

**CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Texas Christian University, in order to form a government to legislate for and regulate areas of student concern, to provide educational and entertaining experiences through programming, and to represent, in all instances, the collective voice of the Student Body while encompassing the spirit of the university community through service, programming and legislation, do hereby establish this Constitution.

**ARTICLE I
Scope**

Section 1. This document shall represent the body known as the Student Body of Texas Christian University.

Section 2. Every student at Texas Christian University taking nine (9) hours or more shall be a member of this body and shall have full rights and representation therein, as set forth in this Constitution.

Section 3. All official bodies, offices and agencies listed within this Constitution or created by the President, the Cabinet or the House shall be collectively named the Texas Christian University Student Government Association.

Section 4. A member of the Student Government Association is any student who has taken an official oath of service to the students.

Section 5. The members of the Student Body primarily enrolled in undergraduate education shall be collectively known as the Undergraduate Student Body of Texas Christian University.

Section 6. The members of the Student Body primarily enrolled in graduate education shall be collectively known as the Graduate Student Body of Texas Christian University. Representation of that body shall be set forth by its constitution.

**ARTICLE II
The Legislative Branch**

Section 1. The legislative powers and duties shall be vested in a House of Student Representatives.

Section 2. The House shall be composed of members chosen annually by the undergraduate Student Body in general, free, direct, equal and secret elections. Representatives shall be apportioned as follows:

- A. There shall be fifty-six (56) voting seats in the House.
- B. Eight (8) seats shall be filled by representatives elected by the students in the First-Year, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes with two (2) seats allocated to each class.
- C. Forty-eight (48) seats shall be filled by representatives elected by the members of the undergraduate Student Body in the principal academic units of the university.
- D. All representatives must be members of the constituency they are to represent and must meet the academic and disciplinary requirements as set forth in the Student Body Code. No student may hold a seat for more than one constituency simultaneously.
- E. The House shall have the power to regulate details of apportionment and the selection of its members through legislation.

Section 3. The House shall have the following legislative powers and duties:

- A. To enact legislation necessary and proper to implement this Constitution and the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities;
- B. To determine the Student Body Fee;
- C. To establish judicial bodies inferior to the Judicial Board;
- D. To appropriate expenditures from the Student Body Fund;
- E. To adopt, modify, and revoke portions of the Student Body Code;
- F. To conduct investigations and inquiries into any matter where such actions are to the benefit of the Student Body or may aid in the legislative functions of the House;
- G. To choose its Speaker and other Officers;
- H. To initiate Recall and Impeachment proceedings;
- I. To establish a framework to conduct the business of the House between long semesters.

Section 4. The House shall have the power to delegate some or all of its powers through legislation passed with the consent of two-thirds of its members. Such delegation may be modified or revoked by a majority vote in the House at any time.

Section 5. The House shall select one of its members to be the Speaker of the House who shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To serve as the Executive Officer over the House;
- B. To preside over all meetings of the House and its Executive Board;
- C. To remain impartial in all debate and vote in the House only in case of a tie;
- D. To coordinate the internal activities of the House;
- E. To fulfill further duties as determined by the House.

Section 6. The House shall consider all business brought before it by its members or the Cabinet. The House may, at its discretion, consider business brought before it by members of the Faculty, or the Administration, or by an official body within the University.

Section 7. Legislation passed by the House shall be presented to the Student Body President.

A. If the President approves, he or she shall sign it, and it shall be considered enacted.

B. If the President does not approve, he or she shall return it with a written statement of objections. The House shall enter the objections into its minutes and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration a two-third ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the House members vote to approve the legislation, it shall be considered enacted. The vote shall be conducted in a roll call with the individual members' votes recorded in the journal.

C. If legislation is not returned by the President within ninety-six (96) hours after it has been presented, it shall be considered enacted.

Section 8. The House shall pass no legislation or engage in activities violating this Constitution or the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities. No ex post facto legislation shall be passed.

