



SGA CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

PREAMBLE

WE THE STUDENTS OF TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT EDUCATION IS A RIGHT TO WHICH WE ARE PRIVILEGED, DESIROUS OF UPHOLDING PRINCIPLES OF TRUE DEMOCRATIC ACTION, OF PROMOTING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE OVERALL POLICY AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, ACTING TO REMOVE THE STIGMA OF APATHY AND END RACISM, AND PROVIDING AN ORGAN FOR THE FREE EXPRESSION OF STUDENTS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THIS OUR CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I

NAME, MEMBERSHIP, AND STRUCTURE

SECTION I

The name of the organization which shall be the supreme governing body of Texas Southern University students shall be known as the Student Government Association of Texas Southern University, herein after referred to in this document as SGA. It is understood that any and all rules, policies or otherwise set forth herein are subject to all Federal, State, County, City, and Texas Southern University constitutions, statutes, laws, promulgations, ordinances, rules, and policies, including but not limited to, Texas Southern University's *Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*, as amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between this constitution, and any of its subparts, and any Federal, State, County, City, and Texas Southern University constitutions, statutes, laws, promulgations, ordinances, rules, and policies, including but not limited to, Texas Southern University's *Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*, as amended from time to time, said Federal, State, County, City, and Texas Southern University constitutions, statutes, laws, promulgations, ordinances, rules, and policies, including but not limited to, Texas Southern University's *Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*, as amended from time to time, shall control.

SECTION II

All students enrolled at Texas Southern University, as so defined by the office of the Registrar and/or the office of the Dean of Students shall be a member of the SGA. All students who meet the necessary qualifications shall be eligible to participate as an officer in the SGA.

SECTION III

The governing structure of the SGA shall consist of three separate and distinct branches that operate interdependently: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

SECTION IV

The purposes of the SGA are as follows:

- A. The SGA shall provide for effective student representation in planning, execution, and evaluation of all activities affecting the Texas Southern University student community.
- B. The SGA shall serve as a forum whereby student opinions, views and aspirations may be properly discussed and acted upon.
- C. The SGA shall function as an effective, efficient and responsive means of coordinating and monitoring all student affairs.
- D. The SGA shall take all steps necessary to protect the general welfare of the student body and to ensure each student the opportunity to develop the best of his/her ability.

ARTICLE II

QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION I

The qualifications for the President and Executive Vice President are the same. They must:

- A. have attained Junior Class status as evidenced by having earned a minimum sixty (60) semester credit hours at the time he / she applies for office;
- B. have earned the last twenty-four (24) hours at Texas Southern University;
- C. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- D. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- E. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;

- F. have served a minimum of two semesters, totaling forty (40) hours each semester (except in Summer – 30 hours) or more of service, as a member or volunteer of the Legislative, Executive, Judicial, or a Class Officer of the SGA. Service must be documented and verified by the SGA office with a “Letter of Acknowledgement of Service” from the SGA President and the head of the respective branch or entity. The letter must be filed in the Office of Student Activities and submitted to the Election Commissioner at the time of filing for candidacy;
- G. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- H. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office; and
- I. Miss TSU will be selected by a panel of judges following a Pageant.

SECTION II

The qualifications for the Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, Senate Chair, Chief Justice, and Attorney General are the same. They must:

- A. have attained Sophomore Class status as evidenced by having earned a minimum thirty (30) semester credit hours at the time he / she applies for office;
- B. have earned the last twelve (12) hours at Texas Southern University;
- C. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- D. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- E. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- F. have served a minimum of two semesters, totaling forty (40) hours each semester (except in Summer – 30 hours) or more of service, as a member or volunteer of the Legislative, Executive, Judicial, or a Class Officer of the SGA. Service must be documented and verified by the SGA office with a “Letter of Acknowledgement of Service” from the SGA President and the head of the respective branch or entity. The letter must be filed in the Office of Student Activities and submitted to the Election Commissioner at the time of filing for candidacy;
- G. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- H. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office; and

- I. appointment of Chief Justice must be a sitting Associate Justice of the Student Court who shall be appointed by the SGA President and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

SECTION III

The qualifications of the Comptroller are as follows, he/she must:

- A. have attained Sophomore Class status as evidenced by having earned a minimum thirty (30) semester credit hours at the time he / she applies for office;
- B. have earned the last twelve (12) hours at Texas Southern University;
- C. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- D. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- E. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- F. have served a minimum of two semesters, totaling forty (40) hours each semester (except in Summer – 30 hours) or more of service, as a member or volunteer of the Legislative, Executive, Judicial, or a Class Officer of the SGA. Service must be documented and verified by the SGA office with a “Letter of Acknowledgement of Service” from the SGA President and the head of the respective branch or entity. The letter must be filed in the Office of Student Activities and submitted to the Election Commissioner at the time of filing for candidacy;
- G. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- H. be bondable; and
- I. be bonded before taking an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office.

SECTION IV

The qualifications for the Executive Secretary, Senate Secretary, and Court Clerk are the same. They must;

- A. have earned the last twelve (12) hours at Texas Southern University;

- B. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- C. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- D. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- E. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- F. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office; and
- G. be computer literate and typing proficient.

