

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,
whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just,
whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,
whatsoever things are of good report:
If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,
think on these things."

-Philippians 4:8

Student Government Constitution

The Student Government Association is the chief representation of students to the faculty and administration of The Hill School. The following rules and regulations are established in order to ensure that members of The Student Government Association serve their constituency to the best of their ability, while also representing the best interests of the school. Above all else, Association members are committed to the welfare of the entire Hill School community.

II. Membership

The Student Government Association (SGA) will consist of ten voting members.

- A. The President of the Sixth Form, The Vice President of the Sixth Form, and two Sixth Form Senators
- B. Two Fifth Form Senators
- C. Two Fourth Form Senators
- D. Two Third Form Senators, who join the association in October (See Section III, Election Procedures)

III. SGA Election Procedures and Guidelines

A. Election Schedule and Preparation:

1. Election Schedule:

During the week right after spring break, elections will be set up and students will register as candidates. Election month will start the following week. That week, the elections will kick off and will consist of four different phases lasting around one week each. The first phase will be the primary. The second phase will be the presidential campaign. The third phase will be the presidential election. The final phase will be the senatorial elections. The election for the Third Form will take place in early October and will be conducted by the SGA, not the Election Committee.

2. Election Committee:

The Election Committee is formed in February before spring break and meets twice before break to schedule and discuss the elections. The committee consists of 11 total participants, which will be a mixture of students and faculty members. The two chairs of the Election Committee and moderators for the debates will be an Editor-in-Chief of The Hill News and a 6th form senator chosen by the SGA. Two spots on the committee are for the committee chairs. Then there will be nine guaranteed spots set aside for students and faculty. Six of the spots will be set aside for one Hill News member, one member each from two student interest clubs chosen by the SGA (currently HASOGI and SOCA), one day student prefect, one head prefect, and one 6th form SGA member. Three spots will also be set aside for the SGA faculty representative and two other faculty members. All clubs are allowed to choose their representatives to this committee however they wish but they may only send the amount of members asked and that member may not be a candidate for president and/or for the senate. The additional 6th form SGA member will be appointed by the current president, who may

appoint his or herself. The two additional faculty members will be chosen by the current 6th form SGA members.

3. Set Up Before Elections:

Presidential candidates will be required to register for elections during the Election Set Up phase, the week before election month starts. Election information will be released before spring break. During the election set up phase, the Election Committee will begin to vet candidates and create debate questions. Questions can be created by the Election Committee or they can be submitted by community members for review. During this phase the Election Committee will also finalize the election schedule for the entire month. After about a week the Election Committee will kick off the election month on a Monday with an announcement from the current president of the SGA to the entire school.

B. Election Month

1. The Primary:

If more than six rising 6th formers are running for president there will be a primary to limit the pool to six total candidates, three rising 6th form females and three rising 6th form males. If there are six or less candidates running for president the primary process will be skipped and the Election Month will start with the Campaign period. The primary will consist of a standard debate lasting no more than 90 minutes. To learn more about the debates please go to the debate section. The primary is open to all Hill students but is not a required event. However, only those in attendance at the primary will be allowed to vote in the primary. Voting in the Primary will take place immediately after the primary on the way out. After the election, the Election Committee will release the six names of the male candidates with the three highest voting scores and the female candidates with the three highest voting scores in the primary and those candidates will move on to the presidential campaign phase. If there are too few female candidates

running or too few male candidates running the election committee is allowed to make slight adjustments to the presidential election pool. These adjustments may only be made to create a more gender equal presidential pool in the final presidential debate but must also be fair to all of the candidates running.

2. Presidential Campaign:

The presidential campaign kicks off once the primary results are released. During the presidential campaign each candidate is required to schedule an appointment with The Hill News to do a quick video interview and a written profile. Scheduling this appointment will be the responsibility of the candidate. During this phase, community members may submit questions for the presidential debate to the Election Committee for review. During the Campaign, candidates are encouraged to advertise and campaign for the elections around campus. All advertising must be approved by the Election Committee as appropriate. After one week has passed, the presidential election phase will commence.

