



STUDENT CONSTITUTION

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Constitution of the NYUAD Student Government

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CONSTITUTION OF THE NYU ABU DHABI STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Revised September 2013

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Student Body of New York University Abu Dhabi, are equally empowered and urged to be an active agent in the decisions shaping the policies of this institution. The Student Government is the voice of the Student Body, representing its interests and ensuring its rights. To this end, we strive to uphold all the values established herein by, and for, the Student Body.

I. Mission Statement

- a. The Student Government of New York University Abu Dhabi upholds the cosmopolitan values of this institution and its mission to promote global understanding. The Student Government serves as the voice of students within the New York University Abu Dhabi community and upholds the rights of all students therein. The Student Government promotes the general welfare of the Student Body, pledging to remain transparent and accessible to all students. The Student Government facilitates communication and cooperation within the Global Network University, serving as a liaison between the Student Body of New York University Abu Dhabi, and the respective Student Bodies of other Portal Campuses. The Student Government abides by the tenets set forth in this Constitution.

II. Members of the Student Body

- a. All students enrolled in New York University Abu Dhabi, including students on campus and abroad, are members of the Student Body.
- b. All New York University students of the Global Network University will be included in the Student Body when studying abroad in Abu Dhabi.

III. Members of the Student Government

- a. Executive Board – President, Vice President, Officer of External Affairs, Officer of Student Activities, Officer of Communications, Treasurer, Class Representatives
 - i. Duties
 1. The Executive Board entertains all issues presented to the Student Government.
 2. The Executive Board discusses matters pertaining to club policy, event management, and issues pertaining to the Global Network University as they apply to the Student Body.
 3. The Executive Board appoints chairpersons of all committees.
 4. The Executive Board makes all appropriate revisions to election procedures.
 - ii. Meeting Procedure
 1. The Executive Board meets once a week.
 2. The Executive Board does not meet during Winter Recess, which begins at the start of Winter Break, and ends at the conclusion of

January Term. During the Summer Recess, the Executive Board Officers are on call as needed.

3. All members of the Executive Board have voting rights. In the event of a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.
 4. Any member of the Executive Board reserves the right to invite external parties to contribute to the Executive Board meeting. This decision is approved upon lack of dissent from the Executive Board. In the event of a dissenting vote, a two-thirds majority vote may approve the decision.
- b. General Assembly – Executive Board, Active Members, Observing Members
- i. Duties
 1. The General Assembly hears the concerns of the Student Body.
 2. The General Assembly discusses and votes upon issues brought to the General Assembly by the Executive Board.
 3. The General Assembly discusses and votes upon issues and appeals arising from the Student Funding Board.
 - ii. Meeting Procedure
 1. The General Assembly meets every other week.
 2. The General Assembly does not meet during Winter Recess, which begins at the start of Winter Break, and ends at the conclusion of January Term.
 3. Any member of the Student Body is welcome to attend meetings of the General Assembly as an Observing Member. The Executive Board holds the right to invite any external parties. This decision is approved upon lack of dissent from the Executive Board. In the event of a dissenting vote, a two-thirds majority vote may approve the decision.
 4. The President, Officer of Communications, and Officer of External Affairs determine the agenda for General Assembly meetings. Time must be allotted to hear student concerns from the Observing Members.

IV. The Executive Board

a. President

- i. The President is the official representative of the Student Government and Student Body of New York University Abu Dhabi and is responsible for surveying and meeting the needs of the Student Body.
- ii. The President serves as liaison between the Student Body, Student Government advisor, and administration.
- iii. The President presides over Executive Board and General Assembly meetings.
- iv. The President makes him or herself readily available to meet any student who would like to voice his or her opinions or concerns.
- v. The President sets the agenda for Executive Board and General Assembly meetings in collaboration with the Officer of External Affairs and Officer of Communications.
- vi. The President may establish committees in the General Assembly and is responsible for informing the General Assembly of opportunities to join committees and the number of appointments being made to committees at least one week in advance.
- vii. The President votes in case of a tie in the General Assembly or Executive Board.
- viii. The President will be responsible for representing the Student Government to the Marhaba Planning Process.
- ix. The President's term is set according to the academic year.