SECTION V

The qualifications for any Senator, Legislative, Presidential, Executive, or Judicial Aide, Student Publication member, and Associate Justice are the same. They must:

- A. have earned twelve (12) semester hour credits at Texas Southern University
- B. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- C. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- D. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- E. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- F. all except for Senators, be confirmed by a two-thirds vote in the Senate; and
- G. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office.

SECTION VI

The qualifications for the Deputy Attorney General and any Student Defender are as follows, he/she must:

- A. have attained Sophomore Class status as evidenced by having earned a

minimum thirty (30) semester credit hours at the time he/she applies for office;

- B. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- C. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- D. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- E. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- F. except for the Deputy Attorney General, be approved by the Judicial Branch prior to filing for candidacy; and
- G. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office.

SECTION VII

The qualifications of the Editors of any Student Publication are as follows, he/she must:

- A. have completed a minimum of six (6) semester hours of journalism or have attained Junior Class status as evidenced by having earned sixty (60) semester hours and have currently served as a member of the publications staff for a minimum of one year at the time he / she applies for office;
- B. have earned the last twenty-four (24) hours at Texas Southern University;
- C. be continuously enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- D. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- E. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- F. be free of any disciplinary and/or academic probation;
- G. be approved by the Student Publications Board prior to filing for candidacy; and

H. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office.

ARTICLE III

TERMS

SECTION I

- A. Each term for all officers excluding Academic & Class Senators, and Justices, starts on June 1 of the elected or appointed year, and ends May 31 of the following year.
- B. Academic Senators shall serve a term that starts on Feb 1 of the elected or appointed year and ends January 31 of the following year.
- C. Class Senators shall serve a term that starts on November 1 of the elected or appointed year and ends October 31 of the following year.

SECTION II

- A. An elected or appointed officer excluding Associate Justices shall serve one term; however, there are no term limits. The time frame shall be consistent to the respective position as stated in Article III, Section I.
- B. The Chief Justice, and Associate Justices shall serve academic life terms, effective after appointment and confirmation to office as long as they continue to satisfy ongoing qualifications as stated in Article II, Sections II & V.

SECTION III

Terms will expire upon resignation, removal by impeachment, or expiration of tenure.

ARTICLE IV

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION I

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Legislative Branch of the SGA.

SECTION II

The Senate shall be composed of the following elected members:

- A. A Senate Chair (elected from within the Senate);

- B. A Senate Pro Tempore (appointed by the Senate Chair from within the Senate);
- C. Thirty-three Senators elect:
 - A. Eight (8) Academic Senators from each school within the University:
 - 1. One Senator from the School of Pharmacy;
 - 2. One Senator from the School of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences;
 - 3. One Senator from the School of Business;
 - 4. One Senator from the Law School;
 - 5. One Senator from the School of Public Affairs;
 - 6. One Senator from the School of Science & Technology;
 - 7. One Senator from the School of Science & Communications;
 - and
 - 8. One Senator from the School of Education.
 - D. One Senator from the Pan-Hellenic Council;
 - E. Six (6) Senators representing each on/off campus Residence Hall Council;
 - 1. One Senator from Lanier East;
 - 2. One Senator from Lanier West;
 - 3. One Senator from Greystone Apartments;
 - 4. One Senator from Tierwester Apartments;
 - 5. One Senator from Courtyard Apartments; and
 - 6. One Senator from Richfield Manor Apartments.
 - F. Ten (10) Class Senators:
 - 1. Two Senators from the Freshman Class;
 - 2. Two Senators from the Sophomore Class;
 - 3. Two Senators from the Junior Class;
 - 4. Two Senators from the Senior Class; and
 - 5. Two Senators from the Graduate Class/School
 - G. One Senator from the International Student's Organization
 - H. One Senator from the University Program Council;
 - I. One Senator from the Gifted and Physically Disabled Students Association;
 - J. Six senators elected at-large:
 - 1. One Senator for Internal Affairs
 - 2. One Senator for External Affairs

3. One Senator for Judicial Affairs
4. One Senator for Financial Affairs
5. One Senator for Academic Affairs
6. One Senator for Buildings & Grounds; and

K. A Senate Secretary.

SECTION III

The Senate Chair shall:

- A. preside over all Senate meetings;
- B. create and appoint all Senate committees and chairs, excluding standing committees;
- C. countersign all bills, proposals, and resolutions which necessitate the President's signature, brought before the Senate before submission to the SGA President;
- D. countersign all requisitions and checks in excess of \$200.00 to verify Senate approval of said expenditures from the SGA budget;
- E. appoint a Senate Pro-Tem, who upon vacancy in the position of Senate Chair shall become the Senate Chair if qualified. Also, the Pro-Tem shall preside over meetings when designated by the Senate Chair;
- F. appoint Legislative Aides to the Senate with two-thirds approval of the Senate; and
- G. countersign all requisitions and checks written on the SGA account which only regard actions by the Legislative Branch.

