective classes.

b) Officers

- (1) Officers of the Senate shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary of the student Body, and the Speaker of the House.
- (2) A recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer of the Senate, a parliamentarian, and a stg.-at-arms shall be elected from the Senate by a majority vote to serve for the school year of which they were elected.
- (3) A clerical secretary will be elected by Senate.
- c) The President of the Student Body shall preside over all meetings of the Senate. In the event the President is absent or unable to preside, the following chain of command shall be used to determine the presiding officer.
 - 1) Vice President
 - 2) Secretary
 - 3) Speaker of the House

If all the Student Body officers are absent, the advisor will either preside or appoint a Senate member to do so. At any time the presiding officer may appoint a Senate member to preside if he/she desires to do so.

d) Elections

- 1) The elections of the Student Body Officers and of the Senate members shall be held in the spring semester at a time designed by the Secretary to the Student Body with the advice and consent of the Senate, except as needed to fill vacancies or Freshman Senators who shall be elected in the month of the new school year.
- 2) Senate members shall be elected by students of their own grade level, except for Student Body Officers who shall be elected by the underclassmen, using secret ballot.
- 3) Senate members other than freshmen shall be sworn on the first day of the school year. Freshmen shall be sworn in immediately following their election. Student Body Officers shall be sworn in immediately following their election. To be sworn in, all Senate member must take the following oath: "I, as an elected member of the Gainesville High School Student Government Senate do solemnly pledge to up hold the Constitution of the Student Government, to carry out all decision and duties of the Senate, including those of any officer which I may assume, and to deal with all persons and problems involved in my office with the utmost honesty, integrity and intelligence that the office deserves." This oath shall be administered by the current Student

Body President.

- 4) To run for the office of Senator, each candidate must:
 - a) Submit a petition bearing the signature of 25 members of their respective classes.
 - b) Submit his/her signature of acceptance of the nomination petition.
 - c) Submit two (2) affidavits of recommendation by two (2) faculty members to the Secretary of the Student Body.
 - d) Have no depts with Gainesville High School.
- 2) House of Representatives
 - a) The House of Representatives shall be composed of five (5) representatives elected at large from each grade level, the vice-president of

each respective class, and one student from each first period class, and one student from each first period class not having a representative. There shall also be a Speaker of the House elected at large and a Vice Speaker of the House who shall be elected from the Senate. A faculty advisor shall also be a none-voting member of the House.

- b) The officers of the House shall be: The Speaker of the House, the Vice-Speaker, a House Secretary, two (2) Sergeant-at-Arms, and a parliamentarian. The Vice-Speaker shall be elected by the House from the membership of the Senate. The Speaker shall appoint a Secretary of the House and Parliamentarian, and two (2) Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected by a majority of the House from its membership.
- c) The Speaker of the House shall preside at all House meetings. In the Event the Speaker is absent or unable to preside, the Vice-Speaker or Faculty Advisor shall appoint a presiding officer.
- d) Elections

- (1) To run for office of the House Representative, each candidate must:
 - a) Submit a petition bearing the signature of 25 members of their respective classes.
 - b) Submit his/her signature of acceptance of the nomination petition.
 - c) Submit two (2) affidavits of recommendation by two (2) faculty members to the Secretary of the Student Body.
 - d) Have no debts with Gainesville High School
- (2) Elections to the House of Representatives shall be held twice a year, each within five weeks of the beginning of the semester. the five House of Representatives elected in the spring and the first period elected house members shall serve for one year.
- (3) House members shall be elected by their own grade level except for those elected from each first period class: those members shall be elected by a majority of the students they represent.
- (4) House members must take the following oath of office: "I, as an elected member of the Gainesville High School Student Government House of Representatives do solemnly swear to support the Student Government Constitution, and to do my best to serve the students of Gainesville High School, to carry out all the decisions and duties of the Student Government, including those of my office I may assume, and to be as unbiased as possible in my operations as a member of the House of Representatives." This oath shall be administered by the present Speaker of the House.
- (5) All voting power shall be done by secret ballots.

e) Executive Committee of the House

- (1) The House shall have an Executive Committee composed of the representatives elected at large from each respective class, the vice-president of each respective class, and the officers of the House.
- (2) The Executive Committee of the House shall set the yearly goals of the house, organize the activities and committees of the House, and provide a general agenda for the full House.

