

CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AT TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY



Ratified for Implementation: 10/24/2024

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PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Student Government Association of Texas Woman's University, strive to be the voice of the student body, serving as a bridge between the students, faculty, staff, and administration of the institution. We recognize that students play an integral role in shared governance and must contribute to the building and maintenance of an inclusive, diverse, and equitable university. Thus, we establish this constitution to create an effective student government that seeks to effect positive change for the betterment of Texas Woman's University.

Drafted: July 2024

Approved by the SGA: September 2024



ARTICLE I

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- SEC 1.1 There shall be established as the principal organ(s) with decision-making power within the Student Community: A Student Government Association.
- SEC 1.2 The name of this governmental organization shall be the Student Government Association [SGA].
- SEC 1.3 The purpose of this organization shall be:
- A. To protect and advocate for the rights of the student body of the University by improving their academic, physical, social, and mental welfare.
 - B. To provide the official channel through which the opinions, desires, and needs of the student body may be expressed.
- SEC 1.4 SEPARATE BUT EQUAL BRANCHES. The SGA shall be composed of the following three (3) separate but equal branches: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.
- SEC 1.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY ORGANS. The SGA may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its duties and functions, with the approval of the SGA Advisor.
- SEC 1.6 ADVISOR OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION. The Vice President for Student Affairs or their delegate shall be the advisor of the SGA.

ARTICLE II

RIGHTS

- SEC 2.1 RIGHTS OF ALL STUDENTS. The students at Texas Woman's University shall possess all of the rights naturally given to all citizens of the United States and

the State of Texas, and declare that nothing within the rules and regulations of the university or this Constitution as contained in any document or interpretation thereof shall infringe upon these rights.

SEC 2.2 **FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND DEBATE.** In addition to the rights of free speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the State of Texas, all students shall possess the right of free speech exercised in the performance of all activities contemplated under this Constitution and no adverse action, discipline or penalty shall be imposed by the university or any organization recognized thereby against any student for speech in the act of debate or discussion.

SEC 2.3 **NON-DISCRIMINATION.** The Texas Woman's University SGA shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, age, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, veteran's status, genetic information or against qualified individuals with disabilities. This policy will be observed in all hiring, appointment and funding practices of the SGA.

SEC 2.4 **TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN MEETINGS.** All SGA meetings are open to currently enrolled students and other stakeholders of the university. Individuals wishing to speak at a SGA meeting must complete the speaking request form.

ARTICLE III

LEADING POWER OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SEC 3.1 **THE HIGHEST FORM OF STUDENT GOVERNING BODY.** The SGA shall be the highest level of student governing body at Texas Woman's University.

SEC 3.2 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT MAY DISCUSS ANY QUESTION OR MATTER.** The SGA may discuss any questions or matters it deems appropriate within the scope of this Constitution and may make any recommendations to any individual

and/or group on any matters or questions. Discussions with or inquiries to any individual or group will be made with the advanced knowledge of the SGA Advisor.

SEC 3.3 ABILITY TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION. The Student Government Association may recommend or propose any legislation on any matter or question that impacts the Student Community.

SEC 3.4 MAY EXERCISE POWERS DELEGATED BY ADMINISTRATORS. The SGA may exercise such other powers and functions as delegated by the University President or the Vice-President for Student Affairs.

SEC 3.5 EXPRESS FEELING ON ANY TOPIC. The SGA may express its feeling concerning any topic that is of interest to the Student Community.

ARTICLE IV

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SEC 4.1 VESTMENT OF EXECUTIVE POWER. Executive powers shall be vested in the Executive Branch of the SGA.

SEC 4.2 COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The Executive Branch shall be composed of the General Assembly which is composed of two standing committees including the Campus Affairs Committee and the Community Relations Committee. In addition, First-Year Leaders on Campus [FLOC] shall be considered part of the Executive Branch refer to Article 10.

SEC 4.3 EXECUTIVE POWERS. The Executive Branch will be charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF ENACTED LEGISLATION. The Executive Branch shall work with the appropriate administrators to implement the legislation enacted by the Student Senate of the SGA in a timely manner.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES. The Executive Branch shall plan and implement the SGA programs and initiatives to solicit feedback and serve the Student Community.

SEC 4.4 OFFICERS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The officers of the Executive Branch of the SGA shall consist of the Student Body President, Vice President of Campus Affairs, and Vice President of Community Relations.

SEC 4.5 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. The Student Body President shall be the representative leader of the SGA.

A. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT. The Student Body President shall be elected by the student body at-large during the annual spring Campus Elections.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as Student Body President, a student must:

- i. Not be on academic or disciplinary probation; and
- ii. Have completed not less than twenty-four (24) credit hours of which at least fifteen (15) were completed in residence at Texas Woman's University; and
- iii. Have served as a member of the SGA for at least two (2) consecutive semesters at the time of installment as Student Body President; and
- iv. Be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours; and
- v. Have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. Failure to maintain the grade point average as defined herein shall result in removal from office.

C. **PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE.** The Student Body President shall serve a one (1) year term, beginning upon being sworn into office and ending upon the installment of their successor.

D. **VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Student Body President, the Vice President of Campus Affairs shall succeed to the Presidency for the duration of the term.

SEC 4.6 **VICE PRESIDENTS.** The Vice President of Campus Affairs and Vice President of Community Relations shall assist the Student Body President in representing the student perspective.

A. **ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.** The Vice Presidents shall be elected by the student body at-large during the annual spring Campus Elections.

B. **ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE.** To be eligible to serve as a Vice President, a student must:

- i. Not be on academic or disciplinary probation; and
- ii. Have completed not less than twenty-four (24) credit hours of which at least twelve (12) were completed in residence at Texas Woman's University; and
- iii. Have served as a member of the SGA for at least two (2) consecutive semesters at the time of installment as Vice President; and
- iv. Be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours; and
- v. Have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. Failure to maintain the grade point average as defined herein shall result in removal from office.

C. VICE PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE. The Vice Presidents shall serve a one (1) year term to begin upon being sworn into office and end upon the installment of their successor.

D. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice President of Campus Affairs or Vice President of Community Relations, the Student Body President, in consultation with the SGA Advisor, shall appoint a replacement from within the SGA to serve in the role for the remainder of the term.

SEC 4.8 UNSPECIFIED LEADERSHIP ROLES. The Student Body President may appoint other leadership roles not specified in this Constitution with the SGA Advisor approval.

ARTICLE V

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SEC 5.1 VESTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE POWER. Legislative powers shall be vested in the Legislative Branch of the SGA.

SEC 5.2 COMPOSITION OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. The Legislative Branch shall be composed of the general membership of the Student Senate which is composed of up to four (4) standing committees, including Academic Affairs, Community Affairs, Student Affairs, and Special Affairs.

SEC 5.3 LEGISLATIVE POWERS. The Legislative Branch will be charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

A. WRITE, RESEARCH, AND VOTE ON LEGISLATION. The Legislative Branch shall write, research, and pass legislation to represent the official voice of the student body and define official SGA positions and stances.



B. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS. The Legislative Branch shall be responsible for approval of all appointments by the Student Body President, unless specified otherwise in this Constitution or Bylaws. The Student Senate may deny approval of a Student Body Presidential appointment for good cause.

SEC 5.4 OFFICER OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. The officer of the Legislative Branch of the SGA shall be the Speaker of the Senate.

SEC 5.5 SPEAKER OF THE SENATE. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair all Student Senate meetings and coordinate the resolution process.

A. ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE. The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected by the membership of the Student Senate prior to the last day of final exams of the spring semester.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as Speaker of the Senate, a student must:

- i. Not be on academic or disciplinary probation; and
- ii. Have served as a member of the Student Senate for at least two (2) consecutive semesters at the time of installment as Speaker; and
- iii. Be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours; and
- iv. Have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.75 on a 4.0 system. Failure to maintain the grade point average as defined herein shall result in removal from office.

C. SPEAKER OF THE SENATE TERM OF OFFICE. The Speaker of the Senate shall serve until the election of their successor the following spring.

D. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER OF THE SENATE. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Speaker of the Senate, the Vice President of Community Relations shall serve in this capacity until the Student Senate members can elect a new Speaker of the Senate.

SEC 5.6 COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE. The Student Senate shall be composed of Senators to represent each degree-granting college or school. There shall be one (1) Senator for, at minimum, every 1,000 non-distance education students within the college or school. There shall be two (2) senators elected to represent the following populations: commuter and residential students.

SEC 5.7 ELECTION OF SENATORS. The seats in the Student Senate shall be filled by elections from the student body within each constituent college, school, or student population.

A. AVAILABLE SENATE SEATS. The Speaker of the Senate and Chief Justice, along with the supervision of the SGA Advisor, shall determine the nature and number of seats up for election for each college and school based upon the most recent enrollment data available prior to filing for campus elections.

