**Constitution**

**of the**

**Associated Student Body**

**of**

**Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences**

**(ASBPNWU)**

Table of Contents

[Article I. Organization 3](#_Toc128694736)

[Section 1. Official Name 3](#_Toc128694737)

[Section 2. Membership 3](#_Toc128694738)

[Section 3. Governing Body 3](#_Toc128694739)

[Section 4. Constitution, Bylaws, and Procedures 3](#_Toc128694740)

[Section 5. Inclusion 3](#_Toc128694741)

[Article II. Purpose and Goals 3](#_Toc128694742)

[Section 1. Purpose 3](#_Toc128694743)

[ASBPNWU 3](#_Toc128694744)

[SGA 3](#_Toc128694745)

[Section 2. Goals 3](#_Toc128694746)

[ASBPNWU 3](#_Toc128694747)

[SGA 4](#_Toc128694748)

[Article III. Student Government Association 4](#_Toc128694749)

[Section 1. SGA Structure 4](#_Toc128694750)

[SGA Executive Board 4](#_Toc128694751)

[SGA Senate 4](#_Toc128694752)

[SGA House 4](#_Toc128694753)

[Program Council 4](#_Toc128694754)

[Class Council 4](#_Toc128694755)

[Section 2. Exercise of Power 4](#_Toc128694756)

[Section 3. Elections 5](#_Toc128694757)

[Section 4. Resignation 5](#_Toc128694758)

[Section 5. Impeachment 5](#_Toc128694759)

[Section 6. Vacancy and Succession 5](#_Toc128694760)

[Article IV. Appeals 5](#_Toc128694761)

[Section 1. Eligibility 5](#_Toc128694762)

[Section 2. Submission 6](#_Toc128694763)

[Section 3. Assignment 6](#_Toc128694764)

[Section 4. Chain of Escalation 6](#_Toc128694765)

[Section 5. Expediency 6](#_Toc128694766)

[Article V. Student Organizations 6](#_Toc128694767)

[Section 1. SGA Clubs 6](#_Toc128694768)

[Section 2. SGA Affiliates 6](#_Toc128694769)

[Article VI. Amendments and Ratification 6](#_Toc128694770)

[Section 1. Constitutional Amendments 6](#_Toc128694771)

[Section 2. Bylaws Amendments 7](#_Toc128694772)

[Section 3. Document History 7](#_Toc128694773)

[END OF DOCUMENT 7](#_Toc128694774)

# Article I. Organization

## Section 1. Official Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Associated Student Body of the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (ASBPNWU).

## Section 2. Membership

Every enrolled student in good standing, so certified by Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (PNWU), shall be a member of the ASBPNWU.

## Section 3. Governing Body

The representative governing body of this association shall be known as the Student Government Association (SGA).

## Section 4. Constitution, Bylaws, and Procedures

ASBPNWU and SGA shall be governed by this constitution which will outline the purpose, structure, powers, and stakeholders of this association.

SGA roles and responsibilities shall be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA.

SGA policy and procedures shall be specified in the Handbook of the SGA.

## Section 5. Inclusion

The ASBPNWU and SGA does not discriminate on the basis of any immutable characteristics including but not limited to race, sex, creed, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity in carrying out the meaning and intent of this Constitution and all associated documents.

# Article II. Purpose and Goals

## Section 1. Purpose

### ASBPNWU

The purpose of the ASBPNWU shall be to provide a forum for students to present and discuss matters important to their tenure at PNWU.

### SGA

The purpose of the SGA shall be to act as the official representative and interactive participant for the student body to the faculty, administration, staff, fellow professionals, and the general public in matters regarding the student body; and to oversee PNWU sponsored student organizations and elected individuals of the student body; and to advocate for students at the institutional, city, county, state, regional, national, and international levels.

## Section 2. Goals

### ASBPNWU

ASBPNWU will strive to cultivate a community where every student can achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals.

### SGA

SGA will strive to promote responsible leadership and cooperation of student-led organizations at PNWU; and to facilitate the development of academic, clinical, and research opportunities at PNWU; and to advocate for student participation in professional associations at the institutional, city, county, state, regional, national, and international levels.

# Article III. Student Government Association

## Section 1. SGA Structure

SGA shall be composed of levels of councils to represent, administer, and enact student needs at the most relevant level of organization within PNWU.

### SGA Executive Board

Leads and supports the SGA Senate.

* Comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.
* The Chair and Vice Chair is selected from within the SGA Senate.
* The Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian are selected by the ASBPNWU.

### SGA Senate

Oversees the SGA House; and is the ultimate arbitrator of all matters relating to the SGA and ASBPNWU.

* Comprised of a President and Vice President from each Program.
* The Senate shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from amongst themselves, with the Executive Treasurer acting as tiebreaker.