- (3) The Executive Committee shall meet every week in the full House meeting on a date set by the Speaker of the House.
- f) Meetings
 - (1) The House shall meet each Tuesday on rotating period basis, periods 1-5.
 - (2) The Speaker of the House shall have the power to call any special meeting of the House with the approval of the Faculty Advisor.
 - (3) Any member of the House of Representatives that is not in attendance for three unexcused meetings shall automatically be removed from the House unless an appeal is made to the Speaker who may choose to suspend the rules and reinstate the member.
 - (4) All meetings of the House of Representatives shall be run under Robert's Rules of Order.

Section B- Student Advisory Councils

- l) Inter-Club Council
 - a) This council shall be composed of each club president, the president of each of the classes and the student body officers with the Secretary of the Student Body acting as the presiding officer.
 - b) This council shall meet at least once a month at a time designated by the Director of Student Activities.
 - c) Minutes of all meetings of the ICC will be typed and distributed in the Senate, and to the advisor or president of each club and class.
 - d) This council shall have the exclusive power to issue or revoke club charters.
 - e) This council shall serve to coordinate and regulate the clubs of Gainesville High School according to appropriate legislation by the Student Congress.

Section C- Classes

- l. Officers
 - a) The officers of each class shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.
 - b) To be nominated for a class office, a petition bearing the signature of twenty-five (25) members of the respective grade level plus two (2) affidavits from any faculty member and the signature of the nominee must be filed with the Student Body Secretary.
 - c) Candidates for a class office shall appear before an advisory board made up of present officers and class advisor to receive information as to their duties, responsibilities, and privileges.
 - d) All candidates for a class office shall give speech before their respective class on a set date by the Student Body Secretary.
 - e) If the office of class president is vacant for any reason, it shall be immediately filled by the class vice-president. If the offices of vice-president, secretary, or treasurer is vacated for any reason after the first quin, that office shall immediately be filled by the runner-up to that office provided he/she has been an active member in the steering committee, which the steering committee will determine by a majority vote. If the office of vice-president, secretary or

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treasurer is vacated after the fourth quin, the steering committee will determine by a majority vote if that office shall be filled for the remainder of the year or left vacant.

- f) Elections shall be held after the election of the Student Body Officers elections have been made final. Elections shall be by majority vote and if necessary, run-offs will be held no latter than (1) week following the election. All voting shall be secret ballot.
- g) Class Presidents' Duties
- (1) Senior Class President
- a) Voting member of the Senate.
 - b) In charge of all senior class activities.
 - c) In charge of graduation exercises.
 - d) Chairman of the Senior Steering Committee.
 - e) Responsible for money making ideas and collection of class money.
 - f) Responsible for debts which carry into other years.
 - g) Appoint a representative to attend Citizens' Advisory Council.
 - h) Responsible for an efficient and organized process of selling Senior parking slots. Each person owning a slot in the senior lot will receive, at the time of the purchase of the slot, a notice which states a complete set of rules which they are required to follow as long as their senior parking privilege exists. These rules shall be written by the Senior Class President and approved the school principal.
- (2) Junior Class President
- a) Voting member of Senate
 - b) In charge of Junior-Senior Prom.
 - c) Chairman of Junior Steering Committee.
 - d) Responsible for money making ideas and collection of class money.
 - e) Responsible for debts which carry into other years.
 - f) Appoint a representative to attend Citizens' Advisory Council.
- (3) Sophomore Class President
- a) Voting member of Senate
 - b) In charge of Sophomore Frolics (optional)
 - c) Chairman of Sophomore Steering Committee.
 - d) Responsible for money making ideas and collection of class money.
 - e) Responsible for debts which carry into other years.
 - f) Appoint a representatives to attend Citizens' Advisory Council.
- (4) Freshman Class President
- a) Voting member of Senate
 - b) In charge of Freshman Dance, if wanted.
 - c) Chairman of Freshman Steering Committee.
 - d) Responsible for money making ideas and collection of class money.
 - e) Responsible for debts which carry into other years.
 - f) Appoint a representative to attend Citizens' Advisory Council.
- h) Other Officer Duties

