CONSTITUTION
OF
THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
OF
THE DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW
OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
-PENN STATE LAW
Preamble

We, the students of The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University – Penn State Law [hereinafter “Penn State Law”], to foster a more responsive and cohesive law school environment, promote communication, cooperation, and understanding between the students, faculty administration, alumni, law school community, and the numerous bar associations, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Bar Association of Penn State Law.

Article I: Name and Membership

The official name of this organization shall be the Student Bar Association of Penn State Law [hereinafter “SBA”].

SBA members shall be entitled to vote in all elections and referenda of the SBA except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

Article II: Governing Bodies

The SBA shall be governed by a Board composed of a President, a Vice President, a secretary, a treasurer, a Pennsylvania State University Senator, an American Bar Association Representative, an LLM Senator, all duly elected Class Representatives, all duly elected LLM Representatives, all duly elected Honor Code Representatives, and all duly elected LLM Honor Code Representatives.

This Board shall have the power to promulgate policies and exercise all powers that are necessary for the execution of this Constitution.

The SBA shall have an Executive Council composed of a President, a Vice President, a secretary, a treasurer, a Pennsylvania State University Senator, an American Bar Association Representative, and a LLM Senator.

The Executive Council shall meet no less than once per academic semester and shall have the power to establish, maintain, and dissolve temporary committees with the advice and consent of the Board; produce a schedule of events for the fall and spring semesters; and resolve any emergency situations.

All members of the Board shall be voting members with the exception of the President, who shall have the power to vote only in the event of a tie.

All decisions of the Board shall be by majority vote of present Board members unless otherwise provided for herein.
The Board shall have the power to enact bylaws not inconsistent with this Constitution.

The Board shall be the final interpreter of this Constitution and any laws and policies promulgated thereunder.

**Article III: Committees**

The Executive Council shall have the power to establish and maintain standing committees.

The Executive Council shall have the power, with the advice and consent of the Board, to establish ad hoc committees which shall expire at the end of the SBA administrative year.

The President shall have the power to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Board, the Chairperson and committee members of all standing and ad hoc committees except the Budget Committee, which shall be comprised of voting members that shall be appointed by the Treasurer with the advice and consent of the Board.

All duly constituted Committees shall be responsible to the Board and shall regularly report their activities to the Board.

The President shall have the power to, upon the request of a Faculty Committee, appoint an SBA member to a Faculty Committee under a provisional status until that member is approved by the Board.

The Board shall at all times possess the power to reprimand or reassign SBA committee Chairpersons and members upon a majority vote of the Board.

The Board shall have the power to enact bylaws to effect the provisions of this Article.

**Article IV: Student Groups and Organizations**

The Board shall have exclusive power to charter student groups and organizations and to revoke or suspend such charter.

The Board shall have the exclusive power to require any student group or organization chartered by the SBA to change its rules or practices to conform to the mandates of the SBA or The Pennsylvania State University School of Law.

No student group or organization may receive funding through the SBA unless the Board has chartered that student group or organization.
Article V: Meetings

All action by the Board shall occur at a general meeting or duly convened special meetings.

“Special meeting” shall mean any meeting other than a general meeting.

The Board shall meet a minimum of six (6) times per semester.

Notice shall be given to all SBA members at least five (5) school days prior to any regular meeting and within a reasonable time prior to any special meeting.

All meetings of the Board require a quorum consisting of a majority of the membership of the Board. If a quorum is not available within a reasonable time, the meeting shall be postponed until such time as the President directs.

The Secretary or their designee shall keep a record of each proceeding pursuant to their assigned duties.

No Board member may vote by proxy unless the Executive Council, by a majority vote, permits the submission of a written proxy on a specific resolution.

Meetings of the Board shall be open to all students, and all students shall be permitted to speak to any issue before the Board.

The Board shall have the power to enact bylaws to effect the provisions of this Article.

Article VI: Elections

General elections for members of the Board shall be administered by the Election Committee which shall be Chaired by the Vice President and composed of at least four (4) additional members not voting in that election.

Election Committee members may not be candidates for office. In the event that the Vice President is a candidate for office, the President shall appoint a Board Member to serve as Co-Chair.

The Election Committee shall have the power to set the date for all elections.

Students graduating within one academic year shall not vote in general elections for the Board.

Elections for 1L Class Representatives and Honor Code Representatives shall be held as early as possible, but no later than five (5) weeks after the start of the academic year.
Board members shall be elected for a one (1) year term beginning on the date of the first full Board meeting following their election.

The Board shall have the power to enact bylaws to effect the provisions of this Article.

**Article VII: Vacancy and Removal**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume all privileges, duties, and responsibilities of the President.

The Board shall have the sole power of removal.

The basis for removal shall be the substantial violation of any provision of this Constitution or the neglect or refusal to perform their official responsibilities and duties.

Appointees serve at the discretion of the President and are also subject to removal by the Board.

Judgment in cases of removal shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the SBA.

Judgment in cases of removal shall in no way preclude the ability of said person to be found liable and subject to charge, hearing, judgment, and punishment, pursuant to the rules and regulations of Penn State Law.

Any Board member may be removed upon motion of an officer or representative, second of another Board member, and a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the entire Board.

Any member subject to a motion for removal shall not be entitled to vote on that motion and they shall not be counted when determining the requisite number of votes for the passage of said motion.

In the event that 1L Board members have not yet been elected, the vote shall not occur until 1L Board members have been elected and given appropriate time for review.

The President, with the consent of a majority of the Board, shall fill vacancies on the Board unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

Due process requirements of notice, opportunity to hear the charges against him or her, and opportunity to answer those charges and to obtain witnesses to testify on his or her behalf before the Board, shall be guaranteed to any member charged with a violation of this Constitution. However, failure or refusal of an officer to attend a hearing or to participate therein does not bar removal.

Interpretation of this Article shall be the sole right of the Board.
The Board shall have the power to enact bylaws to effect the provisions of this Article.

**Article VIII Amendment and Revision**

All proposed amendments and revisions to this Constitution shall first be subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the whole Board.

Any SBA member may submit a petition to the Board at a general meeting and that petition shall be considered a proposal upon a finding by the Board that said petition possesses the sufficient and authentic signatures of twenty (20) percent of all SBA members.

A vote shall be held during school hours within thirty (30) calendar days after the proposed amendment or revision has been promulgated in which at least one-half (1/2) of the entire SBA membership shall vote. The amendment or revision shall be approved if it receives a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast.

The Board shall have the power to enact bylaws to effect the provisions of this Article.

**Article IX: Ratification**

Upon ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those SBA members voting, this Constitution shall be effective immediately.