SECTION IV

The Senate Pro-Tempore Shall:

- A. ascend to the position of Senate Chair should the Senate Chair position become vacant due to death, resignation, impeachment, ineligibility, suspensions or any other constraints which incapacitate the Senate Chair;
- B. preside over Senate meetings when designated by the Senate Chair;
- C. have a working knowledge of all governing documents of the SGA;
- D. act as the Senate Chair during the Senate Chair's absence from duties; and
- E. be bound to all sections of the SGA Constitution and the Senate Code relating to the Senate Pro-Tem pore's duties and position.

SECTION V

Senators shall:

- A. act as the official representative of their constituencies;
- B. have a working knowledge of all governing documents of SGA;
- C. be obligated to, and aware of all issues of their constituencies;
- D. present proposals to the Senate for activities benefiting their constituency; and
- E. be bound to all sections of the SGA Constitution and the Senate Code relating to their specific duties and position.

SECTION VI

The Senate shall:

- A. assemble once a week, scheduled at the conveyance of the majority of the full Senate or when designated by the Senate Chair;
- B. not assemble during Mid-Term Exams or Final Exams;
- C. maintain an official record of its actions to be made available to the public upon request;
- D. override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds vote;
- E. conduct official business only when a quorum is in attendance. A quorum shall constitute a simple majority of all occupied seats;
- F. determine by a two-thirds approval the rules of its proceedings and publish them in a Senate Code. All Senators and Registered Campus Organizations shall be bound by the Code;
- G. operate in the summer with the Senators present in the area. Official actions of the Senate may be reviewed and repealed by the full Senate body if deemed necessary by a three-fourths vote in the Fall semester.
- H. approve by a two-thirds vote all SGA bills, proposals, ordinances, and resolutions designed to generate funds or revenue;
- I. approve by a majority vote all SGA expenditures exceeding \$200.00 per week by the SGA President. Stipends are not included in the weekly cap amount, however still must be approved by a two-thirds vote for all appointed officials not provided in said constitution.
- J. approve the annual SGA budget proposal before submission to the University

Budget Committee before May 1;

- K. review and approve budgets of all SGA related departments and branches;
- L. provide for audit of the financial records of all SGA related departments;
- M. confirm by a majority vote the student members to all University committees responsible for the distribution and disbursement of student fees, except for the President of SGA;
- N. have the power to appropriate SGA funds for use by registered organizations and special projects which benefit the student body;
- O. recommend sanctions be imposed against any registered student organization violating University regulations as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and Handbook;
- P. have the power to create and develop more student courts when it is proven that the workload of existing courts is prohibitive;
- Q. confirm presidential nominees as aides to the Office of the President, the Executive Cabinet, members of the Election Commission, members to the Student Publications Board, and the Chief Justice to the Student Court;
- R. approve by two-thirds vote resolutions reflecting the opinions of the student body on matters affecting them;
- S. take all steps necessary to protect the general welfare of the student body;
- T. have the power to request the appearance of all SGA personnel, all elected student members, members of all campus organizations, and all other students to testify when deemed necessary;
- U. confirm with a two-thirds vote Senate Chair nominees as Legislative aides to the Senate.
- V. have the sole power to grant the President of SGA powers of legislative address for the removal of all SGA personnel; excluding officials of the Legislative and Judicial Branch.
- W. first give written notification to officials of SGA who are deemed in violation of Article IV, Section VI, Item X. Then, if no change in action, suspend the official with or without pay for no more than 30 days. If after this time, there is change, reinstate the member and (pay). If there is no change, then proceed with impeachment and removal;
- X. have the sole power to impeach, and remove from office all SGA officials and all other student elected officials. (Misuse of funds, gross inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance in office and violations of the SGA Constitution

are grounds for impeachment and removal of any student);

- Y. place all officials under oath of affirmation during an impeachment trial. The Senate Pro-Tem shall administer the oath. No person shall be convicted of impeachment and removed from office without the concurrence of three-fourths vote of the members present which shall constitute a quorum of the Senate;
- Z. call a general referendum of the Student Body in order to render a decision regarding proposed legislation;
- AA. hold publicly announced open meetings from which no one may be excluded. By a two thirds vote of the Senate, it may go into closed session to discuss private deliberations.
- BB. take any suitable action necessary to fulfill the duties and powers expressed or implied in this Constitution;
- CC. confirm with a two-thirds vote, Chief Justice nominees as Judicial Aides to the Student Court;
- DD. confirm with a two-thirds vote, Attorney General nominees as Judicial Aides to the Office of the Attorney General; and
- EE. the Senate Code shall govern all actions of this body.

SECTION VII

The Senate Secretary shall:

- A. keep an official record of all bills, proposals, and resolutions passed by the Senate;
- B. report and keep the minutes of all Senate meetings;
- C. arrange in conjunction with the Senate Chair, all meetings of the Senate;
- D. keep an accurate roll of all active and inactive members of the Senate; and
- E. perform all necessary clerical duties of the Senate.

SECTION VIII

Legislative Aides shall:

- A. be defined as any person appointed by the Senate Chair assisting the Senate; and

- B. perform any duties as outlined by the Senate Chair when the position was appointed.

SECTION IX

All Senators along with the Senate Secretary shall be compensated for their services. Amounts shall be allocated in the budget approved in the previous fiscal year. No branch of SGA shall initiate any increase in compensation during their tenure.

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION I

All executive powers herein granted shall be invested in the Executive Branch of the SGA.