3. Presidential Election:

The presidential election will be a 90-minute debate. See the debate section for modified rules. The entire Hill Community is required to be in attendance at the presidential debate. The candidate receiving the highest voting score will be named president and the second highest voting score will be named Vice President. The results of the Presidential Election will be announced by the Election Committee as soon as possible.

4. Senatorial Election:

All senate candidates, including 6th form candidates, must submit their intention to run by the day of the primary debate or, if there is no primary, by the Wednesday of the presidential campaign period. Any 6th former running for president may also sign up to run for the senate. If they lose the presidential election they may choose to run for the senate

and if they win the presidency their name will be withdrawn from the ballot for the senatorial election. Every form will have a standard debate no more than 90 minutes long and members of the form will be required to attend and vote by the next day. Senate elections will be held on different days to allow for the moderators and Election Committee to prepare and attend the debates. Any community member interested in asking a question during the senate elections may send that question to the Election Committee. The highest voting score male candidate of each form and the highest voting score female candidate of each form will be announced as the winner. All senatorial election results will be announced by the Election Committee on the same day after the results for each form have been counted.

C. Election Procedures

1. Voting System and Counting:

Voting for the primary will commence immediately after the debate while students are on the way out. All voting for elections will be open after the debate ends. A link to the online ballot will be sent to students allowed to vote in the election and will be open for the entire day. Polls will always close at midnight and any votes afterward will not be counted. After all votes have been cast and the polls have closed the Election Committee will meet the next day and count the votes. The two committee chairs will calculate the winner of the election based off of the Borda count system. The Borda count determines the outcome of an election by giving each candidate, for each ballot, a number of points corresponding to the number of candidates ranked lower. Once all votes have been counted the candidate or candidates with the most points win the election. A tie is broken by giving the candidate with the more high placed rankings the advantage. If a tie still cannot be broken a run-off election will commence the next day.

2. Questions:

All questions will be vetted by the Election Committee. All questions must be approved by a majority of the Election Committee. Also, any question that all three faculty members deem inappropriate will be vetoed. The Election Committee will narrow down and help create questions for the moderators to choose from for each election and primary. The moderators will each be able to go into the debate with questions voted on by the committee and edited at their own discretion. Each moderator may then ask an equal amount of questions. The moderators are allowed to ask any follow up questions they deem appropriate at their own discretion.

3. Debates:

The debates will be moderated by the two Election Committee chairs. Each committee chair will be responsible for asking half of the questions and any follow up questions at their own discretion. The debate moderators will enforce the rules of the debate and the candidates must listen to the moderators or they can be kicked out of the debate and off the ballot. The debates will all last at most 90 minutes and will consist of the candidates answering all questions in 30 seconds or less. Candidates are allowed 5 responses to each other's answers. Candidates may only use responses to respond to another candidate's answer, to respond to a question that wasn't directed at them, or to ask a question of one of the other candidates they feel is being ignored or they feel is necessary after a candidate's response. The candidate who is being responded to is allowed a single 30 second rebuttal at no cost to their responses. Candidates are also allowed a 30 second closing statement in random order. For the presidential debate, candidates are allowed 10 responses and candidates are allowed a 1-minute closing statement in random order.

4. Candidate Requirements:

All candidates must submit an essay anywhere from 150 words to 400 words explaining why they believe they are a good candidate. These essays will be reviewed by the Election Committee. Each candidate must

then be approved by three election committee members. Presidential candidates also have many other requirements during the presidential campaign phase. See the presidential campaign section for more.

D. Election Rules for Individuals

1. Candidate Behavior:

All candidates must treat each other and everyone for that matter with the proper respect Hill Students deserve. If any candidate is seen grossly disrespecting another candidate the Election Committee can take action against that candidate. All candidates are banned from speaking with the Election Committee members about anything to do with the elections. All questions must be directed to the chairs of the committee and cannot relate to questions and their topics. All candidates must adhere to rules of the electoral process, as they run the risk of being expelled from the ballot.