b. Vice President

- i. The Vice President assists the President.
- ii. The Vice President assumes all duties of the President in the event of absence.
- iii. The Vice President assumes responsibility for coordinating all Student Government events.
- iv. The Vice President maintains a comprehensive calendar of events in collaboration with the Officer of Communications and the administration.
- v. The Vice President nominates all committee chairpersons for all committees.
- vi. The Vice President's term is set according to the academic year.

c. Officer of External Affairs

- i. The Officer of External Affairs is the official representative of the Student Government and Student Body of New York University Abu Dhabi to the Global Network University and all parties external to New York University Abu Dhabi.
 - ii. The Officer of External Affairs directs all external parties to the relevant committees, clubs, organizations, or individuals, and works in collaboration with the Community Outreach Office, the Career Development Center, and the Embassy Outreach Coordinator.
 - iii. The Officer of External Affairs holds a quarterly open forum with New York University Abu Dhabi students studying at each New York University Study Abroad site.
 - iv. The Officer of External Affairs communicates all relevant information discussed within the Global Network University to the Student Government and Student Body of New York University Abu Dhabi.
 - v. The Officer of External Affairs facilitates communication between clubs and organizations in the Global Network University.
 - vi. The Officer of External Affairs will be responsible for communicating all relevant information from external parties to the Student Body of New York University Abu Dhabi.
 - vii. The Officer of External Affairs term is set according to the academic year.
 - viii. In order to ensure proper representation for members of the student body who choose to study abroad, the Officer of External Affairs may, in coordination with the students who are studying at each site, establish a representative and advisory structure to facilitate the relaying of information and opinions throughout the Global Network University.
- d. Officer of Student Activities
 - i. The Officer of Student Activities assists the Officer of External Affairs.
 - ii. The Officer of Student Activities assumes all duties of the Officer of External Affairs in the event of an absence.
 - iii. The Officer of Student Activities handles all Club Recognition Forms and informs the Executive Board of all club requests.

- iv. The Officer of Student Activities works in collaboration with Officer of Communications and Student Funding Board with all club related issues.
 - v. The Officer of Student Activities assumes the responsibilities of the Officer of Communications in the event of his or her absence.
 - vi. The Officer of Student Activities' term is set according to the academic year.
- e. Officer of Communications
 - i. The Officer of Communications is responsible for all paperwork relating to the Student Government and is the final verifying officer.
 - ii. The Officer of Communications takes attendance and creates minutes for all official Student Government meetings and will make this information available to the Student Body within twenty-four hours.
 - iii. The Officer of Communications assists the Officer of Student Activities with all Club Recognition Forms and responsibilities.
 - iv. The Officer of Communications is responsible for organizing meeting spaces and communicating this information to the Executive Board and General Assembly.
 - v. The Officer of Communications processes all excused and unexcused absences from voting members of the General Assembly.
 - vi. The Officer of Communications will read the agenda and the minutes at every meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly.
 - vii. The Officer of Communications serves as a liaison for communication with the Student Body.
 - viii. The Officer of Communications acts as the official spokesperson of Student Government.
 - ix. The Officer of Communications' term is set according to the academic year.
- f. Treasurer
 - i. The Treasurer chairs the Student Funding Board.
 - ii. The Treasurer manages the Student Government's budgets.
 - iii. The Treasurer is responsible for tracking all Student Government expenditures.
 - iv. The Treasurer will prepare a quarterly report of all Student Government financial activities and club budgets, and will make this information available to the Student Body.

- v. The Treasurer makes available all Student Government and club expenditures to any member of the Student Body upon request.
- vi. The Treasurer works in collaboration with the Officer of Communications to maintain Student Government and club records.
- vii. The Treasurer's term is set according to the academic year.
- g. Class Representatives
 - i. Each Class Representative represents a class of students at New York University Abu Dhabi.
 - ii. Class Representatives are responsible for surveying the needs of their respective classes and conveying the information to the Executive Board and General Assembly.
 - iii. Class Representatives are responsible for holding, at minimum, quarterly open forums with members of their respective classes.
 - iv. Class Representatives communicate with Resident Assistants, Campus Life, and Student Life Offices in order to address residential concerns.
 - v. Class Representatives serve as voting members of the Student Funding Board.
 - vi. Class Representatives' terms are set according to the academic year.
 - vii. In the interest of enhancing Junior Class Representation, the Junior class representatives will be elected and serve on a semester basis during the regular election cycles.