SECTION II

- A. The Executive Cabinet, headed by the President, shall include the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, Comptroller, Executive Secretary, Miss TSU, the Governor of each class, and any appointed executive aides.
- B. The Chief Justice, Attorney General, and the Senate Chair shall be Executive members with executive privilege and authority, however, will reside in their respective branches, and are not members of the Executive Cabinet.

SECTION III

The Executive Cabinet shall assist the President on rulings relative to bills passed by the Senate by recommending passage or rejection of such proposed legislation.

SECTION IV

The Executive Cabinet shall recommend to the President removal of officers from the Executive Cabinet. The recommendations must be in writing.

SECTION V

The Executive Cabinet shall assist in keeping the President of SGA informed on all matters pertinent to the student body.

SECTION VI

The Executive Branch shall be charged with the responsibility of enforcing and executing the actions of the Legislative Branch, either upon its own initiative or that of the Legislative Branch.

SECTION VII

The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, Executive Secretary, Comptroller, Chief Justice, Attorney General and Senate Chair shall be compensated for their services. Amounts shall be allocated in the budget approved in the previous fiscal year. No branch of SGA shall initiate any increase in compensation during their tenure.

SECTION VIII

The President shall:

- A. approve all special events conducted by the Student Government Association;
- B. not limit his/her authority to those areas delegated to other members of the Executive Cabinet;
- C. have the power to call special meetings of the student body and Senate;
- D. keep the student body informed of important issues and problems of the University;
- E. supervise and coordinate the policies and activities of the Executive Cabinet;
- F. shall deliver a "State of Student Affairs Address" to the full Senate assembly each term of his/her tenure;
- G. supervise the presentation of the SGA budget to the Senate for approval before its submission to the University Budget Committee;
- H. serve as an ex-officio member of all University committees affecting matters pertinent to the student body;
- I. have the power to create special committees;
- J. preside over meetings of the Executive Cabinet;
- K. act as the official spokesperson for the student body;
- L. keep the Senate informed and updated on all official activities of the Executive Cabinet;
- M. countersign all requisitions and checks written on the SGA account which regard

actions by the Executive Cabinet;

- N. with a majority approval of the Senate shall fill all vacancies that occur in the Executive Cabinet. The vacancies must be filled within ten (10) regularly scheduled classroom days;
- O. appoint with a two-thirds approval of the Senate; the Chief Justice, students on the Student Publications Board, and the Election Commission should a vacancy occur;
- P. maintain records of the qualifications of members of the Executive Cabinet. These records must be made available immediately upon request of the Student Senate, other students, or officials of the University;
- Q. sign or veto all bills, proposals, and resolutions proposed by the Senate which necessitate the President's signature before the measure becomes effective;
- R. return with written objection a veto within two regular Senate meetings. The President's Veto may be overridden by two-thirds vote of the Senate: If the President fails to act on a measure within two regular Senate meetings, the measure takes effect immediately;
- S. be granted powers of legislative address by a two-thirds vote of the Senate for removal of all SGA personnel, excluding members of the Student Court and Student Senate;
- T. have the power to temporarily suspend any member of the Executive Cabinet. This suspension may be either with or without pay, and may not exceed fifteen (15) classroom days. The suspension may be appealed to the Student Court;
- U. appoint presidential and executive aides to the Executive Branch with a majority vote of the Senate; and
- V. have the power to remove presidential and executive Aides from the Executive Branch.

SECTION IX

The Executive Vice President shall:

- A. ascend to the Presidency should the position become vacant due to death, resignation, impeachment, ineligibility, suspensions or other constraints which incapacitate the President;
- B. act as the President during the President's absence from duties;
- C. serve on the Executive Cabinet as a liaison for all SGA members, offices, and officers;

- D. serve as the supervisor of the President's Cabinet, having direct authority over it's members;
- E. countersign all requisition of purchases for supplies and office equipment for any and all SGA offices; and
- F. work directly with building personnel to ensure the SGA offices are functioning properly.

SECTION X

The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall:

- A. serve on the Executive Board of the University Program Council and the University Homecoming Steering Committee;
- B. make periodic reports to the Executive Cabinet concerning the activities of the University Program Council. Such reports must be made available to the Senate;
- C. serve as the SGA Representative in all committees concerning the Texas Southern University Faculty and staff;
- D. serve as liaison to Residential, International, Commuter, and Weekend Students;
- E. serve as the liaison to the Office of Student Activities;
- F. make monthly reports to the Senate;
- G. be responsible for coordinating SGA activities for Freshman orientation; and
- H. be responsible for uniting all campus organizations to implement a program to increase retention rates.

SECTION XI

The Vice President of External Affairs shall:

- A. make recommendations and initiate programs relative to student community relations;
- B. be a liaison officer to the Office of University Relations;
- C. be responsible for activities, communications, and public relations to all local, state, and national organizations affecting Texas Southern University;
- D. assist the President when necessary in making official announcements to the University and the external community;

- E. make monthly reports to the Senate; and
- F. be responsible for coordinating ongoing events to increase Alumni participation on issues concerning TSU.

