



Constitution of the Student Body of the University of South Florida.

We, the Student Body, of the University of South Florida, in order to provide effective student representation before all vested bodies of influence, for the purpose of giving guidance and stewardship concerning the allocation and expenditure of our student finances to serve in the best interest of our student body; and to provide ourselves with the highest caliber of enriching and educational activities and services do hereby establish and ordain this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP AND RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

SECTION I: All students by virtue of their active registration at the University of South Florida are members of the Student Body and are granted all the rights and privileges of this Constitution. The Student Body shall establish a Student Government which shall be governed, accountable to, and maintained by the Student Body to represent their best interests. The Student Government hereinafter may be referred to as “SG”.

SECTION II: The Student Government shall be comprised of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; in addition to functional groups and entities defined within the Student Body Constitution and Student Government Statutes. The powers and responsibilities of the Student Government shall be promulgated by the Constitution of the Student Body and the Student Government Statutes (hereinafter may be referred to as the “Statutes”) which shall not conflict with University Regulations/Policies or any other municipal, state, or federal law.

SECTION III: The differential treatment of a student based on factors including, but not limited to, race, creed, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, cultural beliefs, language, marital status, parental status, veteran status, disability, personal wealth, or any combination thereof, is deemed unacceptable. The denial of due process or the infringement of the substantive rights of any student will not be tolerated.

SECTION IV: All undergraduate members of Student Government shall be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours as degree seeking students and all graduate members shall be

enrolled for a minimum of four credit hours as post-baccalaureate students during the fall and spring semesters unless otherwise provided by the Constitution or Statutes. Summer semester requirements shall be provided by Statutes.

The members of Student Government must be students in good academic standing and maintain a minimum cumulative institutional 2.5 GPA for undergraduate students and 3.0 GPA for graduate students and may not be under disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion as defined by the University Code of Conduct.

ARTICLE II: THE EXECUTIVE

SECTION I: The Executive Branch shall consist of the USF Student Body President, hereinafter referred to as the Student Body President; USF Student Body Vice President, hereinafter referred to as the Student Body Vice President; Tampa Governor; St. Petersburg Governor; Sarasota-Manatee Governor; all department, office, bureau, and agency employees; and all executive appointees; hereinafter may be referred to as executive officers. No executive employee may hold an office in any other branch of Student Government during their term of office in the Executive Branch, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution or Statutes.

SECTION II: All university-wide executive powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Body President. The Student Body President holds the highest office within the Executive Branch and shall have the power to nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Student Government Senate, hereinafter referred to as the Senate, appoint all department, office, and agency directors. The USF Executive Branch shall also consist of a Chief Financial Officer who shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Senate, as outlined in Statutes. Their respective duties and roles within the USF Executive Branch shall be outlined within Statutes.

SECTION III: The Student Body President shall be responsible for the oversight of all USF Executive Branch Entities of Student Government.

SECTION IV: The Student Body President shall nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint the Attorney General, Solicitor General, and Supervisor of Elections, as well as Justices to the USF Supreme Court.

SECTION V: The Student Body President shall recommend students for appointment to, or removal from, University-wide Councils, committees and boards, as outlined in Statutes.

SECTION VI: The Student Body President shall represent the Student Body before the Florida Student Association, the USF Board of Trustees and/or other similar representative bodies.

SECTION VII: The Student Body President shall sign or veto, within ten (10) business days, all constitutional amendments, statutes and appropriations passed by the Senate. The Student Body President's failure to act during this specified time shall be deemed approval of such legislation and appropriations. The Senate may override, by a two-thirds vote, a veto by the Student Body President.

SECTION VIII: The Student Body President shall address the Senate at least once during the fall and spring semesters and may on other occasions at the invitation of the Senate President.

SECTION IX: The Student Body President may call for a referendum of the student body, subject to approval by two-thirds vote of the Senate.