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- (1) Vice President - to assist the President and run the meetings in their absence.
 - (2) Secretary - to take minutes at each meeting and write all correspondence to the class.
 - (3) Treasurer - to take account of all money transaction, keeping books on the class money, and writing the treasures report.
2. Class meetings shall be called by the President of the class involved. Any class officer, senator, or house representative who is not in attendance for three (3) meetings shall be automatically removed from office unless an appeal is made to the class advisor. This applies only to mandatory meetings.
 3. The class president can call only one mandatory meetings a month and all other meetings do not count as an absence.

Section D - Student Body Officers

1. Election
 - a) To be nominated for a student body officer, as a petition bearing the names of 75 members of grades 9, 10, 11 (25 of each) plus the signature of the nominee and two affidavits from the faculty members be submitted to the Student Body Secretary before the set deadline.
 - b) All nominees shall appear before an advisory board to receive advice as to duties of their respective offices. This board shall consist of the Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary, Speaker of the House and Advisor.
 - c) The Student Body Secretary will set a time and procedure for the meeting of the student body for the purpose of hearing campaign speeches of the candidates.
 - d) Only freshmen, sophomore and junior class members shall be eligible to vote for student body officers.
 - e) All elections must be by secret ballot.
 - f) To be elected a student body officer, a candidate musty receive a majority of all the votes cast in a general election.
 - g) If run-offs are necessary due to a candidate not receiving a majority of votes cast, these run-offs shall be held on the Thursday one (1) week of the previous election.
 - h) All candidates for student body officers must have attended Gainesville High School for at least one semester and must be a junior. A person may not run for a student body office if he has been found guilty of any serious infraction of the rules of Gainesville High School in the first semester and has approval of the principal.
2. Duties
 - a) Student Body President
 - (1) All duties common to the president of an organization and any other duties prescribed in this constitution.
 - (2) To preside over all Senate meetings.
 - (3) To attend as many meetings of all parts of Student Government as possible.

- (4) To call any special meeting of any part of Student Government, including joint sessions of House and Senate, as he sees fit.
 - (5) To provide students at Gainesville High School with community functions, drives and events.
 - (6) To attend monthly meetings of the Inter-County Student Government.
 - (7) To be responsible for organizing and publishing a monthly Student Government Newsletter to keep the Student Body informed of Student Government's various activities.
 - (8) To chair or to designate a chair to all Special Interest projects to make the Student Body aware of issues of concern to us all as responsible citizens (e.g. Alcohol Awareness Week, Political Awareness Week, etc.).
- b) Student Body Vice President
- (1) All duties common to the Vice-president of an organization and nay other duties prescribed in this constitution.
 - (2) To be in charge of the organization and production of the Homecoming activities.
 - (3) To in charge of campus beatification.
 - (4) To assist the President in the execution of his duties.
 - (5) To be in charge of the organization and production of Rebound Week activities.
 - (6) To attend monthly meetings of the Inter-County Student Government.
 - (7) Coordinate "Students in Government" Week.
- c) Student Body Secretary
- (1) To coordinate all Student Government corropondance.
 - (2) To be in charge of all elections.
 - (3) To preside over all meetings of the Inter-County Student Government.
- d) Speaker of the House
- (1) To preside over each House meeting.
 - (2) To help with the establishment of the intramural program.
 - (3) To provide a liaison between Senate and House.
 - (4) To call joint sessions of Senate and House when necessary.
 - (5) To attend monthly meetings of the Inter-County Student Government.

Section E - Student Government as a Whole

1. Limitation of membership

- a) No member can have full membership in both Senate and House of Representatives other than the Speaker of the House and the Vice Speaker of the House.

b) Major Offices

- (1) The major offices of Gainesville High School shall be the President of the Student Body, Vice-president of the Student Body, the Secretary of the Student Body, Editor of the Newspaper, Editor of the Annual, Speaker of the House, and the Class Presidents.

- (2) No student may hold more than one major office at a time.