Section 9. A quorum necessary to hold a meeting of the House shall consist of three-fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$) of all voting members, and a simple majority of those present and voting shall be required to pass or approve all business, except as otherwise set forth in this Constitution or by legislation.

Section 10. All meetings of the House shall be open to the public unless two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members present vote to meet in executive session. Any member of the Student Body, Faculty, or Administration may speak when recognized by the Chair.

Section 11. The House shall maintain and publish minutes of its proceedings. The individual votes of the Members of the House shall be entered in the minutes if a roll-call vote is requested by one-fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$) of the members present.

ARTICLE III The Executive Branch

Section 1. The executive powers and duties shall be vested in the Cabinet, which shall consist of the Student Body President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of External Affairs, the Treasurer, and Speaker of the House of Student Representatives as voting members. The President shall have the power to appoint up to three (3) additional voting members and any number of non-voting members with the advice and consent of the House.

Section 2. The President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of External Affairs, and Treasurer of the Student Body shall be chosen by the undergraduate Student Body in general, free, direct, equal and secret elections and shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

Section 3. To be eligible for Student Body office, individuals shall be members of the undergraduate Student Body and shall meet the academic and disciplinary requirements set forth in the Student Body Code.

Section 4. Prior to executing their offices, the Chief Justice shall administer the following oath to the elected Student Body officers: "I do most solemnly and sincerely swear to faithfully serve the students of Texas Christian University, to execute the duties and responsibilities of the office I hold and to maintain and uphold the constitution of the Student Body, so help me God." The religious reference may be omitted if the Student Body officer so chooses.

Section 5. The President shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To serve as Chief Executive of the Student Body;
- B. To serve as the Chair of the Cabinet;
- C. To call the House, Judicial Board or the Cabinet to a special session;
- D. To serve as official representative of the Undergraduate Student Body except where official representation is set forth in this Constitution or legislation;
- E. To grant pardons for offenses against the Student Body, except in cases of impeachment;
- F. To veto legislation which he or she deems inappropriate, fiscally irresponsible, or contrary to the interests of the Student Body, which can be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the House;
- G. To serve as the Chair of Intercom;
- H. To serve on the National Alumni Board as a student representative;
- I. To serve on the University Council;
- J. To serve on the University Judicial System's Supreme Court;
- K. To appoint and replace students to the various university committees;
- L. To report on the activities of the Student Government Association and the State of the Student Body at meetings of the House;

Section 6. The Vice President of Operations shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To coordinate the internal activities of the Student Government Association;
- B. To represent the Cabinet and build relationships with each respective branch by continually meeting with student leaders;
- C. To assume the powers and responsibilities of the President at the President's request or in case of the President's temporary absence;
- D. To coordinate all events and retreats sponsored by SGA including, but not limited to, Inauguration and the SGA banquet at the end of each semester;
- E. To coordinate publicity within SGA;
- F. To represent the Student Body at meetings of Intercom;
- G. To coordinate the nomination process for SGA awards;
- H. To conduct SGA-sponsored services;
- I. To chair the Campus Advancement Committee.

Section 7. The Vice President of External Affairs shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To foster community outreach by engaging within the city of Fort Worth;
- B. To build relationships with TCU student organizations outside of Student Government;
- C. To promote Student Government to the Student Body, faculty, staff and alumni;
- D. To represent the Student Body at meetings of Intercom;

Section 8. The Treasurer shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Student Body;
- B. To keep an accurate record of all financial matters concerning the Student Body Fund;
- C. To prepare an annual budget for the Student Government Association;
- D. To prepare and publish a financial overview of the Student Government Association at least once per month;
- E. To disperse money from the Student Body Fund following appropriations enacted by the House of Representatives and Cabinet;
- F. To advise the President on the fiscal responsibility of the Student Government Association;
- G. To oversee all other financial activities of the Student Government Association.

