



Student Government Association By-Laws

of

The First Academy, Orlando

Established, Spring 2010

We the students of The First Academy, in order to form a more perfect Student Body, in service to our School and Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, do affirm and establish these By-Laws of The First Academy Student Government Association.

Article I

Section 1

1. All Legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the appointed Officers of The First Academy Student Government Association.

Section 2

1. The Legislative Body, that is the Student Government Association, shall be composed of Officers elected every second semester from among the students of the qualifying Grade Levels, excepting the Chaplains who are appointed and who shall not, when appointed be re-appointed for the proceeding, or consecutive School Year.
2. No student shall be an Officer who has not maintained a semester Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher for the three preceding semesters, nor received more than five demerits per semester for two consecutive semesters prior to election. Only students who are currently enrolled for the proceeding school year are eligible for candidacy.
3. The Number of Officers shall be held at twenty-five; five for each Grade Level – grades nine to twelve – and five to fill the seats of the Student Council. For each Level the positions shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain.
4. Rising Seniors shall be eligible for all Student Council Offices; rising Juniors shall be eligible for Student Council Vice President, Student Council Secretary, Student Council Treasurer and Student Council Chaplain; rising Sophomores shall be eligible for Student Council Chaplain.
5. The Term for elected Offices of The First Academy Student Government Association shall begin on the first Monday of Final Exam week in May and extend through summer, Fall Semester, and Spring Semester to the first Monday of Final Exam week in May.

Section 3

1. Election packets shall be dispersed on the first Monday of the second semester by the Student Government Association Secretaries and are due in return on a date determined by the Student Government Association Sponsor no later than the Wednesday before the last official School Day in the third week in February. Late or incomplete applications shall not be considered.

2. The Council Secretary shall provide all applications for Office to the Review Committee. The Secretary will confirm by the last school day of the third week of February any vacancies on the ballot.
3. The Review Committee shall validate all applications no later than the last official school day in the 3rd Week of February. The Student Government Association Council shall inform students as to the efficacy of their candidacy by the same date.
4. Campaigning shall be confined to the fourth week in the month of February. Speeches shall be delivered during a time designated by the Administration during the same week. Elections shall take place on the following Monday. All Offices shall be elected positions save for the position of Chaplain who shall be appointed by the Reviewing Committee with the assistance of faculty.

Section 4

1. Council President shall officiate all Student Government Association meetings as Chairman of the meeting. The President shall only vote when it is necessary to cast a deciding vote. All actions of the Student Government Association are ultimately the responsibility of the President.
2. Council Vice President shall officiate at meetings where the President is not in attendance. The Vice President is responsible for enforcing Parliamentary Procedure upon meetings of the Student Government Association. The Vice President is further responsible for the Royal Recharge Procedure.
3. Council Secretary shall record and publish notes regarding all meetings, keeping careful record of who attended, what was brought to the floor and what was acted upon. The Secretary shall further oversee Elections.
4. Council Treasurer shall maintain the budget for the Student Government Association and shall make a report at each called meeting of current finances.
5. Council Chaplain shall open each Student Government Association in prayer. The Chaplain shall further coordinate the Grade Level Chaplains along with the Chapel Faculty Sponsor to plan and implement chapel for the Upper School of The First Academy.
6. Class Officers shall fulfill the responsibilities assigned by the Student Government Association Council.

Section 5

1. The Student Government Association shall, when necessary, form Committees in order to perform various tasks. These Committees are formed by the Student Government Association President. Standing Committees are divided out by Grade Level and by Office.
2. Committees determined by Grade Level are: The Senior Committee is composed of the Senior Class President, Senior Class Vice President, Senior Class Secretary, Senior Class Treasurer and Senior Class Chaplain. The Junior Committee, Sophomore Committee and the Freshman Committee contain members along the same membership pattern as the Senior Committee. The Student Government Association Council members shall not be counted among these Grade Level Committees.
3. Committees determined by Office are: The President Committee is composed of the Council President, Senior President, Junior President, Sophomore President and Freshman President. The Vice President Committee, Secretary Committee, Treasurer Committee and Chaplain Committee contain members along the same membership pattern as the President Committee.

4. The Student Government Association shall be given power to make decisions governing the activities of the organization during their Term of service. Final decisions of this legislative body shall be ratified by a majority and submitted for draft by the Secretary Committee before submission to the Review Committee and then to the Upper School Administration of The First Academy.

