



Champlain College Student Government Association
Standing Rules Document

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BUDGETS

Updates:

A budget update shall be presented at each House of Representatives meeting by the Director of Finance either verbally or in writing.

The following information should be included in the budget updates:

- a. Club expenditures
- b. Grants
- c. Capital
- d. Contingency
- e. SGA operations
- f. SGA programming

Publication of budgets:

1. Once each semester, the Director of Communications shall publish, to the student body, a report of the names of the grants that have received funding during that semester, the nature of any capital expenses, the list of SGA programs that have been delivered, the names of any financial sponsorships or partnerships that the SGA has entered, and the names of all clubs that have been provided funding.
2. Upon request, the Director of Finance may provide individual members of the student body information on the percentage of the SGA budget spent on major categories of expenses (operations, clubs, programming, partnerships, grants, and capital). Specific allocations for any club shall not be released except to active club heads.

Club Budget Process:

1. Each club shall submit an Appendix G each semester, including a budget breakdown.
2. Due dates shall be set each semester by the Directors of Clubs and Finance.
3. The Directors of Clubs and Finance will consider the requests from the submitted Appendix G, historical spending patterns, and current club membership when determining the recommended club budget presented to the Finance Committee.
4. The Finance Committee shall deliberate the initial recommendations and bring a modified schedule of allocations to the House of Representatives for final decision.
5. Each semester a minimum of 5% of the club budget shall be retained as a contingency for club spending.

Club budget appeals:

1. A club may appeal their semester's budget allocations by submitting an appeal by email to the Finance Committee. Appeals shall provide a rationale, explain what additional funding would be used for and request a specific amount of additional funding.
2. The appeal shall be brought to the next House of Representatives meeting as a legislative act.
3. Appeals shall be funded from the club budget contingency.

CLUB HANDBOOK

1. The Director of Clubs shall ensure that each Club President has access to a current copy of the Club Handbook at the beginning of each semester.
2. The Director of Clubs shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date version of the Club Handbook, revising as policies and procedures change during the year.
3. Revisions of the Club Handbook shall be brought to the House of Representatives as a legislative act and shall be considered by the House of Representatives.
4. Changes to the Club Handbook approved during the year are effective immediately, unless otherwise stated.
5. The Director of Clubs is responsible for communicating mid-year changes of the handbook to Club Presidents and other relevant club leaders.

COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Appointing Subcommittees:

1. Sub-committees are normally comprised of the SGA members already named to that committee.
2. Non-SGA member students may be invited to participate if particular expertise or skills are required to complete their charge and is not already present in the committee. Such members shall be non-voting members of the subcommittee.
3. The Committee Chairperson shall issue a formal charge in writing to the sub-committee.
4. The sub-committee shall be constituted for only the time needed to complete their task.
5. The Committee Chairperson is responsible for overseeing the sub-committee and reporting on its actions to the House of Representatives.

Committee Appointments:

1. The Vice-President shall create a list of committee openings (with descriptions where possible) and present the list to the House of Representatives at the last meeting of the House of Representatives in the spring semester.
2. The Finance Committee members must be selected at the first fall meeting.
3. The Vice-President will determine the appropriate schedule for appointments to other committees.
4. Representatives serving on the College Council will be elected at the first House of Representatives meeting following the election of Incoming Representatives.
5. Non-SGA members of the College Council may be nominated by any member(s) of the SGA and are appointed by a majority vote of the House of Representatives.

Special Committees:

1. Any SGA Representative or Cabinet member may request the creation of a special committee by submission of a legislative act to the House of Representatives.

2. The request must include a committee charge, rationale, proposed membership, timeline, and intended outcomes based on the charge.

ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

Timing for Spring Elections of President, Vice-President and Returning Student Representatives: According to the Bylaws, spring elections shall occur no later than the last day of March each year. The following timelines shall guide the scheduling of elections and activities of the Elections Committee.

1. The number of returning student Representatives shall be determined by the following means:
 - a. The Elections Committee Chairperson shall request the number of students enrolled in each division from the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment on the 4th Monday of the spring term, requesting a response by Friday of that week.
 - b. The Elections Committee Chairperson shall calculate the number of Representatives from each division from that enrollment information.
2. Students shall have a minimum of seven (7) academic days prior to the application due date to respond to the call for applications.
3. There shall be a minimum of seven (7) calendar days between application due date and the beginning of campaigning.
4. Candidates shall have a minimum of seven (7) calendar days prior to the commencement of voting to campaign.
5. Voting shall occur over a period of five (5) calendar days.
6. Elections results will be announced no later than the elections party, the date of which to be determined by the administration.