2. Election Committee Behavior:

No members of the Election Committee may discuss election specifics outside of the Election Committee. They may not answer questions, concerns, or anything else to do with the elections. They should not help any candidate prepare for the debate. Anything relating to the elections must be brought to the Chairs. The Chairs may answer questions but cannot talk about the questions or the vetting process of candidates. Any member of the Election Committee can be removed if two-thirds of the Election Committee members agree to the removal by a vote (8 out of the 11 total members). Anyone found breaking these rules risks their spot on the Election Committee.

3. Current SGA Member Behavior:

The current 6th form SGA members are highly discouraged from endorsing any candidates during the elections. The SGA must also avoid enacting any proposals during the election month especially those SGA members running for reelection. All proposals passed during the election

month will be announced by the current president of the SGA and no other current member may claim credit until after the election month. The SGA may continue their normal work but they hand over all election powers including the ability to change the election rules over to the Election Committee. The SGA is expected to act with honor and respect regardless of the election results. Those found breaking these rules risk their position on SGA.

IV. Duties and Responsibilities

The Following section outlines the general responsibilities of each member of the Student Government Association. This section is not meant to be a detail of all duties and responsibilities but rather a general guideline for officers.

The President of the Sixth Form is the chair of the Student Government Association. It is his/her responsibility to organize all aspects of the weekly meeting. The president will also meet weekly with the Headmaster and the Assistant Headmaster for Residential Life to discuss school issues. The President of the Sixth Form will also serve as the student chair of the Discipline Committee. (The responsibilities of this position is listed elsewhere in the Hill School Handbook.)

The Vice President of the Sixth Form will assist the president, attend weekly meetings with administration, serve on the Discipline Committee, and perform duties assigned by the president. The Vice President will assume the chairmanship of the Student Government Association in the absence of the president. The Vice President must also keep a watchful eye over the procedures of the SGA, to make sure that everything that the members are doing, are following the protocol set out by this constitution.

The Senators will come to weekly meetings in order to express the ideas and concerns of their respective classes. They are expected to hold form meetings from time to time to report the progress of the Association and also to hear their classmates' grievances. Each senator may also serve on

the Discipline Committee (see Handbook). One of the Sixth Form Senators will take the minutes of the meeting and post them later on the SGA Moodle page. One of the Sixth Form Senators will be responsible for the SGA schedule and calendar.

SGA members are expected to listen and coordinate the opinions and ideas of their respective peers. If a student approaches an SGA member with an idea, it is his/her responsibility to make it known to the rest of the SGA. This will then begin the Proposal Process, in which the member is as much an active participant as the student.

The Faculty Representative(s) is/are chosen by the Headmaster. The representative's chief responsibility is to represent a general faculty perspective on the issue at hand.

V. Meeting Protocol

Meetings will take place on Fridays at 6:30 P.M. The President of the Sixth Form will call the meeting, organize the agenda, and mediate the discussions.

All members of the SGA may bring proposals to the president for presentation at the next meeting. Any members wanting their item on the agenda must notify the president beforehand. Other members of the community may present proposals to the SGA by contacting any member, who will then request a spot on the agenda.

Proposals will be voted on, requiring a majority to pass. When a proposal passes, it will be sent to the appropriate faculty committee. The President and Vice President will continue discussing the proposal during weekly meetings with administrators.

VI. Removal From Office

Members of the Student Government Association hold themselves to the utmost standards. While all students are expected to follow the rules of the school, any SGA member violating a major school policy (as defined

by the Handbook) will be asked to resign. The class from which the student steps down will fill the position based on the voting records kept in the Student Activities office.

VII. Amendments

Any amendments to this constitution must first be made a motion by a voting member of the SGA. A vote will proceed with a minimum of eight of the ten voting members present, of which the President and the Vice President of the Sixth Form must be participants. Any amendment to this constitution then requires a two-thirds majority vote of the present voting SGA members.