



2013–2014

VACATE SENATE APPLICATION

THIS COMPLETED ELECTIONS PACKET, INCLUDING ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION OUTLINED, MUST BE TURNED INTO THE SGA VICE PRESIDENT OR DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Time Received _____ am / pm
Received By _____



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Dear Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in the Student Government Association (SGA) at Valdosta State University (VSU). SGA is the organized voice for each student at VSU. SGA strives to protect the students' rights and to advocate on behalf of the students' welfare in the university community. The organization also serves as a liaison between the students, faculty, and the administration on campus.

Enclosed in this packet, you will find the information and documents required to participate in the Senate vacancy process. Please be sure to read the requirements outlined on page three of this packet and review the contents of the governing documents of SGA that can be found on our website.

Your involvement with SGA can have a significant impact on the student body. If you have any further questions related to elections, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are looking forward to working with you! Best wishes!

Sincerely,

Hassanat Oshodi
Vice President
haoshodi@valdosta.edu

William Jimerson
President
wcjimerson@valdosta.edu

Russell Mast
SGA Advisor
VP of Student Affairs/Dean of Students
rmast@valdosta.edu

VACATE SENATE SEAT REQUIREMENTS & TIMELINE

- Vacant seats in the senate will be announced by the presiding officer within one week of its occurrence. Applications will be available at the time of announcement.
- Candidates for vacant senate seats are required to attend two, consecutive senate meetings prior to applying for senator and receiving a nomination from a current Senator to fill the vacate seat.
- Candidates are required to turn in completed Vacant Senator Application Packet, including the (100) petition of nomination student signatures, to SGA Vice President or Dean of Students Office within five business days of the second, consecutive Senate meeting the candidate attends.
- Candidates for vacant senate seats will receive notification of application acceptance via e-mail within five business days to schedule your Senate nomination, presentation, and second to the motion to accept membership nomination of the Senate present.
- The nomination matter will be tabled for one week for consideration before the final membership approval motion [a two-thirds (2/3) Senate vote].
- Candidates for vacant senate seats will be required to develop a one slide PowerPoint, no more than two minute presentation with demographical and explanation of interest.
- Prospective senators are not allowed to campaign with campaign materials or paraphernalia to the student body or Senate.
- Upon approval for the vacant senate seat, the candidate will receive the oath of office at the next Senate meeting.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

I, _____ (print full name), hereby agree to participate as an official Student Government Association Senator candidate.

While conducting my pursuit to the vacate Senate seat, I hereby agree to abide by the Student Government Association Constitution, By-Laws and Statutes, and Elections Code of Ethics, in addition to the rulings of the Student Government Association Judicial Council. I agree to release my academic performance to the SGA Executive Board to verify my eligibility to participate.

If approved for membership, I will serve the Student Government Association and the Valdosta State University's student body to the best of my ability. In order to complete my duty, I will be fully aware of the current problems facing VSU's student body. In addition, I will work with the student government and the entire Valdosta State University community to improve and better the campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Candidate Signature

Date

SENATOR

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Senators compose the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association. Individuals are elected to represent various constituencies with VSU's student body. Senators are elected for a one academic school year term.

Communicating with the Student Body

Senators are tasked with developing relationship with their constituents, the students, in order to respond to their needs and concerns. Senators are expected to abide by the expectations set forth of the executive branch and advisors in order to fulfill the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of this body.

Initiating Action to Improve Student Experience

In listening to the needs and concerns of the student body, senators should be actively working together to develop ideas and plans to improve Valdosta State. There are opportunities available to work with a number of SGA and Faculty Senate committees including Elections & Rules, Student Affairs, Judiciary, Health Services, Parking & Transportation, Public Relations, and Finance. From this work, senators can bring forth legislation to the Senate body to formally establish SGA support on an issue.

Active Engagement in the Legislative Process

Senators are expected to be active participants during Senate and committee meetings. As a number of issues are brought before the body, Senators should be well-informed about the topic and be able to discuss and inquire where needed. It is imperative that Senators be knowledgeable of the governing documents of SGA—Constitution, By-laws and Statutes, and the Student Handbook. It is important that members of Senate participate in a civil and respectful way towards students, colleagues, and guests.

Participating in SGA Initiatives, Programs, and Activities

Senators are expected to work with members of other committees and branches within SGA to contribute to positive changes on campus. Senators will act as role models to the campus community by abiding by the Student Code of Conduct and advocate effectively to their constituency the initiatives of SGA. Senators are required to attend all Senate meetings, which are held every Monday evening. Additionally, senators are expected to attend mandatory events and committee meetings set forth by the executive branch during their term.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PETITION FOR NOMINATION OF ELECTED POSITION

Legal Name (PRINT): _____

Local Mailing Address: _____

VSUE-mail Address: _____

VSU Student ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Classification: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Academic Major: _____

Anticipated Graduation (Semester/Year): _____

SGA Experience: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Polo Size: _____ Position Desired: Senator

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PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE BELOW.

CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF NOMINATION BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Academic Standing: _____

_____ Verified Cumulative GPA

_____ Statement of Intent

_____ Nomination Petition Completed

_____ Application Questions

SGA Vice President Signature: _____

Nominated by: _____ Meeting Date: _____

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*Please provide a short answer to each of the following questions.
Responses may be typed or handwritten in print.*

1. Why do you want to become a Senator of the Student Government Association?

2. What SGA committee would you be an asset to and why? What would be your second committee interest if your first preference is not assigned?

3. What specific and unique qualities will you bring to SGA and how will you utilize these qualities to serve the VSU community?

4. Identify a personal issue facing the students in your specific classification or major. If you were a part of SGA how would you deal with this issue?

5. Describe a time when you had to take a role as a leader. What were the circumstances? What was the outcome?

6. What organizations are you a member of on VSU campus? Please include any executive, leadership, SGA experience, or committee positions as well.

PETITION FOR NOMINATION

The following list includes the petition of one hundred (100) student signatures who support the nomination of: _____ for the position of SGA Senator.
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