

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

(Passed by the Student Body Spring 2018)

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 are welcome and encouraged to attend SGA meetings, but do not possess voting rights, only speaking rights. Through elected representatives, their opinions shall be voiced and reflected at Student Government Association meetings.

SECTION II: Structure

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

SECTION III: Equality and Anti Hazing Statement

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.

Hazing shall not be tolerated in the Student Government Association. If hazing is found to be occurring, the responsible party will be removed from their position and will also be barred from the organization indefinitely and proper disciplinary actions with the university will be taken.

SECTION IV: Purpose

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

- A) Act as the official voice of the student body of Tarleton State University
- B) Examine issues that affect the welfare of the student body
- C) Recommend policy to the university administration in regards to the issues that affect student welfare
- D) Represent the various interests of the students in the recommendation of student policy
- E) Represent the interests of the student body before the faculty and administration of the university

ARTICLE II THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION I: Executive Branch

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 as well as enforcing legislation passed by Congress and the Freshman Representative Council. All executive officials' terms shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

SECTION II: Composition of the Executive Branch

The Executive Branch shall consist of the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, and any appointed or hired members of the Student Government Association paid and volunteer staff.

SECTION III: Requirements for Executive Members

The requirements of the Executive Council shall be outlined below and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

A) Be a full time student of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins.

B) Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.50 by the time he, she, or they files to seek office.

C) Not be on any university disciplinary sanction.

D) Not simultaneously serve as a Congressperson or Justice

SECTION IV: The President

The Chief Executive Officer shall be the President of the Student Government Association. The Student Body President is elected for a one year term, and shall oversee the Student Government Association and Executive Council meetings.

SECTION IV: Eligibility of the Student Body President

The Student Body President must:

A) Be a full time student of Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins.

B) Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.75 by the time he, she, or they files to seek office.

C) Not be on any university disciplinary sanction.

D) Have served as an Executive Council member, Justice, or a member of the Congress for the prior academic year.

SECTION V: Absence from Office

In the case the Student Body President is temporarily absent from office, the Vice President shall act as President. 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.

SECTION VI: Duties and Powers

The duties of the Student Body President shall be outlined below, and enforced by the Executive Council and the Judiciary.

- A) Represent the interests, concerns, and needs of the student body
- B) To ensure effective and efficient operation of the Student Government Association and all its independent bodies.
- C) Appoint or abolish temporary committees and executive assistants as they deem necessary to the Executive Branch.
- D) To appoint an executive council with positions at the discretion of the Student Body President
- E) To appoint the Chief Justice and Associate Justices.
- F) To appoint student representatives to all administrative, campus-wide, and Faculty Senate committees.
- G) To see that the enactments of the Student Congress, Freshman Representative Council, Student Government Committees, and Judicial Branch are properly communicated with the Tarleton State University administration and student body.
- H) Sit on any university committee to which they are appointed
- I) Actively pursue the workings and initiatives of all SGA bodies with the Tarleton State University administration
- J) Veto those enactments of the Student Congress to which they take strong objection
 - A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the number present at the meeting can override said veto, provided a quorum is met
- K) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association
- L) Represent Tarleton State University in Chancellor's Student Advisory Council
- M) Appoint Congresspersons to seats which were either vacated or never filled
- N) Represent all students of Tarleton State University at activities and events on and off of campus.

SECTION VII: Oath of Office

Upon assuming office, the President of the Student Government Association shall 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 VIII: The Vice President

The Student Body President is required to select a Vice President of the Student Government Association for a one-year term

Section IX: Eligibility of the Student Body Vice President

The Student Body Vice President must:

- A) Be a full time student of Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins
- B) Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.75 by the time he or she files to seek office
- C) Not be on any university disciplinary sanction.
- D) Have served as an Executive Council member, Justice, or a member of the Congress for the previous academic year

SECTION X: Absence

If the Student Body Vice President is temporarily absent from office, the highest ranking member of the Executive Council shall act as Student Body Vice President. 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 Congress.

