

# Bill of Rights



*of the*

**Student Government Association**

*of*

**Stetson University**

## **Preamble**

The students of Stetson University enumerate the rights and responsibilities as listed below with the purpose of promoting the University's overarching educational mission and in the interest of preserving order and stability in the lives of students attending the University. These rights are deemed significant and should be upheld by the students, faculty, employees, and other members of the Stetson community. The students hold these rights to be necessary and proper for an enriching lifestyle and education at Stetson University.

## **The Enumerated Responsibilities**

The following assertion of student rights does not nullify the existing policies, laws, rules, or regulations of the local, state, or national governments. Rather, these rights are to enumerate the collective and individual freedoms of the students attending Stetson University. In order to maintain these rights, the students hold the responsibility to exercise these rights in a manner which will uphold the highest moral and ethical standards of the University.

## **The Enumerated Rights**

The Students of Stetson University are vested with the following rights:

- I. The student body collectively has the right to form a representative body of students and shall not be hindered in congregating for such a purpose. Every student has the right to participate in this representative body, and through this body the students reserve the right to petition the University for any grievances suffered.
- II. The students of Stetson University have the right to congregate and associate freely; as well as to speak or otherwise express themselves freely, so long as such speech and expressions do not infringe upon the rights of others.
- III. Students shall be free to publish, discuss, and exchange any findings or recommendations, whether this is done individually, or in association with any local, state, national, or international groups.
- IV. The University will hold on reference in the duPont-Ball library a physical, annually-updated, copy of the following: The Student Government

- Association Constitution and any other document governing the Student Government Association, The Student Bill of Rights, The Housing Agreement as well as the Bulletin, and any other statement of their rights and obligations pertaining to both academic and nonacademic activities in the Stetson community. These documents shall be available for reference a minimum of seven years time. Additionally, electronic copies of the aforementioned documents will be easily accessible to all students via links on the main page of the Stetson Intranet.
- V. No student shall be hindered in any research pertaining to any subject material related to any major offered by the University, so long as such research does not put any person in physical or psychological danger.
  - VI. Students have the right to the security and privacy of their dormitory rooms, persons, and personal possessions; additionally, they shall be free from unreasonable restrictions upon the use of the aforementioned or their personal liberty, provided that this does not infringe upon the reasonable exercise of the privacy, property, or intellectual rights of others. This document, in and of itself, does not deprive anyone of the rights enumerated herein.
  - VII. No closed item owned by any resident will be searched without the resident's consent unless there is reasonable suspicion that the closed item contains an item or substance which poses a danger to either the University or any student on campus.
  - VIII. Students shall have the right to receive their education in a just and caring learning environment which encourages the principles of truth, scholarship, individualism as well as personal liberty, autonomy, friendship, and creativity.
  - IX. Each student shall have the right to receive his/her education at the highest reasonable level and shall have the right to receive a degree founded upon the principles of academic integrity. Furthermore, each student shall have the right to have the integrity of his/her degree protected by all members of the Stetson community insofar that each member of the Stetson community shall be bound to take the proper action to ensure that such integrity is maintained in a reasonable and fair manner.
  - X. Each student shall have the right to receive their education at least at the same standard as any other student and shall have access to all the necessary resources for their education at Stetson University.
  - XI. Every student shall have the right to be treated with respect, dignity, and care by all members of the Stetson community and each student should reciprocate such treatment to all members of the Stetson community. Furthermore, each student shall be endowed with the power, resources, and

general liberty necessary in order that each may reach his or her full personal potential while at Stetson University.

### **Amendments**

- I. An amendment to this document may be proposed by the SGA's Senate or by a petition signed by no less than twenty percent of the Stetson University student body. After a proposed change is introduced to the Senate, then form a temporary body which may be charged with the research and potential revision of said document.
- II. A three-fourths majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Senate is required in order to pass the Amendments.
- III. All amendments voted on by the Senate shall be recorded in the form of a Roll-Call vote.
- IV. Additionally, an amendment may be made without the Senate's approval provided that it is submitted with a petition signed by no less than two-thirds the number of ballots cast in the previous SGA Executive election.