V. The General Assembly

- a. Executive Board
 - i. See Section VI for defining members of the Executive Board.
- b. Active Members
 - i. All incoming students and returning students are Active Members upon arrival at the NYU Abu Dhabi campus.
 - ii. The Active Membership and the voting power vested in the status will be held until the individual is no longer a member of the Student Body or has two unexcused absences in any given semester.
 - iii. After this voting power is lost because of attendance, attending two consecutive meetings will reinstate voting power. The Active Member may vote

- immediately upon having their name registered on the roll call at the second consecutive meeting.
- iv. All new Active Members will be announced by the Officer of Communications at the start of every meeting of the General Assembly.
 - c. Observing Members
 - i. Any member of the Student Body may attend General Assembly meetings as Observing Members.
 - ii. After attending three consecutive meetings, Observing Members from the Student Body may become Active Members.
 - d. Establishing and Maintaining Efficient Means of Communication
 - i. In the interest of transparency and the efficient relaying of information, the General Assembly may establish one or more secure means of communication for all members of the Student Body.
 - 1. These mediums for communication are open to all students in the NYUAD student body.
 - 2. Members of the Student Body wishing to use this means of communication must make their identity clear and may utilize only one channel to participate.
 - 3. The Officer of Communications and Class Representatives will monitor this medium and may delete any inappropriate or offensive postings.
 - 4. When the Officer of Communications and Class Representatives leave office, they will immediately remove themselves as administrators.
 - 5. The Student Government, or any other party, may not block any member of the student body from posting or freely relaying information on the chosen lines of communication.
 - 6. The Officer of Communications will make available all Student Government meeting and times and minutes on the chosen lines of communication.
 - 7. The Student Government will make available an updated and current version of the Student Government Constitution on all chosen lines of communications.
 - 8. The Officer of Communications and Class Representatives may delete any post that, upon

unanimous consent, is deemed inappropriate but is not included in the general guidelines.

VI. Committees

- a. Exactly one week prior to the appointment of committees and their members, the Executive Board will send an open invitation to the Student Body, informing members of the community of the upcoming selection process and providing an opportunity for students to express interest in membership.
- b. Standing Committees
 - i. A Standing Committee is an entity established to handle reoccurring issues or advise the Student Government over a long period of time.
 - ii. Unless specified in the committee's mission, the committee will serve to provide policy proposals and advise the Student Government on topics relevant to their mission.
 - iii. The President may establish standing committees as provided in Section IV of the Student Government Constitution.
 - iv. The President, in collaboration with the Vice President, must provide a mission and guidelines that specify the committee's purpose, the selection criterion for its members, and meeting frequency.
 - v. Any unilateral decision or representative powers granted to a standing committee will be included in the committee's mission, and approved by the General Assembly.
 - vi. The committee chair will provide a full account of the deliberations of his or her committee to the General Assembly and represent the committee's position when advising the General Assembly.
- c. Temporary Committees
 - i. A Temporary Committee is an entity created to handle a specific issue at a certain time and, upon completion of the committee's purpose, is dissolved.
 - ii. Unlike a Standing Committee, a Temporary Committee cannot be granted unilateral decision-making or representative powers.
 - iii. The President may establish temporary committees as provided in Section IV of the Student Government Constitution.
 - iv. The President, in collaboration with the Vice President, must provide a mission and guidelines that

specify the committee's purpose, the selection criterion for its members, meeting frequency upon its creation.

- v. The committee chair will provide a full account of the deliberations of his or her committee to the Executive Board and represent the committee's position when advising the General Assembly.

