

# STUDENT CONSTITUTION

## ENACTING CLAUSE:

Be it enacted by the Sonoma County Junior College District (SCJCD) - Board of Trustees (BOT), by and with the advice and consent of the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Student Body, the creation of the "SRJC Student Constitution" and the "SRJC Student Government Assembly (SGA)." (REFERENCE SCJCD Board Policy Manual 8.5.1) Furthermore, the Student Constitution & the SGA is recognized by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SCCCC) and Platinum Region III as the representative organization that addresses and protects the students' rights, interests, issues, hopes, and concerns at the local and regional level. (REFERENCE California Code of Regulations, Title 5, §50002)

## PREAMBLE

We the students, in order to form an active, unified body and promote the general welfare of students under an atmosphere of intellectual freedom; provide social and academic experiences in a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment; progress equal opportunity by advocating for, securing, and upholding justice for all students; encourage increased student participation, planning and direction of student activities and student affairs; advance the College in regard to social, technological, sustainable, economic, and instructional practices; do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Students of Santa Rosa Junior College.

## ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

**SECTION 1** The Student Body of Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) is comprised of all currently enrolled students of the Sonoma County Junior College District (SCJCD).

## ARTICLE II STUDENT REPRESENTATION

**SECTION 1** The representative body for the SRJC Student Body shall be the SRJC Student Government Assembly (SGA).

**A.** The twelve (12) representative positions of the SGA are as follows:

- i. Student Body President
- ii. Executive Vice President of Legislation
- iii. Vice President of Finance
- iv. Vice President of Clubs - Santa Rosa
- v. Vice President of Clubs - Petaluma,
- vi. Vice President of Student Life - Santa Rosa
- vii. Vice President of Student Life - Petaluma
- viii. Vice President of Marketing - Santa Rosa
- ix. Vice President of Marketing - Petaluma
- x. Vice President of Diversity
- xi. Vice President of Student Health
- xii. Vice President of Sustainability

**B.** The SGA may include appointed non-voting At-Large Representatives.

**SECTION 2** The Inter-Club Council (ICC) shall be the representative body for all Student Clubs in the SCJCD.

- A. The ICC shall abide by the rules and regulations of the SGA, and be considered an autonomous body.
- B. The ICC Chair shall be elected in a Student Election, and be a member of the SGA.
- C. Funding for the ICC is made available by the SGA, and any unused balance of these funds will be retained by the SGA at the end of each fiscal year.

**SECTION 3** California Education Code §72023.5 establishes, and the SCJCD Board of Trustees (BOT) recognizes, a Student Trustee that serves as a college representative and advocate, at SCJCD BOT meetings and in the community.

**SECTION 4** Students engage in the participatory governance of SCJCD, alongside faculty, staff, and administration through the College Wide Committee system. Student representatives are appointed by the SGA, and shall act in accordance with the SGA's policies and procedures.

**SECTION 5** The SGA, in collaboration with the Student Trustee, shall hold a Student Forum during the fall and spring semesters to inform students about their representatives.

**ARTICLE III  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**SECTION 1** The Student Body is governed by bylaws and codes that are established and maintained by the SGA, in support of the Student Constitution.

- A. The Student Bill of Rights, Bylaws, and Codes shall be subordinate to and separate from this Constitution.
- B. The Student Bill of Rights shall detail the rights given to students.
- C. Bylaws are superior to Codes. Codes shall not conflict with the Bylaws or other Codes.
- D. The establishment or amendment of the Student Bill of Rights, Bylaws, or Codes shall require a simple majority vote by the SGA, following a one week reading period.

**SECTION 2** Bylaws and Codes are affirmed and recognized by the SGA. The SGA has established, but are not limited to the following Bylaws and Codes:

- A. Student Government Assembly Bylaws:  
These Bylaws are operational procedures of the SGA and serve as the primary document containing information regarding policies, officer responsibilities, standing committees, and general operations.
- B. SGA Finance Code:  
The policies and procedures regarding SGA finances, funding, and budgeting.
- C. SGA Election Code:  
The policies and procedures and regulations regarding Student Elections held within the SCJCD.
- D. SGA Publicity Code:  
The policies and procedures that govern publicity on all SCJCD sites, in consultation with SCJCD Facilities Planning and Operations.