SECTION X: The Student Body President shall initiate the annual budget process by convening an Activity & Service Fee Recommendation Committee, which shall be outlined within Statutes.

SECTION XI: No candidate shall be elected or appointed to any executive office until a certification attesting that the candidate has met all qualifications set forth by this Constitution has been completed.

SECTION XII: In the event the Student Body President resigns, is impeached, or is unable to perform the powers and duties of the office, the Student Body Vice President shall become the Student Body President.

SECTION XIII: In the event that the office of Student Body Vice President becomes vacant for any reason, the Student Body President shall nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint a new Student Body Vice President.

SECTION XIV: In the event of vacancy in the office of Student Body Vice President at the time of vacancy of the office of Student Body President, the order of succession shall be the Senate President, Senate President Pro-Tempore, and Attorney General.

SECTION XV: All branch Campus executive powers of the Student Body shall be vested in each USF Campus Governor. There shall be an elected Tampa Governor, St. Petersburg Governor, and Sarasota-Manatee Governor, hereinafter known as the Governors. The Governors shall have the power to nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Campus Councils, hereinafter referred to as the Councils, appoint all Campus department, office, and agency directors. Each Campus' Executive Branch shall also consist of a Deputy Attorney, Deputy Public Defender, and Deputy Financial Officer who shall be appointed by the Campus Governor and confirmed by the Campus Council, as outlined in Statutes. Their respective duties and roles within the USF Executive Branch shall be outlined within Statutes.

ARTICLE III: THE LEGISLATIVE

SECTION I: The university-wide legislative authority of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Government Senate, hereinafter referred to as the Senate.

SECTION II: The Senate will be composed of representatives from each of the Campuses. The total number of Senate seats will be 60. The apportionment of the seats will be 5 guaranteed seats per campus with the other 45 seats set according to the percentages of the total number of students enrolled at each Campus as outlined within Statutes.

SECTION III: No student may be a candidate for election to the Senate until a certification attesting that the candidate has met all qualifications set forth by this Constitution and has been filed with the Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore.

SECTION IV: The Senate shall have the authority to enact, amend or repeal statutes of Student Government by a majority vote. The Senate shall also have the authority to enact non-binding resolutions, conclusions, memorials, and its own Rules of Procedure that shall not conflict with this Constitution.

SECTION V: The Senate shall have the authority to enact, and repeal, by two-thirds vote, Statutes governing election of all Student Government officers.

SECTION VI: The Senate may propose, by a two-thirds vote, any constitutional amendment.

SECTION VII: The Senate may approve, by a majority vote, executive appointees of the Student Body President. The Student Body President must inform the Senate President in writing within one business day of the initial appointment. Failure to act on any presidential executive appointment within twenty-five business days shall be deemed approval of such appointment.

SECTION VIII: The Senate may override, by a two-thirds vote, a veto by the Student Body President.

SECTION IX: The Senate shall have the authority to approve and allocate all Activity & Service fee appropriations by a majority vote.

SECTION X: The Senate shall have the power to impeach any person within Student Government except those expressly prohibited by the Constitution, Statutes, and University of South Florida Regulation/Policy.

SECTION XI: The Senate shall establish its own meeting times, rules, and procedures. The Senate shall assemble in open meetings at frequent intervals for the deliberation of legislation and the business of the Student Body. No officer may hold an office in any other branch, agency, or department of Student Government during their term of office in the Legislative Branch.

SECTION XII: The Senate shall provide for the compilation and publication of all Senate legislation.

SECTION XIII: The Senate shall establish means through which the Student Body can actively participate in the formulation of policies that affect them.

SECTION XIV: The Senate shall have the authority to appoint any committee necessary to the operation of the Senate, and to appoint and remove any committee chair. No member of the Senate may chair more than one standing committee.

SECTION XV: The Senate shall take their oath of office and elect a Senate President and all other executive officers of the Senate, as outlined in Statutes, prior to the beginning of their term, which begins the first business day following the last Spring Commencement. The duties of the Senate President, the highest elected official in the Senate, and all other officers shall be as detailed by the Student Government Statutes, and the Senate Rules of Procedure.

