



CONSTITUTION OF THE **DUKE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**RATIFIED BY
THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY
IN 1993
(LAST AMENDED IN MARCH 2022)**

PREAMBLE

This organization shall be known as Duke Student Government, and shall be referred to in this Constitution as the DSG.

The purpose of this organization shall be to act as the governing body of the undergraduate students at Duke University and to present their views on the affairs of the University community in accordance with the highest ideals of democratic representation and the aims and purposes of the University.

The DSG shall execute the will of the student body, shall serve as a stable support and foundation for student organizations and activities, shall communicate students' views and relevant information, as well as represent the student body in University decision-making. The goals of the DSG's participation in University affairs are to define and represent student concerns and causes to the administration, to provide student services and support, to serve as a reliable source of information for the student body, to provide resources and support to student organizations through the student activities fee and other programs, to foster community among students, and to promote quality leadership on campus, both in DSG and in other organizations.

The DSG shall not act contrary to the Bill of Rights listed in Article VI in any way. Said rights may not be amended except by referendum as described in Article VII of this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Right of Membership

All undergraduate students enrolled in Duke University shall be eligible to be members of the DSG.

SECTION 2: Structure

1. **THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.**— The Executive is the chief administrative, strategic, and leadership body of the DSG, tasked with executing the acts of the Senate, and shall consist of:
 - a. the Executive Board;
 - b. the Presidential Cabinet;
 - c. the Student Organizations and Finance Committee (SOFC); and
 - d. the DSG Affiliate Organizations.
2. **THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.**— The Senate is tasked with promoting the welfare of the student body through legislation, and shall consist of:
 - a. the Senators;
 - b. the Senate Staff, including the President Pro Tempore;
 - c. the Senate Standing Committees; and
 - d. the Senate Ad-Hoc Committees.
3. **THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.**— The Judiciary is the independent adjudicatory body of the DSG, vested with the power of judicial review, and shall consist of:
 - a. the Chief Justice;
 - b. the Associate Chief Justice;
 - c. the Associate Justices;
 - d. the Clerks; and
 - e. the Liaison to the Student Advocacy Office

SECTION 3: Integrity

All members of the DSG shall represent the student body and thus shall decline external financial sponsorship related to any DSG activities or external election assistance. This shall not apply to scholarships as long as the funds received have no impact on the decisions made by members of DSG.

ARTICLE II: THE EXECUTIVE

SECTION 1: The Executive Board

1. **VOTING MEMBERS.**— The voting members of the Executive Board are:
 - a. the President;
 - b. the Executive Vice President;
 - c. the Chief of Staff;
 - d. the Cabinet Chair
 - e. the Vice Presidents of the Senate Standing Committees
2. **DUTIES and POWERS**
 - a. develop and implement an advocacy agenda to promote the welfare of the student Body;

- b. assist in the orderly administration of the business of the DSG as delegated by the President and the Executive Vice President;
 - c. serve as a shared resource for its members on all matters pertinent to policy formation and implementation;
 - d. have the power to issue executive orders; and fulfill additional duties as prescribed by By-Law.
3. EXECUTIVE ORDERS.— The Executive Board may issue executive orders, subject to the approval of both the President and a two-thirds majority of the Executive Board. Such executive orders are bound by the following provisions:
- a. executive orders may only be issued during a recess of the Senate;
 - b. no executive order may allocate or expend funds that have not previously been allocated to the Executive; and
 - c. the President shall provide a report of the executive order at the next meeting of the Senate.
 - d. executive orders may not repeal or conflict with Senate legislation enacted within one year of the date the executive order goes into effect without 3/4 approval from the complete executive board.
4. PUBLICLY ELECTED MEMBERS
- a. The following members of the Executive Board shall be individually elected by the student body to their respective offices, and shall serve yearlong terms:
 - i. the President;
 - ii. the Executive Vice President; and
 - iii. the Vice Presidents of the Senate Standing Committees
5. VACANCIES
- a. GENERALLY.— The President may nominate replacements to fill vacant positions of the Executive Board, and vacancies in the position of President may be filled, pursuant to the following subsections:
 - i. VACANCIES OF THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT.
 - 1. If the position of President falls vacant after the President has been duly inaugurated, the Executive Vice-President shall become President;
 - 2. If, for any reason, the President-elect is permanently unable to assume the position of President, the Executive Vice-President-Elect shall be inaugurated as President for the full term.
 - ii. VACANCIES OF THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.
 - 1. If the Executive Vice-President or the Executive Vice-President-Elect is unable to assume the position of President pursuant to the designated procedure, then either the President Pro Tempore or the President Pro Tempore-Elect, respectively, shall be inaugurated as President for the full term.
 - iii. VACANCIES OF OTHER POSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.
 - 1. If any other position of the Executive Board falls vacant, the President may nominate a replacement, subject to the majority confirmation of the Senate.