### SGA House

Formed from all SGA Officers of every program to address matters relating to the SGA and the ASBPNWU.

### Program Council

Comprised of Program Leaders and all Class Councils of each degree granting Program to address matters relating to such program.

* Each Program Council shall provide a President and Vice President to represent their Program at the SGA Senate.

### Class Council

Oversees the SGA Officers of each Class to address matters relating to such class.

## Section 2. Exercise of Power

All official decisions, activities, and opinions of the SGA shall require a formal vote of the exercising entity. All formal votes require the following:

* Quorum of the voting body
  + Three-quarters of the SGA Senate shall constitute a quorum.
  + Two-thirds of the SGA House shall constitute a quorum.
  + Two-thirds of each Program Council shall constitute a quorum.
  + Two-thirds of each Class Council shall constitute a quorum.
* Records of the motion, voting method, and results shall be published to the relevant constituents.
* Motions shall include the forum, author, and content.
* Valid methods of voting: voice, hand, or standing.
* Results shall include the following:
* Voice and hand votes shall report as passed or defeated.
* A standing vote shall be used in all cases of division and shall have an anonymous tally of votes in support and against.

## Section 3. Elections

Elections of SGA officers shall be conducted with: oversight by no less than two seated SGA officers, with no conflicts of interest in the outcome of the election; timely notification of all qualified candidates; equal opportunity for all approved candidates to campaign; and expedient processing of results.

* Elections shall be determined by a simple majority of the casted votes.
  + If there are more than two candidates and a majority cannot be reached, then a runoff of the top two candidates with the most votes shall be held.
  + If there are two or less candidates, such as in a runoff election, and a majority cannot be reached, such as in the case of No Confidence votes, then the election shall be repeated.
* Specific procedures for each position shall be outlined in the Handbook.

## Section 4. Resignation

Any SGA officer may step down from their position at any time.

Any seated or elected officer who is placed on academic probation shall be declared ineligible to hold office and immediately resigned from their post.

## Section 5. Impeachment

Any officer may be petitioned for impeachment for any of the following offenses:

* Failure to fulfill the duties of their office as stipulated in the Bylaws.
* By signed petition of a one-quarter minority of their represented constituency.

The Officer so petitioned shall be removed from all impeachment proceedings.

Approval of an impeachment petition shall require unanimous approval of the SGA Senate and a two-thirds majority of the SGA House.

## Section 6. Vacancy and Succession

In the event that an office is vacant, and succession needs to be determined, the SGA Senate has final approval of procedures as outlined in the Bylaws.

# Article IV. Appeals

## Section 1. Eligibility

Any member of ASBPNWU in good standing, as verified by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), may appeal any SGA decision, procedure, or action.

## Section 2. Submission

All appeals must be submitted in writing to the SGA Executive Board no more than three calendar days after announcement of the decision or conclusion of the incident.

## Section 3. Assignment

The SGA Executive Board shall assign all appeals to the appropriate office no more than 24 hours after receipt.

## Section 4. Chain of Escalation

Appeals shall be assigned to the lowest level office responsible for the decision, if their decision is unsatisfactory then the applicant may request for escalation in the following order:

1. Class Council
2. Program Council
3. SGA House
4. SGA Senate
5. OSA

## Section 5. Expediency

The SGA shall strive to expediently process all appeals within the constraints of their academic duties.

* Acknowledgement of Receipt of Appeal by the Executive Board shall be sent to the applicant no more than 24 hours after receipt.
* A Decision shall be provided to the applicant in writing no more than one calendar week after receipt by the reviewing office.

# Article V. Student Organizations

## Section 1. SGA Clubs

SGA Clubs are any student organization supported, overseen, and funded by SGA, with approval by OSA.

SGA Clubs must be in conformity with the Bylaws of this Association.

## Section 2. SGA Affiliates

SGA Affiliates are any student organization affiliated with SGA, with approval by OSA.

SGA Affiliates are directly supported, overseen, and funded by OSA.

# Article VI. Amendments and Ratification

## Section 1. Constitutional Amendments

This Constitution of the ASBPNWU shall be amended by a three-quarters majority of all SGA Officers or ASBPNWU, provided that the proposed amendment has been introduced and approved by a simple majority at a prior quorum of the SGA House, and a copy has been distributed to all ASBPNWU.

## Section 2. Bylaws Amendments

The Bylaws of the SGA shall be amended by a two-thirds majority of all SGA Officers or ASBPNWU, provided that the proposed amendment has been introduced and approved by a simple majority at a prior quorum of the SGA House, and a copy has been distributed to all ASBPNWU.

## Section 3. Document History

Ratified on the 2nd of March 2023

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