SECTION XII

The Comptroller shall:

- A. verify the existence of sufficient funds in the SGA account before releasing funds;
- B. countersign all requisitions and checks for disbursement of SGA funds;
- C. assist the President in preparing the annual SGA budget request for funding;
- D. keep accurate records of financial transactions of SGA;
- E. publish or cause to be published an accurate record of all financial transactions of SGA; and
- F. make monthly reports to the Senate on SGA fiscal affairs.

SECTION XIII

The Executive Secretary shall:

- A. keep an official record of all bills, proposals, and resolutions passed by the Senate;
- B. keep official records of all actions by the Student Court;
- C. keep an accurate roll of all active officials of SGA;
- D. keep and report the minutes of all Executive Cabinet meetings;
- E. coordinate the clerical duties of SGA personnel;
- F. arrange all general council meetings; and
- G. perform all necessary duties of the Executive Cabinet.

SECTION XIV

Executive Aides shall:

- A. Executive Aides shall be defined as any person appointed by the President assisting the Executive Branch; and

B. perform any duties as outlined by the President when the position was appointed.

ARTICLE VI

JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION I

All judicial powers herein granted shall be vested in the Judicial Branch of the SGA

SECTION II

The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Student Court and the Office of the Attorney General.

SECTION III

The Student Court shall be charged with the sole power to interpret the Constitution.

SECTION IV

The Office of the Attorney General shall be charged with the responsibility of enforcing the Constitution and the internal rules of procedure.

SECTION V

The Student Court shall be composed of the following:

- A. Chief Justice (Chair);
- B. six Associate Justices;
- C. one Court Clerk;
- D. Attorney General (officer);
- E. Deputy Attorney General (officer); and
- F. two Student Defenders (officers).

SECTION VI

The Student Court shall have the following jurisdiction:

- A. hear and enter judgment in all cases brought against students, student organizations, and student government bodies, by other students, student organizations or student governing bodies of TSU;
- B. hear procedural appeals which regard the SGA Constitution or student organizational constitutions;
- C. questions arising from bylaws, statutes, and resolutions of the Student Senate or any other student governmental body;
- D. questions involving rules in judicial governmental organizations, involving student life, services or interests;
- E. hear procedural appeals stemming from the Pan Hellenic Council, and the Residence Hall Court; and
- F. disputes or complaints when referred to the court by the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, or by other units of the University.

SECTION VII

The Student Court shall:

- A. operate under such rules and procedures as are necessary for the proper functioning of their duties under the SGA Constitution according to the Student Code of Conduct, known as the Judicial Code;
- B. have the power to hear and enter judgment in all cases arising under 3.0 in the SGA Judicial Code;
- C. in cases arising under 3.0 in the SGA Judicial Code, the sitting justices shall have the power to fashion appropriate, just and equitable remedies to implement their decisions, including reasonable fines;
- D. consistent with practices of the University, the Court shall have the power to request a hold be placed on the records of any student within its jurisdiction;
- E. have the power to issue a court summons, requiring the attendance of any witness to testify in any matter or cause pending or hearing in Court;
- F. have the power to impose a maximum punishment of probation along with other punishments including reasonable fines. The Court shall have the power to recommend suspension or expulsion to the Associate Provost of Student Services and Dean of Students; and
- G. in cases involving SGA, the Court shall have the power to impose a maximum punishment of removal from office.

SECTION VIII

The Chief Justice Shall:

- A. act as sole spokesperson for the Court unless another court member is designated;
- B. give written notice of the penalty, if any, imposed on anyone appearing before the court or give written notice of the court's decision in all cases. Such decisions must be made available to the public within forty-eight (48) hours;
- C. appoint a Clerk Court with a two-thirds approval of the Senate;
- D. appoint Associate Justices to Courts, Boards, and Committees as necessary with a two-thirds approval of the Senate;
- E. issue order of quo warrants for the removal of SGA officials after evidence has been presented to the Student Court providing a punishment of removal of office;
- F. administer the oath of office to all officials of the SGA;
- G. certify within two (2) class days, the results of all elections and referendums;
- H. supervise the activities of all judicial courts or committees established, in regard to their constitutional duties;
- I. supervise the maintenance of the permanent Journal of Laws;
- J. accept the resignation and requests for leave of absence of any member of the Court;
- K. keep accurate copies of the Student Government Association Constitution and the Student Code of Conduct Handbook;
- L. be granted a leave of absence with two-thirds approval of the Student Senate. The Chief Justice shall not be compensated during this period.
- M. establish and maintain office hours;
- N. work in conjunction with the SGA President & Attorney General to establish appropriate committees and tribunals;
- O. preside at all sessions of the Court, except whenever the Chief Justice withdraws from a particular case for reasons of personal interest, prejudice, illness or other like exigency;

- P. call meetings of the Court and preside at such meetings, and schedule conferences of the members of the Court whenever necessary for the efficient administration of the Court. Following the appointment of members of the Court, the Chief Justice shall call a meeting of all of the members of the Court to discuss the history and functions of the Court. During this meeting, the conduct of hearings, general information, duties and responsibilities of the members, as well the general procedures of the Court shall be discussed;
- Q. be responsive to reasonable requests by any Court member for a consensus meeting or session of the full Court. The Chief Justice must call a meeting if a majority of the members request one; and
- R. with the recommendation of the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, have the power to issue a written notification of appearance, requiring the attendance of any TSU student to testify in a matter that is before the Court. The written notification of appearance may be assigned by the Chief Justice to require the attendance of witnesses and their production of lawful instruments of evidence in any action matter or proceeding pending or hearing to be examined by the Court.

