

BYLAWS TO THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. ELECTION PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTION SLATES

Candidates for the offices of the Student Government Association of Mary Baldwin College shall be nominated on three slates. The first slate will consist of the president of the Student Government Association, the vice president of the Student Government Association, the secretary of the Student Government Association, the treasurer of the Student Government Association, the chairwoman of the Honor Council, the chairwoman of the Judicial Board, the chairwoman of the Residence Hall Association, the chairwoman of the Baldwin Program Board, and the Lead Advocate i.e., the entire SGA Executive Committee. The second slate will consist of class presidents and officers, the Residence Hall Association Board, and the committee chairwomen of the Baldwin Program Board. The third slate will consist of 13 Honor Council members, 13 Judicial Board members, and 7 student advocates.

SECTION 2. ELECTION PROCEDURES

The election procedures will be as follows:

A. All candidates running for SGA offices must meet the following criteria:

1. Have and maintain a 2.4 or better cumulative grade point average. All Executive Committee candidates except the President must have and maintain a 2.75 or better cumulative grade point average throughout their elected term. SGA President candidates must have and maintain a 3.00 or better cumulative grade point average throughout their elected term. The Board of Elections will verify each candidate's GPA through the Office of Student Life to ensure eligibility.
2. Attend spring/special election workshop.
3. Give written consent of acceptance of nomination to the carrier of her petition. The written consent shall be stapled to the petition prior to the petition period. The carrier of the petition is responsible for ensuring that the entire petition process is free from influence. This includes, but is not limited to, attaching the written consent and ensuring that the signatures are obtained without the presence of the nominee or handling of the petition by the nominee.

B. In addition to the criteria in section I.A., all candidates for the Lead Advocate must have at least one year of Judicial Board, Honor Council or student advocate experience. Should the Lead Advocate position be left vacant, a special election will be held in which a candidate without one year's experience may run; if the position is still vacant the Honor Council and Judicial Board chairwomen will concur to appoint a Lead Advocate.

C. Upon receiving written consent of the nominee, the carrier is to obtain a petition anytime after 8 a.m. on Monday in the Security Office. The carrier must return the petition by the sound of the Catholic Church bells at 5 p.m. on Tuesday with thirty Mary Baldwin student signatures to the file folder in the Security Office. Petition carriers may not be another candidate running for election on the same slate. Petition carriers may sign the petition which they are carrying. Students who sign candidates' petitions are not guaranteeing the candidate a vote, only recognizing that the candidate may run in the slate held during that week. All students may sign petitions for the following: Executive Committee, Honor Council, Judicial Board, Residence Hall Association, Baldwin Program Board, and the Student Advocates. For class officers, the members of each candidate's class can only sign petitions for their class.

D. Posting by the candidates shall follow the Posting Policy guidelines as outlined in the handbook. Candidates may begin posting at 5 p.m. Tuesday to the sound of the Catholic Church bells. Candidates must remove any of their posted materials no later than one day after the results of the election have been announced. If a candidate is in a run-off election, she may keep her materials posted no later than one day after the results from the run-off election are announced. Posting includes anything advocating the candidacy of an individual including, but not limited to, stuffing mail boxes and wearing buttons. Candidates may not campaign, "hang out", or solicit votes in Hunt Foyer or the Nuthouse during voting hours on the day of election. Soliciting includes, but is not limited to verbally persuading students for votes at the voting site.

E. For the initial round of elections a “Meet the Candidates” program will be held on the night of the third day, a Wednesday, to give the student body an opportunity to meet and question the candidates of each slate. All candidates running for an office are required to participate. Those who do not will be allowed to run at the discretion of the co-chairwomen of the Elections Board. Candidates are recommended to turn in 36 copies of their campaign flyer to post during Meet the Candidates. Speeches will be made by candidates for Executive Committee offices and class presidents. Current Executive Committee members will ask the candidates for their respective offices questions pertaining to their position. Current class presidents will follow the same procedure. Candidates for Judicial Board, Honor Council, Residence Hall Presidents, and Student Advocates will answer questions asked by the current and/or incoming chairwoman of their respective boards.

F. Polling places will be advertised at least 24 hours before voting and voting will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the fourth day of the period, a Thursday. Absentee voting for those who will be off campus during the entire polling period will take place via the chairwomen of the Elections Board between Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. through Thursday at 7:30 a.m. Those wanting to place their vote during this time should contact the chairwomen of the Elections Board directly. Voting privileges are extended to every member of the Mary Baldwin College Student Association for the present academic year; therefore, seniors maintain the privilege to vote in each applicable race. All students may vote for: Executive Committee (EC), Honor Council, Judicial Board, Residence Hall Association (RHA), Baldwin Program Board (BPB), and the Student Advocates. Class officers can only be elected by members of their class.