2. Vacancies

- a) If the office of Student Body President is vacated for any reason, the Student Body

Vice-president shall immediately become Student Body President.
b) If any student body office other than President is vacated, it shall be filled by a person appointed by the Student Body President with the approval of the Senate until another election can be held to fill the vacant office. This election shall be held within two (2) weeks of the vacancy.

3. Removal of members

- a) Any Student Government member or officer shall be removed from his position in accordance with the school board attendance policy upon violation by school authorities.
- b) If any Student Government member or officer is found guilty of any serious infraction as defined by the school policy and county-wide election guideline, he shall immediately be removed from his position by secret ballot.
- c) The officers of Senate and the House may be removed from office for inefficiency by the Student Body Officers with the consent of the Advisor and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the house concerned by secret ballot.
- d) Members of the House and Senate may be removed from office for inefficiency by the Student Body Officers with the consent of the Advisor and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the house concerned by secret ballot.
- e) A motion for impeachment of any Student Body Officer may be made by any member of Senate or House at any regular meeting of his respective house. This motion shall be voted on by the members present at the next regular meeting following that at which the motion is made. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the total membership of the Senate and House shall be necessary to impeach any Student Body Officers. Officers thus impeached shall be automatically removed from Student Government.
- f) A motion of impeachment of any class officer may be made by any member of the steering committee at any regular meeting of his respective class. This motion shall be voted on by the members present at the next regular meeting following that at which the motion was made. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the total membership of the Senate and the House shall be necessary to impeach any class officer. Officers thus impeached shall be automatically removed from Student Government.

4. Method of legislation

- a) Bills proposing changes or additions to school rules or policies may be submitted in writing at any meeting of either House or Senate by any member of the Student Government.
 - b) If a bill thus proposed is passed by a majority of the votes cast by the Student Congress members, it shall be submitted to the Principal who will either pass or veto it within a reasonable length of time. If vetoed, it shall be returned to the Student Congress together with a statement of the Principal's reason for vetoing the bill.
 - c) If a bill passed in one house of the Student Congress is not passed in the other, it must be then returned to the house of its origin for reconstruction.
5. Student Government Treasury
- a) The Student Government Treasury shall be the internal account of the House of

Representatives and the Senate composed of funds raised by or received for benefit of Gainesville High School students.

- b) All treasury transactions shall be made in accordance with school and county policies.
 - c) Funds may be appropriated from the treasury under the following guidelines:
 - (1) All expenditures shall have the approval of the Senate Treasurer, the Student Government faculty advisor, and the Principal respectively.
 - (2) Expenditures of \$25 or less shall not require approval from either house, but shall be made in accordance with school and county policies.
 - (3) Expenditures greater than \$25 shall be approved by a majority vote of both houses and shall comply with number one.
 - (4) An expenditure request greater than \$25 may be classified as an "emergency expenditure" by the house requesting it when the funds are needed immediately and there is not enough time for the request to be approved jointly. "Emergency expenditures" shall be approved by a majority vote of the requesting house to be submitted for approval by the officers of the other house by a majority vote.
 - d) The Senate Treasurer shall give treasury reports when requested and shall submit a formal treasury report at the close of the school year.
6. The parliamentary authority of the Student Government shall be Robert's Rule of Order Revised.

ARTICLE V
STUDENTS RIGHTS

These are the rights which the students of Gainesville High School hold true for all students regardless of race, creed, or nation origin and subject to restriction placed upon them by the state's and the administrator's interest to efficiently and orderly operate the school.

Section A - Education

Students have the right to an education which is purposeful, significant, and comprehensive. They have the right to participate in their education and to have a curriculum which at least in part reflects their concerns and interests.

Section B - Expression

Within the school program, students should be provided the opportunity for free expression of ideas. Reasonable criticism and reasonable dissent are basic to the educational process. False statements, disruptive or potentially disruptive activities, the use of obscenities and advocating violation of the law or official school regulations are unacceptable means of above.

Section C - Grievance

Students have the right to present petitions, complaints, or grievances to authorities and the right to a speedy judgment regarding the above.

Section D - Dress

Students have the right to determine their own appearance regarding cloths and hair style unless it can be determined that an individual's mode of dress or hair style is substantially disruptive of the educational process or unsafe.

