

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

(Passed by the Student Body April 6, 2011)

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: THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SECTION I: Name and Membership

The name of the official student government body at Tarleton State University shall be the Student Government Association of Tarleton State University. 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 II: Structure

The Student Government Association will be made up of three separate branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. A student may not serve in more than one of the branches, ensuring an equal and effective system of checks and balances.

SECTION III: Equality

The Tarleton State University Student Government Association shall not discriminate or allow discrimination against any person on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, or appearance in any and all forms.

SECTION IV: Purpose

Purposes shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- i. To act as the official voice of the student body of Tarleton State University.
- ii. To examine issues that affect the welfare of the student body as a whole.
- iii. To recommend policy to the university administration in regard to the issues that affect student welfare.
- iv. To impartially represent the various interest of the students in the recommendation of student policy.
- v. To represent the interests of the student body before the faculty and administration of the university.

ARTICLE II: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION I: Executive Power

The executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in a body known as the "Executive Branch." The Executive Branch is responsible for the daily operations of the

Student Government Association and presenting and enforcing legislation. All executive officials shall be elected to a one year term, beginning on June 1st and continuing through May 31st.

SECTION II: The President

- A. **Position**
The Chief Executive Officer shall be the President of the Student Government Association, is elected for a one-year term, and shall preside over the Student Government Association and Executive Council meetings. The Student Body President has the power to sign or veto any legislation passed by the Senate and House of Representatives. However, the Student Senate and House of Representatives may override the veto with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. The Student Body President is responsible for representing all students of Tarleton State University at activities and events on and off of campus.
- B. **Requirements**
The Student Body President must:
- i. be a full time student of Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins
 - ii. have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.75
 - iii. not be on any university disciplinary sanction
 - iv. have served as a Student Government voting delegate
 - v. have served as an Executive Council member, Justice, or committee member for the prior academic year
 - vi. fulfill all outlined duties as determined by the Executive Council and the Judiciary.
- C. **Absence from Office**
If the Student Body President is temporarily absent from office, the Vice President shall act as President as long as needed. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of a Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President shall assume the role of President.
- D. **Duties**
The duties of the Student Body President shall be outlined in the Executive Council By-Laws, and enforced by the Executive Council and the Judiciary.
- E. **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."

SECTION III: The Vice President

- A. **Position**
The Student Body President is required to select a Vice President of the Student Government Association for a one-year term. The Student Body Vice President is responsible for representing all students of Tarleton State University at activities and events on and off of campus.
- B. **Requirements**
The Student Body Vice President must:
- i. be a full time student of Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins

- ii. have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.75
- iii. not be on any university disciplinary sanction
- iv. have served as a Student Government voting delegate
- v. have served as an Executive Council member, Justice, or committee member for the previous academic year
- vi. fulfill all outlined duties as determined by the Executive Council and the Judiciary.

- C. **Absence**
If the Student Body Vice President is temporarily absent from office, the Chief Justice shall act as Student Body Vice President as long as needed. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of a Student Body Vice President, the Student Body President shall appoint a new Vice President to be voted on and approved with a majority vote from the Student Senate.
- D. **Duties**
The duties of the Student Body Vice President shall be outlined in the Executive Council By-Laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.
- E. **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."

SECTION IV. The Executive Council

- A. **Position**
The Student Body President has the sole authority to appoint any student to any executive position for a one-year term. 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.
- B. **Requirements**
The requirements of the Executive Council shall be outlined in the Executive Council By-laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.
- C. **Absence**
If one or more of the Executive Council members are temporarily absent, the Student Body Vice President shall fill in. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of an Executive Council member, the Student Body President shall appoint someone to the vacant chair.
- D. **Duties**
The duties of the Executive Council shall be outlined in the Executive Council By-laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

ARTICLE III: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION I: Legislative Power

The legislative power of the Student Government Association shall be invested in a bicameral body known as the "Legislative Branch." The Legislative Branch shall consist of a Student Senate and a Student House of Representatives, collectively known as the Student Congress. The Student Senate and the Student House are responsible for voting

on legislation and relaying relevant information to constituents and organizations. All meetings and voting procedures shall be conducted in correspondence with Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTION II: Senate Pro Tempore and Secretary

A. Positions

Following the Student Government Association spring elections, a meeting of the incoming Student Senate will be held to elect a Senate Pro Tempore and Secretary for a one-year term. Any member of the Student Senate may seek the position, and will be elected after a majority vote. These officers in charge of the Student Senate shall conduct and manage Student Senate meetings. The Senate Pro Tempore will have authority over Senators and Senate Officers.