G. The Board of Elections will be responsible for tabulating ballots. The candidate with the majority vote, half the number of votes cast plus one, will be the winner. To insure the majority vote in all elections, there will be category A vote for the candidate, category B for no vote. In the case of the Honor Council and Judicial Board at-large members, or Student Advocates, the candidate with a plurality, the most votes cast, will be the winner. If there is no majority winner for any Executive Committee candidate, a new slate for election will be held immediately.

H. The results will be email out by 8:00 p.m. on Thursday. Elections results maybe delayed if the Board of Elections feels like there is a discrepancy in the voting procedures.

I. Run-offs will be handled at the discretion of the Board of Elections.

J. The Board of Elections, Executive Committee and members of the designated organization will make a decision about whether a special election will be held during Spring elections. When unusual vacancies outside of the Executive Committee occur, a special election to fill the office(s) will be held under the above procedures Section 1. Part A–I and a Special Election Workshop will be held. If at any time a candidate is unable to serve in her capacity as an Executive Committee member, it is at the discretion of the Executive Committee to take the following actions:

1. Appoint a student to the vacant position with no voting authority.
2. Leave the position vacant until spring elections.

K. It is the responsibility of Board of Elections to interpret all election procedures. The members the Board of Elections have full discretion to make all decisions pertaining to the interpretations of the election by-laws.

SECTION 3. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for Executive Committee (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, Honor Council chairwoman, Judicial Board chairwoman, Residence Hall Association chairwoman, Baldwin Program Board chairwoman and Lead Advocate) must be enrolled on campus during elections (Term III) and once elected must be enrolled on campus during Terms IV and V and for Terms I–IV of the following academic year. Permission for absence from campus during Term V will be granted at the discretion of the current Executive Committee and the Dean of Students. To be considered for permission to be off campus during Term V, the Executive Committee and Dean of Students will use the following criteria:

1. Is this class pertinent to graduation?
2. Is the class required for the major or minor?

3. Has the student exhausted all possibilities (e.g., Directed Inquiries)?

The student may be absent during Term V if there is consent from the Dean of Students and a three-quarters vote by the Executive Committee. In the case that the student is not granted permission to be absent during Term V, the student will receive a written statement from the Executive Committee giving an explanation of reasoning. Concerns must be addressed to the Executive Committee with a written statement prior to the spring election workshops.

Candidates for Honor Council, Judicial Board, and Student Advocates must be enrolled on campus during elections (Term III) and once elected must be enrolled on campus during Terms IV and V and for Terms I–IV of the following academic year. Permission for absence from campus during Term V will be granted at the discretion of the chairwoman of the applicable organization.

SECTION 4. SENATE

Elections of representatives as senators will be held at the beginning of Term I for both upperclassmen and freshmen. Election procedures will be at the discretion of the vice president of the Student Government Association under the supervision of the Elections Board. If a senator is unable to fulfill her duties for an extended period of time, the residence unit may elect a resident to fill the incumbent's position. Commuter students will elect their representative(s) at the beginning of Term I.

SECTION 5. THE FRESHMAN CLASS

At the beginning of Term 3, the freshman class will elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The election will take place no later than the second week after the beginning of Term 3. The election will take place under procedures described in Section 1. Part A–J. All candidates running for freshman class office must attend the leadership workshop, which will be held one week prior to elections. Prior to Term 3, the Senators and Residence Hall Presidents and other interested students will serve as a Freshman Council.

SECTION 6. CLASS OFFICERS

The election of the senior, junior and sophomore class vice president, secretary and treasurer shall be held the same week as class president elections. Candidates for class office may run for office while participating in off-campus academic programs during Term III, but once elected must be enrolled on campus during Terms IV and V and during Terms I–IV of the following academic year. Those members who may plan to be off-campus during Term V must confer with the director of student engagement. The election of class officers will take place under procedures described in Section 1. Part A–J

SECTION 7. RESIDENCE HALL PRESIDENTS

Residence Hall Association elections will take place after students have been placed on the halls. Candidates for Residence Hall Association may run for office while participating in off-campus academic programs during Term III but once elected must be enrolled on campus during Terms IV and V and during Terms I–IV of the following academic year. Those members who may plan to be off campus during Term V must do so with the following stipulations: that they confer with their own residence hall officers to recommend a student from that residence hall to take over their duties during Term V, subject to approval by the head of that board. Eligible candidates will be voted upon by the members of their prospective hall, house, or apartment. The Residence Hall Association will coordinate elections for the upperclass residential areas under the supervision of the Elections Board.

The Executive Committee and the Residence Hall Association Board will coordinate elections for the freshman residential areas in accordance with the Residence Hall Association guidelines.

The Residence Hall president for each living area will serve as one of the Senators for that Residence Hall and shall be responsible for fulfilling the duties of a senator as described in the SGA Constitution Article VII.