

Constitution
Of the
Edison State College-Lee Campus
Student Government Association
Preamble

We the students of Edison State College, Lee Campus, in order to establish an organized student representative organization, establish this constitution of the Edison State College Student Government Association.

Article 1. Name, Purpose, Participation, and Membership

Section 1 The name of the organization shall be the Edison State College Student Government Association, herein referred to as the ESCSGA. The purpose of the ESCSGA shall be to perform the following functions:

Section 2 a) Provide a voice for student concerns

b) Coordinate and promote appropriate student activities

c) Act as a liaison between the administration and the students. Participation by the students in the ESCSGA activities and affairs shall be limited to bona fide students of Edison State College that meet the specific eligibility requirements of the ESCSGA as stated in this constitution. A student may participate regardless of age, sex, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation and/or handicap.

Section 4 **Part 1** Executive Officers of the ESCSGA, herein referred as to the Executive Board:

- a) President
- b) Executive Vice President
- c) Legislative Vice President
- d) Secretary

Part 2 Judicial Officers of the ESCSGA herein referred to as the Judicial Board.

- a) Chief Justice
- b) Three (3) Associate Justices

Part 3 The members of the Student Congress, including the members of the Executive Board and the Judicial Board:

- a) Senators
- b) Club Representatives

Part 4 Other persons may be given ex-officio status, which precludes voting privileges upon nomination by the ESCSGA President and approval by a majority vote of the Student Congress. Ex-officio status is limited to the duration of one year and does require renewal to maintain member status.

Article II Quorum

Section 1 A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of two (2) voting members.

Section 2 A quorum of the Judicial Board shall consist of all members.

Section 3 A quorum of the Student Congress shall consist of fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of all voting members.

Article III Executive Board

Section 1 The executive power shall be vested in the President of the ESCSGA, who shall hold this office for one year, from July 1 to June 30, and shall be elected as stated in Article IV, "Elections", of this constitution.

Section 2 The President of ESCSGA shall preside over the Executive Board as described below:

- a) The President, Executive Vice President, Legislative Vice President, Secretary, and the Advisor shall comprise the Executive Board of the ESCSGA.
- b) Secretary shall have full membership and voting rights.
- c) The President shall have voting rights as stated in Article III Section 5, Part 1, Item E of this constitution.
- d) The Advisor shall be a non-voting member and shall act in an advisory capacity only.

Section 3 Responsibilities of the Executive Board as a whole

Part 1 The Executive Board shall serve as the central executive agency of the ESCSGA and shall have the following specific duties:

- a) Make the decisions in the best interest of the association that do not conflict with the ESCSGA Constitution and/or By-Laws.
- b) Function as a liaison between the student population and the administration and act in the best interest of the student body and Edison State College.
- c) The term of office of the Executive Board shall be one term lasting one (1) fiscal year which runs from July 1-June 30.
- d) The Executive Board must attend meetings of the Student Congress with no more than two (2) unexcused absences.

Section 4 The Executive Board shall meet the following requirements:

Part 1 Each officer must be enrolled in and complete a minimum of nine (9) semester classroom credit hours with a 2.5 semester GPA for each term, excluding summer terms.

Part 2 A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better (on a scale of 4.0) must be maintained.

Section 5

Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board Members are as follows:

Part 1 Duties and Responsibilities of the President:

- a) Be the primary spokesperson for the ESCSGA.
- b) Coordinate the implementation of all publicity efforts organized by the Public Relations Committee.
- c) Oversee the implementation of relevant programs and projects approved by the Student Congress.
- d) Call and preside at all ESCSGA meetings except meetings of the Judicial Board.
- e) Cast a vote in the event of a tie in all meetings except Judicial Board meetings.
- f) Appoint all committee chairpersons with the exception of the Constitutional Actions Committee unless a Chief Justice has not been elected.
- g) Be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Constitutional Actions Committee.
- h) Appoint any vacancies within any vacant elected offices.
- i) Take and uphold the oath of office.

Part 2 Duties of the Executive Vice President:

- a) Assume the responsibilities of the President in the event of her/his absence, resignation, or removal from office.
- b) Coordinate all committees with exception of the Constitutional Actions Committee.
- c) Responsible for the publishing of a monthly ESCSGA newsletter.
- d) Assist the President
- e) Take and uphold the oath of office.
- f) Call and preside over all Campus Activity Board (CAB) meetings.

Part 3 Duties of the Legislative Vice President:

- a) Research all legislative issues pertinent to Edison State College and state colleges in general.
- b) Report monthly to the Student Congress in writing pertinent information regarding state college legislation and hold an informational meeting for all students on campus.

- c) Communicate with the Director of Legislative Staff (DLS) of FJCCSGA concerning state college issues.
- d) Assist the President
- e) Take and uphold the oath of office.