B. Requirements

The Senate Pro Tempore and Secretary must be full time students of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins, must have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.3, must not be on any university disciplinary sanction, and must fulfill all outlined duties.

C. Absence

1. Senate Pro Tempore

If the Senate Pro Tempore is temporarily absent, the Student Body Vice President shall fulfill the duties as long as needed. In the event of a resignation, removal, or death of a Senate Pro Tempore, the Student Senate shall select a member of the Student Senate to be Pro Tempore with a majority vote.

2. Secretary

If the Secretary is temporarily absent, the Senate Pro Tempore shall fulfill the duties of the Secretary, or appoint someone to do so. In the event of a resignation, removal, or death of a Secretary, the Student Senate shall select a member of the Student Senate to be Secretary with a majority vote.

D. Duties

The duties of the Senate Pro Tempore and Senate Secretary shall be outlined in the Senate By-Laws, and be enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION III: Senators

A. Membership

The Student Senate shall consist of two (2) senators from each of the University-recognized colleges, two (2) senators from on-campus residential living, and three (3) senators from each of the sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate classes. Senators are to be elected at large by the student body to serve a one-year term.

B. Requirements

Each senator must be a full time student, have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.3, must not be on any university disciplinary sanction, and must fulfill all duties outlined in the Senate By-laws.

C. Absence

Temporary absences of a Student Senator shall be outlined in the Senate By-laws and enforced by the Senate Pro Tempore. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of a Senator, the Student Body President shall appoint someone to the vacant chair with a majority approval from the Student Senate.

D. Duties

The duties of the Student Senate shall be outlined in the Senate By-Laws, and be enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION IV: Speaker of the House and Secretary

A. Positions

The Student Speaker of the House and Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student House of Representatives at the first meeting of the academic year and shall serve a one-year term. Any member of the Student House of Representatives may run. The officers in charge of the Student House of Representatives shall conduct and manage Student House of Representatives meetings. The Speaker of the House will have authority over representatives and House officers.

B. Requirements

The Speaker of the House and Secretary must be full time students of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins, must not be on any university probation of any type, and must fulfill all outlined duties.

C. Absence

1. Speaker of the House

If the Speaker of the House is temporarily absent, the Student Body Vice President shall fulfill the duties as long as needed. In the event of a resignation, removal, or death of the Speaker of the House, the Student House of Representatives shall select a member of the Student House of Representatives to be Speaker of the House with a majority vote.

2. Secretary

If the Secretary is temporarily absent, the Speaker of the House shall fulfill the duties of the Secretary, or appoint someone to do so. In the event of a resignation, removal, or death of a Secretary, the Student House of Representatives shall select a member of the Student House to be Secretary with a majority vote.

D. Duties

The duties of the Speaker of the House and House Secretary shall be outlined in the House of Representatives By-Laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION V: House Representatives

A. Membership

Each University recognized organization shall be entitled to two voting members in the Student House of Representatives. Only one voting member is required to attend each meeting. A member of the Student House may only represent one group and vote only once each time a vote is held.

B. Requirements

A member of the Student House of Representatives must be a full time student, may only represent one organization at each meeting of the Student House, must not be on university disciplinary sanction, and must fulfill all duties outlined in the House By-laws.

C. Absence

Temporary absence of representatives shall be outlined in the House By-laws and enforced by the Speaker of the House. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of a Representative, the member's organization shall appoint someone to the vacant chair.

D. Duties

The duties of the Student House of Representatives shall be outlined in the House of Representatives By-Laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION VI: Freshmen Representative Council

The Freshmen Representative Council shall have two (2) voting delegates in both the Student Senate and the Student House of Representatives. Rules for selection, requirements, and conduct shall be outlined in the Executive Council By-laws.

SECTION VII: Elections of the Student Government Association

The time(s), place(s), and manner of holding elections shall be made available by the Election Committee previous to the election, maintained by the Election Committee, and outlined in the Election Code.

SECTION VII: Meetings

A. Quorum

A majority of members of the Student Senate and the Student House of Representatives are required to constitute quorum to conduct meetings. A quorum shall be established no later than the second meeting of the academic year, and shall be fifty percent (50%) of the present members.

B. Emergency Elections

In case of an emergency in which either the Student Senate or the student House of Representatives cannot meet, the other body may pass legislation with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and presidential signature.

ARTICLE IV: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION I: Judicial Power

The Judicial power of the Student Government Association shall be invested in a body known as the "Judicial Branch." The Judicial Branch shall consist of one supreme Court, known as the Judiciary, and is responsible for enforcing the Student Government Association Constitution and trying all impeached members of Student Government Association.

