Preamble:
We, the students of Georgia Southwestern State University, in order to promote a college-wide atmosphere for intellectual growth, high standards of conduct, university spirit, to stimulate common understanding and cooperation between the students and faculty/administration, to protect the rights and principals of the individual students, and to govern the student body, do establish and submit this constitution.

Article I. Name
The name and location of this student government shall be: Student Government Association, Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, Georgia 31709.

Article II. Objectives
The objectives of the Student Government Association shall include interaction with the university administration concerning the student campus environment, assisting students in dealing with campus issues, making recommendations to the President of Georgia Southwestern State University concerning the dispensation of student activity funds, authorization of the Student Conduct Board, and vetting of funding proposals for campus activities.

Article III. Membership and Qualifications.
Section 1. Composition
A. The Governing Body shall consist of the members of the Executive Board and the members of the Senate.
B. The Executive Board shall consist of a President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, and a Secretary/Treasurer.

C. The Senate shall consist of thirteen (13) Senators.

D. In case of Senate vacancy or lack of quorum there shall be at least two (2) Alternate Senators.

**Section 2. Qualifications.**

A. In order to become a candidate for the President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, or Secretary/Treasurer of the Student Government Association, one must have been a member of the Student Government Association for one (1) academic semester.

B. All members of the Governing Body must have earned at least twelve (12) hours of academic credit at Georgia Southwestern State University at the time of appointment or installation.

C. All Senators must have an overall Grade Point Average of 2.50 or above at the time of election or appointment and maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or above throughout tenure.

D. All Executive Board Members must have a Grade Point Average of 2.75 or above at the time of election or appointment and maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.75 or above throughout tenure.

E. All Associate Justices must have a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or above at the time of appointment and maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or above throughout tenure.

F. All members of the Governing Body shall be enrolled in at least twelve (12) academic hours at the time of election or appointment and maintain at least twelve (12) academic hours per semester throughout tenure. In the case of graduate students or graduating seniors, nine (9) academic hours will be sufficient.

G. Any member of the Governing Body, who as a result of University Policy, is placed on disciplinary probation or suspension, as stated in the Students’ Rights and Responsibilities in the GSW Weathervane, will be expelled from the Student Government Association.
H. Candidates for the SGA Senate may simultaneously run for one (1) Executive Board position during the election.

Section 3. Selection of the Governing Body

A. Selection of the Executive Board.
   1) The President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Secretary / Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of all graduate and undergraduate students voting in the general election.

   2) If no one (1) candidate receives a majority of votes in the first election, a runoff election shall be held not later than eight (8) class days from the original election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

B. Selection of Senators
   1) The thirteen candidates receiving the highest number of votes by a vote of all graduate and undergraduate students voting in the general election shall be elected.

   2) If there is a tie for the thirteenth senator position, a runoff election will be held not later than eight (8) class days from the original election between those tied in the thirteenth position.

Section 4. Schedule of Elections

A. SGA elections for the Executive Board and the Senate shall begin annually on the second Monday of April and last for five calendar days, Monday through Friday. Specific poll openings and closings shall be announced.

B. Candidate applications shall be made available by the SGA election committee. All candidate applications must be properly filled out and signed, and they are due by the Monday prior to elections.

C. All votes shall be cast by secret ballot.

D. Any student enrolled for the semester in which the election is held shall qualify as a voter.
E. All other elections, including Homecoming, shall be called at least fifteen class days from which the election shall be held. Application forms shall be made available by the SGA election committee.

Section 5. Term of Office

A. Each member of the Governing Body shall assume office at the time of installation held in the spring semester of each year.

B. Each member shall serve for one year and until the next installation.

C. Expulsion

   1) Any member of the Governing Body who has accumulated three (3) unexcused absences in any given semester shall be expelled unless excused by the President with the consent of the advisor(s).

      i. Members attending other organizational meetings are not excused from the Student Government Association meeting

   2) The only valid excused absences are:

      i. Death of a family member

      ii. Illness with an excuse

      iii. Class conflict under special conditions

      iv. Georgia Southwestern-related business

   3) Any member of the Governing Body who has failed to meet the qualifications as defined in Article III, Section 2 will be expelled.

D. Procedure for Filling Vacancies

   1) Applicants must turn in an application to the Division of Student Affairs by the announced deadline after publicity is given.
2) All applicants must meet the membership qualifications as set forth in Article III, Section 2.
3) The Executive Board must review all applicants and submit the application of those eligible to fill the vacant position(s) to the President of the Student Government Association.

4) The President of the Student Government Association shall then nominate a designee(s) to fill the vacant position(s) and submit the appointment to the Governing Body for approval.

5) The President’s nominee must be approved by a majority vote of the Governing Body.

Section 6.  Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the majority of the total membership of the Governing Body.

Article IV.  The Executive Board

Section 1.  Composition, Powers, Duties

A. The Executive Board shall consist of the following listed in the proper order of authority: President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Secretary/Treasurer.