**ARTICLE IV  
FINANCES**

**SECTION 1** The SRJC Student Body shall fund the SGA, in part, with an optional \$1 Student Representation Fee, that is used for student advocacy before the SCJCD district as well as local, state, and federal agencies. These funds will be spent at the sole discretion of the SGA. (REFERENCE Education Code §76060.5)

**SECTION 2** The SRJC Student Body shall fund the SGA, in part, with a Non-Mandatory Student Activities Fee which has been implemented in the form of a student benefits program. These funds will be spent at the sole discretion of the SGA (REFERENCE Student Fee Handbook for California Community Colleges Chapter 4.3), and the name and price of the student benefits program shall be determined by the SGA.

**SECTION 3** Additional funding to the SGA may come in the form of additional fees passed by the Student Body in a Student Election (REFERENCE Student Fee Handbook for California Community Colleges), internally developed agreements, product and service revenue, donations, or other miscellaneous sources.

## **ARTICLE V ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1** The SGA shall hold a Student Election every Spring semester to elect student representatives, and put to vote initiatives, referendums, and constitutional amendments.

- A.** Elections will be informed and guided by the SGA Election Code. No changes may be made to the SGA Elections Code for the duration of the elections, starting the day Election Packets are available until voting has concluded.
- B.** The SGA shall appoint an outside, unbiased Elections Coordinator.
- C.** The SCJCD certificated Advisor to the SGA shall assign an Elections Advisor who shall assist the SGA with recruiting an Elections Coordinator.
- D.** The Election Coordinator shall enforce the SGA Elections Code to manage Student Elections.

**SECTION 2** Items on the ballot may include initiatives or referendums. REFERENCE Article VI Constitutional Amendments.

**SECTION 3** Special Elections may be held in the Fall semester, and follow the guidelines established in the SGA Election Code.

**SECTION 4** Recall Elections may be initiated by any member of the Student Body to recall an elected representative. Recall Elections require submission of a completed petition with an amount of signatures equal to one-quarter (1/4) of the votes cast on the last Student Election. The SGA shall schedule a Recall Election to be held no later than fifteen (15) instructional days after receipt of a valid petition. Approval of the recall measure shall require a supermajority (two-thirds) of the votes cast (Instructional days are Monday through Friday during the semester, as designated by the college according to state reporting guidelines).

## **ARTICLE VI CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1** Constitutional amendments are special initiatives or referendums which alter the Constitution.

- A.** No amendment to the Constitution may conflict with Federal Laws, California State Laws, the California Education Code, or SCJCD Board Policy.
- B.** Items on the ballot may include initiatives or referendums, and require the approval of a supermajority (two-thirds) vote to pass. Approved measures shall go into effect on the first day following Spring commencement.
  - i.** Initiatives are measures that may be proposed by any member of the Student Body. Initiatives require a petition signed by a number of students equal to one percent of the

enrolled students as of October 1st of the current academic year, and shall be placed on the Spring Student Election ballot.

- ii. Referendums are initiatives submitted by the SGA. Referendums require a supermajority (two-thirds) vote from the SGA to be placed on the ballot, and do not require a petition.
- C. Ratification of a constitutional amendment shall require a supermajority (two-thirds) of all votes cast at a Student Election. Amendments from student elections shall go into effect on the first day following Spring commencement.
- D. Copies of proposed amendment(s) must be made available to all registered students at least fifteen (15) instructional days prior to being voted upon.

**ENABLING CLAUSE**

This SRJC Student Constitution shall go into effect when approved in a Student Election and shall become operational on the day following Spring commencement.

**REVISION & AMENDMENT DATES:**

<b>MAY 1978,</b>	<b>OCTOBER 1978,</b>	<b>JULY 1987,</b>	<b>AUGUST 1989,</b>
<b>APRIL 1993,</b>	<b>MARCH 1994,</b>	<b>MAY 1995,</b>	<b>APRIL 1997,</b>
<b>APRIL 1998,</b>	<b>APRIL 1999,</b>	<b>APRIL 2000,</b>	<b>APRIL 2001,</b>
<b>MARCH 2005,</b>	<b>OCTOBER 2005,</b>	<b>APRIL 2008,</b>	<b>APRIL 2012,</b>
<b>APRIL 2015,</b>	<b>APRIL 2018</b>		