Part 4 Duties of the Secretary:

- a) Record, publish and maintain accurate minutes of the proceedings at all Executive Board meetings and the ESCSGA.
- b) Prepare all correspondence as directed by the President.
- c) Prepare the minutes, including copies for distribution no later than two (2) business days prior to any meeting.
- d) Prepare agenda, as specified by the President, including copies for distribution, no later than two (2) business days prior to any meeting.
- e) Maintain all records and files of the ESCSGA and the Executive Board and perform other clerical duties as specified by the President.
- f) Make reports to the Student Congress concerning the state of the ESCSGA's records, incoming correspondence, and all organizational topics related to the secretarial duties and requirements of the ESCSGA on a regular basis.
- g) Assist the President
- h) Take and uphold the oath of office.

Part 5 Duties and Responsibilities of the Advisor:

- a) The Advisor shall be responsible of all grade checks of the E-Board and Senators.
- b) The Advisor shall participate in ESCSGA meetings and inform and advise students of pertinent information.
- c) The Advisor shall be a non-voting member and serve in advisory capacity.

Article IV The Judicial Branch

Section 1 The Judicial power shall be vested in the Chief Justice of the ESCSGA, who shall hold this office for one (1) year July 1-June 30, and shall be elected as stated in Article VI, "Elections" of this constitution.

Section 2 The Chief Justice of the ESCSGA shall preside over all meeting of the Judicial Board and preside over the Student Court as described below:

Part 1 The Chief Justice and three (3) Associate Justices shall comprise the Judicial Board. All four members of the Judicial Board have full voting rights.

Part 2 The Chief Justice shall appoint all Associate Justices.

Part 3 Responsibilities of the Judicial Branch:

- a) Hold two (2) sessions of the Student Court per semester as needed.
- b) The Judicial Board shall enforce legislation of the ESCSGA via written and verbal reports and recommendations to the Student Congress and the Executive Board.
- c) The Judicial Board shall review evidence regarding any disciplinary manner referred to it by the Student Congress or the Executive Board and shall deliver a written recommendation in response.
- d) The members of the Judicial Board shall attend meetings of the general assembly with no more than two (2) unexcused absences.

Section 3

The Judicial Board shall meet the following requirements:

Part 1 Each officer must be enrolled in and complete a minimum of nine (9) classroom credit hours with a 2.5 semester GPA for each term excluding summer terms.

Part 2 A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale) must be maintained.

Section 4

Duties and Responsibilities of the Judicial Board members are as follows:

Part 1 Duties and Responsibilities of the Chief Justice:

- a) Be the primary spokesperson for the Judicial Board of the ESCSGA.
- b) Coordinate all sessions of the Student Court.
- c) Call and preside over meetings of the Judicial Board and the Constitutional Actions Committee.
- d) Take and uphold the oath of office.

Part 2 Duties and responsibilities of three (3) Associate Justices:

- a) Attend and participate in matters of the Judicial Board, including the Student Court and the Constitutional Actions Committee.
- b) One (1) Associate Justice shall fill the role of clerk of courts and keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Judicial Board and the Student Court.
- c) Take and uphold the oath of office.

ARTICLE V: THE STUDENT CONGRESS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1

The Student Congress shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) The Student Congress shall have the power to enact legislation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- b) The Student Congress shall have the power to overturn a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Section 2

Each member of the Student Congress shall have the following duties:

- a) Each member shall propose through their own initiatives, by the request of the President, and/or by the request of students and administration, legislations, ordinances, and constitutional amendments to benefit Edison State College and its students.
- b) Members shall by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote confirm all appointments.
- c) Members shall assist and advise faculty and the administration in the development, supervision, evaluation, and coordination of all aspects of campus life.
- d) Members shall attend meetings of the ESCSGA, with no more than two (2) unexcused absences, and be prepared for all planned actions prior to all meetings.
- e) Members shall take and uphold the oath of office.

Section 3
qualifications:

Each member of the Student Congress must meet the following

- a) Each member must enrolled in and complete a minimum of six (6) semester classroom credit hours with a 2.0 semester GPA for each term, excluding summer terms.
- b) A cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) must be maintained.

Section 4

Duties and responsibilities of the Sergeant at Arms:

- a) Remain alert to the conduct of all participating at ESCSGA meetings and enforce the rules of order.

Section 5

Appointment, Duration, Reporting of all Committees

Part 1 The President shall appoint the Chair of all committees.

Part 2 The President may remove any Chair and reappoint a new one. The new committee Chair may then reorganize the committee's membership.

Part 3 The committee Chairs shall each submit a bi-weekly verbal report in writing to the Executive Vice President.

Section 6:

Committees:

Part 1 The standing committees of the ESCSGA shall be:

- a) Constitutional Actions Committee
- b) Elections Committee
- c) Public Relations Committee
- d) Executive Board

Part 2 With a two-thirds (2/3) majority Student Congress approval, the President shall make all Committee Chair appointments, excluding the appointment of the three (3) Associate Justices.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

Section 1 All offices of the Executive Board shall be elected. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board shall be elected.