Application Requirements:

1. Students must complete an application in order to run for any office in the Champlain College Student Government Association. That application shall include:
 - a. Signatures of at least 50 members of the student body for all Representative positions or at least 150 members of the student body for the positions of President and Vice-President.
 - b. Release for the Election Committee Chairperson to validate that the student's cumulative GPA and conduct record meet the requirements of the position. The Election Committee Chairperson shall seek this validation through the SGA Advisors. As an alternative, an applicant may choose to provide validation of the GPA qualification from the Registrar's Office and of the conduct qualification from the Office of Student Conduct.
 - c. A statement of two hundred (200) words or less about their campaign to be included on the ballot.
 - d. For Returning Student Representatives only: the application shall validate that the representative candidate has met or acceptable effort has been made and approved by the elections committee to meet with the division Dean or Assistant Dean in the representative candidate's division. For representative candidates studying abroad, this meeting may occur via video conference and may be documented by email. A list of individuals holding these positions shall be included as part of the application materials.
 - e. Candidates for President and Vice-President shall validate having met with the College President. For candidates studying abroad, this meeting may occur via

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- video conference and be documented by email.
2. All applications are received by the Elections Committee Chairperson, who validates that all requirements have been met.
 3. The Elections Committee Chairperson shall ensure that all applications are shredded or deleted within 10 academic days of the conclusion of elections.

Campaign Procedures

The production, distribution and financing of campaign materials is the sole responsibility of the candidate within the guidelines listed below:

1. Campaign materials may include:
 - a. Posters (approval required)
 - b. Flyers & handouts (approval required)
 - c. Social media (See Point 6)
2. Campaign materials requiring approval shall be approved by a designated member of the Elections Committee prior to their use during the campaign period.
 - a. Posters to be placed on student activities and residence hall bulletin boards require the approval of both the SGA and the Student Engagement office. One day advance notice to the Student Engagement office is required.
 - b. Posters placed on public bulletin boards require only the approval of the SGA.
 - c. Flyers & Handouts being distributed on and around campus, including 194 Saint Paul Street and the Lakeside Campus, require only the approval of the SGA. Handouts that are food or novelty items, such as candy or kazoos, do not require SGA approval
3. Candidates' social media campaigns may only be conducted within the scheduled campaigning window.
4. Per approval from the Director of Operations, candidates may post on the Champlain College Student Government Association Facebook page. Candidates may not use any other sites that are associated with official Champlain College business or offices.
5. Candidates are required to:
 - a. Have campaign materials approved by a designated member of the Elections Committee.
 - b. Have their candidate statements reviewed and edited by a designated member of the Elections Committee prior to creation of the election ballot. Final approval of edits rests with the candidate.
 - c. Seek clarification about campaign procedures as needed from the Elections Committee Chairperson.
6. The following activities are prohibited during campaigning:
 - a. Use of the Champlain College or SGA logos in campaign materials.
 - b. Anything that violates the Champlain College Standard of Conduct.
 - c. Anything that violates the SGA Behavioral Standards.
 - d. Defaming, attacking, naming, describing physical features and/or personality traits of another candidate or members of the student body except for candidates in Joint Campaigns when referencing each other.
 - e. Campus-wide or division-wide mass email to students
 - f. Endorsements by any current SGA cabinet members, representatives or clubs. Joint campaigning is not considered an endorsement.
 - g. Financial sponsorship by the SGA or any of its sanctioned clubs.

7. Any candidate who violates any of the rules in this section is subject to the authority of the Election Committee, up to disqualification from the election.

Elections Procedures

1. The Elections Committee shall create an electronic ballot using a reputable and secure survey or voting software capable of automatically tabulating the results.
2. Every currently enrolled “traditional” student shall receive a unique and secure access to the ballot via Their Champlain College email account.
3. The ballot shall contain a candidate statement for each candidate
4. The Election Committee Chairperson and one of the SGA Advisors will validate the election results before announcement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXPECTATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Communication/Reporting Expectations of Representatives

1. Outgoing Student Representatives shall provide a written report (Transition Documents) containing their suggestions for communication with the division to the incoming Returning Student Representative(s). This report shall be submitted to the Vice-President at the last House of Representatives meeting of their term of office. The Vice-President shall distribute such reports to the incoming Student Representatives.
2. Prior to the second House of Representatives meeting for Incoming Student Representatives, an orientation program shall be conducted by the Vice President or their designee that should include the following: expectations of representatives, review of the SGA Bylaws, Standing Rules, instruction in Roberts Rules of Order, sharing of prior representatives’ recommendations.,

Attendance Expectations for Representatives:

1. Representatives are expected to attend all House of Representatives meetings, retreats, trainings and major SGA events (Leadership dinner, election events, and other events at the discretion of the Vice-President). Representatives anticipating an absence from a House of Representatives meeting or required event must notify the Vice-President in writing 24 hours prior to the meeting, unless an emergency occurs.
2. A Representative intending to miss a House of Representatives meeting shall designate another Representative to hold their proxy vote at the meeting and must name the Representative holding the proxy vote in their written notification. Refer to proxy voting section of these Standing Rules for additional information about proxy votes.