B. SENATE VACANCIES. Any vacancies that occur in the Student Senate membership during the year shall be filled from the college, school, or special population in which the vacancies occurred by application to and appointment by the SGA Leadership Team.

C. DUAL REPRESENTATION. In the event a candidate files for more than one (1) position, the candidate must notify the Chief Justice at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the election of which position(s) the candidate chooses to take if elected to more than one (1) position.

D. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible for membership in the Student Senate, a student must:

- i. Have completed at least twelve (12) credit hours; and
- ii. Be taking at least six (6) credit hours in residence; and
- iii. Have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.0 on a 4.0 system. Failure to maintain the grade point average as defined herein shall result in removal from office.

E. REPRESENTATION. Senators must remain in the college, school, or special population that they were elected or appointed to represent while filing and throughout their term in office.

SEC 5.8 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. The Student Senate and all standing or special committees will follow Robert's Rules of Order.

SEC 5.9 SENATE ELECTION OF UNSPECIFIED LEADERSHIP ROLES. The Student Senate may elect leadership roles not specified in this Constitution, with the SGA Advisor approval.

SEC 5.10 ONE VOTE PER SENATOR. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote.

ARTICLE VI

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SEC 6.1 VESTMENT OF JUDICIAL POWER. Judicial powers and authority shall be vested in the Judicial Branch of the SGA.

SEC 6.2 COMPOSITION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH. The Judicial Branch shall be comprised of the Student Supreme Court and additional inferior entities as may be deemed necessary with advisor approval.

SEC 6.3 JUDICIAL POWERS. The Judicial Branch will be charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

A. UPHOLD CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS. The Student Supreme Court shall hear and issue appropriate rulings on all cases in which any

student, faculty members, staff member, administrator, or student organization at Texas Woman's University brings an actionable complaint where there is sufficient cause and evidence to believe there has been a material violation of this Constitution, the Student Government Association Bylaws, or substantive rules and regulations.

B. STUDENT ELECTIONS. The Judicial Branch shall oversee the Campus Election process through assisting in the recruitment of candidates, approval of the SGA Election Code, and hearing disputes that arise from the elections.

SEC 6.4 OFFICER OF JUDICIAL BRANCH. The officer of the Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association shall be the Chief Justice.

SEC 6.5 CHIEF JUSTICE. The Chief Justice shall chair all Student Supreme Court meetings and coordinate the affairs of the judicial branch.

A. ELECTION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE. The Chief Justice shall be elected by the student body at-large during the annual spring Campus Elections.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as Chief Justice, a student must:

- i. Not be on academic or disciplinary probation; and
- ii. Have served as a member of the Student Supreme Court for at least one (1) semester at the time of installment as Chief Justice; and
- iii. Be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours; and
- iv. Have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.75 on a 4.0 system. Failure to maintain the grade point average as defined herein shall result in removal from office.

C. CHIEF JUSTICE TERM OF OFFICE. The Chief Justice shall serve until the election of their successor the following spring.

D. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF JUSTICE. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice, the Vice President of Community Relations will chair meetings until a new Chief Justice can be elected from within the Supreme Court. If there are no eligible or willing candidates in the Supreme Court, the Student Body President will appoint a new Chief Justice.

SEC 6.6 COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT SUPREME COURT. The Student Supreme Court shall consist of up to seven (7) justices.

A. APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES. New Justices shall be nominated by the Student Body President subject to approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as a Justice, a student must:

- i. Not be on academic or disciplinary probation at the time of appointment or while serving; and
- ii. Have completed at least fifteen (15) credit hours; and
- iii. Be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours at the time of appointment and throughout their term; and
- iv. Have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.75 on a 4.0 system.

C. CONCURRENT POSITIONS. Justices shall not hold any concurrent position within the Executive or Legislative Branches of the SGA.

D. JUSTICE TERM OF OFFICE. Justices will serve the lesser of a two (2) year term on the Student Supreme Court or until graduation from TWU.

E. VACANCIES ON THE STUDENT SUPREME COURT. In the event of a vacancy on the Student Supreme Court, the Student Body President will bring before the Student Senate one (1) or more nominees to fill the vacant positions. If a vacancy on the Court is anticipated, the Student Body President may initiate nomination and confirmation proceedings up to two (2) months in advance of the anticipated vacancy. A nominee confirmed in this way shall not begin serving as a Justice until a vacancy in the Court arises.

SEC 6.7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST. No more than two (2) justices shall be students enrolled in the same college or a part of the same organization to limit any conflict of interest.