2. In the event of a vacancy between sessions of the Senate, the President may nominate temporary replacements to fill the vacancy until the first subsequent meeting of the Senate, upon which the majority confirmation of the Senate is required for the nominee to maintain the office.

SECTION 2: Organizational Leadership

1. VOTING MEMBERS.— The voting members of the Organizational Leadership are:
 - a. the Executive Board
 - b. the SOFC Chair
 - c. the President Pro Tempore
 - d. the Chief Justice
 - e. the Associate Vice Presidents of the Senate Standing Committees

SECTION 3: The President

1. DUTIES AND POWERS.— The President shall:
 - a. serve as the official representative of the DSG;
 - b. execute all acts of the Senate or acts made by a referendum of the student body;
 - c. be responsible for the proper and orderly administration of the business of the DSG;
 - d. have the power to create ad-hoc committees and task forces, and decide their chairs and members, subject to the majority approval of the Senate;
 - e. supervise and coordinate task forces and committees of the DSG;
 - f. have the power to veto acts of the Senate within five days of passage
 - g. be able to address the Senate during a Senate meeting while it is in session on any matter within reason;
 - h. issue a report to the Senate on the activities of the DSG upon the request from the President Pro Tempore;
 - i. select members of the Presidential Cabinet, along with the Executive Board, following an application process for cabinet positions, subject to majority approval of the Senate;
 - j. nominate replacements to vacant positions of the Executive Board;
 - k. appoint or remove additional executive assistants as deemed necessary by the President for the proper execution of the President's duties, subject to the majority approval of the Senate;
 - l. perform additional duties as prescribed by the Executive By-Law.

SECTION 4: The Executive Vice President

1. DUTIES AND POWERS.— The Executive Vice President shall:
 - a. have and execute own policy agenda in coordination with the President;
 - b. work with the President in the proper and orderly administration of the business of the DSG;
 - c. work with the President in supervising and coordinating task forces and committees of the DSG;
 - d. coordinate and maximize student representation on university and presidential committees in conjunction with Duke's President's Office;

- e. coordinate all annual appointment application and interview processes managed by the DSG;
- f. be able to address the Senate at any time while it is in session on any matter within reason; and
- g. supervise and coordinate affiliates and auxiliary organizations of the DSG;
- h. perform additional duties as prescribed by Executive By-Law.

SECTION 5: The Presidential Cabinet and Operations Team

1. **GENERALLY.**— The Duke Student Government Presidential Cabinet and Operations Team is composed of the DSG President’s and Executive Vice President’s chief policy and administrative advisors. The Presidential Cabinet shall consist of certain permanent positions, and may also consist of temporary positions and ex-officio members.
2. **PERMANENT POSITIONS.**— Appointed Presidential Cabinet or Operations Team members shall include the following permanent positions:
 - a. the Attorney General;
 - b. the Communications Director;
 - c. the Treasurer
 - d. the Cabinet Chair
 - e. any additional positions as prescribed by Executive By-Law.
3. **CABINET CHAIR.**— The Cabinet Chair shall serve as the chair of the Cabinet and as the cabinet’s representative on the Executive Board. The Cabinet Chair shall be chosen in a manner prescribed in the Executive By-Law; however, this procedure must include the ability for the Executive Board to approve of Cabinet Chair nominations.”
4. **TEMPORARY POSITIONS.**— The President may make additional temporary appointments in consultation with the Executive Vice President that expire at the end of the President’s term, subject to the majority approval of the Senate.
5. **DUTIES AND POWERS.**— The Cabinet officers shall:
 - a. advise the President and Executive Vice President and carry out duties as prescribed by the President or Executive Vice President, By-Law, or Senate statute;
 - b. assist the President and Executive Vice President in the execution of the DSG policy agenda as informed by the direction of the DSG Executive Board, DSG Senate legislation, or student body wide referendum.
 - c. have voting rights in the Senate and share with the Senate the power to:
 - i. enact any legislation concerning policies that affect students and their welfare under this Constitution;
 - ii. allocate and authorize the expenditure of any and all funds received by the DSG from any source;
 - iii. to charter or recognize all organizations established by and for undergraduates;
 - iv. to issue resolutions expressing the opinions of the Senate;
 - v. to establish committees via statute in pursuit of the student interest or the internal operation of the DSG;
 - vi. to confirm all presidential nominations to student positions on any University policy-making or advisory committees;

