Constitution of the Jesuit Student Government Alliance

Article I: Name

The name of this conference shall be the Jesuit Student Government Alliance.

Article II: Purpose, Mission, and Goals

Purpose

For the purpose of continued communication and collaboration of student advocacy efforts, we move to establish the Jesuit Student Government Alliance (JSGA) as the formal body of sitting undergraduate Student Government Presidents of all Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) member and associate member institutions.

Mission

As stewards of our respective student bodies, it is our duty to cultivate students to their fullest potential, embodying the Jesuit mission and ideals.

Having subscribed to a common program of higher learning and purpose according
to the Jesuit Catholic mission, it is in the best interest of all Jesuit colleges and universities to foster robust collaboration and act as a common resource for one another. This partnership will ensure representation of all AJCU students and a unified promotion of Jesuit principles.

Greater connection between Jesuit colleges and universities will strengthen our commitment to the broader Jesuit Catholic mission while providing opportunities to share unique perspectives on campus issues, government structures and processes, and global concerns.

Making an impact in today's world while protecting the interests of all students requires a unified voice and spirit. The establishment of a Jesuit student leader coalition such as this provides a vehicle for national understanding and solidarity.

Goals

With the establishment of a Jesuit Student Government Alliance, we aim to accomplish the following:

- A consistent line of communication between our respective student governments as represented by their sitting President(s);
- Inter-campus support in providing resources and ideas that promote the development of students according to the Jesuit ideal;
- Nationwide promotion of the Jesuit Catholic Mission;
- A unified voice and coordinated efforts in situations of national concern;
- Demonstration of the global impact of Jesuit education;
- Promotion of diversity, inclusion, and social responsibility;
- Collaboration concerning the unique role of Student Government President;
- Effective sharing of leadership perspectives and visions; and
- Comparison of government structures and practices to optimize efficacy.
Article III: Membership and Duties

Structure

This body shall consist of all undersigned Jesuit Universities, with the opportunity to involve additional national and international Jesuit colleges on the basis of interest.

General Body members are further divided into committees based on geographic territories as determined by the AJCU.

Two active members shall be democratically elected by the General Body to serve as Co-Chairs of the organization every April.

The Moderator provides general direction and wisdom, assists in the Co-Chair transition processes, and maintains historical resources available for use by the General Body.

Position Duties
General Body Member (31)

A. Eligibility
   a. A general member must be the sitting President or equivalent student government representative at a Jesuit college or university that has been formally inducted into the JSGA.
   b. Only the sitting President or equivalent holds voting power at formal JSGA meetings.
      i. Co-Presidents or equivalent are only allowed one (1) joint vote.
   c. General members are automatically active during their elected terms, as defined by their respective universities’ governing documents.

B. Term
   a. A general member’s term as representative to the JSGA matches that of their Student Government President or equivalent position term, as defined by their respective university’s governing documents.

C. Duties
a. Sitting Presidents shall serve in the capacity of a General Body voting member.

b. General Body members shall attend in-person semesterly meetings, including the National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference (NJSLC) and the annual JSGA Winter Summit.

   i. In the event a General Body member cannot attend an in-person meeting, a formal document of appointment must be submitted to the sitting Co-Chairs including:
      1. Reason for absence
      2. Name of voting proxy
         a. Proxy must be an executive board member
         b. Outline of topics on which the proxy will be briefed

D. Powers

   a. Any General Body member shall have the power to motion to hold an emergency meeting of the JSGA.
      i. A motion for an emergency meeting shall be required to pass by a majority vote conducted online.
      ii. Should the motion pass, the JSGA Co-Chairs are responsible for holding a meeting of the full assembly in a timely manner.

   b. General Body members shall also have the power to motion to suspend or remove another General Body member or one of the Co-Chairs.

Regional Chair (5)

A. Eligibility

   a. Regional Chairs must be active General Body members within the territory over which they preside, as prescribed by the AJCU: West, Midwest, Northeast, Central & Southern, and Maryland
   b. General Body members cannot serve as both Regional Chair and Co-Chair.

B. Term

   a. A Regional Chair term shall last one year from the date of election.
   b. The Regional Chair election cycle shall run as described in Article IV:
Policies and Procedures.