Section E - Constitution Rights

Students retain their United States constitutional process or unsafe.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
FOR
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT ELECTIONS

The purpose of these procedures is to define requirements and suggest guidelines for student elections in high school in the Alachua County Public School System.

A. General Election (Section) Criteria

Specified criteria may include grade level, but may not exclude students on the basis of age, sex, race, or marital status.

B. Student Body and Class Elections

- 1) A grade point average of 2.0 for the two previous semesters is required to run for any office.
- 2) A student must maintain a 2.0 grade point average to remain in office.
- 3) A student who has committed a level III or IV infraction during the two previous semesters shall be disqualified from running for office.
- 4) A student shall be removed from office if he commits a Level II, III, or IV infraction during his term of office.
- 5) A majority of those voting shall determine the winners in any election.
- 6) When possible, voting machines should be used for class elections. Students shall be instructed in registration procedures and the use of voting machines prior to the date of the election.
- 7) Seniors are not permitted to vote for the following year's student body officers.
- 8) Election and ballot counting procedures must be published prior to elections.

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C. Student Selections by Judges

- 1) Students may be selected by judges by specific criteria, e.g., Cheerleading, Flag and Rifle Line, etc.
- 2) When using this method, the specific criterion for selection, and qualification must be given to each participant in writing.
- 3) A student may be permitted to "try out" he and his parent/guardian have signed and returned the criterion sheet to appropriate school personnel.

D. Short Term Election

Homecoming Queens, Kings, M.C.'s, etc. are included in this category.

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1. Grade level requirements may be included in the criteria.
 2. A grade point average of 2.0 for the two previous semesters is required.
 3. Other written election criteria will be given to each participant prior to the selection process.
 4. A plurality vote shall be used.

E. Service Clubs (Florida Statutes 232.39 and 232.41)

1. Students may be selected on the basis of good character, good scholarship, leadership ability, and achievement, provided that full information regarding, principles, purposes and conduct shall be available to all students. Code of Student Conduct, Alachua County Schools.
2. Selection criteria shall not include procedures for the club to perpetuate itself, wholly or partly, by taking new members based on the club membership, rather than the right of any students who qualifies by the rules of the school.

**ARTICLE VI
ADOPTION**

This constitution shall go into effect when it has been approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Body with the approval of the Principal.

**ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS**

Section A

Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed in writing by any member of the Gainesville High School Student Body at any regular meeting of either house of the Student Congress.

Section B

Any proposed amendment shall be voted on by each house of the Student Congress at the next meeting of each house following the meetings at which it was introduced. A majority of the quorum of one house of the Student Congress present at said meeting shall be necessary to pass the amendment.

Section C

Any amendment which is passed by the Student Congress shall be referred to the Student Body. A two thirds (2/3) majority of the student body shall be necessary to ratify any amendment.

Section D

No policy of, or amendment to, this constitution may be initiated or followed by the Student Government or any other body under the jurisdiction of this constitution without following the amending process as outlined. Any policy contrary to what is stated in this constitution, without proper ratification, is hereby prohibited.

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END

GHS BILL - SCORE Election Guidelines

1. All students who meet constitutional qualifications shall be eligible and shall be encouraged to become a candidate for office.
2. All candidates shall have the opportunity for a fair and open campaign.
3. No campaigning shall be allowed within a reasonable distance of the polling place at the polling time, as determined by the Secretary of the Student Body.
4. All voting shall be done by secret ballot.
5. All the ballot counting shall be done under the supervision of the Student Body Secretary and Canvas committee. The candidates, or their representatives, may be present during the ballot counting, if they so choose. No candidate may be allowed to count ballots.
6. All official election results must be made public.
7. All election results shall be determined as official by the Secretary of the Student Body and the Director of Student Activities within one day of the closing of the polls if voting machines are used within three (3) days after the polls are closed if another method is used.
8. No ballot counting shall be done until all the polls have closed.
9. If any one of the candidates is not satisfied that the official result is correct for his or her election, at least one recount of the ballots shall be made.
10. A candidate may request that an election result be ruled void and may request that a new election be held if any of the above guidelines has, in his or her opinion, been violated and this request may be granted by:
 - a) The President and the Secretary of the Student Body with the approval of a majority of the Student Congress and the approval of the Director of Student Activities.