The Constitution of the Student Bar Association
The University of Oregon School of Law
A Student Group Recognized by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon

Preamble

We, the students of the University of Oregon School of Law, in order to further scholastic achievement; promote understanding among the faculty, students and alumni; facilitate cooperation with the University; coordinate the activities of the law school community; promote service to the general community; enhance professional and social interests; cooperate with bar associations and other law schools; promote equality of justice for all; and in recognition that unification of the law student body into an effective organization is necessary to these ends, do establish this Constitution for the student body of the University of Oregon School of Law.

Article I: Name

This Organization shall be known as the Student Bar Association of the University of Oregon, hereinafter referred to as the SBA.

Article II: Membership

All currently enrolled students in the School of Law are members of the SBA and are eligible to vote in all elections under this Constitution.

Article III: Organization

Section 1: The Officers of the SBA shall be a President, Vice President and Business Officer. The governing body of the SBA shall be the SBA Council as provided in Article IV. The SBA Officers shall be compensated as determined by the ASUO program finance

Section 2: The President shall bear responsibility for administration of the SBA government. The President shall have the following responsibilities:

a) Oversee the financial affairs of the SBA and ensure the Business Officer prepares and publishes an annual SBA budget.
b) Consult, along with the Business Officer, with an authorized representative of each subgroup requesting funds before submitting the subgroup budget in the ASUO program finance process.

c) Consult and render assistance with registered / recognized organizations at the law school concerning their participation in the ASUO program finance process.

d) Preside at all SBA Council meetings.

e) Appoint all student members of student / faculty committees, student committee chairs, the law student representative to the American Bar Association and other staff members as necessary to achieve the purpose of the SBA.

1) The Law Student Division (LSD) representative shall represent the SBA in all interactions with the LSD of the American Bar Association. The representative shall be the official delegate representing the SBA at all LSD conventions and conferences and shall report the proceedings thereof to the SBA. The representative shall have such other responsibilities as delegated by the President.

f) Remove appointees under subsection (e) at his/her discretion.

f) Such other responsibilities necessary to conduct the administration of the SBA.

Section 3: The Vice President shall have the following responsibilities:

a) Establish and coordinate a Speakers Program.

b) Coordinate management of the student lounge.

c) Coordinate publication of the student directory.

d) President at all meetings in the absence of the President, and fulfill the duties of the President if that office is vacated during the President’s term of office.
e) Such other responsibilities necessary to conduct the administration of the SBA or as delegated by the President.

Section 4: The Business Officer shall have the following responsibilities:

a) Administer the financial affairs of the SBA.
b) Maintain a permanent record of all SBA financial accounts.
c) Record and publish the minutes of the SBA Council meetings.
d) Such other responsibilities necessary to conduct the administration of the SBA or as delegated by the President.

Article IV: SBA Council

Section 1: The SBA Council shall be the governing body of the SBA. The SBA Council shall be composed of the following voting members: President, Vice President, Business Officer, two Class Officers from each class, and one designated representative from each ASUO registered / recognized student organization at the School of Law. Student organizations in existence at the law school who have held at least one official meeting within the previous year of the date of passage of this constitution but who are not ASUO registered / recognized shall have a representative on the SBA Council (a comprehensive list of these student organizations is appended hereto and incorporated by reference). After the date of passage of this constitution a student organization must be ASUO registered / recognized to obtain a representative on the SBA Council.

Section 2: The SBA Council shall have the following duties and powers:

a) manage the affairs of the SBA,
b) formulate the policies of the SBA,
c) conduct the financial affairs of the SBA in conjunction with the SBA Officers,
d) adopt by-laws governing the responsibilities of student representatives on student / faculty committees,
e) adopt by-laws consistent with the Constitution to implement the policies and procedures of the SBA, and
f) exercise all other powers necessary for the execution of the Constitution.

Section 3: The Class Officers shall consist of two class representatives from each class. The individual classes may convene from time to time to determine the powers and duties of their respective Class Officers, consistent with this constitution and the ASUO Constitution. Class Officers shall ensure that their respective classes are informed of issues affecting the SBA at least one each academic term.

Section 4: The SBA Council shall conduct business according to the following rules of order:

a) All voting members of the SBA Council present at a meeting may vote on any question presented.

b) All decisions shall be by majority vote of the voting members present, unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.

c) The SBA Council may not vote on a measure unless a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of a majority (50%) of the SBA Officers and Class Officers. A vacant position shall not be included in computing a quorum.

d) A two-thirds majority vote of the voting members of the SBA Council shall be necessary to amend a by-law.

e) The SBA Council may adopt such other internal rules of order for the conduct of its business as it deems necessary.

Section 5: Any action of the SBA Council is subject to an initiative on presentation of a petition at a regularly scheduled meeting of the SBA Council signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the student body. The initiative vote shall be held between ten (10) and twenty (20) days after the presentation of the petition to the SBA Council. Notice of the initiative vote shall be publicly posted no less than three (3) days prior to
the vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the votes cast is required for passage. The result of the initiative vote is binding on the SBA Council.