SECTION 6: The Student Organizations and Finance Committee (SOFC)

1. Membership
 - a. The SOFC shall consist of a number of members determined by the SOFC By-Law who shall be elected by the SOFC and confirmed by the majority of the Senate annually.
 - b. In addition to the members, the Chair of SOFC shall be selected by a manner determined by the SOFC By-Law
2. Powers and Responsibilities of the SOFC. The SOFC shall:
 - a. oversee the Programming Fund;
 - b. run the annual budgeting process;
 - c. review and recommend student groups for recognized or chartered status; and
 - d. perform such other duties as prescribed by the SOFC By-Law;
3. Limits on SOFC Allocations
 - a. LIMITS ON ALLOCATIONS.— For allocations from the Programming Fund above \$1,500, Senate consent is required.
 - b. SENATE AUTHORITY.— Other provisions notwithstanding, nothing may deprive the Senate of the ability to allocate and authorize the expenditure of any and all funds received by the DSG from whatever source.

SECTION 7: Duke Student Government Affiliate Organizations

1. Membership
 - a. DSG Affiliates are semi-autonomous organizations allied with DSG to further common student advocacy objectives. Each DSG Affiliate organization shall operate according to specific principles as outlined in the DSG Affiliate By-Law.
2. Limits and Privileges of Affiliates
 - a. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT.— Each DSG Affiliate shall operate under the oversight of the Executive Vice President and a DSG Senate Standing Committee, which shall seek opportunities for coordination between the affiliate organization and DSG's student advocacy agenda.
 - b. PRIVILEGES OF AFFILIATES.— DSG Affiliates shall be entitled to certain privileges where prescribed by the Affiliate By-Law.

ARTICLE III: THE SENATE

SECTION 1: Members of the Senate

1. VOTING MEMBERS.— The voting members of the Senate are:
 - a. the President Pro Tempore
 - b. each Standing Committee Vice President
 - c. each Standing Committee Associate Vice President
 - d. each elected Senator; and
 - e. each at-large Senator.
2. NON-VOTING MEMBERS.— The non-voting members of the Senate are:
 - a. each member of the Senate Staff, with the exception of the President Pro Tempore and;

- b. each ad-hoc Senator.
- 3. APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION.— Any motion of approval or confirmation by the Senate may only be issued by its voting members.

SECTION 2: Duties and Powers

- 1. LEGISLATIVE PURVIEW.—The Senate’s legislative purview includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. statements of Senate opinion by resolution;
 - b. internal directives to DSG bodies mandating a specific action by statute;
 - c. the creation of task forces vital to the wellbeing of the student body or the DSG’s internal governance by statute;
 - d. fiscal appropriations by student group annual budgeting or budgetary statute;
- 2. POWERS OF THE SENATE.—The Senate shall have the power to:
 - a. approve acts of the government by a vote of its voting members;
 - b. enact any legislation concerning policies that affect the students and their welfare under this Constitution;
 - c. allocate and authorize the expenditure of any and all funds received by the DSG from any source;
 - d. to charter or recognize all organizations established by and for undergraduates;
 - e. to set the Student Activity Fee to be paid by all undergraduates during the following academic year, provided that the fee may not be increased beyond an annual adjustment for inflation without the approval of a majority of those voting in a referendum of the student body;
 - f. to review and repeal executive orders by simple majority;
 - g. to override a presidential veto by two-thirds majority;
 - h. to issue resolutions expressing the opinions of the Senate;
 - i. to direct any body of the DSG to take a specific action, with the exception of the Judiciary;
 - j. to establish committees via statute in pursuit of the student interest or the internal operation of the DSG;
 - k. to confirm all presidential nominations to student positions on any University policy-making or advisory bodies, and to appointed positions within the DSG;
 - l. to establish rules of procedure, and to establish and enforce rules of conduct and attendance for members of the Senate;
 - m. to impeach and remove any member of the DSG for misfeasance or nonfeasance in office;
 - n. to make and enact all necessary By-Laws.
 - o. to censure any member of the DSG by two-thirds majority vote;

SECTION 3: Enactment and Approval of Acts of the Senate

- 1. QUORUM.—All acts of the Senate may only be approved in the presence of a quorum, which shall be defined as a majority of voting members of the Senate. Cabinet members are not included in the quorum.
- 2. PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL.—
 - a. All statutes of the Senate shall be promptly presented to the President and Executive

