PREAMBLE

We, the students of Tarleton State University, in order to form a representative governing body of the students and for the students, establish the following constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME, MEMBERSHIP, AND PURPOSES

SECTION I: Name and Membership

A. Name
The name of the official student government body at Tarleton State University shall be the Student Government Association of Tarleton State University.

B. Membership
All students shall be considered members of the Student Government Association. Through elected representatives, their opinions shall be voiced and reflected at Student Government Association meetings.

SECTION 2: Purpose

A. Purpose of the Student Government Association
Purposes shall include, but not be limited to the following:

To act as the official voice of the student body of Tarleton State University.

To examine issues that effect the welfare of the student body as a whole.

To recommend policy to the university administration in regard to the issues that effect student welfare.

To impartially represent the various interest of the students in the recommendation of student policy.

To act as the correlating factor between the students, the faculty, and administration.

ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1: Legislative Power

A. The Student Senate
B. The Student House

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a student legislature, consisting of two bodies: the “Student Senate” and the “Student House”.

(Passed by the Student Body, March 3, 2006)
SECTION 2: Membership of the Student Senate

A. President and President Pro-tem of the Student Senate
The President and presiding officer of the Student Senate shall be the Student Body Vice-President. Following the Student Government Association Student Senate elections, a meeting of the incoming Student Senate will be held to elect a President Pro-tem for a one-year term. Any member of the Student Senate may run for President Pro-tem. The candidate with a majority vote of all of the senators shall be elected President Pro-tem. The President Pro-tem will preside over and conduct the business of each Student Senate meeting. In the case of any tie vote in the Student Senate, the Student Body Vice-President shall assume the chair and cast the deciding vote. The President Pro-tem shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.

B. College Senators
Each University recognized college shall be entitled to two senators elected at-large by the students in that college.

C. Class Senators
Each of the sophomore, junior, senior and graduate classes shall elect three (3) senators. Individuals must have and maintain a 2.25 grade point average throughout their term. Individuals must not be on disciplinary probation with the university.

D. Freshman Representative Council
Members of the incoming freshman class shall be selected to serve as members of the Freshman Representative Council. The selection process shall be coordinated by the president of the Student Government Association. Two members of the Freshman Representative Council shall be entitled to serve as senators during each meeting of the Student Senate. The two freshman senators for each Student Senate meeting should be rotated as deemed necessary by the Freshman Representative Council. The two freshman senators are not eligible to run for President Pro-tem of the Student Senate.

E. College and Class Representation and Votes of Senators
A member of the Student Senate can only represent one group. Members of the Student Senate can only vote once each time a vote is taken.

F. Parliamentarian and Secretary
The members of the Student Senate shall also elect a parliamentarian and secretary at the first meeting of the academic year. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Senate and are eligible to vote on all items of business before the senate.

SECTION 3: Membership of the Student House

A. Speaker of the House
The presiding officer of the Student House shall be the Speaker of the House. The Speaker of the House shall be elected with a majority vote at the first Student House meeting of the academic semester and serve a one-year term. Any member of the Student House may run for Speaker of the House. The speaker of the house shall preside over and conduct the business of all Student House meetings. The Speaker shall also cast the deciding vote in case of any tiebreakers. The Student Body President shall preside over the Student House until a speaker of the house has been elected. The Speaker of the House shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.
B. Organizational Representatives
Each University recognized organization shall be entitled to two voting
members in the Student House. An organization may send only one voting
member if they wish. A student may only represent one organization at a
time in a given year.

C. Freshman Representative Council
Members of the incoming freshman class shall be selected to serve as members
of the Freshman Representative Council. The selection process shall be
coordinated by the president of the Student Government Association. Two
members of the Freshman Representative Council shall be entitled to serve as
representatives during each meeting of the Student House. The two freshman
representatives for each Student House meeting should be rotated as deemed
necessary by the Freshman Representative Council. The two freshman
representatives are not eligible to run for Speaker of the House.

D. Organizational Representation and Votes of Representatives
A member of the Student House can only represent one group. Members of the
Student House may only vote once each time a vote is taken.

E. Parliamentarian and Secretary
The members of the Student House shall also elect a parliamentarian and
secretary at the first meeting of the academic year. They shall be elected by a
majority vote of the Student House and are eligible to vote on all items of
business before the senate.

SECTION 4: Quorum

Constitution of Quorum
A majority of members of the Student Senate and Student House shall constitute
a quorum to do business. Quorum will be established no later than the second
formal meeting of each long semester.