SECTION IX

Associate Justices shall:

- A. be present at all student court meetings and hearings;
- B. perform other such duties as assigned by the Chief Justice;
- C. be present at all sessions of the Court, except whenever a Justice withdraws from a particular case for reasons of personal interest, prejudice, illness or other like exigency;
- D. render unbiased decisions stemming from each individual case;
- E. maintain an original file of all complaints, answers, orders, briefs, and judgments in cases to which they participated;
- F. keep an orderly timetable of events in order to assure efficient movement of the case; and
- G. elect among themselves an Acting Chief Justice in the absence of the Chief Justice with a majority approval of the sitting justices.

SECTION X

The Court Clerk shall:

- A. be present at all meetings and hearings of the Court;
- B. keep all Court records and perform other such duties as are assigned by the Chief Justice or Acting Chief Justice;
- C. maintain on file, the docket and decisions of each session at which the Court hears appearing before it;
- D. maintain an updated list of all cases and their subject matter. This list will include the case number, title and classification;
- E. maintain all office supplies and equipment;
- F. take minutes at all sessions and hearings of the Court;
- G. maintain and compile the Judicial Branch budget with the oversight of the Chief Justice, and oversee all purchases of the Court.

SECTION XI

Student Defenders shall:

- A. provide for the defense of cases before the Student Court;
- B. represent defendants before the Student Court;
- C. have the authority to request all necessary and pertinent information and evidence as it relates to the defense of a case;
- D. with the recommendation of the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, have the power to issue a written notification of appearance, requiring the attendance of any TSU student to testify in a matter that is before the Court. The written notification of appearance may be assigned by the Attorney General to require the attendance of witnesses and their production of lawful instruments of evidence in any action matter or proceeding pending or hearing to be examined by the Court;
- E. with the recommendation of the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, have the authority to investigate, and defend any member of the student body in conjunction with alleged violations to the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct; (Code 2 Violations);
- F. have the ability to recommend reasonable punishment by the Court to be taken into consideration with the Justices upon convicting anyone appearing before it; and

- G. be given access to any documentation pertaining to allocation or usage of funds by the SGA when it directly relates to the defense of a case.

SECTION XII

The Office of the Attorney General shall be composed of the following:

- A. Attorney General (Chief Prosecutor & Enforcer); and
- B. Deputy Attorney General (Assistant Prosecutor & Enforcer)

SECTION XIII

The Attorney General shall:

- A. ensure the enforcement of the Constitution and rules of the SGA, and of the Bylaws, and Internal Rules of Procedure;
- B. advise the Executive and Legislative branches involving all Constitutional and legal matters, and represent the SGA in judicial proceedings before the Court;
- C. prosecute or oversee prosecution of all cases assigned to the Court presenting the facts and evidence to the Court; (in the event of a complaint by a student or student organization the Attorney General will represent the complainant);
- D. present the facts and evidence in a case to any judicial board upon special request from the Office of the Associate Provost and the Dean of Students;
- E. sit on the necessary committee to review and approve all new Student Organization Constitutions;
- F. become familiar with the duties of all elected and appointed officers of the SGA;
- G. be given access upon request to all original legislation pertaining to the amendments or revisions of the SGA constitution;
- H. be given access to any documentation pertaining to allocation or usage of funds by the SGA;
- I. ensure that all Amendments, Revisions, or Additions to the SGA constitution are obtained and documented in the correct manner as stated in the SGA Constitution Article XI Sections I thru IV.
- J. with the recommendation of the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, have the authority to investigate,

charge, and prosecute any member of the SGA in conjunction with alleged violations of the SGA Constitution;

- K. with the recommendation of the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, have the authority to investigate, charge, and prosecute any member of the student body in conjunction with alleged violations to the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct; (Code 2 Violations)
- L. with the recommendation of the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Services and Dean of Students, have the power to issue a written notification of appearance, requiring the attendance of any TSU student to testify in a matter that is before the Court. The written notification of appearance may be assigned by the Attorney General to require the attendance of witnesses and their production of lawful instruments of evidence in any action matter or proceeding pending or hearing to be examined by the Court;
- M. have the ability to recommend reasonable punishment by the Court to be taken into consideration with the Justices upon convicting anyone appearing before it;
- N. be required to attend at least two (2) Senate meetings monthly; and
- O. appoint a Deputy Attorney General, and judicial aides to the Office of the Attorney General with a two-thirds confirmation of the Senate;
- P. maintain and compile the Office of the Attorney General budget and oversee all purchases for the Office of the Attorney General;
- Q. compile an end-of-the semester report of all activities of the Office of the Attorney General;
- R. supervise and coordinate all policies and activities of the Office of the Attorney General;
- S. establish and maintain office hours; and
- T. remove any appointed judicial aides from the Office of the Attorney General.

