The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

Article I – Name
The name of this organization shall be the Student Government of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and shall be referred to hereinafter as the Government. Student Government and LSA SG shall be the official abbreviations of the Government.

Article II - Purpose
LSA Student Government shall be the democratic government representing the entire Student Body of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (hereafter the College). The Government shall actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life.

Article III – Composition
The Government shall consist of the following members:

A. Elected Representatives. Nineteen representatives, elected from and by the Student Body of the College, shall be members of the Government. Each representative shall have one vote for two consecutive semesters.

B. Associate Representatives. Any student who has attended three consecutive General meetings shall be members of the Government. He or she will have speaking rights but they will not have a vote.

C. President. The President shall be elected by the Student Body of the College during Winter Semester elections. He or she shall only have a vote in an instance of tie.

D. Vice President. The Vice President shall be elected by the Student Body of the College in a paired slate with the President. He or she shall have one vote.

E. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. He or she shall have one vote.

F. Counsel. The Counsel shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. He or she shall have one vote.

G. Academic Relations Officer. The Academic Relations Officer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. He or she shall have one vote.

H. External Relations Officer. The External Relations Officer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. He or she shall have one vote.

J. Secretary. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. He or she shall have one vote.

K. Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs shall be elected by the voting members of the Government. If they serve concurrently as a representative, they shall have one vote.

L. Committee Vice Chair. Committee Vice Chairs shall be elected by the voting members of the Government. If they serve concurrently as a representative, they shall have one vote.

L. Historian. The Historian shall be elected by the voting members of the Government. If they serve concurrently as a representative, he or she shall have one vote.

Article IV – Officers
A. President. The President shall be President of the Student Body of the College, and chief executive officer of the Government. When the President is present, the President shall preside at all General Meetings of the Government. The President shall be the chief spokesperson for the Government, except when and in such cases that the Government shall designate another spokesperson.

B. Vice President. The Vice President shall coordinate the administrative functions of the Government and the activities of Government committees. The Vice President shall also manage the Government’s offices.

C. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Government. The Treasurer shall disburse all funds appropriated by the Government, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and of the Bylaws. The Treasurer shall prepare a semesterly budget to be submitted to the Government for approval.

D. Counsel. The Counsel shall serve as the Parliamentarian of the Government. The Counsel shall also serve as legal representative in all matters before the Central Student Judiciary.

E. Academic Relations Officer. The Academic Relations Officer shall serve as spokesperson to the Dean's Office regarding academic affairs. The Academic Relations Officer shall oversee the Academic Affairs Committee.

F. External Relations Officer. The External Relations Officer shall be a spokesperson of the Government. The External Relations Officer shall oversee the Communications Committee.

H. Secretary. The Secretary shall record and publish the minutes of all Government meetings. The Secretary shall maintain Government documents, records, and attendance.

Article V - Powers and Functions

Consistent with the limitations of the rest of this Constitution, the Government shall have the following powers and functions:

A. Advocating. To advocate on behalf of the students of the College.

B. Legislation. To adopt legislation to address and improve upon concerns of the College.

C. Projects and Activities. To originate student projects and activities.

D. Fees. To act as the beneficiary of student and college government fees as paid by the students of the College and set by the University of Michigan Board of Regents, appropriating these fees within the Government and awarding funds to other student organizations.

E. Election. To conduct a semesterly election for the purpose of electing the representatives and proposing ballot questions and referenda. During the winter semester elections the President and Vice President slate shall also be elected.

F. Appointment. To appoint or provide procedures for the appointment of student representatives to College and University wide committees, to College and University wide boards, to College and University wide panels, and to vacant seats representing the College on the Central Student Government (or its successor), and to remove or provide procedures for the removal of such appointees.

G. Bylaws. To establish a set of Bylaws to carry out the powers and functions described here or elsewhere in this Constitution.
Article VI - Committees

A. Structure. Each Committee shall have a single Chair and Vice Chair elected by the voting members of the Government.

B. Membership. The composition of committees shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, representatives, and volunteer members.