SECTION 5: The Conference Committee

In the event that the Student Senate and Student House pass conflicting pieces
of legislation, there shall be a meeting of the Conference Committee. The
Conference Committee shall consist of the Speaker of the House, the President
Pro-tem of the Student Senate, the Student Body President and Vice-President,
two Student House members selected by the Speaker of the House and two
members of the Student Senate selected by the President Pro-tem of the Student
Senate. The conference committee is charged with working out the details of the
conflicting legislation before the next House and Senate meeting for immediate
action.

SECTION 6: Rules of Proceedings

The Student Senate and the Student House shall determine the rules of its
proceedings and shall keep a record of these proceedings to be made available
to all members of the student body, faculty and administration.
SECTION 7: Student House and Student Senate Vacancies

A. Student House Vacancies
Vacancies of organizational representatives shall be filled in a way decided by the members of the organization.

B. Vacancies in the Student Senate
Vacancies in the Student Senate shall be filled by appointment of the President of the Student Body with the consent and advice of the Student Senate. Appointed Student Senate members shall complete the terms which they are assigned.

C. The absence policy of the Student Government Association shall be outlined in the organizations by-laws.

SECTION 8: Elections of the Student Government Association

A. Time, Place and Manner of Holding Elections
The time(s), place(s) and manner of holding elections shall be prescribed by legislation of the Student Government Association, which shall be available to all students and set forth in an election code.

SECTION 9: Impeachment Trials

A. Cases of Impeachment
The Student Senate shall have sole power to try all cases of impeachment within the Student Government Association. Trials shall be directed by the Chief Adjudicator, except in the case that he/she is on trial. In such a case, the adjudicators shall choose from their number, one to direct the trial. In the absence of the Judiciary Branch, the President of the Student Government Association shall preside over the trial, except in the case that he/she is on trial. In such a case, the Vice President of the Student Government Association shall assume the responsibility of the trial. No person shall be impeached without concurrence of two-thirds of the members present. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy an office of honor, trust, or profit in the Student Government Association.

SECTION 10: Emergency Passage of Legislation

In the case of emergency in which one of the two branches of the legislature cannot meet, then an item of business can be passed with a two-thirds vote of one of the houses of the legislature and with the signature of the Student Body President. In case of this emergency, there is no overriding a veto of the Student Body President.

ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1: Executive Power

A. The executive power of the Student Government Association shall be invested in a body known as the “Executive Branch.” The Executive Branch is responsible for the everyday operations of the Student Government Association and for presenting legislation to the legislative branch and setting the Student Government Association Agenda.
B. The President
The Chief executive shall be the President of the Student Government Association, also known as the President of the Student Body, and oversee Student Government Association and Executive Council meetings. The Student Body President is responsible for representing the students of Tarleton at activities and events on campus.

C. The Vice President
The President shall be assisted in office by a Vice President of the Student Government Association. The Vice President shall report on the Student Government Association’s financial standing at least once a semester.

D. The Executive Council
The Student Body President has the right to appoint or remove any student to any executive position that he or she wishes. The Student Body President must present their executive council nominees to the Student Senate at the first meeting of the year or the first meeting after a new appointment has been made for approval by a majority vote of the Student Senate. A member of the Executive Council may not be a member of the Legislative or Judicial Branch for the year that he or she serves on the Executive Council.

SECTION 2: Elections

A. Election of the President
The Student Body President and Vice-President shall run together and be elected on the same ticket. All candidates running for student body president must be full time students, as defined by the Student Handbook or enrolled in the number of hours required to complete their degree. Candidates must be of Junior, Senior or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins. They must have and maintain a Grade Point average of 2.75, not be on disciplinary probation with the university and have served as a voting delegate on the Student Government Association for at least one academic year.

B. Oath of Office
Upon assuming office, the President of the Student Government Association will take the following oath or affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will perform my duties as President of the Student Government Association to the best of my abilities, endeavoring always to do the best for the students of Tarleton State University.”

C. Election of the Vice President
The Student Body President and Vice-President shall run together and be elected on the same ticket. All candidates running for student body vice president must be full time students, as defined by the Student Handbook or enrolled in the number of hours required to complete their degree. Candidates must be of Sophomore, Junior, Senior or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins. They must have and maintain a Grade Point average of 2.75, not be on disciplinary probation with the university and have served as a voting delegate on the Student Government Association for at least one academic year.
D. Oath of Office
Upon assuming office, the Vice President will take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will perform my duties as Vice President of the Student Government Association to the best of my abilities, endeavoring always to do the best for the students of Tarleton State University."