Vice President for approval by signature, and shall take immediate effect upon signing;

- b. All statutes that have not been signed by the President or Executive Vice President or vetoed by the President within five days of passage shall take effect as though signed by the President;
 - c. If the President vetoes the statute, the President shall notify the President Pro Tempore of the veto and of the President's specific objections; and
 - d. All budgetary statutes shall be considered statutes, which may be subject to veto by the President.
3. REFERENDA.—
- a. Any act of the DSG or act of an officer representing the DSG in an official capacity shall be subject to referendum approval upon a petition signed by fifteen percent of the members of the entire undergraduate student body. Such petitions shall mention the specific policy or act questioned;
 - b. Nothing in this Constitution may be construed to deny the right of the student body to initiate legislation by petition of fifteen percent of the undergraduate student body; and
 - c. The procedure for the initiation of legislation by petition may be prescribed by By-Law. Referendums shall be conducted by the procedures outlined in the Election By-Law.

SECTION 4: Meetings of the Senate

1. SESSIONS OF THE SENATE.— A session of the Senate begins on the first week of classes in each Fall semester, and shall end on the second to last week of classes in the succeeding Spring Semester
2. MEETING TIME AND LOCATION.— The President Pro Tempore may determine the time and location of its meetings, but shall meet at least twice in every month during which school is in session for the majority of that month.
3. REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE SENATE.— The regular meetings of the Senate shall:
 - a. be open to the Duke Community unless a Senate Executive Session has been called by the President Pro Tempore; and
 - b. provide time for any student or representative of a student group to present on matters of a University-wide interest.
4. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF THE SENATE.— Additional meetings of the Senate may be called by the President Pro Tempore or by the written request of twenty-five percent of the members of the Senate.

SECTION 5: The President Pro Tempore

1. DUTIES AND POWERS.— The President Pro Tempore shall:
 - a. convene and chair meetings of the Senate;
 - b. set the agenda for meetings of the Senate;
 - c. select members of the Senate Staff, subject to the majority approval of the Senate;
 - d. convene and preside over the Senate Staff;
 - e. appoint any number of legislative assistants, subject to the majority approval of the Senate;

- f. exercise the right to vote if, and only if, the vote otherwise results in a tie OR by relinquishing chair to another member of the Senate; and
 - g. perform additional duties as prescribed by Senate By-Law
2. ELECTION PROCEDURE.— The election of the President Pro Tempore for a legislative session shall:
- a. occur during the session prior, after the election of the President and Executive Vice President and before the election of the Standing Committee Vice Presidents and Senators;
 - b. be decided by an internal vote of voting members of the Senate, who shall elect a President Pro Tempore from among any of the voting members of the Senate with the exception of President-Elect, Executive Vice-President Elect, and Cabinet Members;
 - c. No voting member of the Senate may be denied eligibility to be elected to the position of President Pro Tempore with the exception of President-Elect, Executive Vice-President Elect, and Cabinet Members

SECTION 6: The Senate Staff

- 1. GENERALLY.— The Senate Staff shall aid the President Pro Tempore in the orderly administration of the Senate and its business.
- 2. POSITIONS.— The Senate Staff shall include the following positions:
 - a. the President Pro Tempore;
 - b. the Senate Secretary;
 - c. any legislative assistants to the President Pro Tempore; and
 - d. any additional temporary positions as prescribed by Senate By-Law.
- 3. TEMPORARY POSITIONS.— The President Pro Tempore may make additional temporary appointments to the Senate Staff that expire at the end of the Senate session, subject to the majority approval of the Senate.
- 4. DUTIES AND POWERS.— The Senate Staff shall:
 - a. have the power to retrieve any records of any body of the DSG, including but not limited to minutes, agendas, and correspondence;
 - b. maintain records of the DSG to transfer to the University Archives;
 - c. maintain a roster of all members of the DSG;
 - d. aid in the transition of power for all offices of the DSG; and
 - e. perform additional duties as prescribed by Senate By-Law.

SECTION 7: Standing Committee Vice Presidents and Associate Vice Presidents

- 1. DUTIES AND POWERS of the STANDING COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENTS.— Each Standing Committee Vice President shall:
 - a. manage the DSG policy agenda for their respective committee's purview in consultation with the President and the Executive Vice President;
 - b. serve as the chief student advocate and administrative contact in their committee's purview;
 - c. chair their respective Senate Standing Committee and assist Senator projects; and
 - d. perform additional duties as prescribed by the Executive By-Law.
- 2. DUTIES AND POWERS of the STANDING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATE VICE

PRESIDENTS - Each Standing Committee Associate Vice President shall:
Perform duties as prescribed by the Senate By-Law.

