

Constitution of the  
Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement  
of West Virginia University

**ARTICLE I.**

Section 1. Name. The not-for-profit legislative advocacy organization on behalf of the West Virginia University Student Body shall be known as the West Virginia University Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement (WVU SALA).

Section 2. Identification. The official seal of the West Virginia University Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement shall include the image of the Mountaineer silhouetted on the dome of the Capitol Building encompassed by a circular ribbon.

Section 3. Motto. The official motto of the organization shall be "Omnis Vox Duco" which translates in English to "Every Voice Counts".

**ARTICLE II.**

Section 1. Purpose. The organization's purpose shall be to promote and endorse legislative action for the betterment of students in higher education on behalf of the Student Body of West Virginia University on the local, state, and national levels.

Section 2. Power. The organization shall derive such representative power through the approval of West Virginia University Student Government Association as outlined in this constitution.

Section 3. Subordination. The West Virginia University chapter of the Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement will adhere to the West Virginia University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Conduct Code, and shall be subordinate to the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, the Constitution of the West Virginia Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement, the Constitution of the West Virginia University Student Government Association, as well as all federal, state, and local laws. The organization shall annually review its standings to make sure it is in accordance with and complies<sup>1</sup> with [Chapter 6B](#) of the West Virginia State Code.

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<sup>1</sup>Note: [§6B-3-1-B-iv](#) of the WV State Code requires an organization to register with the Ethics Commission if it spends a total of \$150 or more a year on legislative activities. The exclusion to this being travel expenses. (2011)

Section 4. Equal Representation. The organization shall conduct its self in a non-partisan manner and shall always strive to include all student perspectives.

### **ARTICLE III.**

Section 1. Membership The membership of this organization shall be limited to only full-time West Virginia University students. All membership shall only be on a voluntary status to the organization.

Section 2. Equal Opportunity. This organization will not deny membership on the basis of political, economic stats, race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

Section 3. Membership Ethics. All members shall never receive compensation in the means of money or other items of value for actions preformed within the organization. Failure to abide by this section will result in permanent expulsion from the organization.

Section 4. Active Membership. Active membership is defined as a person who has attended a general meeting and/or extracurricular functions of the organization within at least the past semester of West Virginia University academic time frame and continues to display interest in the organization's purpose.

### **ARTICLE IV.**

Section 1. Officers. The organization shall be governed by a group of Legislative Directors or chairpersons. The number of chairpersons will reflect the number of political parties represented within the Congress of the United States by five or more Representatives and/or Senators. Each chairperson will represent one of the political parties represented within the Congress of the United States as previously stated.

Section. 2. Duties. The duties of a chairperson shall include executing or delegating the following responsibilities: Planning and conducting meetings, assigning the positions of subordinate committee chairs, ensuring the proper locations and meeting times are secured each semester, making the ultimate decision upon which issues will be chosen for advocacy (with the approval of the SGA President), enlisting speakers when necessary. The chairpersons will also be expected to execute all other duties assigned by president of student body.

Section 3. Qualifications. The chairpersons will be appointed by the President of the Student Body and must have at least a 2.500 overall grade point average at the time of appointment, and must be a full-time student. Furthermore, the chairperson may not be on academic or disciplinary probation. The chairperson's position will be evaluated by the President of the Student Government Association in the event of misconduct. The President may choose to enforce disciplinary action or dismiss the officer if he or she deems necessary.

Section. 4. Term. The term of a chairperson is one academic year, to begin and end at noon on the Friday before Finals Week of the Spring Semester at West Virginia University.

Section. 5. Vacancy. If a chairperson position becomes vacant for any reason, the President of the Student Body has two weeks to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term under the qualifications of Article IV, Section 3 upon being notified of the vacancy. If the President of the Student Body fails to appoint a new chairperson within the required time then any member of the organization, meeting the qualifications of Article IV, Section 3, may assume the role for the remainder of the term upon petitioning the written approval of at least one third of the organization's membership.

Section. 6. Other Offices. Collectively, the chairpersons may create any additional positions of power or committees as seen necessary for the success the West Virginia University Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement. All additionally created positions shall fall under the authority of the chairpersons and must abide by the regulations and standards set forth by Article IV, Sections 3 and 4.

## **ARTICLE V.**

Section. 1. Meetings. The organization will conduct a general meeting at least twice per regular academic month for duration of the time West Virginia University academics are in session, not including months shortened due to University breaks or final exams.

Section. 2. Voting. Discussions that affect the general well being of Student Advocates for Legislative Advancement must be voted on at a general meeting. For voting to commence, quorum shall consist of at least one fifth of the organization's overall active membership. Only members present at a meeting may vote, and the

chairpersons may only vote in the case of a tie. A simple majority shall be required for all actions not otherwise mandated within this constitution.

## **ARTICLE VI.**

Section 1. Amendments. To amend this Constitution, the proposed amendment must be presented to all of the chairpersons and the organization's membership. Following its presentation, the amendment has three weeks to gain the written approval in petition form of at least two-thirds of the organization's active membership that was active at the time of the amendment's presentation. Once the following criteria have been met within the required time frame the amendment shall become effective.