Section 9. The Cabinet shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To act in an administrative and advisory capacity in coordinating executive functions.
- B. To propose legislation to the House.
- C. To recommend ideas for programming
- D. To adopt rules regulating the proceedings of the Executive Branch.
- E. To establish Executive Advisory Committees to research or act upon issues and needs of the Student Body that warrant the resources of the Student Government Association.
- F. To submit an annual budget to the House.
- G. To implement and enforce all legislation passed by the House.
- H. To implement and enforce all rulings made by the Judicial Board.
- I. To enforce and protect all the provisions of the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Section 10- A quorum necessary to hold a meeting of the Cabinet shall consist of a majority of its voting members, and a simple majority of the members voting shall be required to pass or approve all business, unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution or legislation.

Section 11. In case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President of Operations shall become President.

Section 12. In case of a vacancy in the office of the Vice President of Operations, the Vice President of External Affairs, or Treasurer, the President shall, within five (5)

business days, nominate a replacement who shall take office upon confirmation by two-thirds of the membership of the House.

Section 13. No individual shall ascend to the Presidency, Vice Presidencies or office of the Treasurer who fails to meet the academic and disciplinary qualifications of the office. Any individual ascending to the Presidency or Vice Presidencies shall resign from all previous offices held within the Student Government Association.

Section 14. No individual shall hold two (2) or more of the following offices concurrently: President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of External Affairs, or Treasurer.

Section 15. The House shall have the power to determine by legislation who shall become President in case of a concurrent vacancy in the office of the President and the Vice President of Operations.

Article IV Student Programming

Section 1. Official student programming shall be designated and sponsored by SGA.

Section 2. Official student programming shall be defined as high-quality, well-organized and coordinated activities with the intention to educate, entertain or enhance student life on campus.

Section 3. Official student programming shall meet the following requirements:

- A. Programming shall enhance the student community at Texas Christian University.
- B. Programming shall represent the diverse interests and concerns of the entire Student Body.
- C. All programs, small and large, shall be student-driven and student-led.
- D. All programs shall be well advertised with easily accessible information.

Section 4. An organization designated as a provider of official student programming shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To appropriate expenditures from the Student Body Fund.
- B. To adopt rules and bylaws regulating its activities and procedures.
- C. To independently regulate details of its internal proceedings subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
- D. To submit to the SGA Treasurer monthly financial and programming reports concerning all official student programming.
- E. To visibly display the SGA logo so that attendees of official student programming can easily recognize SGA sponsorship.

Section 5. Official student programming shall not be organized or executed by an organization engaged in activities violating this Constitution or the Bill of Student's Rights and Responsibilities.

ARTICLE V

The Judicial Branch

Section 1. The judicial powers and duties of the Student Body shall be vested in the University Judicial System, as established in the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Judicial Board and such inferior judicial bodies established by the House.

Section 2. The rights and responsibilities set forth in the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities and this constitution shall be protected and enforced by the Student Government Association, by the Cabinet, and by all other elected or appointed representatives of the Student Body.

Section 3. The Judicial Board of the Student Government Association shall have exclusive and final jurisdiction on all judicial questions arising within the Student Government Association, subject to the following provisions:

- A. The Judicial Board shall rule upon the constitutionality of legislation and legality of official actions of members or any official body of the Student Government Association only at the request of a member of the Student Body. The Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities shall be considered part of the Constitution for purposes of questions of constitutionality.
- B. The Judicial Board may also question, comment or rule upon other matters related to the Student Government Association or the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities only at the request of a member of the Student Body.
- C. The Judicial Board shall serve as a board of appeals for judicial decisions made by any judicial bodies inferior to it, with such exceptions and under such regulations the House may enact.