SECTION 8: Impeachment

1. IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURE.—
 - a. The Senate shall have the power to impeach any Executive Officer, member of the Cabinet, Justice of the Judiciary, Senator, Affiliate Member, or other officer of the DSG on the grounds of misfeasance or nonfeasance in office by a majority of those present and voting.
 - b. An impeached officer shall be entitled to a hearing before the Senate at which the Chief Justice shall preside, to be held no sooner than five class days and no later than ten class days from the date of impeachment.
 - c. If it is the Chief Justice who has been impeached, the Executive Vice-President shall preside over the hearing.
2. REMOVAL.— If, following the hearing, the charges are sustained by at least two-thirds of the present voting members of the Senate, the impeached officer shall be removed from office.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

SECTION 1: Terms of the Executive Board

1. The terms of office for the publicly elected members of the Executive Board shall be one year, or until the successors to these officers are elected and installed;
2. Elections and inaugurations shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Election By-Laws and Statutes of the DSG.

SECTION 2: Terms of Senators

1. Senators shall serve a term comprising one session of the Senate. A session is defined as an academic year. The inaugurations of these Senators shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Senate By-Law.

ARTICLE V: THE JUDICIARY

SECTION 1: Members of the Judiciary

1. GENERALLY.— The Judiciary, including the Chief Justice, shall be composed of seven members. The selection process of Justices shall be prescribed by By-Law.
2. LIMITS ON MEMBERSHIP.—
 - a. Members of the Judiciary shall serve for a term of one academic year.
 - b. Senators and other officers of the DSG are not eligible to serve on the Judiciary.

SECTION 2: Powers of the Judiciary

1. The Judiciary shall have the power to:

- a. decide all cases arising under this Constitution or By-Laws and all cases in which jurisdiction has been granted to it by the By-Laws or by the Senate;
- b. decide cases in which the DSG or an officer of the DSG in an official capacity is a party and cases arising between different DSG entities, including DSG affiliates;
- c. settle student group disputes and, when necessary and proper, to discipline student groups; and
- d. conduct investigations, subpoena evidence and witnesses, authorize the issuance of such writs as it shall require, and make all rules necessary and proper for the conduct of its business.

SECTION 3: Proceedings of the Judiciary

1. Unless otherwise provided in the By-Laws, the Judiciary shall sit as a full body. A majority of its members must be present for proceedings and votes to be valid.
2. When present, the Chief Justice shall preside over the Judiciary. In the Chief Justice's absence, the Associate Chief Justice shall preside.
3. The concurrence of a majority of members present shall be sufficient to render a decision, except as otherwise herein provided.
4. All decisions and rulings of the Judiciary shall be transmitted in writing by the Chief Justice, or by a Justice selected by the Chief Justice, to the appropriate officer or body.
5. A Justice who does not voluntarily abstain from cases in which they have a conflict of interest may be disqualified by majority vote of the other members of the Judiciary.

SECTION 4: The Chief Justice

1. SELECTION.— The chief judicial officer of the DSG shall be the Chief Justice, who shall be confirmed by the Senate.
2. POWERS AND DUTIES.— The Chief Justice shall:
 - a. when present, preside over the Judiciary;
 - b. have the power to issue non-binding, advisory opinions on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary; perform any other duties that may be prescribed by Senate and Judiciary By-Law
3. INAUGURATION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.— The Chief Justice-elect shall be inaugurated prior to all other DSG officers and shall supervise their inaugurations and deliver the DSG oath of office.

SECTION 5: Substantive Rights and Immunities

1. GENERAL RIGHTS AND IMMUNITIES.—
 - a. No student or group of students may be deprived of rights or property without due process of law, nor may be denied equal protection under the law;
 - b. no bill of attainder or ex post facto law may be passed;
 - c. no student or group of students may be tried for an act committed more than one calendar year before the initiation of trial; and
 - d. no student or group of students may be tried more than once for the same act under the same law, statute, rule, By-Law, or regulation.
2. PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.— Any student accused and brought to trial may not be denied the right to:

- a. receive written notice of the charges presented and be given the opportunity to prepare a defense reasonably in advance of a hearing;
- b. question witnesses and submit material evidence;
- c. refuse to testify in a self-incriminating manner or offer any testimony that would tend to self-incriminate;
- d. be free from illegal searches and seizures;
- e. present a defense including material witnesses and a reasonable number of character witnesses;
- f. receive an impartial hearing, and if convicted, to be subjected to no cruel or unusual punishment; and furthermore,
- g. the enumeration of these rights and immunities shall not preclude other rights and immunities.