VII. Voting Procedure

a. Executive Board

- i. Each member of the Executive Board, except for the President, has one equal vote.
- ii. The quorum of voting members of the Executive Board is four-fifths. Before Class Representatives are elected, all members of the Executive Board must be present for a quorum.
- iii. Any member of the Executive Board may motion for a vote. The President may entertain or overrule the motion. A majority vote is required to pass a motion. The President's decision may be overruled with a two-thirds vote by the Executive Board.
- iv. Any member of the Executive Board may motion for a vote to be passed on to the General Assembly. A minority one-third vote is required to pass a motion to the General Assembly.
- v. If one-third of the Executive Board abstains from a vote, the issue must be passed to the General Assembly.

b. General Assembly

i. Executive Board

- 1. The voting power of each member of the Executive Board will be the equivalent of the vote of one Active Member in the General Assembly.

ii. Active Members

- 1. The voting power of each member of the Executive Board will be the equivalent of the vote of one member of the Executive Board in the General Assembly.

iii. Observing Members

- 1. Observing Members hold no voting in the General Assembly, but have the right to take the floor.

- iv. The General Assembly may pass a motion to be voted upon by the Student Body with a minority one-

third vote. If a motion is passed to a vote by the Student Body, a referendum will be held. A majority vote by the Student Body will pass the motion.

- v. The quorum of voting members is two-thirds of the Executive Board, except for the President. Before Class Representatives are elected during Fall Semester, all officers of the Executive Board must be present.
- vi. Any member of the General Assembly may motion for a vote. The President may entertain or overrule the motion.
- vii. A majority vote is required to pass all motions raised in the General Assembly.
- viii. If the majority of the General Assembly abstains from a vote, the issue will be passed to the Student Body. An abstention is counted as a non-vote.

VIII. Election Procedures

a. Eligibility for Office

- i. In order to be eligible to run for a position in the NYUAD Student Government, students must be Active Members of the General Assembly. Exempted from this rule are students studying abroad and First-Year Students vying for the Class Representative position.
- ii. Elected members of the Student Government must be present for the entirety of their elected term, except for Winter Recess. However, candidates may run for office while not studying in Abu Dhabi during semesters abroad.
- iii. Class Representatives must be elected from their respective classes (i.e. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior).
- iv. If a candidate already holds an elected position in the Student Government, then he or she must resign in order to declare candidacy.

b. Election Procedure for the Executive Board

- i. Officers: President, Vice President, Officer of External Affairs, Officer of Student Activities, Officer of Communications, Treasurer
 - 1. Officers will be elected in the third to last week of Fall Semester.
 - 2. A three-person Election Board, appointed by the Executive Board, will oversee elections of Executive Board Officials.

3. Candidates will announce their candidacy to the Election Board one week prior to the election.
 4. Candidates must adhere to the environmental standards of the Campaign Procedures.
 5. Students enrolled in New York University Abu Dhabi will cast votes via a secret ballot election that will be open for at least twenty-four hours.
 - a. Ballots will be sent to all New York University Abu Dhabi students abroad forty-eight hours before the regular election process. Ballots from abroad will be handled confidentially via the Internet.
 6. The results will be counted, recounted and posted within twenty-four hours after the conclusion of the election process.
 7. Officers of the Executive Board take office immediately after Winter Recess.
- ii. Class Representatives: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior
1. Class Representatives will be elected on the fourth week of Fall Semester.
 2. A three-person Election Board, appointed by the Executive Committee, will oversee elections of Class Representatives.
 3. Candidates will announce their candidacy to the Election Board one week prior to the election.
 4. Candidates may not use paper advertisements (i.e. posters, flyers) for their campaigns.
 5. Students enrolled in New York University Abu Dhabi will cast votes via a secret ballot election that will be open for at least twenty-four hours.
 - a. Ballots will be sent to all New York University Abu Dhabi students abroad forty-eight hours before the regular election process. Ballots from abroad will be handled confidentially via the Internet.
 6. The results will be counted, recounted and posted within twenty-four hours after the conclusion of the election process.
 7. Class Representatives take office immediately.
- c. Election Board
- i. The three-person Election Board will be appointed four weeks prior to elections of the Executive Board.
 - ii. Exactly one week prior to the appointment of the Election Board, the Executive Board will send an open

invitation to the Student Body, informing members of the community of the upcoming selection process and providing an opportunity for students to express interest in membership.