Maintenance of Representative and Cabinet member Qualifications:

1. At the beginning of each semester, the SGA Advisor(s) shall validate that each cabinet member and representative has maintained the qualifications to remain in office.

2. Should a cabinet member or representative not meet qualifications for remaining in office, the President, Vice-President and Advisor(s) shall meet with the student and determine an appropriate action plan.
3. Cabinet members and representatives who have been placed on disciplinary or academic probation are expected to disclose that status to the SGA Advisor(s), who will then convene a meeting to determine the appropriate action.

FORMAT OF MEETINGS

Legislative Actions

1. Types
 - a. Bills are the means by which the SGA takes action on items within its control: SGA Bylaws, standing rules, financial allocations, annual budget approval, cabinet member approval, and grants approval.
 - b. Resolutions are the means by which the SGA House of Representatives states its opinion and/or requests the action of others on a particular issue, but takes no action itself.
2. Procedures: SGA Cabinet members and Representatives may submit bills and resolutions for the consideration of the House of Representatives at the discretion of the Vice President according to the following procedures:
 - a. Submissions must be typewritten and grammatically correct.
 - b. Submissions must include a statement of purpose.
 - c. Bills and resolutions, with the exception of proposed Bylaw changes, are passed by simple majority of the voting members.
3. Methods of Voting
 - a. Members are responsible for understanding the substance of each voting issue prior to casting their vote.
 - b. Email voting may be used only in emergency circumstances.
 - c. In the absence of a quorum, voting may be conducted, however any member not in attendance may challenge the results of the vote.
 - i. Challenges to a vote taken in the absence of a quorum must be submitted in writing to the Vice-President within 48 hours of distribution of the minutes of such meeting.
 - d. Voting on bills related to bylaw changes, approval of the annual budget, and cabinet member approval require special consideration
 - i. A roll call vote will be taken
 - ii. A quorum must be present
 - e. Proxy voting is allowed according to the following procedure:
 - i. The member who will be absent from a meeting must provide notice to the Vice President in writing at least 2 hours prior to the meeting, except in cases of emergency.
 - ii. The member who holds the proxy vote is bound by the limits of discretion

- specified by the absent member.
- iii. Proxy notes must contain an explicit vote, otherwise the proxy must abstain.
- iv. Changes to legislative acts that occur at the meeting, but are within the scope of notice shall be voted as originally directed or at the discretion of the proxy.
- v. Any legislative acts not present on the agenda given to a representative may not be voted on by a proxy.
- f. F. SGA house members are expected to recuse and thus abstain from voting and discussions on grants and bills when,
 - i. They are involved in the group/club/organization/capstone requesting the grant
 - ii. They are or were in a romantic relationship with the nominee for an SGA position or the individuals presenting a grant.
 - iii. They are roommates with a nominee for an SGA position or roommates with the individual(s) requesting a grant.
 - iv. They gain personal benefit from the passage of the bill/resolution/grant on the table.
 - v. Frequent violations of this clause, or a single violation of a serious degree can be grounds for an official complaint. Members are under their own responsibility to see to that they abstain when necessary, and are encouraged to do so whenever.

Decorum and Debate at House of Representatives Meetings:

1. Representatives are expected to use respectful language and etiquette appropriate to a formal collegiate setting.
2. Representatives wishing to speak to an issue shall raise their hands and wait to be acknowledged by the chair.
3. Representatives shall speak only to the issue under consideration at that moment.
4. An SGA member who wishes to speak to the House of Representatives from a role other than their SGA role, e.g. club head shall make it known.
5. Cabinet members, advisors, and other guests wishing to address the House of Representatives must gain approval from the House of Representatives via the Chair to address the group, unless they are specifically scheduled to speak on the posted agenda.
6. On Grant weeks, during the presentation of the grants on the agenda, the format will be as follows:
 - a. The House will hear all the grants ,followed by a question and answer session after the presenter of the grant is finished,
 - b. The length of the Q&A is at the discretion of the Chair.
 - c. The SGA will hear the grants in which a person is there to present on its behalf first, and the order of submission will be used to determine the order, in the event there are multiple presenters for different grants.
 - d. Following the last presentation, discussion and voting will begin on the grants in order of their presentation. Tabled grants from previous meetings still get priority and will be heard first, regardless of whether or not a presenter is in attendance.