Section 6

1. The Student Government Association reserves the right to remove its Members from Office. An Officer may be removed from Office due to the failure to maintain a disciplinary record of five demerits or fewer per semester or the failure to maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 per semester. In addition, an Officer who fails to attend two meetings called five days or more in advance may be removed from Office. An Officer may also be removed from Office for disregarding their responsibilities as a Student Government Officer. A warning shall be issued to the Officer for their first unexcused absence. Upon the second unexcused absence, they may be removed from Office.

Section 7

1. The Student Government Association shall, when vacancies occur during the Term of Office, whether from dismissal or resignation and whether permanent or temporary, fill the various Offices. The Student Government Association Faculty Sponsor shall convene with the President Committee who are serving in the current Term and select a replacement from among first the Runner-Up lists of all Office Races from the Election and then from the Student Body provided that such students meet the candidacy requirements of office. This selection must receive a unanimous vote from the President Committee and Faculty Sponsor and be approved by the Upper School Administration.
2. During the Student Government Association Election process on the occasion that an Office has no candidates in contention, the candidates for all races shall be notified by the Council Secretary immediately after the deadline for the submission of candidate packets. Once notified, candidates have until 3:30 PM on the Monday of Campaign Week to change races to an uncontested Office. Candidates may only change to uncontested races and only those for which they qualify. Candidates may not change to a race that already has even one candidate.
3. On the occasion during an Election that a Vacancy is on the Ballot, the Active Student Government Association President shall, after the election, call together the current Grade Level Committee representing the vacancy, the Student Government Association Sponsor or his/her designee, and one Student Government Association Faculty Class Sponsor or his/her designee. This Election Committee is tasked with filling the Vacancy. First opportunity is given to those students who were Runner-Up in their various races. Should there be more than one qualified Runner-Up, the candidate with the most votes in his/her race will be awarded the Vacancy. In the event that the Vacancy is still unfilled, the Election Committee will appoint the position from among the Student Body. Should this occur, the appointee must fulfill all requirements for candidacy in order to be eligible for the appointment.

Article II

Section 1

1. The Executive authority shall be vested in the Office of the Student Council President of the Student Government Association.

Section 2

1. The Student Council President shall convene Legislative Body for meetings, develop an agenda for the Legislative meetings, and participate in Legislative Body in a non-voting manner. In the event of a tie vote during the business of Legislative Body, the President has the powers to cast the tie vote. The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall carry the duties and powers of the President until he or she returns.

Section 3

1. Whether from dismissal or resignation and whether permanent or temporary, the Vice President shall fill the Office of President and vacate the Office of Vice President. On the occasion that the Vice President is unable to fulfill this role the Council Secretary shall fill the Office of President and vacate the Office of Vice President. If both the Vice President and the Secretary are unavailable, the Treasurer shall fulfill the duties of the vacant Office.

Article III

Section 1

1. The Reviewing authority shall be vested in the Reviewing Committee of The First Academy composed of various members of faculty and Administration.
2. Members of the Reviewing Committee shall be yearly appointed by the Upper School Assistant Principal to ensure one Faculty Class Sponsor per grade level and one Student Government Association Faculty Sponsor.
3. Student Government Association Class Sponsors are accountable to the Student Government Association Faculty Sponsor.

Section 2

1. The Reviewing Committee shall have the duty of reviewing the decisions of the Legislative Body of the Student Government Association and upon approval shall submit decisions to the Upper School Administration of The First Academy. A vetoed decision, either by the Reviewing Committee or by the Upper School Administration, shall be sent back to the Legislative Body with reasons for the veto and may be resubmitted, once edited and passed again by Legislative Body, for reassessment.

Article IV

Section 1

1. Legislative Body shall propose Amendments to these Student Government Association By-Laws with a majority vote. The Reviewing Committee may also submit amendments to the By-Laws to Legislative Body.

Section 2

1. Proposed Amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority in Legislative Body and then shall follow the procedure outlined in Article III, Section 2 for inclusion into the By-Laws.
2. Once an Amendment has passed the Upper School Administration, it shall become part of The First Academy Student Government Association By-Laws.

Article V

Section 1

1. These By-Laws under the Student Government Association of The First Academy shall be the supreme law governing the Acts, Procedures, and Responsibilities of the Association, previous precedents notwithstanding.
2. Certain Operating Documents pertaining to the necessary functions of the organization shall be a part of the day-to-day procedures and operations of the Student Government Association. These Documents shall conform to the Student Government Association By-Laws but may otherwise be changed year-to-year by the Legislative Body and Reviewing Committee when they deem it necessary and proper. These Documents shall consist of election documentation, forms, event checklists and programming, and certain annual publications that are required in the daily operations of the Student Government Association. Written and electronic copies of these documents shall be incorporated as flexible addendums to these By-Laws.