SEC 6.8 SUPREME COURT JOURNAL AND OPINIONS. The Student Supreme Court shall maintain an official journal of its proceedings and shall issue written opinions in all cases brought before it. The Court shall make all opinions it has rendered publicly available. A Court opinion shall be made publicly available within one (1) week of the Court's decision in each case.

SEC 6.9 PERSUASIVE VALUE OF SUPREME COURT OPINIONS. Published Opinions and rulings of the Student Supreme Court shall have persuasive, but not controlling, precedential value in subsequent proceedings of the Student Supreme Court.

SEC 6.10 APPEALS OF JUDICIAL BRANCH DECISIONS. Decisions of the Judicial Branch may be appealed and heard by the Student Government Advisor, except in circumstances outlined by the SGA Election Code.

ARTICLE VII

STUDENT ELECTIONS

SEC 7.1 ANNUAL SPRING ELECTIONS. Regular Campus Elections shall be held in the Spring session and will follow the election code published by the Judicial

Branch. In the event that the SGA Election Code has not yet been published by the Judicial Branch in the appropriate timeline, as determined by the Chief Justice and the SGA Advisor, the election code followed by the previous election shall act as the serving election code.

SEC 7.2 ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD. The Election Supervisory Board shall include the Chief Justice and up to four (4) additional members to be determined by the SGA Advisor. The members of the Election Supervisory Board shall not file as a candidate in the SGA election during their term of service. The members of the Election Supervisory Board may not be actively affiliated with any candidate during their terms of office.

SEC 7.3 ELECTION CODE APPROVAL. Any student may submit an amendment to the SGA Election Code. The Student Supreme Court will review the election code each year and approve it prior to the first day of filing. No changes to the election rules may be enacted once filing has begun until the end of the campus elections cycle.

SEC 7.4 ELECTION DISPUTES. Members of the Student Supreme Court, in accordance with the SGA Election Code, shall hear election disputes and grievances.

ARTICLE VIII

IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL, AND RESIGNATION

SEC 8.1 QUALIFICATION FOR IMPEACHMENT. The Student Body President, Vice President of Campus Affairs, Vice President of Community Relations, Speaker of the Senate, and Chief Justice shall be subject to impeachment legislation. Impeachment and thus removal from office may occur for a material failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their respective positions as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.



- SEC 8.2 **IMPEACHMENT LEGISLATION.** Impeachment legislation must be sponsored by a voting member of the Student Senate along with the submission of a petition of twenty-five (25) percent of the voting members of the Student Senate. Impeachment legislation should be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate, unless the Speaker of the Senate is the subject of the impeachment, in which case the legislation should be submitted directly to the Chief Justice.
- SEC 8.3 **IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS.** Upon receipt of impeachment legislation, the subject of the impeachment must be notified of the reasons for impeachment by letter or electronic communication at least one (1) week prior to the scheduled impeachment hearing. The subject of the impeachment shall have the right to defend their position before the Student Senate. The Chief Justice shall preside at the hearing unless he or she is the subject of the hearing; in which case, the Speaker of the Senate shall serve as the presiding officer. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of senators shall be necessary for removal.
- SEC 8.4 **OPEN PROCEEDINGS.** Impeachment hearings shall be open to the public.
- SEC 8.5 **INELIGIBILITY AFTER IMPEACHMENT.** No person, after being impeached from their office, may be allowed to be considered as a candidate or a nominee/appointee for any position in the SGA for a period of two (2) consecutive semesters.
- SEC 8.6 **QUALIFICATION FOR REMOVAL.** All Student Senate members and appointed positions within the SGA may be removed from office for a material failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their respective positions, as outlined in the Bylaws.
- SEC 8.7 **REMOVAL PROCEDURES.** The member shall be sent a letter or electronic communication notifying them of their removal and stating that within seven (7) days of receiving the communication, the member may appeal for readmission to their previous position through a formal written request to the Student

Supreme Court. If the member fails to appeal within the allotted time, the member forfeits their membership.

SEC 8.8 INELIGIBILITY AFTER REMOVAL. No person, after being removed from their position, may be allowed to be considered as a candidate or a nominee/appointee for any position in the SGA for a period of two (2) consecutive semesters. The member forfeits all sessions previously elected or appointed to as well.

SEC 8.9 APPEAL FOR READMISSION. If a Student Government Association member appeals for readmission to their previous position, the Student Supreme Court shall hold a hearing to listen to all parties involved in the case.

A. PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chief Justice shall serve as the presiding officer of the hearing.