C. Duties
   a. Regional Chairs shall serve as chair over the other members of their territory in committee meetings.
   b. Regional Chairs shall organize biannual meetings with their territory representatives, either in person or via video chat, to discuss relevant topics.
   c. Regional Chairs shall reach out to incoming Presidents to help facilitate their transition into the JSGA.

General Body Co-Chair (2)

A. Eligibility
   a. Co-Chairs must be active General Body members.
   b. If an elected Co-Chair ends their term as student government president before their term as Co-Chair expires, they are still eligible to serve the remainder of their term as Co-Chair. Voting power must rightfully be passed to their student government successor.

B. Term
   a. Co-Chair terms last one year.
      i. The election cycle shall run as described in Article IV: Policies and Procedures.

C. Duties
   a. Co-Chairs shall organize and preside over General Body meetings, both in-person and digital.
   b. Co-Chairs shall determine agenda items for meetings.
   c. Co-Chairs shall coordinate communication between General Body members.
   d. Co-Chairs shall keep General Body members well-informed.
   e. Co-Chairs shall record and distribute meeting minutes to all General Body members.
   f. Co-Chairs shall coordinate with the JSGA Moderator and NJSLC/Winter Summit hosts to organize formal meetings and determine program schedules.
   g. Co-Chairs must provide transition documents for incoming Co-Chairs.
h. Co-Chairs must oversee the Moderator search and appointment process.

D. Powers
  a. Co-Chairs may call emergency JSGA meetings if sufficient desire is expressed by the General Body through a majority vote.

General Body Moderator (1)

A. Eligibility
  a. The Moderator should be an administrator with multiple years of Student Government Association experience at an AJCU-affiliated university or college.
      i. The Moderator shall preferably be a staff member of the AJCU.
  b. The Moderator must be available to attend all required meetings.
  c. The Moderator must be able to serve a full 3-year term.

B. Term
  a. The Moderator shall serve a term of three (3) years.
  b. The Moderator shall be appointed in the last year of their predecessor's term.
  c. The Moderator shall assume their position alongside the newly elected Co-Chairs.

C. Duties
  a. Transitioning
      i. The Moderator shall assist outgoing Co-Chairs in updating the transition documents.
      ii. The Moderator shall assist incoming Co-Chairs in the transition process.
  b. The Moderator shall maintain the AJCU-JSGA listserv.
  c. The Moderator shall provide organizational counsel to the Co-Chairs.
  d. The Moderator shall attend all full assembly meetings, whether online, at NJSLC, or at the Winter Summit.
  e. The Moderator must assist in transitioning their successor at the end of their 3-year term.

Communications Chair (1)
A. Eligibility
   a. If an elected Communications Chair ends their term as Student Government President before their term as elected Communications Chair, they are still eligible to serve their remainder as Communications Chair. Voting power must rightfully be passed to their student government successor.

B. Term
   a. The Communications Chair's term lasts one year
   b. The election cycle shall run as described in Article IV: Policies and Procedures

C. Duties
   a. Communications Chair shall manage the JSGA website and all social media.
   b. Communications Chair will manage the relationship with the Director of Communications at the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.
   c. Communications Chair shall assist the Co-Chairs in internal communication within the general body.
   d. Communications Chair shall oversee the creation of statements and other JSGA documents.
   e. Communications Chair oversees official joint statement approval process.

Article IV: Policies and Procedures

Formal Meetings

A. Co-Chairs shall preside over formal meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

B. Quorum is equivalent to one-half of the active General Body membership.

C. The agenda and previous meeting's minutes must be provided to the General Body by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting.
**Election Process**

A. Elections for the two (2) Co-Chairs shall occur no later than one week after the last academic-term Student Government Presidential (or equivalent) election of the JSGA member universities.
   a. Sitting Co-Chairs shall serve as election commissioners for the incoming Co-Chairs.

B. Candidate Eligibility
   a. Co-Chair candidates must meet all eligibility requirements as described in Article III: Membership and Duties.

C. Sitting Co-Chairs shall solicit candidates for incoming Co-Chairs at least one week before elections.
   a. Candidates shall provide the following:
      i. A short biographical description;
      ii. A good quality headshot; and
      iii. A statement of intent.