SECTION XI: Duties and Powers

The duties of the Student Body Vice President shall be outlined in the Executive Council Bylaws, and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary

- A) Coordinate one dinner per semester between Tarleton State University Administrators and the Executive branch of Student Government Association as well as any exemplary members of the Student Congress, Freshman Representative Council, or the Judicial Branch.
- B) Represent Tarleton State University in Chancellor's Student Advisory Council
- C) Sit on any university committee to which they are appointed
- D) Perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
- E) Assist the President in carrying out the assigned duties listed in Article

II Section VI

F) Preside over Executive Council meetings in the absence of the President

G) Represent all students of Tarleton State University at activities and events on and off of campus

H) Serve as ex-officio for all Student Government committees.

SECTION XII: Oath of Office

Upon assuming office, the Vice President shall 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 XIII: The Executive Council

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 they serve on the Executive Council. The president must appoint at least two executives for the oversight of the Freshman Representative Council.

Section XIV: Executive Ranking

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 SGA Advisor. This ranking is subject to change at the Student Body President’s discretion. 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 XVI: Absence

If one or more of the Executive Council members are temporarily absent, the Student Body Vice President shall act as the chair. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of an Executive Council member, the Student Body President shall appoint a student to the vacant chair, if such appointment is felt necessary by the Student Body President.

SECTION XVII: Duties

The duties of the Executive Council shall be outlined by the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President no later than one month after the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President take the Oath of Office.

ARTICLE III THE LEGISLATIVE

SECTION I: Legislative Power

The legislative power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in a unicameral body known as the Student Congress. The Student Congress shall serve as a legislative body within the Student Government Association. The Congress shall represent the student body in the creation of legislation regarding policies, regulations, or services pertinent to student life.

SECTION II: Duties and Powers of the Student Congress

The Student Congress shall:

A) Compose and Consider Bills and Resolutions presented to it in accordance with Student Government Association Bylaws

B) Represent constituents' best interests

C) Relay all relevant information to constituents

D) Conduct meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order

E) Have the power to override Presidential Vetoes with a two thirds (2/3) majority vote

F) Have the power to confirm members of the Judicial Branch

G) Fulfill all outlined duties by the Congress Bylaws

H) Have the power to allocate funding to Student Organizations

I) Call ad hoc Congressional Investigative Committee in the event a simple majority of Congresspersons believe this committee is warranted

SECTION III: Elections of the Student Government Association

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

SECTION IV: Meetings

A majority of members of the Student Congress 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%) plus one (1) of the present members.

ARTICLE IV STUDENT CONGRESS

SECTION I: Membership

The Student Congress shall consist of the following:

A) Three (3) Congresspersons from each of the six university-recognized Colleges (18 total) :

- Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Education
- Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Science and Technology
- Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Liberal Fine Arts

- Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Business Administration
 - Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
 - Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Health Sciences and Human Services
- B) Three (3) Congresspersons from the College of Graduate Studies
- C) Three (3) Congresspersons from On-Campus Residential Living
- D) Three (3) Commuter Congresspersons from off campus living
- E) Three (3) Congresspersons from the Freshman Representative Council
- F) Three (3) Congresspersons from the Athletic Department
- G) Three (3) Congresspersons At-Large
- H) Three (3) Congresspersons from Multicultural Student Organizations
- I) One (1) Congresspersons from Interfraternal Council
- J) One (1) Congressperson from Panhellenic Council
- K) One (1) Congressperson from Inter Greek Council
- L) One (1) Congressperson from the Corps of Cadets
- M) One (1) Congressperson from the Veterans Association
- N) Three (3) Congresspersons from the Tarleton State University outreach campuses, being:
- One (1) Congressperson from the Ft. Worth Campus
 - One (1) Congressperson from the Midlothian Campus
 - One (1) Congressperson from the Waco Campus
- O) One (1) Congressperson from any university recognized Spirit Organization

SECTION II: Requirements

Each Congressperson must:

- A) Be a full time student of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins.
- B) Have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) no less than a 2.3 by the time they files to seek office.
- C) Not be on any university disciplinary sanction
- D) Not concurrently serve as an executive-council member or as a justice.