- iii. Members of the Executive Board may not serve on the Election Board.
- iv. The Election Board is responsible for enforcing proper election procedures.
- v. The Election Board will be responsible for deeming if campaign material and/or behavior are inappropriate.
- vi. The Election Board can initiate the dismissal of a candidate running for office.
 - 1. During elections of Officers of the Executive Board, the Class Representatives will determine whether or not a candidate is ineligible to run.
 - 2. During elections of Class Representatives of the Executive Board, the Officers of the Executive Board will determine whether or not a candidate is ineligible to run.
- vii. The Election Board may recruit volunteers for the duration of the election at its discretion.
 - 1. Volunteers may not run for any office or be involved in counting the votes.
- viii. The Election Board will be disbanded after the elections over which they preside.

d. Special Elections

- i. Removal or Inability to Serve
 - 1. An emergency election will be held in the event that any member of the Executive Board is rendered unable to serve.
 - a. In the event that any member of the Executive Board is rendered unable to serve before the fourth quarter of their stay in office, the chair of the Executive Board will conduct a special election. This special election will yield to regular election rules.
 - b. In the event that a member of the Executive Board is unable to serve during the fourth quarter of their stay in office, a replacement will be appointed through a majority vote of the Executive Board. Any member of the Executive Board may nominate a candidate to fill this position.

- e. Amendments
 - i. Organization and Elections Effective 2011
 - 1. The Student Government Planning Committee will appoint the Election Board for the Officers special election.
 - 2. The Officers of the Executive Board will be elected by special election upon ratification of the Student Government Constitution and will serve until regular elections at the end of Fall Semester.
 - 3. The Student Funding Board will convene when Class Representatives are elected in the beginning of the Fall Semester.
 - 4. The Officers of the Executive Board will take on all other functions of the Student Government until Class Representatives are elected in the Fall Semester.
 - 5. All meetings attended by observing members of the General Assembly will be recorded and will count toward the three consecutive meetings required to become an Active Member.
 - ii. Organization and Elections Effective 2012
 - 1. Each class will elect two representatives to represent their class and to serve on the Student Funding Board.
 - 2. All other articles of the Student Government Constitution will take full effect.
 - iii. Organization and Elections Effective 2013
 - 1. Each class will elect one representative to represent their class and to serve on the Student Funding Board.
 - 2. The President will appoint one qualified individual at the beginning of the fall semester to sit on the Student Funding Board. This position will be terminated at the end of the 2013 school year.
 - 3. All articles of the Student Government Constitution will take full effect at the end of the 2013 school year.
 - 4. In order to ensure that the majority of plausible candidates for office will be able to physically campaign for offices elected for the second semester, the election cycle will be moved to the second week of spring semester.

5. Spring 2013 will serve as a transitional one-term Student Government. The election of Executive Board members, excepting Class Representatives, for the transitional one-term Student Government will occur in the third to last week of the Fall 2013 Semester.
- iv. Organizations and Elections Effective 2014
 1. Terms of all members of the Executive Board are set according to the academic year. All officers for the 2014-2015 Academic Year, excepting the Class Representatives, will be elected in the third to last week of the Spring 2014 Semester. Beginning Spring 2015, all officers, excepting Class Representatives, will be elected in the third to last week of the Spring Semester.

IX. Student Interest Group (SIG) Recognition

- a. Upon the successful completion of a SIG Recognition Form, the Officer of Student Activities is responsible for implementing recognition to clubs.
 - i. SIGs recognized by the Officer of Student Activities will be added to the Student Government SIG Directory.
 - ii. SIGs will submit a SIG Activity Form at the end of every semester. If a SIG is inactive for more than three consecutive semesters, it will be removed from the Student Government SIG Directory.
 - iii. SIGs may appeal the decision to the General Assembly.

X. Student Funding Board

- a. Duties and Members
 - i. The Student Funding Board oversees SIG budget and individual event proposals.
 - ii. The Student Funding Board consists of the Treasurer and the Class Representatives. An advisor from the Campus Life office will provide any needed assistance and may attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Student Funding Board, though they do not have voting power.
 - iii. The Student Funding Board meets once a week and may call special meetings.
- b. Student Funding Process
 - i. SIGs

