

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STUDENT JUDICIARY BY-LAWS
(Created by the Election Code Committee, April 2011)

SECTION I: Purpose

- A. To govern and guide the Judicial Branch: the interpreter and enforcer of all Student Government Association documents.
- B. To establish detailed removal procedures.
- C. The Judicial Branch and the following by-laws are governed by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association Constitution.

SECTION II: Membership

- A. The Judicial Branch will be made up of one (1) Chief Justice, five (5) Associate Justices, and two (2) Assistant Justices and shall be collectively called The Judiciary.
- B. No later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the academic year, the Chief Justice and Student Body President shall choose one (1) Associate Justice to act as Deputy Chief Justice.

SECTION III: Duties

- A. Chief Justice
 - i. Know, interpret, and enforce the Student Government Constitution and By-laws.
 - ii. Make rulings concerning questions of constitutionality.
 - iii. Be knowledgeable in parliamentary procedure.
 - iv. Preside of every impeachment and conviction trial, with the exception of the impeachment of the Chief Justice and issue a fair ruling.
 - v. Enforce rulings of removal from office.
 - vi. Attend meetings of the Student Senate and Student house to enforce parliamentary procedure, by-laws, and constitution.
 - vii. Appoint Associate Justices following approval by the Student Body President and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote from the Senate.
- B. Associate Justices
 - i. Know, interpret, and enforce the Student Government Constitution and By-laws.
 - ii. Make rulings concerning the questions of the constitutionality.
 - iii. Be knowledgeable in parliamentary procedure.
 - iv. Issue fair rulings for impeachment trials.
 - v. Aid the Chief Justice in any necessary context.

SECTION IV: Meetings

- A. The Judiciary shall meet no fewer than two (2) times a semester.
- B. The meeting time, place, and additional meetings shall be left up to the Chief Justice.
- C. The Student Body President is entitled, but is not required, to attend meetings of the Judiciary. S/he does not have a vote and can only give advice if asked.

SECTION V: Judicial Policy

- A. Members of the Judiciary must maintain requirements specified by the Constitution. Any violations of Constitutional requirements will result in the immediate removal from office.
- B. All Justices shall be required to follow a business casual dress code when holding meetings or trying impeached members. The dress code is as follows:
 - i. Gentlemen: Shirt with collar, tucked in. Khakis, slacks, or dress pants with a belt and dress shoes. No hats, t-shirts, shorts, sneakers, tennis shoes, or any type of sandal allowed.
 - ii. Ladies: Shirt with collar, tucked in. Khakis, dress pants, or business skirt and dress shoes. No hats, t-shirts, shorts, sneakers, tennis shoes, or any type of sandal allowed.
 - iii. Punishment for failure to adhere to the dress code is to be determined by the Chief Justice.
- C. More than two (2) unexcused absences in a semester are grounds for an Impeachment Trial by the Student Senate. Excused absences shall be determined by and submitted to the Chief Justice before the scheduled meeting.
- D. The Judiciary serves no one person or group, but must always keep the entire student body in mind when deciding on an issue. Members of the Judiciary are to offer their best advice when asked for it, whether by an organization or an individual. Members of the Judiciary shall keep all decisions, rulings, and advice confidential unless it is the opinion of the Judiciary as a whole.

SECTION VI: Judicial Removal Procedure

- A. Impeachment Procedure
 - i. If a member of the Student Government Association fails to fulfill his or her duties as a member, the Student Senate shall hold an Impeachment Trial. The student shall give a defense, and after a motion to impeach, the Senate shall vote to impeach the member or drop the charges. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate is required to impeach a student.
 - ii. If a member of the Executive Branch fails to fulfill his or her duties as a member, the Executive Council may hold a vote to impeach. Excluding the member in question, a unanimous vote of no confidence is needed to impeach a student.
- B. Conviction Procedure
 - i. No later than seven (7) days following an impeachment trial, the impeached member is to appear before the Judiciary for a conviction trial. A representative from the Student Senate shall present the impeachment decision to the Judiciary, and the impeached member shall present a defense.

- ii. After hearing the defense, the Judiciary shall have their deliberation in a separate room. Only the Justices are allowed in the room. The Chief Justice shall give his opinion, followed by the Deputy Chief Justice, and continuing on in order of seniority. After gathering all opinions, the Chief Justice shall appoint an Associate Justice to write down the two-thirds (2/3) majority opinion, which is to be signed by all concurring Justices.
- iii. Once a majority opinion has been written and signed, the Chief Justice shall read the opinion to the impeached officer. After the majority opinion is read, any dissenting opinions from the Justices may be read, following the words, "I respectfully dissent."
- iv. After the verdict has been issued, if the Judiciary acquits the impeached officer, he or she shall remain in office for the designated term. If the Judiciary finds the officer guilty, he or she is to be removed from office immediately.

Official Student Judiciary By-Laws are kept on file in the office of the Student Government Association Advisor