SECTION XIV

The Deputy Attorney General shall:

- A. assist the Attorney General in investigations and prosecutions;
- B. perform all duties assigned by the Attorney General;

- C. ascend to the position of Attorney General should the position become vacant due to death, resignation, impeachment, ineligibility, suspension, or other constraints which incapacitate the Attorney General; and
- D. act as the Attorney General during the Attorney General's absence from duties.

SECTION XV

Judicial Aides shall:

- A. be defined as any person appointed by the Chief Justice assisting the Student Court;
- B. be defined as any person appointed by the Attorney General assisting the Office of the Attorney General;
- C. perform any duties as outlined by the Chief Justice when the position was appointed; and
- D. perform any duties as outlined by the Attorney General when the position was appointed.

SECTION XV

The Deputy Attorney General, Associate Justices, Student Defenders, and the Court Clerk shall be compensated for their services. Amounts shall be allocated in the budget approved in the previous fiscal year. No branch of SGA shall initiate any increase in compensation during their tenure.

ARTICLE VII

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

SECTION I

Student Publications shall be defined as the Tiger Yearbook, the Herald Newspaper, and other regular publication funded by student fees.

SECTION II

The Board of Student Publications shall be comprised of the following voting members:

- A. Ten (10) members appointed by the President of SGA which include:
 - 1. one international student representative;

2. one student representative of the Pan Hellenic Council;
3. one student representative from a campus based religious organization;
4. one graduate school student representative;
5. one Senator;
6. one alumnus;
7. one journalism major;
8. two at-large students; and

B. one faculty nominated by the Faculty Senate.

SECTION III

The student members of the Student Publications Board may not be currently on the staff of any student publication.

SECTION IV

The Student Publication Board shall:

- A. approve candidates for the Editors of any student publications upon receipt of application one month prior to spring elections;
- B. monitor all student publications and develop, implement and mediate policies of governance by establishing a code for its operation;
- C. act as a liaison between student publications, and the entire campus community, as well as act as an advocate for the students and their publications;
- D. review the goals, activities, and policies of student publications;
- E. review monthly reports of expenditures of all student publications and make such reports available to the public; and
- F. ensure that no censorship of any student publication occurs.

ARTICLE VIII

MISS TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

SECTION I

The panel of judges for the selection of MISS TSU shall consist of the following members:

- A. one student representative from the School of Business;
- B. one student representative from the College of Education;
- C. one student representative from the College of Pharmacy;
- D. one student representative from the Graduate School;
- E. one student representative from the Law School;
- F. one student representative from the School of Public Affairs;
- G. one student representative from the School of Liberal Arts;
- H. one student representative from the School of Science and Technology;
- I. one student representative from the School of Communications;
- J. one faculty or staff member; and
- K. one alumnus.

SECTION II

Miss TSU shall:

- A. represent the University and act as host/hostess at University functions;
- B. be a member of the Executive Cabinet of SGA;
- C. represent with her Court at homecoming activities;
- D. establish and maintain a queens court which will include all class and organizational queens; and
- E. establish and maintain a platform.

SECTION III

Guidelines for Miss Texas Southern University pageant are as follows:

- A. a panel of judges approved by the Senate with a majority vote shall be responsible for the judging of Miss Texas Southern University and two (2) Runner-Ups;
- B. executive Cabinet of the SGA shall select members of the Miss Texas Southern University Pageant Steering Committee approved by a majority vote of the Senate, which the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall preside as the chair;
- C. the Miss Texas Southern University Steering Committee shall set all policies relative to the coordination of Miss Texas Southern University Pageant;
- D. the Miss Texas Southern University Steering Committee shall set the qualifications for Miss Texas Southern University with a two-thirds approval of the Student Senate; and
- E. the first runner-up, second runner-up or contestant receiving the next highest points will be offered the title in the event of a change in Miss TSU's status, in relation to Article I Section I of the Miss Texas Southern University Scholarship Pageant Agreement.

ARTICLE IX

CLASS OFFICERS

SECTION I

The officers elected each Fall Semester for each class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, and Graduate) shall consist of the following members:

- A. Governor;
- B. Lieutenant Governor;
- C. Secretary; and
- D. Treasurer
- E. Two (2) Class Senators

SECTION II

Qualifications for these positions are as follows:

- A. have earned twelve (12) semester hour credits at Texas Southern University (excluding freshman officers);
- B. be continuously enrolled as a full-student in a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate Fall or Spring semester credit hours; and or six (6) undergraduate or graduate Summer semester credit hours during his or her tenure; Summer semester hours are not needed to satisfy this criteria as long as the student was enrolled full-time in the prior Spring semester, and will be enrolled full-time in the following Fall semester;
- C. have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or better at the time he/she applies for office;
- D. maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during his/her tenure;
- E. be free of any disciplinary, academic, or social probation;
- F. if appointed, shall be confirmed by a majority approval of the Senate; and
- G. take an oath of office to be administered at the time of taking office.

SECTION III

The elected Class Governors shall:

- A. have the power to call special meetings of the Class;
- B. keep the Class informed of important issues and problems of the University;
- C. supervise and coordinate all actions of the Class Officers;
- D. deliver a "State of the Class" address to the full Senate and student body each semester;
- E. supervise the presentation of the Class budget to the Senate;
- F. act as official spokesperson for the Class;
- G. fill all vacancies in the Class following procedures set in the Constitution;
- H. approve expenditures of all Class funds and all Class orders of actions; and
- I. be a member of the Executive Cabinet.