E. Additional Requirements
The candidates for Student Body President and Vice President must meet at least one of the following qualifications, in addition to current eligibility qualifications:

1. Within the prior year to the SGA election be a member of the Executive Council.
2. Within the prior year to the SGA election hold a leadership position in a Student Government Association Committee.

SECTION 3: Passing of Bills
The Executive Branch shall review all bills before they are presented to the Legislative Branch. If they do not agree with or approve of the bill, they can recommend that the Legislative Branch fail it. If a majority of the quorum of each of the chambers of the Legislative Branch still chooses to pass the bill, it will be passed upon the signature of the Student Body President.

SECTION 4: Term of Office
Individuals elected to office will serve a one-year term. The term of office will begin on June 1st and run through the last day of May.

SECTION 5: Veto Power
The Student Body President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the Student Senate and the Student House. However, the Student Senate and Student House may override the President’s veto with a two-thirds vote of each body.

SECTION 6: Absence from Office
A. Temporary Absence of the President
If the President of the Student Government Association is temporarily absent from office, the Vice President shall act as President as long as needed.

B. Impairment, Resignation, Death or Impeachment of President
If the President of the Student Government Association is absent or removed from office due to impairment resignation, death or impeachment, the Vice President shall become President of the Student Government Association. The new President shall then submit the name of a new Student Body Vice President to the Student Senate for approval by a majority vote. The new Student Body Vice President must meet all qualifications of the Vice President as outlined in the Student Government Association Election Code.

C. Temporary Absence of the Vice President
At the start of each semester the President will determine a ranking of Executive Officers. In the event of the absence of the President and the Vice
President this ranking shall determine who presides over the Student Government Association.

D. Impairment, Resignation, Death or Impeachment of Vice President
In case of Impairment, Resignation, Death or Impeachment of the Vice President the Student Body President shall nominate a new Student Body Vice-President and they must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Senate. The new Student Body Vice President must meet all qualifications of the Vice President as outlined in the Student Government Association Election Code.

SECTION 6: Appointment of members of the Judiciary
The President of the Student Government Association shall, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, have the power to appoint students to the Judiciary.

SECTION 7: Special Session of the Student Government Association
The Student Body President has the power to call together a special session of all three branches of the Student Government Association when he or she deems necessary.

SECTION 8: Student Government Association Committees
The Student Body President shall have the right to call together any standing or special committees of the Student Government Association each year and appoint chairs of those committees. He or she shall also appoint each member of the Student Senate or Student House to one of these standing committees.

SECTION 9: Removal from Office
A. President
The President of the Student Government Association can be removed from office for failing to comply with requirements for the office of President and for other offences against the Student Government Association. Removal from office requires a case be presented to the Student Senate followed by a two-third majority vote of the Student Senate.

B. Vice President
The Vice President can be removed from office for failing to comply with requirements for the office of the Vice President and for other offences against the Student Government Association. Removal from office requires a case be presented to the Student Senate followed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
ARTICLE IV: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judiciary Branch of the Student Government Association will become effective when membership totals 150 members and upon the confirmation by 2/3 vote of the Student Senate.

SECTION 1: Judicial Power

The Judicial Power of the Student Government Association shall be invested in a body known as the “Judiciary.”

SECTION 2: Membership of the Student Judiciary

Members of this body shall be known as “Adjudicators.” The Judiciary shall consist of seven Class Adjudicators – two from the sophomore class, two from the junior class, two from the senior class and one Chief Adjudicator. The Judiciary shall also have no less than two “Assistant Adjudicators” selected from the freshman class each fall.

SECTION 3: Requirements for Membership in the Judiciary

Members of the Judiciary must be enrolled as a full-time student at Tarleton State University. Members of the Judiciary must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5. Incoming freshmen must have had no less than a “B” average in high school. Members of the Judiciary must hold no other office in the Student Government Association. The Chief Adjudicator and the Class Adjudicators must know and understand the Constitution of the Student Government Association and the adopted parliamentary procedures.

SECTION 4: Terms for Members of the Judiciary

A. The Chief Adjudicator
The Chief Adjudicator shall serve an indefinite term, ending only when he/she resigns, no longer meets the requirements to serve in the Judiciary or is removed from office.

B. Class Adjudicators
The Class Adjudicators shall serve three-year terms, beginning the fall they are appointed to the Judiciary as sophomore Adjudicators.