SECTION XVI: All Campus legislative powers of the Student Body shall be vested in each USF Campus Council. There shall be an elected Tampa Council, St. Petersburg Council, and Sarasota-Manatee Council, hereinafter known as the Councils. The Councils shall have the power to confirm all Campus department, office, and agency directors, and recommend allocations of the Activity and Service Fee to the Senate Fiscal Committee. The Councils may propose amendments to Statutes and the Constitution to the Senate Policy Committee, however, shall not make any changes without the advice and consent of the Senate. The Council Chairs shall be a senator of that respective campus, elected by their respective Council, as outlined in Statutes. Their respective duties and roles within the Councils shall be outlined within Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE IV: THE JUDICIAL

SECTION I: The university-wide judicial powers of the Student Body shall be vested in The Student Government Supreme Court, hereinafter referred to as The Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over all cases and controversies, excluding those delegated to other entities by the University Board of Trustees, involving the Student Body and Student Government, including the power to declare any act of Student Government unconstitutional. Any decision or ruling made by The Supreme Court may be appealed, according to habeas corpus, only by the prosecution or the defense in the controversy or case, to the Dean of Students of the Division of Student Success.

SECTION II: The Supreme Court shall try all cases of impeachment brought by the Senate.

SECTION III: The Supreme Court shall adopt rules for its practice and procedure, including the time for seeking appellate review. These rules may be repealed by Statute enacted by two-thirds vote of the Senate.

SECTION IV: The Supreme Court shall be comprised of nine (9) Justices, five (5) from the Tampa Campus, two (2) from the St. Petersburg Campus, and two (2) from the Sarasota-Manatee Campus. The Student Body President shall nominate and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint Justices who shall serve no more than two (2) terms, unless re-appointed by the Student Body President. These terms shall run concurrently with the terms of the other branches. No Justice may hold an office in any other branch of Student Government.

SECTION V: The Student Body President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a current justice or judge within the judicial branch to serve as the Chief Justice for the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice shall serve for one term and may be appointed for additional terms.

SECTION VI: Cases of impeachment of a Justice or Judge shall be tried by a Judicial Review Committee. The Judicial Review Committee shall be comprised of nine (9) Student Government officials, five (5) appointed by the Student Body President and four (4) appointed by the Senate President. A Justice or Judge may only be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Judicial Review Committee.

SECTION VII: All Campus judicial powers of the Student Body shall be vested in each USF Campus Circuit Court, hereinafter known as the Courts. There shall be a Tampa Court, St. Petersburg Court, and Sarasota-Manatee Court. Each Court shall consist of five (5) Judges who shall not serve more than two (2) terms, unless re-appointed, the Courts shall be appointed by each Campus Governor, with the advice and consent of their respective Campus Council. The Courts shall have jurisdiction over all local campus cases and controversies. Each Court shall have a Chief Judge, appointed by the Campus Governor with the advice and consent of the respective Campus Council. The respective duties and roles within the Courts shall be outlined within Statutes and Judicial Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE V: THE ELECTION PROCESS AND VOTERS RIGHTS

SECTION I: All students enrolled at the University of South Florida shall be entitled to vote in the general, mid-term, and interim elections of Student Government. All students enrolled in the University of South Florida may vote for the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President. Any student has the right to call for a University-Wide initiative/referendum election provided that a petition is signed by at least 5% of the USF student body and is submitted as outlined in Statutes. Any student has the right to call for a division specific senatorial recall election provided that a petition signed by at least 60% of the number of students that voted for Senate within that respective division in the most recent general election is submitted as specified by Statutes. Any student has the right to call for a University-Wide Student Body Presidential recall election, provided that a petition signed by at least 60% of the total number of votes cast for the presidential ticket in the general election is submitted as specified by Statutes. Student Body enrollment figures shall be determined and certified by the Registrar's Office at the time of the initiative/referendum/recall.