C. Permanent Committees or Subcommittees. Permanent Committees or Subcommittees may be created in order to accomplish recurring tasks or to assist the Government in the performance of its duties. Permanent Committees or Subcommittees may be created or dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the Government. The powers, functions, and composition of each Permanent Committee shall be defined in the Bylaws.

D. Temporary Committees or Task Forces. Temporary Committees or Task Forces may be created in order to accomplish a specific task or project, or to respond to a short term need. The Government may establish Temporary Committees or Task Forces by a majority vote. The general rules governing Temporary Committees or Task Forces shall be defined in the Bylaws.

Article VII - Operating Procedures

A. Chair. The Chair of the Government shall be the President.

B. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total number of voting members of the Government then in office.

C. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Government and Government committees shall be open to the Student Body of the College and to the public at large. The Government shall provide reasonable means for the participation of constituents at Government meetings.

D. Public Notice. The time, place, and agenda of each meeting shall be made public in advance of each meeting and publicized as much as possible.

E. Minutes. Minutes shall be taken at each meeting of the Government and shall be made available for public inspection promptly afterwards.

F. Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall be the official rules of procedure for all meetings of the Government and its committees, except where the Government may adopt other procedures in its Bylaws or legislation, and except where Robert's Rules may conflict with this Constitution.

G. Roll Call Votes. A roll call on any issue shall be taken upon the request of one-fifth of the voting members present.

H. Attendance Roll Calls. There shall be a roll call of members present at the beginning and the end of each Government meeting. Each roll call shall be recorded in the minutes.

I. Actions Effective. Actions of the Government shall become effective immediately after the meeting at which they are taken 24 hours have adjourned, unless specified otherwise in the action being taken. This shall not include amendments to this Constitution.

J. Budget. The Government shall adopt a budget on a semesterly basis. The manner of adopting and periodically amending the budget shall be specified in the Bylaws.

K. Financial Awards. No financial awards shall be made to any outside organizations except by a majority vote of the Government. No disbursements shall be made without the prior appropriation, approval, or authorization of the Government. All financial records shall be open to public inspection.
L. Jurisdiction. The Central Student Judiciary shall have original jurisdiction over all cases concerning regulations, legislation, or other actions enacted by the Government. This will be further established in the Bylaws.

M. Salaries Prohibited. No officer or member of the Government shall be paid a salary. Actual expenses incurred on Government business, however, may be reimbursed in a manner provided for in the Bylaws.

N. Other Procedures. Additional operating procedures may be established in the Bylaws provided that they are entirely consistent with this Constitution and the powers and functions of the Government.

Article VIII – Elections

A. General Elections. The Government shall hold two General All-College Elections each year. One shall be held during November and the other shall be held during March. The election shall be held on the same days and in conjunction with the fall and winter term elections of the Central Student Government (or its successor), unless the Government chooses different dates by a two-thirds vote. The operation of these elections shall be provided for in the Bylaws.

B. Special Elections. The Government may call special elections on dates other than the General All-College Elections. Special elections may be called in order to vote on referenda of any sort or to hold a new election for a given seat on the Government, a given set of seats on the Government, or on a given referenda question when the original results of the election were contested and, in the opinion of the Central Student Judiciary, a new election should be called to determine a result. The operation of these elections shall be provided for in the Bylaws.

C. Elected Representatives. Nineteen representatives shall be elected each year from and by the Student Body of the College during the General All-College Elections. Ten shall be elected during the November elections and nine shall be elected during the March elections.

1. Term. Representatives elected in November shall serve until the next November election and seating of representatives. Representatives elected in March shall serve until the next March election and seating of representatives. No term shall exceed one year and thirty-five days.

2. Voting. Each voter may vote for N candidates for the position of representative where N is the number of representatives being elected. The voter shall rank the candidates from 1 to N on the basis of preference. A first place vote shall count for N points, where N is the number of representatives being elected, a second place vote shall count for (N-1) points, and so on. An N-th place vote shall count for one point. The number of points shall be summed for each candidate, and the N candidates with the most points shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, the Government shall choose among the tied candidates. The candidate with the majority vote shall receive the seat.