Section 2 Election Process:

Part 1 Elections shall be held ten (10) and fifty (50) days prior to the first date of final exams during the spring semester. The exact date is to be decided by the Student Congress during the regularly scheduled meeting within the first six (6) weeks of the spring semester.

Part 2 Elections shall be held by secret ballot and shall be conducted by the Elections Committee and will be determined by a majority of all votes cast.

Part 3 In the event of a tie for office a run-off election will be held within fifteen (15) days.

Part 4 All elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Elections Committee Policies and procedures and the procedures set up by the Elections Committee.

Section 3 Campaign Rules

Part 1 No candidate or supporter of a candidate shall directly or indirectly, give pay, expend money, or give anything of value to secure a vote except as provided in Article Vi, Section 3, Part 2.

Part 2 Posters, handbills, pamphlets, refreshments, name tags, foldouts, bumper stickers, signs, bill boards, and the like shall always be acceptable as campaign materials.

Section 4 Appointments

Part 1 All applicants for appointed positions must meet all qualifications related for their specific positions as stated in this constitution.

Part 2 Students must not have a violation of a criminal law or found civilly liable of an immoral action.

Part 3 Students who are convicted of a violation of criminal law or are found civilly liable for an act of immoral action will be immediately disqualified to hold offices pending exercise of all individual rights of judicial process.

Section 5 The official Edison State College Oath of Office shall be:

“I, (state your name), do hereby solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of Student Government, (State your position), and will always act in the best interest of Edison State College as a whole and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, enforce, and abide by the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Edison State College, Lee County Campus.”

ARTICLE VII: IMPEACHMENT

Section 1 Any member is subject to impeachment for the following reasons:

- a) Falsifies any documents testifying to the eligibility requirements to run for or hold office and/or;
- b) Fails to uphold the Oath of Office, or acts in a manner or takes actions that are not in the best interest of the association.

Section 2 Procedures

Part 1 Within seven (7) calendar days of any ESCSGA meeting at which it is decided to give a hearing to petition for removal, the Student Court will convene to consider the matter.

Part 2 Any petition for the removal of an ESCSGA member or officer must be signed by forty (40) percent of the ESCSGA membership.

Part 3 Any petition for the removal of an ESCSGA officer or member must contain the following:

- a) Name and position of the member subject to removal.
- b) A formal Declaration of Accusations which lists all the specific offenses of which the accused is alleged to have committed and describes each offense in detail.
- c) The proper numbers of signatures, obtained from the proper sources are as aforementioned.

Part 4 An adjudication of guilt requires a unanimous vote of the Student Court, which will result in written notification from the Student Court within seven (7) calendar days.

ARTICLE VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1 The rules contained in *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the ESCSGA in all cases to which they are applicable and which they are consistent with the Constitution and the By-Laws of the ESCSGA.

ARTICLE IX: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1 In order for a club to be recognized, the club must follow the guidelines set forth in the current Edison State College Catalog.

Section 2 Clubs must follow guidelines set forth by the Student Congress to be eligible for any allotted club award grants.

ARTICLE X: AMENDING PROCEDURES

Section 1 All proposed amendments of the constitution and By-Laws of the association may be presented by any voting member of the ESCSGA.

Section 2 The Constitution and/or By-Laws of this association may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

ARTICLE XI: BY-LAWS

Section 1 The Constitution provides for one (1) set of By-Laws to this association.

Section 2 The Constitution of this organization shall override any By-laws of other associations. Furthermore, the Constitution shall not be subject to change by any amendment to a By-Law of this association.

ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION

Section 1 The Constitution shall be ratified at any meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

ARTICLE XIII: ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS

Section 1 An association agreement shall be the only format by which the ESCSGA can officially recognize any other organization/association other than the state and local educational agencies, board, commissions, or legislative bodies.

Section 2 An association agreement shall be composed of the following actions:

Part 1 That said organization/association and the ESCSGA exchange official correspondence (newsletters, mailing lists, legislative information, etc.) on an executive level.

Part 2 That said organization/association would join forces and/or communicate on behalf of the ESCSGA when two organizations/associations are lobbying for the same issue, with the same position.

Part 3 That the three proposed actions, be incorporated into both organizations/associations in a manner that future administration will not lose them (i.e. By-Laws, Constitution, Policies, etc.) and that the logistics of the above e worked out accordingly.

Section 3 An organization/association wishing to establish an association agreement shall approach the ESCSGA Executive Board to gain their support. The Executive Board will then present the organization/association and its purposes to the ESCSGA Student Congress for their approval.

ARTICLE XIV: HAZING

Florida Statutes

Hazing

www.leg.state.fl.us

Approved January 20, 2004

Revised January 14, 2011