B. The Executive Board shall be responsible for enforcing the absentee policy of the Student Government Association.

C. The Executive Board shall make decisions in the absence of the Senate, but only with the consent of the advisor(s).

D. The Executive Board shall have the power to spend no more than one hundred (100) dollars per month without the consent of the Senate.

E. No member of the Executive Board shall be eligible to run for the position of King or Queen of the Georgia Southwestern State University Homecoming Court.

Section 2.  Powers and Duties of the President

A. Shall be the official spokesperson for the Student Body and the Student Government Association.
B. Preside over the Executive Board of the Student Government Association.

C. Preside over all Student Government Association meetings.

D. Establish the agenda for all meetings of the Executive Board and the Student Government Association meetings.

E. Shall call meetings on a weekly basis.

F. Has the right to cast one vote on any issue in which there is a tie vote.

G. Call special meetings as necessary with the consent of the advisor(s).

H. Appoint student representatives to any faculty committee when called for by the President of Georgia Southwestern State University. All appointments must be approved by a majority vote of the executive board.

I. Appoint an Elections Chair(s) and Elections Committee to coordinate and administer all Student Government and Student Government-sponsored Elections and appoint any other special subcommittees as deemed necessary.

J. Call all non-Student Government general student elections (e.g., Homecoming) and special student referendums with the consent of the Senate.

K. Fill vacancies of the Student Government Association by provisions established in Article III, Section 5, Clause D.

L. As vacancies on the Executive Board occur they should be filled with a current Senator and then the Senator vacancy shall be filled by the provisions established in Article III, Section 5, Clause D.

M. Shall be Ex-Officio Member of all Student Government Committees and Subcommittees.

N. Appoint any member(s) of the Governing Body to represent the Student Government Association at any Student Advisory Council meeting.
O. Has the right to make expenditures of one hundred (100) dollars or less, not to exceed one hundred (100) dollars per month, with the consent of the advisor(s).

Section 3. **Powers and Duties of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.**

A. Chair of the Student Government Association Academic Affairs Committee.

B. Execute the duties and powers of the President in the President’s absence.

C. Has the right to cast one vote in all issues before the Student Government Association.

D. Shall appoint all Academic Affairs Committee members with the approval of the President.

E. Shall act as the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association Student Judiciary.

F. Serve as Ex-Officio member of the Georgia Southwestern State University Academic Affairs Faculty Committee.

G. Perform any duties assigned by the President.

H. To execute all powers and duties herein granted.

Section 4. **Powers and Duties of the Vice President of Student Affairs.**

A. Chair the Student Government Association Student Affairs Committee and the Homecoming Activities Committee.

B. Execute the duties and powers of the Vice President of Academic Affairs in the absence of the President of the Student Government Association.

C. Has the right to cast one vote in all issues before the Student Government Association.
D. Shall appoint all Student Affairs Committee members and Homecoming Activities Committee members with the approval of the President.

E. Serve as Ex-Officio member of the Georgia Southwestern State University Student Affairs Faculty Committee.

F. Perform any duties assigned by the President.

G. To execute all powers and duties herein granted.

Section 5. **Powers and Duties of the Secretary / Treasurer.**

A. Maintain a complete and accurate attendance record of each Student Government Association meeting.

B. Provide the Governing Body, the Student Government Association Advisor(s), the President of Georgia Southwestern State University, and the Vice President of Student Affairs with the official minutes of each meeting. This will be preceded by the validation from the Secretary/Treasurer and the President of the Student Government Association after approval, signified by receiving a majority vote of the Governing Body.

C. Chair of the Student Government Association Budget Committee. Shall appoint all budget committee members with approval of the President.

D. Keep an accurate written account, with the aid of the Georgia Southwestern State University Business Office, of all allocated Student Activity Funds.

E. Present the specific amount of both budgets of the Student Government Association to the body at every regular meeting.

F. Require all organizations which use allotted Student Activity Funds to establish an agency account in the Business Office.

G. Keep permanent records of all expenditures of Student Activity Funds.

H. Dispense Student Government funds, in amounts of over one hundred dollars, upon authorization of the Student Government Association Governing Body.
I. Has the right to cast one vote on all issues before the Student Government Association.

Article V. The Senate

Section 1. Composition

The Senate shall consist of thirteen (13) Student Senators.

Section 2. Powers of the Senate

A. The Senate shall have all policy making power herein granted.

B. Shall consist of six (6) standing committees, an Academic Affairs Committee, a Student Affairs Committee, a Legislative Affairs Committee, a Budget Committee, a Homecoming Activities Committee, and an Elections Committee.

1) The chairpersons of the Legislative Affairs Committee and Elections Committee shall be appointed by the President.

C. May override any decision made by the Executive Board by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Governing Body except in matters concerning one hundred (100) dollars or less.