SECTION IV

The elected Class Lieutenant Governors shall:

- A. assist the Class Governor with supervising and coordinating activities and programs for their respective classes;
- B. ascend to the Class Governor should the position become vacant due to death, resignation, impeachment, ineligibility; suspension; or other constraints which incapacitate the Governor;
- C. act as the Class Governor in times of the Class Governor's absence from duties;
- D. report to the Governor on all actions of the Class;
- E. keep the Governor informed on all pertinent matters that involve the class; and
- F. through their respective Senators, may present proposals to the Senate for activities benefiting their class.

SECTION V

The Secretary of each class shall:

- A. perform all clerical duties as assigned by the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the class;
- B. encourage members of their class to take an active role in the SGA;
- C. lead and act at all times as if they are student leaders;
- D. help establish programs to better on campus life;
- E. report to the Class Governor; and
- F. through their respective Senators, may present proposals to the Senate for activities benefiting their class.

SECTION VI

The Treasurer of each class shall:

- A. verify the existence of sufficient funds in the class account before releasing funds;
- B. countersign all requisitions and checks for disbursement of SGA class funds;
- C. assist the Governor in preparing the annual SGA Class budget request for funding through the Senate;

- D. keep accurate records of financial transactions of SGA Class funds;
- E. report to the class Governor and Comptroller; and
- F. through their respective Senators, may present proposals to the Senate for activities benefiting their class.

ARTICLE X

IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

SECTION I

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments of all SGA officials. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is needed to impeach an SGA or student elected official.

SECTION II

When is this process, they shall take the oath of affirmation. The Senate Pro-tem shall preside over all impeachments. If the President, Senate Chair, or a Senator is being tried, the Chief Justice shall preside. No SGA official shall be removed from office by conviction of impeachment without the concurrence of three fourths vote of the members present which shall constitute a quorum of the Senate.

SECTION III

Impeachment and/or removal from an elected SGA office shall occur upon evidence presented of failure to perform official duties and/or a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct, or repeated violations of the SGA Constitution.

SECTION IV

Impeachment convictions may be appealed to the Student Court.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS AND REFERENDUMS

SECTION I

Amendments to the SGA Constitution shall be approved by three-fourths vote of the Senate in two consecutive meetings of the Senate, and ratified by a majority vote of a referendum of the student body.

SECTION II

A campus wide referendum may be called by the President or Senate supporting proposed legislation or a proposed amendment. A campus wide referendum must be called by the President when presented with a petition containing ten percent (10%) of the registered students of Texas Southern University supporting proposed legislation or a proposed amendment.

SECTION III

Any changes to the SGA Constitution shall be accomplished by amendments only. The amendment process shall follow the current rules as provided in “ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER.”

ARTICLE XII

ORDER OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

The order of Presidential Succession is as follows:

- A. Executive Vice President;
- B. Senate Chair;
- C. Vice President of Internal Affairs;
- D. Vice President of External Affairs; and
- E. Attorney General.

ARTICLE XIII

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS OF SGA

The SGA Bylaws, Senate Code, Judicial Code, and Election Code shall be additional governing documents of SGA.

- A. Amendments to the SGA Bylaws must be approved by three-fourths approval of the Senate in two consecutive meetings which shall constitute a quorum of the Senate. The Student Body must ratify all amendments to the SGA Bylaws;
- B. Amendments to the Senate Code must be approved by three-fourths vote of the Senate in two consecutive meetings of the Senate which shall constitute a quorum;

- C. Amendments to the Judicial Code must be approved by three-fourths vote of all members of the Judicial Branch in two consecutive meetings of the entire; and
- D. Amendments to the Election Code must be approved by a two-thirds approval of the Senate in two consecutive meetings of the Senate which shall constitute a quorum. The Student Body must ratify all Election Code Amendments.

ARTICLE XIV

POWERS OF THIS SGA CONSTIUTION

SECTION I

The Constitution of the Students of Texas Southern University shall be the supreme governing instruments of all students. Any document which conflicts with this Constitution shall be declared invalid. The Student Court shall have the sole power to interpret the Constitution whenever the need arises. It is understood that any and all rules, policies or otherwise set forth herein are subject to all Federal, State, County, City, and Texas Southern University constitutions, statutes, laws, promulgations, ordinances, rules, and policies, including but not limited to, Texas Southern University's *Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*, as amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between this constitution, and any of its subparts, and any Federal, State, County, City, and Texas Southern University constitutions, statutes, laws, promulgations, ordinances, rules, and policies, including but not limited to, Texas Southern University's *Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*, as amended from time to time, said Federal, State, County, City, and Texas Southern University constitutions, statutes, laws, promulgations, ordinances, rules, and policies, including but not limited to, Texas Southern University's *Student Handbook & Code of Conduct*, as amended from time to time, shall control.

This Constitution was hereby ratified on November 30, 2006 for the proposed revisions by the Texas Southern University Student Body. It shall go into effect on January 1st, 2007.