SECTION III: Absence

Temporary absences of a Student Congressperson shall be outlined in the Congress Bylaws and enforced by the Congressional Pro Tempore. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, death of a Congressperson, or in the event that the position was never filled, the Student Body President shall appoint someone to the vacant chair with a majority approval from the Student Congress.

SECTION IV: Duties

The duties of the Student Congress shall be outlined in the Congress Bylaws, and be enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary

SECTION V: Oath of Office

Upon assuming office, Congresspersons shall take the following oath or affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will perform my duties as Congressperson 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 VI: Congressional Pro Tempore and Secretary

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

SECTION VII: Requirements

The Congress Pro Tempore must:

- A) Be a full time student of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins
- B) Have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) no less than a 2.3
- C) Not be on any university disciplinary sanction
- D) Fulfill all outlined duties by the Congressional Bylaws.

The Congressional Secretary must:

- A) Be a full time student of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins
- B) Have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) no less than a 2.3
- C) Not be on any university disciplinary sanction
- D) Fulfill all outlined duties by the Congressional Bylaws.

SECTION VIII: Absence

Congressional Pro Tempore

If the Congressional 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 Congressional Pro Tempore, the Student Congress shall select a member of the Student Congress to be Pro Tempore with a majority vote.

Secretary

If the Secretary is temporarily absent, the Congressional 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 Congress shall select a member of the Student Congress to be Secretary with majority vote.

SECTION VII: Duties

The duties of the Congressional Pro Tempore and Congressional Secretary shall be outlined in the Congress Bylaws By-Laws, and be enforced by the Congressional Pro Tempore and the Judiciary.

ARTICLE V FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

SECTION I: Leadership

Freshman Representative Council shall be led by at least two Executive Council members being named Co-Vice Presidents of Freshman Representative Council, and are appointed by the Student Government Association President.

SECTION II: Membership

The Freshman Representative Council shall be the representative body for the freshmen class at Tarleton State University. Membership shall be determined through an application and interview process conducted by the Co-Vice Presidents of Freshman Representative Council.

SECTION III: Voting

The Freshman Representative Council shall have three (3) voting delegates in the Student Congress. All members of Freshman Representative Council are eligible to be voting delegates, however there are only three (3) voting delegates allowed at every congress meeting. More than three (3) Freshman Representatives may attend but will not have voting rights.

SECTION IV: Duties and Requirements

The Co-Vice Presidents of Freshman Representative Council shall have the following responsibilities:

- A) To lead recruitment efforts for the Freshman Representative Council.
- B) To schedule and conduct interviews for Freshman Representative Council.
- C) To conduct all Freshman Representative Council scheduled meetings.
- D) To aid members in the creation of legislation.
- E) To develop an introductory curriculum for the Council.

Freshman Representative Council members shall have the responsibilities:

- A) To attend scheduled meetings.
- B) To represent the needs and interests of all first-year students at Tarleton State University.
- C) To create and present legislation as deemed necessary.
- D) To assist Executive Council in the logistics and implementation of Student Government Association initiatives.
- E) Fulfill all duties outlined by the Freshman Representative Council Bylaws

ARTICLE VI THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION I: Judicial Power

The Judicial power of the Student Government Association shall be vested 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:

- A) Interpreting the Student Government Association Constitution
- B) Reviewing the constitutionality of passed legislation and constitutional amendments
- C) Overseeing Student Government elections

D) Trying all impeached members of Student Government Association.

SECTION II: Chief Justice

The chief judicial power shall be vested in the office of Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the Student Body President followed by approval from the Student Congress. The Chief Justice shall serve as the head of the judiciary for an indefinite term ending only in the event of resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death.