D. May impeach any member of the Executive Board by a three-fourths vote of the total membership of the Senate.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Senators

A. Each Senator shall serve on at least two of the six (6) Student Government standing committees.

B. Each Senator shall serve on at least one Faculty standing committee.

C. Each Senator shall be responsible for reporting the opinion of the student body on any issue before the Student Government Association.

D. Each Senator shall assume other responsibilities as directed by the President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, or Secretary / Treasurer.
E. Each Senator has the right to cast one vote on any issue before the Student Government Association.

F. The powers and duties of Alternate Senators shall be the same as Senators with the following restriction:

1) An Alternate Senator shall have the right to cast one vote on any issue before the Student Government Association only if there is lack of quorum due to an absent senator.

**Article VI. Student Conduct Board**

**Section 1. Composition**

The Student Conduct Board shall consist of eight (8) Associate Justices with the Student Government Association Vice President of Academic Affairs presiding as Chief Justice.

**Section 2. Selection of Associate Justices**

A. Applicants must turn in applications provided by the Elections Committee by an announced deadline.

B. All applicants must meet the qualifications set forth in Article III, Section 2.

C. The Executive Board shall review all applications and submit the applications of those eligible to serve as an Associate Justices to the President of the Student Government Association.

D. The President of the Student Government Association will nominate eight (8) Associate Justices to serve in the Student Conduct Board and will submit the nominations to the Governing Body for approval.

E. The President’s nominees must be approved by a majority vote of the Governing Body.

F. The approved nominees shall be submitted to the Student Government Association President and the Assistant Dean of Students by the Student Government Association.

**Section 3.** The term of office shall begin in the fall semester and until the end of the spring semester.
Section 4. The Student Conduct Board shall meet twice a month. Roll shall be taken by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the absentee policy shall be the same as that of the Student Government Association.

Section 5. The Assistant Dean of Students shall appoint the advisor(s) to the Student Conduct Board.

Section 6. The court shall have jurisdictions over cases referred by the Assistant Dean of Students for non-suspendible infractions of the Student Code of Conduct, and appeals of campus traffic and parking ticket violations.

Section 7. A quorum shall consist of the majority of members and the Chief Justice.

Article VII. Dispensation of Student Activity Funds

Section 1. For any student organization to be eligible to receive Student Government money, the organization must be registered with and recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. Student Government money can be allocated for events sponsored by registered and recognized organizations.

Section 2. Submitting Request

A. The Student Government Association Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute to all eligible student organizations a standardized request form to be filled out by the organization’s treasurer. Each organization should also be given a copy of the budget guidelines.

B. The Student Government Association shall set a deadline for the request forms to be returned to the Student Government Association Secretary/Treasurer.

C. A representative from each organization requesting an allocation shall make such request orally to the Student Government Association at least one week before such request is voted on by the Governing Body.

Section 3. Allocation

A. The Student Government Association shall use the budget guidelines to allocate Student Government Association money.
B. The Budget Committee shall submit a Budget Proposal to the Governing Body within five (5) class days from the Budget Hearing.

C. The Governing Body may amend, approve or reject the Budget Committee’s budget proposal.

Section 4. Annual Budget Request

A. An annual budget hearing will take place in the month of April.

B. All annual budget request must adhere to Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this article.

C. The recommendation from the Governing Body for the allocation of annual budgets must be submitted to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students who shall transmit it to the President of Georgia Southwestern State University for final approval.

Section 5. This article shall neither be construed nor interpreted to mean or guarantee equal amounts of funding between or among organizations nor shall it mean or guarantee that funding levels or amounts are to remain exact or constant from year to year.

Article VIII. Advisors

Section 1. Manner of Selection

A. The President of the Student Government Association shall take nominations from the floor of a member of the fulltime teaching faculty (person with faculty rank), or Staff of Georgia Southwestern State University for the approval of the Governing Body.

B. Two-thirds of the total membership of the Governing Body must vote to approve the President’s nominee.

C. The President of the Student Government Association shall submit the approved name(s) to the President of Georgia Southwestern State University for final approval.

D. The Student Government Association may choose more than one Advisor to serve concurrently.
Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities

A. Shall advise the Student Government on issues concerning the Student Body and the Student Government Association.

B. Shall provide a liaison between the Student Government Association and the Faculty/Administration and the Division of Student Affairs.

Section 4. The advisor’s term shall be from the beginning of the Fall Semester to the beginning of the next Fall Semester, unless the Student Government Association requests from the President of Georgia Southwestern State University the approval of another designee.

Article IX. Ratification, Amendments, and By-Laws.

Section 1. This Constitution shall be ratified when approved by at least two-thirds of the total membership of the Student Government Association, approved by the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs, and approved by the President of Georgia Southwestern State University.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended by the passage of an amendment in two successful readings in two regular meetings of the Student Government Association by at least two-thirds of the total membership and by the approval of the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs.

Section 3. The Governing Body of the Student Government Association shall have the authority to establish By-Laws.