Section 4. The Judicial Board shall be composed as follows:

- A. There shall be four (4) Associate Justices and one (1) Chief Justice of the Student Body. The Justices shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the House. The Chief Justice shall serve as the executive officer over the Judicial Board and shall administer the oath of office to Student Body Officers.
- B. Justices shall be members of the Undergraduate Student Body and shall meet the academic and disciplinary requirements set forth in legislation enacted by the House.
- C. No Justice may hold or seek office in the legislative or executive branches of the Student Government Association, or in the Student Programming branch. No Justice may assist any person in seeking such office or membership.
- D. Justices shall serve from the time of their confirmation until graduation, resignation or impeachment.

Section 5. The House shall have the power to adopt, modify and revoke rules of evidence and judicial procedure. This power may be delegated to the Judicial Board,

which shall notify the House whenever it chooses to execute this power. The House may revoke delegation of this power at any time.

Section 6. Rules of evidence and judicial procedure shall be subject to the following provisions:

- A. The provisions set forth in this Constitution and the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities shall not be violated.
- B. No person shall be subjected to judicial proceedings twice for the same offense, nor compelled to witness against him or herself, nor be sanctioned without due process. No unusual or excessive sanctions shall be imposed.
- C. Defendants in judicial proceedings shall have the right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be adjudicated in a speedy and public trial, to be confronted with the witnesses against them and to have the assistance of counsel for their defense.
- D. No person shall be denied, within the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association, the equal protection of this Constitution, the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and legislation enacted by the House.
- E. No person shall be denied the principles of human dignity, freedom of expression, freedom of choice and exercise of religion or the right to petition the Student Government Association for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE VI

Fiscal Affairs

Section 1. The Student Body Fee shall be determined by the House and shall be assessed of all members of the Undergraduate Student Body.

Section 2. Changes in the fee may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at a regular meeting of the House. Changes shall be ratified by a majority vote at a Student Body referendum held within fifteen (15) days of the House's action.

Section 3. The Student Body Fees and other money made available to the Student Government Association shall comprise the Student Body Fund.

Section 4. Funds raised by an official body, office or agency of the Student Government Association on behalf of the Student Body shall be expended at the direction of that body, office or agency by the end of the same fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, any remaining funds shall revert to the residual and shall be appropriated as the House may direct.

Section 5. The officers of the Student Government Association may be paid a stipend. The amount of an officer's stipend may not be modified for the period for which the officer has been appointed or elected.

ARTICLE VII Recall and Impeachment

Section 1. Recall proceedings may be initiated against any Member of the House by submission of a petition signed by a minimum of ten percent (10%) of his or her constituency or by submission of an order to remove signed by the Judicial Board.

Section 2. Impeachment proceedings may be initiated against any member of the Student Government Association by submission of a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the House or by submission of an order to remove signed by the Judicial Board.

Section 3. Members and officers may be recalled or impeached only in the following cases:

- A. The member has violated the Constitution of the Student Body, the Constitution of the Graduate Student Body or the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities;
- B. The member has grossly and with intent violated the policies and procedures of the Student Government Association;
- C. The member has failed to meet the academic or disciplinary requirements set forth in legislation enacted by the House;
- D. The member has exemplified conduct grossly unbecoming an officer or received undue personal financial or material gain through his or her actions.

Section 4. The member or officer shall be removed with the consent of two-thirds of the membership of the House. If a Student Body Officer is the subject of the recall, the Chief Justice shall preside over the meeting.

Section 5. Recall proceedings against appointed Judicial Officers, as set forth in this Constitution or the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities, may be initiated by a petition signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members of the House or Faculty Senate, only in cases of violation of the provisions of this Constitution or the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the House.

Section 2. All proposed amendments must be approved by a majority of the Student Body voting in a referendum on a date determined by the House.

Section 3. Amendments shall become effective on the date set in the amendment, or immediately if no date is set, and they shall supersede any portions of this constitution which overlap or conflict with the amendment.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1. This Constitution shall supersede any and all parts of the past constitution of the Student Body of Texas Christian University.