SECTION III: Requirements

The Student Body Chief Justice must:

- A) Be a full time student of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the office term begins
- B) Have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.5
- C) Not be on any university probation of any type
- D) Have served as an Executive Council member or congress member previously
- E) Fulfill all outlined duties as determined by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION IV: 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. 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.

SECTION V: Duties

The duties of the Chief Justice shall be outlined in the Judiciary Bylaws and enforced by the Student Body President and the Judiciary.

SECTION VI: Associate Justices

In addition to the Chief Justice, the Judiciary shall consist of four (4) at large Associate Justices. Associate Justices serve a one year term following appointment from the Student Body President and two-thirds (2/3) approval from the Student Congress.

SECTION VII: Requirements

Associate Justices must:

- A) Be full time students of Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate classification at the time the term begins
- B) Have and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of no less than a 2.3
- C) Not be on any university disciplinary probation

D) Fulfill all outlined duties as determined by the Judiciary.

SECTION VIII: Absence

If an Associate Justice is temporarily absent from office, the Chief Justice shall make a temporary appointment. In the event of a resignation, impeachment and conviction, or death of an Associate Justice, the Student Body President shall appoint a qualified student to the vacant position following a two-thirds (2/3) vote from the Student Congress.

SECTION IX: Duties

The duties of the Associate Justices shall be outlined in the Judiciary Bylaws and enforced by the Student Body President and the Chief Justice.

SECTION X: 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."

ARTICLE VII REMOVAL PROCEDURE

SECTION I: Executive Impeachment

A) The Student Congress may impeach the Student Body President or the Student Body Vice President, for failure to fulfill his or her specific duties following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Congress

B) The Executive Council may impeach the Student Body President or Student Body Vice President following a unanimous vote of no confidence.

SECTION II: Executive Removal

The Judiciary shall rule on all impeachments by the Student Congress and Executive Council. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment and conviction trials. If the Judiciary acquits the impeached officer, they shall remain in office for the designated term. If the Judiciary finds the officer guilty, the member is to be removed from office immediately. A guilty verdict requires a three fifths (3/5) majority vote from the Judiciary.

SECTION III: Legislative Impeachment

A) The Student Congress may impeach any member of the Student Congress, the Congressional Secretary, or the Congressional Pro Tempore for failure to fulfill their specified duties following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Congress.

SECTION IV: Legislative Removal

The Judiciary shall rule on all impeachments by the Student Congress. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment and conviction trials. 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. A guilty verdict requires a three fifths (3/5) majority vote from the Judiciary.

SECTION V: Judicial Impeachment

The Student Congress may impeach any Associate Justice, or the Chief Justice for failure to fulfill their specified duties following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Congress, or a unanimous vote of no confidence from the members of the Judiciary.

SECTION VI: Judicial Removal

The Judiciary shall rule on all impeachments by the Student Congress and Judiciary. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment and conviction trials. If the Chief Justice is impeached, the Deputy Chief Justice shall preside over the trial. If the Judiciary acquits the impeached officer, they shall remain in office for the designated term. If the Judiciary finds the officer guilty, the member is to be removed from office immediately. A guilty verdict requires a three-fifths(3/5)majority vote from the Judiciary.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

SECTION I: Amending the Constitution

Any amendments to the Constitution must be passed in the Student Congress 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: Bylaws

Bylaws consistent with this constitution shall be established and amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the body they represent as well as the Student Congress.

SECTION III: Strategic Plan

The Tarleton State University Student Government Association Strategic Plan is a formal document that provides clear direction for the organization. With clear direction, SGA commits itself to the goals and initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. This document shall be created by the Student Body President along with members of the executive board, and/or a strategic planning committee, and be approved by a majority vote by the Student Congress.

The strategic plan serves as a baseline for the next two years, and shall consist of goals,

initiatives, and activities for the future of SGA. If deemed necessary it can be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Student Congress.

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