SECTION II: Chief Justice

A. Position

The chief judicial power shall be vested in the office of Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall serve as the head of the Judiciary, and is appointed, by the Student Body President with two-thirds (2/3) approval from the Student Senate, to an indefinite term, ending only in the event of resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death.

B. Requirements

The Student Body Chief Justice must:

- i. be a full time student of Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins
- ii. have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.75
- iii. not be on any university probation of any type
- iv. have served as a Student Government voting delegate

- v. have served as an Executive Council member or committee member for the previous academic year
- vi. fulfill all outlined duties as determined by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

C. Absence

At the start of every academic year, the Chief Justice and Student Body President shall appoint an Associate Justice to the chair of Deputy Chief Justice. If a Chief Justice is temporarily absent from office, the Deputy Chief Justice shall act as Chief Justice as long as needed. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of a Chief Justice, the Deputy Chief Justice shall assume the role of Chief Justice.

D. Duties

The duties of the Chief Justice shall be outlined in the Judiciary By-Laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION III: Associate Justices

A. Position

In addition to the Chief Justice, the Judiciary shall consist one (1) Associate Justice from each college and two (2) Assistant Justices from the student body at large. Associate Justices are appointed to a two-year term following approval from the Student Body President and the Student Senate.

B. Requirements

Associate Justices must be full time students of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins, must have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.3, must not be on any university disciplinary probation, and must fulfill all outlined duties.

C. Absence

If an Associate Justice is temporarily absent from office, the Chief Justice shall choose an Assistant Justice to act as Associate Justice as long as needed. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of an Associate Justice, the Chief Justice shall appoint someone to the vacant position following a presidential approval and two-thirds (2/3) vote from the Student Senate.

D. Duties

The duties of the Associate Justices shall be outlined in the Judiciary By-Laws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Chief Justice

E. Oath of Office

Upon assuming office, the Judiciary will take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will perform my duties as (Chief) Justice of the Student Government Association 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 IV: Assistant Justices

A. Position

Assistant Justices shall be made of two (2) students from the Student Body at large who are to act as assistants to the judiciary and aid them in any way possible. The Assistant Justices shall be chosen by the Chief Justice and Associate Justices no later than thirty (30) days after the start of the academic year. In the event of an even amount of voting Justices, the Assistant Justices shall collectively cast one (1) vote.

- B. Requirements
Assistant Justices must be full time students of Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior classification, must have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than 2.0, must not be on university probation of any type, and must fulfill all outlined duties as determined by the Student Body President and the Chief Justice.
- C. Absence
Temporary absence policy for Assistant Justices shall be set at the beginning of each academic year by the Chief Justice. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of an Assistant Justice, the Chief Justice shall appoint someone from the Student Body to the vacant position following Presidential.

ARTICLE V: REMOVAL PROCEDURE

SECTION I: Executive Removal

- A. The Student Senate may impeach any member of the Executive Council, the Student Body Vice President, or the Student Body President for failure to fulfill his or her specified duties following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate, or a unanimous vote of no-confidence from the members of the Executive Council.
- B. The Judiciary shall rule on all impeachments by the Student Senate and Executive Council. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment and conviction trials. If the Chief Justice is impeached, the President shall preside over the trial. 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.
- C. At the beginning of each semester, the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall determine a ranking of Executive Council officers to be kept on file with the Faculty Advisor. In the event of a temporary or permanent absence of both the President and Vice President, this ranking shall determine who presides over the Student Government Association.

SECTION II: Legislative Removal

- A. The Student Senate may impeach any member of the Student Senate, the Student Senate Secretary, the Student House Secretary, the Senate Pro Tempore, or the Speaker of the House for failure to fulfill his or her specified duties following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate.
- B. The Judiciary shall rule on all impeachments by the Student Senate and Executive Council. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment and conviction trials. If the Chief Justice is impeached, the President shall preside over the trial. 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.

SECTION III: Judicial Removal

- A. The Student Senate may impeach any Associate Justice, or the Chief Justice for failure to fulfill his or her specified duties following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate, or a unanimous vote of no-confidence from the members of the Judiciary.
- B. The Judiciary shall rule on all impeachments by the Student Senate and Executive Council. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment and conviction trials. If the Chief Justice is impeached, the President shall preside over the trial. 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.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

SECTION I: Amending the Constitution

Any amendments to the Constitution must be passed in both the Student Senate and the Student House of Representatives with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the student body participating in a general election shall be required for ratification of any amendment passed by the Student Government Association. The vote shall take place no less than thirty (30) days after the passing of the bill in the Student Government Association.

SECTION II: By-law

By-Laws consistent with this constitution shall be established and amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the body they represent.

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