D. Elections for the five (5) Regional Chairs shall occur one week following the election of Co-Chairs.
   a. The incoming Co-Chairs serve as election commissioners for the incoming Regional Chairs.

E. Newly elected Co-Chairs shall solicit candidates for Regional Chairs immediately after being elected.
   a. Regional Chair candidates shall provide the following:
      i. A short bio description;
      ii. A bio picture; and
      iii. A statement of intent.

F. All elections shall occur through online voting to allow full participation.
   a. Submitted information about each candidate shall be provided on the voting form.
   b. Polling shall be open for twenty-four (24) hours.

**Constitutional Amendments**

A. General Legislation
   a. Legislation shall only be presented during a General Body Meeting.
   b. All legislative proceedings must follow that prescribed by the Roberts
Rules of Order.

c. Any proposed constitutional amendment must be sponsored by a General Body Member, Co-Chair, or Regional Chair.

B. Constitutional Amendment Process

a. A constitutional amendment is subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of eligible voting members present.

b. If an amendment does not reach the required vote of approval the amendment is dead. If the amendment reaches a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval, it is then immediately adopted.

Joint Statements

A. Purpose

a. As Jesuit institutions of higher education, we face many of the same challenges and opportunities within our network. Joint statements may address and respond to issues which arise on any of our campuses, in the world, or in the Church.

b. Joint statements are meant to represent the views of all constituents of the members of the JSGA general body.

c. All statements must reflect our Jesuit values.

B. Voting

a. Voting can be done in-person or via virtual form to be administered by the Communications Chair.

b. A motion must reach a quorum of the General Body and be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval in order to begin writing a resolution in addition to a second motion of approval after the statement is finalized.

C. Process

a. Process for writing joint statements must follow as outlined in the Bylaws (Section TBD)

Emergency Meetings

A. Any General Body Member, Co-Chair, or Regional Chair may motion to hold an emergency meeting.

a. An online poll must be available within 24 hours of this request, and a
majority vote is needed to pass.

b. The Co-Chairs are then responsible for holding the emergency meeting.

Suspension Process

A. In the event that any General Body Member, Co-Chair, or Regional Chair does not fulfill their duties or takes action which conflicts with the Jesuit Catholic mission, they are eligible for suspension.
   a. Procedure to call an Emergency Meeting must be followed.
   b. If both Co-Chairs are called into question, Regional Chairs are responsible for organizing the Emergency Meeting.

B. Proceedings
   a. The General Body member who motioned for the suspension or removal shall be given five (5) minutes to make their case.
   b. The accused member or members shall have five (5) minutes to defend themselves.
   c. The General Body shall take no more than ten (10) minutes to deliberate.
   d. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required to ratify the suspension, along with any conditions outlined during deliberation.

C. If a vote for suspension is successfully passed, the offending member will be removed from any JSGA elected positions and lose voting power for the remainder of their presidential term.

Transitioning

A. All outgoing General Body members are expected to provide information regarding the purpose and duties of the JSGA to their respective successors.

B. Transitions of JSGA positions (Co-Chairs, Regional Chairs) must be led by the outgoing office-holders.
   a. An updated transition document must be provided by the outgoing chair to the incoming chair at the time of their election.
   b. Transition documents must include:
      i. Duties of the position;
      ii. Updated timeline of responsibilities;
iii. Summary of the year’s activities;
iv. A list of topics of focus and suggested topics;
v. The JSGA Constitution;
vi. A sample meeting agenda;
vii. Any other transition notes; and
viii. For Co-Chairs only, planning and programming notes from the past year’s NJSLC and Winter Summit.

**Moderator Appointment**

A. In the second year of a Moderator’s 3-year term, the Co-Chairs and Moderator must reach out to AJCU affiliates to identify interested successors.

B. If more than one potential Moderator expresses interest, the Co-Chairs must hold a General Body vote to determine a final decision for Moderator appointment.
   a. This would occur in the final year of the current Moderator’s term

C. All Moderators must meet the terms of eligibility as described in Article III: Membership and Duties.