Section 6: The SBA Council shall not discriminate against individuals based on race, gender, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, age, marital or familial status or disability.

Article V: Honor Code

The SBA expects its members to maintain the highest standards of academic and professional integrity, and to foster a community dedicated to mutual achievement, cooperation and respect. Accordingly, SBA members shall abide by the standards set forth in the Honor Code for the University of Oregon School of Law, incorporated herein by reference.

Article VI: Elections

Section 1: An election is valid if at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the appropriate constituency has cast ballots. Appropriate constituency is defined in Article VIII, Section 1, subsection (d).

Section 2: The President shall establish a standing Committee on Elections. The committee shall consist of an SBA Council member and two other students who may also be SBA Council members. The Committee shall promulgate and publicly post election regulations no less than fourteen (14) days prior to each election and have responsibility for conducting all elections. The Committee shall determine if the candidates are qualified and shall certify the election results to the SBA Council.

Section 3: Elections for SBA Officers, and Class Officers for the second and third year classes shall be held not later than the eleventh week of the spring semester (hereinafter the annual spring semester election).
Section 4: Any eligible member of the SBA may be nominated for any office by filing a petition signed by fifteen members of the SBA. The petition must be filed at least five (5) days prior to election day.

Section 5: At the time of the annual spring semester election for the offices of President, Vice President, and Business Officer, the candidates for each office shall be currently enrolled members of the second or first year classes.

Section 6: Elections for the SBA President, Vice President and Business Officer shall be as follows: Candidates receiving a majority of those votes cast for their positions will be elected. In determining whether a candidate has received the required percentage of votes, write-in votes will be counted only if cast for currently enrolled members of the SBA. If more than two candidates are running for the same office and none receives a majority, there will be a run-off between those two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. Any such runoff election shall be conducted within seven (7) days.

Section 7: In the event the offices of Vice President or Business Officer become vacant during the term of office, an election to fill the vacant position will be held with twenty-one (21) days of the date of the vacancy, unless the annual spring semester election will occur within that time period. In the event the vacancy occurs within twenty-one (21) days of the annual spring semester election, the vacancy shall be filled by that election. Those people qualified as candidates shall include:

a) members of the second or first year class, if the vacancy occurs during the spring semester.

b) any member of the SBA if the vacancy occurs during the fall semester.

Section 8: Election for Class Officers shall be as follows: Each voter may cast a vote for two candidates for the office of class representative. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, provided the number of votes received by each exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the total cast for that office.
If only one person receives more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the votes cast, that person shall be elected and a run-off election shall be held between the two persons receiving the next highest number of votes. Each voter may cast one vote in the runoff election.

If no person receives more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the votes cast, there shall be a run-off election among the three candidates who receive the highest number of votes. In this election, each voter may cast two votes.

Section 9: Elections for the first-year class representatives shall be conducted in the fall semester under the supervision of the Elections Committee. First year class elections may be scheduled at the Election Committee’s discretion, but in no case later than November 1.

Article VII: Amendment and Revision

Section 1: This constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast in a special election of the SBA or the annual spring semester election.

Section 2: Amendment of this constitution may be initiated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SBA Council or by petition to the Council of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the SBA. A meeting of the SBA Council to discuss the proposed amendment(s) shall be convened within fourteen (14) days. Notice of said meeting date and purpose shall be publicly posted at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3: A special election to vote on the proposed amendment(s) will be conducted between seven (7) to fourteen (14) days after the meeting of the SBA Council; unless the annual spring semester election would occur within that time, in which case the amendment shall be voted on in the annual spring semester election. Notice of either election shall be publicly posted at least three (3) days prior to the vote.

Article VIII: Recall
Section 1: Any SBA Office or Class Officer may be recalled pursuant to the following procedure:

a) Upon petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the appropriate constituency, the Election Committee shall schedule a recall vote. The vote shall take place between seven (7) and fourteen (14) days after the petition is submitted and certified by the Elections Committee.

b) Removal of an SBA Officer or Class Officer requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the appropriate constituency.

c) An election to fill a vacated position shall be held within twenty-one (21) days of any successful recall election. The election shall be conducted according to Article VI.

d) The appropriate constituency for SBA Officers is all SBA members. The appropriate constituency for Class Officers is all members of their class. This subsection (d) applies only to the provisions of Article VIII and Article VI, Section 1.

Section 2: In the event of a recall of the President, the provisions of this article shall control. If the Presidency is vacated for any reason other than recall, Article III, Section 3, Subsection (d) shall control.

Section 3: In the case of a compensated position, any recalled officer receiving more than a pro-rated share of compensation prior to recall must reimburse the SBA of said excess.

Article IX: Interpretation

This constitution shall be interpreted by the ASUO Constitution Court.

Article X: Ratification – Effective Date

This constitution shall become effective immediately upon fulfillment of the requirements of Article VII of the current constitution and ratification by a two-thirds
(2/3) majority vote of the votes cast in an election by the SBA. The ratification election is valid only if at least thirty percent (30%) of the SBA has cast ballots.