3. Candidacy. Candidates for representative seats must be students at the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan and must be enrolled in the College at the time of their election.

4. Vacancy. The seat of any representatives shall be declared vacant if the representative resigns, fails to enroll, or unenrolls from the College during either the fall or winter academic term, graduates from the College, fails to meet minimum attendance requirements established in the
Bylaws, or is recalled by the Student Body of the College. Vacancies shall be filled by a vote of
the Government. Persons appointed to fill vacancies must be currently enrolled in the College.

D. President and Vice President. The President and Vice President of the Government shall be elected
together as a slate during the March general elections.

1. Term. The President and Vice President shall serve until the election and seating of their
successors. This term shall not exceed one year and thirty-five days.

2. Voting. Each voter may vote for only one slate. The slate receiving the highest total number of
votes shall be declared elected.

3. Candidacy. Candidates for President and Vice President must be students at the Ann Arbor
campus of the University of Michigan and must be enrolled in the College at the time of their
election. Candidates for President or Vice President may not simultaneously be candidates for
representative.

4. Vacancy. The office of either the President or Vice President shall be declared vacant if the
President or Vice President resigns, fails to enroll or unenrolls from the College during either
the fall or winter academic term, graduates from the College, fails to meet minimum
attendance requirements established in the Bylaws, or is recalled by the Student Body of the
College. The Vice President shall become President upon the vacancy of the office of President.
If the office of Vice President is vacant, the President shall nominate a currently enrolled
student of the College to serve as Vice President. The President's nominee must be approved by
a majority vote of the Government. If the offices of President and Vice President are
simultaneously vacant, the Government shall select one of its voting members to be President.

E. Referenda. Students of the College may consider referenda in both general and special elections.

1. Referral. The Government may, by a majority vote, refer any action, that it is empowered to
take, to the Student Body of the College. The Government may also refer non-binding advisory
questions to the Student Body of the College. Questions which are non-binding shall be clearly
labeled as such.

2. Initiative. Any action within the authority of the Government may be taken directly by the
Student Body of the College through an initiative. In order to place an initiative question on the
ballot, a petition stating the exact action or legislation desired must be signed by five hundred
students currently enrolled in the college. The procedures for filing a petition shall be specified
in the Bylaws.

3. Recall. Any voting member of the Government may be recalled by a three-fifths vote of the
Student Body in a duly called recall election. A recall election shall be called upon the receipt
of a petition signed by one thousand students of the College or by a two-thirds vote of all voting
members of the Government, then in office. The procedures for filing a petition shall be
specified in the Bylaws.

4. Binding. Actions taken by referenda shall be binding on the Government for a period of one
year or until an earlier time specified by the question. The Government may not act contrary to
a binding vote of the Student Body unless specifically instructed to do so by another vote of the
Student Body taken after the original question.

F. Election Director. The Election Director shall monitor the election, coordinate all election
correspondence, and certify the results of the election.

Article IX – Amendments

A. Government Initiated. The Government may, by a two-thirds vote, initiate an amendment to this
Constitution and refer it to the Student Body of the College. If a majority of those voting on the
proposed amendment in the referendum approve it, the amendment shall be adopted.

B. Petition Initiated. An amendment to this Constitution may be initiated by a petition signed by at
least one thousand students currently enrolled in the college. The procedure for filing a petition shall be
described in the Bylaws. If a majority of those voting on the proposed amendment in the referendum
approve it, the amendment shall be adopted.

C. Student Process. The adoption of an amendment, or of this Constitution, shall be an entirely student
process. No non-student body shall review, suspend, or approve this Constitution or amendments to this
Constitution in any way.

D. Effective Date. No amendment to this Constitution shall take effect until thirty days after the
referendum in which it was adopted unless a different effective date is specified in the referendum
question. No amendment shall take effect, in any case, until after the results of the election in which it
was adopted are certified.