1. Upon successful completion of a SIG Funding Request Form, the Student Funding Board will consider the request. A majority vote in the Student Funding Board will approve the budget request.
 - a. Assuming a member of the Student Funding Board has a conflict of interest, he or she will abstain from debate and voting. If two-fifths or more of the Student Funding Board is not present or unable to vote, the Executive Board will debate and vote upon the request.
 - b. SIGs, upon receiving a decision from the Student Funding Board, may appeal the decision to the General Assembly, but only after a consultation with an advisor from the Campus Life office.
 - c. The General Assembly will hear debate and may overturn or amend the decision with a majority vote.
 2. Existing SIGs that have previously received funding from the Student Funding Board must provide a report of financial activity.
 3. SIGs must be recognized by the Student Government to receive funding.
- ii. Student Events
1. Upon successful completion of a Student Event Funding Request Form by any member of the Student Body, the Student Funding Board will consider the request. A majority vote in the Student Funding Board will approve the budget request.
 - a. Any member of the Student Funding Board may motion for a vote to be passed on to the General Assembly. A majority vote is required to pass on a motion to the General Assembly.
 - b. Students, upon receiving a decision from the Student Funding Board, may appeal the decision to the General Assembly, but only after a consultation with an advisor from the Campus Life office.
 - c. The General Assembly will hear debate and may overturn or amend the decision with a majority vote.

- iii. The Student Funding Board will work with the Vice President to coordinate budgets for events independent of SIG events.

XI. Impeachments and Removal from Office

- a. Impeachment of an Elected Officer
 - i. Any member of the Executive Board may motion for the impeachment of an elected officer. Another member of the Executive Board must second the motion in order for the impeachment to be brought to a vote. A majority vote by the Executive Board will impeach the individual in question. The individual in question will choose between having a public trial, or having a decision rendered by a committee appointed by the highest ranking Executive Board officer, in consultation with other Student Government or administrative representatives as needed.
 - 1. If the individual chooses a public trial, the impeachment will be announced and the hearing will be held at the following General Assembly meeting. The individual in question will appeal to the General Assembly then will be asked to leave the room. The floor will be open for debate and the removal of the individual in question will be called to a vote. The individual in question may be removed with a majority vote by the General Assembly.
 - 2. If the individual in question chooses to have a decision rendered by an appointed committee, the trial will be held in closed, confidential meetings. The decision made by this committee may not be appealed to the General Assembly.
- b. Impeachment of an Active Member
 - i. Any voting member of the General Assembly, including the Executive Board, may move for the impeachment of an Active Member at a regularly scheduled meeting of the General Assembly. A member of the Executive Board must second the motion in order to bring the impeachment to a vote. A majority vote by the General Assembly will impeach the individual in question. The individual in question will choose between having a public trial, or having a decision rendered by a committee appointed by the highest-ranking Executive Board officer, in

consultation with other Student Government or administrative representatives as needed.

1. If the individual chooses a public trial, the impeachment will be announced and the hearing will be held at the following General Assembly meeting. The individual in question will appeal to the General Assembly, the floor will be open for debate, and then the individual in question will be asked to leave the room. The removal of the individual in question will then be called to a vote. The Active Member will be removed or reinstated with a majority vote of the General Assembly.
 2. If the individual in question chooses to have a decision rendered by an appointed committee, the trial will be held in closed, confidential meetings. The decision made by this committee may not be appealed to the General Assembly.
- ii. If an Active Member of the General Assembly is removed, he or she may not regain voting rights in General Assembly until the end of the semester in which they were removed.

XII. Amendment Procedures

- a. Any voting member of the General Assembly may propose an amendment to the Constitution.
 - i. Upon the proposal of a constitutional amendment, the General Assembly will immediately allocate a primary session for amendment presentation and points of clarification.
 - ii. The General Assembly will hold a majority vote to determine whether a Town Hall on the following academic week is necessary to facilitate further debate and discussion on the amendment(s) presented at the most recent General Assembly.
 - iii. If a Town Hall is observed, the Executive Board is responsible for facilitating the discussion and debate on the proposed amendment(s).
 - iv. The General Assembly will vote on the amendment during the immediately succeeding session.
 - v. The amendment may be approved as is or with modifications by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

XIII. Parliamentary Procedure and Ratification

- a. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised will be the parliamentary reference of this institution.
- b. The Student Government Constitution was ratified by a majority vote of the student body and a unanimous vote of the Student Government Organizing Committee on May 1, 2011.