ARTICLE VI: BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 1

Every undergraduate student, enrolled in Duke University and subject to the Student Activities Fee, is a student within the meaning of this Bill, a member of the student body, and a constituent of Duke Student Government. In their interactions with DSG, all students are entitled to the rights enumerated in this Bill.

SECTION 2

All students have the right to freedom of ideology and religion. Duke Student Government shall not create any establishment of religion, or prohibit the free exercise thereof, or require any religious test or qualification for office.

SECTION 3

All students have the right to free expression. Duke Student Government shall not abridge the freedom of speech, the press, petition, or peaceable assembly or protest. But this Article shall not define speech by the money spent to exercise the right. This article affirms the right of the Duke Student Government Senate to place limits on the amount of money that can be spent in student elections.

SECTION 4

All students have the right to protection and privacy against arbitrary search, seizure, investigation, prosecution, and punishment. No student or group may be deprived of rights or property without due process of law, nor may any student be compelled to testify against himself in any proceeding, nor may any evidence unlawfully obtained be admitted in support of judicial punishment.

SECTION 5

All students have the right to equal protection under the law. No student may be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status; but this enumeration shall not be construed to condone other violations of equal protection.

SECTION 6

All students have the right to vote in all referenda and public elections held by Duke Student Government and by their respective classes and houses. No student may be deprived of the right to vote, nor may any poll tax or other payment be a condition to voting, nor may any proof of eligibility or identity be required unless it is readily available to all students.

SECTION 7

All students have the right to freely associate and, upon meeting the criteria established in By-Law, to form groups recognized or chartered by DSG. Every such group is a legal entity and entitled to freedom from invidious discrimination, to due process, and to fair dealing under the law. But this Article shall not be construed to grant to groups all the rights secured to individuals, to privilege any student from accountability for misconduct, or to permit the otherwise prohibited expenditure of funds.

SECTION 8

The rights and protections enumerated in this Bill shall not be abridged by any recognized or chartered groups, residential houses, class governments, or affiliates of Duke Student Government. Duke Student Government shall secure the rights of students against violations by these entities, and shall also uphold the rights of students against infringement by any other person or body. But DSG shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of any federal, state, local, university, or other entity not subject to its jurisdiction.

SECTION 9

Any student or group whose rights under this Bill, or under other provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws, have been violated has the right to seek a statutory or equitable remedy from the Judiciary. And every student or group suffering punitive action from DSG, beyond removal from office and enforcement of civil obligations, has the right to an impartial trial by the Judiciary before such punishment may be imposed. No conviction may be sustained except on clear and convincing evidence that the defendant committed an offense which, before its commission, had been defined in By-Law.

SECTION 10

The enumeration of certain rights in this Bill, or elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws, shall not be construed to deny or disparage other rights retained by the student body.

ARTICLE VII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS**SECTION 1: Constitutional Amendments**

1. PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS.— Amendments to this may be proposed by:
 - a. a petition signed by fifteen percent of the members of the student body, or
 - b. by a two-thirds vote of the full voting members of the Senate, provided that the amendment has been read at two successive meetings of the Senate.
2. ENACTMENT BY REFERENDUM.— Amendments shall be enacted when ratified by a

majority of those voting in a referendum of the student body that shall take place only after seven days public notice, provided fifteen percent of the student body participates.

SECTION 2: By-Laws

1. By-Laws may be enacted by approval of two-thirds of the Senate present and voting after two readings of the By-Law before the Senate.

ARTICLE VIII: RATIFICATION AND ENACTMENT

SECTION 1: Ratification

1. This Constitution shall be enacted when ratified in a referendum by at least two-thirds of the votes cast of the members of the student body voting in favor of proposed changes, provided fifteen percent of the student body participates.

SECTION 2: Enactment

1. Upon enactment of this Constitution, the present Constitution of the Duke Student Government shall be amended throughout by substitution of this Constitution therefore.

SECTION 3: Existing Legislation

1. All statutes, rules, policies, and By-Laws that are in effect at the time of ratification of this Constitution and that are not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain valid and binding upon DSG.