C. Assistant Adjudicators
Assistant Adjudicators shall serve only their freshman year.

SECTION 5: Appointment to the Judiciary

A. Regular Appointment of the Chief Adjudicator
When the office of Chief Adjudicator becomes open the President of the Student Body shall, with the assistance of the Vice President, choose someone to fill the void. A two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate is required for this appointment to become valid.

B. Regular Appointments of Class Adjudicators
The President of the Student Body elect shall, with the equal assistance of the Vice President and the Chief Adjudicator, choose two freshmen from the Assistant Adjudicators to assume the role of sophomore Adjudicators the
following fall. A two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate is required for these appointments to become valid.

C. Vacancies of Class Adjudicators
In the case that a Class Adjudicator position becomes open, the President of the Student Body shall, with the equal assistance of the Vice President and the Chief Adjudicator, choose someone from the class represented by the vacancy to fill the void. This person will complete the term of the former Class Adjudicator. A two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate is required for the appointments to become valid.

D. Selection of Assistant Adjudicators
Assistant Adjudicators shall be chosen within the first full month of the fall semester from the freshman class. They shall be chosen by the Chief Adjudicator with the equal assistance of the other Adjudicators.

E. Oath of Office
Upon Assuming office, the Chief Adjudicator and the other Adjudicators will take the following oath or affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will perform my duties as (Chief) Adjudicator to the best of my abilities, allowing no biases to cloud my judgment and endeavoring always to do the best for the students of Tarleton State University.”

SECTION 6: Duties and responsibilities of Members of the Judiciary

A. Duties of the Chief Adjudicator
The Chief Adjudicator is to oversee all the functions of the Judiciary. The Chief Adjudicator is to see that all Judiciary actions are carried through and shall make assignments to other Adjudicators and Assistant Adjudicators. The Chief Adjudicator must oversee the instruction of Assistant Adjudicators in parliamentary procedure and the Constitution of the Student Government Association. The Chief Adjudicator shall oversee all impeachment trials except in the case where he/she is being impeached.

B. Duties of the Class Adjudicators

The Class Adjudicators must aid the Chief Adjudicator in managing the Judiciary. They are to aid the Chief Adjudicator in the instruction of Assistant Adjudicators in parliamentary procedure and the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

C. Responsibilities of the Judiciary
Responsibilities of the Judiciary include but are not limited to the following:
• Interpret the Student Government Constitution
• Decide questions of constitutionality on motions and actions of members of the Student Government Association.
• See that students attending Student Government Meetings act accordingly.
• Track all Student Government Association motions, keeping an open file on them and regularly reporting on their standing to the Student Government Association until they are acted upon or turned down.
• Select from their number four Adjudicators to serve on the Judicial Advisory Board
• Decide on all questions of parliamentary procedure.
• Periodically review the Constitution of the Student Government Association, and offer advice on revisions when necessary.
• Oversee all Student Government Association elections.
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 should keep all their decisions and advice confidential unless it is the official opinion of the Judiciary as a whole.

SECTION 7: Removal from Office

A. Chief Adjudicator
The Chief Adjudicator can be removed from office for failing to comply with requirements for membership in the Judiciary and for other offenses against the Student Government Association. Removal from office requires a case be presented to the Student Senate explaining the reason for removal followed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

B. Class Adjudicators
Class Adjudicators can be removed from office for failing to comply with requirements for membership in the Judiciary and for other offenses against the Student Government Association. Removal from office requires a case be presented to the Student Senate explaining the reason for removal followed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.

C. Assistant Adjudicators
Assistant Adjudicators can be removed from office for failing to comply with requirements for membership in the Judiciary and for other offenses against the Student Government Association. Removal from office requires a meeting of the Chief Adjudicator and Adjudicators in which the reasons for the removal are presented followed by a majority vote of the Chief Adjudicator and the Class Adjudicators.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Amending the Constitution

A. Process of Amendment
Wherever the Student Senate and Student House of Representatives, or a Student Government Association Conference Committee pass an amendment to the Student Government Association Constitution with a majority vote, the amendment shall be proposed to the student body. A majority vote of the student body participating in a general election shall be required for ratification of any amendment.

ARTICLE VI: BY-LAWS

By-Laws consistent with this Constitution shall be established and amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.

This constitution was amended and adopted by the student body of Tarleton State University on the 5th day of February, 2010.

Official copy of the Constitution is kept on file in the office of Student Government Association Advisor