Communication and Agendas:

1. House of Representatives meeting agendas shall contain the following items
 - a. Approval of the prior meeting's minutes

- b. Cabinet report
 - c. Committee reports
 - d. New Business
2. House of Representatives meeting agendas shall be developed by the Vice-President:
 - a. The Vice-President shall solicit agenda items from the members 5 days prior to the House of Representatives meeting
 - b. The Vice-President shall provide all House of Representatives members with the agenda and associated documents at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 3. Minutes of the House of Representatives meetings shall be distributed to Representatives by the Director of Operations at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 4. Minutes of the House of Representatives shall be available to any member of the student body who requests to review them. The Director of Communications shall be responsible for providing a means for students to request the minutes and for distributing them.
 5. Each semester, the Director of Communications shall make public a list of grant awards approved by the House of Representatives.
 6. A list of grants decisions needs to be published once each semester to the student body.
 7. Upon request, any chairperson to an SGA committee or College committee shall provide an update of the actions and decisions made by that committee. Committees having more than one representative shall select one person to speak for the committee should they be asked for an update.

Cabinet Appointments:

1. When presenting cabinet nominations to the House of Representatives for approval, the President shall provide Representatives with the cover letters and resumes of the proposed appointees within the normal warning period for House of Representatives meetings.
2. If one of the President's Cabinet nominees is rejected by the House of Representatives, the President shall present a nominee at the next House of Representatives meeting. The President has the prerogative to present the same nominee but bears responsibility for providing additional information to the Representatives to gain their approval.

CABINET OF OFFICERS

FORMAT OF MEETINGS

Decorum and Debate at Cabinet of Officer Meetings:

1. Officers are expected to use respectful language and etiquette appropriate to a formal collegiate setting.
2. Officers wishing to speak to an issue shall raise their hands and wait to be acknowledged by the chair.
3. Officers shall speak only to the issue under consideration at that moment.
4. An SGA member who wishes to speak to the Cabinet from a role other than their SGA role, e.g. club head shall make it known.
5. House members, advisors, and other guests wishing to address the Cabinet of Officers must

gain approval from the Cabinet via the Chair to address the group, unless they are specifically scheduled to speak on the posted agenda.

COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

1. The compensation schedule for cabinet members and representatives shall be reviewed annually.
2. The compensation schedule for the next academic year needs to be proposed and approved by the end of fall semester each year so that complete and accurate election materials can be prepared.
3. The compensation schedule for the 2019-20 academic year shall be:
 - a. President and Vice-President: \$3000 annual stipend each.
 - b. Director of Finance, Director of Operations, Director of Communications, Director of Clubs, Director of Diversity and Engagement: \$2,000 annual stipend each.
 - c. Representatives: \$400 annual stipend each.
4. The compensation for assistant position(s) shall be determined by the House of Representatives.

MISCELLANEOUS BYLAWS IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

1. Increases in the student activities fee may be requested if the current SGA budget is not sufficient to fund the level of student interest and involvement in clubs, formation of partnerships and other SGA initiatives.
2. The SGA House of Representatives will need to initiate such a request via a proposal to the President's Cabinet for consideration. The request shall include a rationale, a budget analysis justifying the increase, and a specific request.
3. Should the Director of Operations choose to run for a position other than the one they currently occupy, they will appoint a willing member of the Cabinet to oversee the elections process.
4. The Standing Rules Committee shall review existing standing rules by mid-term of fall semester and develop an action plan to develop and implement changes for the remainder of the year.
5. The Director of Communications is responsible for informing the student body of bylaws proposals and their opportunities to discuss the proposed changes.
6. One public meeting is required to be held between the announcement of the proposed change and the scheduled vote. Discussion of the proposed bylaws changes must be on the agenda for that meeting.
7. Whenever changes to the Bylaws are approved by the House of Representatives, the Director of Communications shall announce the decision(s) to the student body within one week of the meeting at which the change is approved.

MISCELLANEOUS STANDING RULES IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

1. Any amendment to this Standing Rules document that only amends points that fall within the

“House of Representatives” section will only need to be approved by the House of Representatives to be implemented.

2. Any amendment to this Standing Rules document that only amends points that fall within the “Cabinet of Officers” section will only need to be approved by the Cabinet of Officers to be implemented.
3. Any amendment to this Standing Rules document that amends sections outside of both the “House of Representatives” section and the “Cabinet of Officers” section will need to be approved by both the House of Representatives and the Cabinet of Officers.