SECTION II: All candidates for the offices of Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President shall form joint candidacies, hereinafter known as tickets, so that each voter shall cast a single vote for a ticket. Election for Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President shall take place four (4) consecutive business days beginning on the Monday, nine (9) business days prior to Spring Break. Run-off elections, if necessary, shall be held the following Tuesday and Wednesday. The Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President shall take office the first business day following the last Spring Commencement. The Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President shall serve a one-year term of office. No Student Body President or Student Body Vice-President may serve more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION III: The General Election for the Senate shall take place four (4) consecutive days beginning on the Monday, nine (9) business days prior to Spring Break. Run-off elections, if necessary, shall be held the following Tuesday and Wednesday. Senators shall take office the

first business day following the last Spring Commencement. Senators shall serve a one-year term of office.

SECTION IV: All candidates for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall form tickets so that each voter shall cast a single vote for a ticket for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on their respective Campus. Elections for the Governors and Lieutenant Governors shall take place four (4) consecutive days beginning on the Monday, nine (9) business days prior to Spring Break. Run-off elections, if necessary, shall be held the following Tuesday and Wednesday. The Governors and Lieutenant Governors shall take office the first business day following the last Spring Commencement. The Governors and Lieutenant Governors shall serve a one-year term of office. No Governor or Lieutenant Governor may serve more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION V: The General Election for the Councils shall take place four (4) consecutive days beginning on the Monday, nine (9) business days prior to Spring Break. Run-off elections, if necessary, shall be held the following Tuesday and Wednesday. Council members shall take office the first business day following the last Spring Commencement. Council members shall serve a one-year term of office.

SECTION VI: The interim elections for the Senate and Councils shall take place as deemed necessary by Statutes and the duration of the election shall be two (2) consecutive business days.

SECTION VII: If the election process enumerated in the Constitution and the Statutes cannot select an official and sworn Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President or Governors and Lieutenant Governors within ten (10) business days of the University Spring Commencement, then the Senate of the previous term shall select from the certified pool of Campaign Tickets, a joint Student Body Presidential ticket to be the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President. The Councils of the previous term shall select, from the certified pool of Campaign Tickets, a joint Gubernatorial ticket to be the respective campus Governor and Lieutenant Governor. This shall occur, even if there is pending litigation or dispute. If the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President or Governors and Lieutenant Governors have been selected by this section, then they shall be subject to a Student Body Vote of Confidence by their constituency in the next mid-term election. Should the President and Vice-President or Governors and Lieutenant Governors fail the Vote of Confidence (2/3+1 of the voters), then they shall be removed, and the Order of Succession shall determine the new officers. A Special Election shall take place four weeks after the mid-term election and shall be governed similar to the General Election, except that dates mentioned in the General Election Statutes shall be modified to reflect the Special Election date and time.

ARTICLE VI: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: Amendments to this Constitution shall be placed at the end of this document and must be approved by a majority vote of the Student Body, during a General or Mid-Term Election after a recommendation by the Senate. All final appeals by the Student Body of

changes to this Constitution or the Student Government Statutes shall be heard by the University Board of Trustees or the University President or designee.

If there should ever be conflict between the Student Body Constitution and the Statutes, the Student Body Constitution shall prevail. If there should ever be a conflict between an amendment to this constitution and a prior standing article, the amendment shall prevail.

ARTICLE VII: AUTHORS

Authors TBA.

The USF Student Body Consolidated Constitution enactment date: Monday, May 11, 2020

Enactment Notice: Once ratified by the student body, this consolidated constitution will go into effect on Monday, May 11, 2020 for the 61st SG Term and will replace the three constitutions currently in place at the Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota-Manatee campuses. The SG General Elections that occur in the Spring for all three campuses will be predicated off this consolidated constitution and other related documents as needed to conduct business for the 61st SG Term.