B. SUPREME COURT RULINGS. The Supreme Court may choose to:

- i. Uphold the removal as presented, in which the former member will be ineligible for consideration as a candidate or a nominee/appointee for any position in the SGA for a period of one (1) term; or
- ii. Uphold the decision for removal, but lessen the period of ineligibility to one (1) session; or
- iii. Reverse the decision for removal, in which the membership of the student will be reinstated.

C. OVERRULING A DECISION. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Supreme Court shall be required to overrule the initial removal decision.

SEC 8.10 RESIGNATIONS. Any member of the SGA may resign from their position by sending an email outlining their resignation to the highest-ranking officer in their

respective branch. SGA officers may resign from their position by sending an email outlining their resignation to the SGA Advisor.

A. RESIGNATION WITH MAXIMUM ABSENCES. A member of the SGA who resigns from membership when they have already earned the maximum amount of allowed absences (as indicated by the highest-ranking leadership team member in the respective branch) for the current session may not be allowed to serve in any position for a period of (1) term.

B. RESIGNATION IMPLICATIONS ON FUTURE POSITIONS. A member of the SGA who resigns from membership when they have already earned the maximum amount of allowed absences for the current session forfeits all sessions previously elected or appointed to as well.

ARTICLE IX

THE FLOC PROGRAM

SEC 9.1 ESTABLISHMENT. There shall be established a subsidiary organization to the SGA called First-Year Leaders on Campus [FLOC].

SEC 9.2 PURPOSE. FLOC shall strive to promote first-year involvement, community service, and campus pride and serve to represent first-year students.

SEC 9.3 SGA RELATIONSHIP. FLOC shall fall under the umbrella of the Executive Branch of the SGA. However, membership in FLOC shall not be considered membership in the SGA, in regard to the eligibility requirements for leadership in the SGA.

SEC 9.4 MEMBERSHIP. The total membership of FLOC shall be determined by the SGA Advisor and shall not exceed 50 members.

- SEC 9.5 MEMBERSHIP SELECTION. Members of FLOC will be selected through an application and interview process coordinated by the SGA Advisor.
- SEC 9.6 MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY. Only first year students at TWU, excluding transfer students, shall be considered eligible for membership in FLOC.
- SEC 9.7 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. All members of FLOC must maintain a minimum enrollment of six (6) credit hours and meet the attendance and participation requirements established for the organization.
- SEC 9.8 MEMBERSHIP TERM. Regular membership in FLOC shall last for no longer than one (1) academic year.
- SEC 9.9 FLOC LIAISON. A Student Government Leadership Team member, selected by the SGA Advisor, shall serve as a liaison to FLOC.
- SEC 9.10 ADVISOR. The SGA Advisor or their delegate shall serve as the primary advisor to FLOC. Other faculty, staff, and student advisors may be appointed as deemed necessary by the Center for Student Involvement.
- SEC 9.11 OWN RULES FOR PROCEDURE. FLOC may adopt their own Bylaws and rules for procedure.

ARTICLE X

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- SEC 10.1 SUBMISSION OF NAMES. The Leadership Team of the SGA in consultation with the Vice President for Student Affairs shall submit to the Chancellor of Texas Woman's University the names of those committees upon which student representation is desired.
- SEC 10.2 NUMBER OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. The number of student representatives may vary on the several committees as determined by the Chancellor of Texas Woman's University.



SEC 10.3 RECOMMENDATION BY THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. The student members of the University Committees shall be recommended by the Student Body President for appointment.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

SEC 11.1 APPROVAL PROCESS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be introduced in writing to the Student Senate not less than one (1) regular meeting prior to voting and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the meeting for approval.

SEC 11.2 ENACTMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. Proposed amendments shall become effective upon the approval of the Student Government Association, the SGA Advisor, the Dean of Students, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and if applicable, the Chancellor of the Texas Woman's University.

ARTICLE XII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC 12.1 DEFINITIONS. Session will be defined as one (1) regular semester (fall or spring). Term will be defined as the composition of two (2) regular semesters.

SEC 12.2 NO DEFICIT EXPENDITURES. No expenditures shall be allowed that would result in a deficit in any Student Government Association account.

SEC 12.3 PROHIBITION ON SERVING IN TWO ELECTED POSITIONS OR DUPLICITY OF OFFICERS. Two (2) elective offices shall not be held simultaneously by the same person, nor shall two (2) persons simultaneously hold the same elective office.



SEC 12.4 PROHIBITION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENTS. The SGA as an entity, may not make any endorsements in any student elections, regardless of whether or not that election falls under the jurisdiction of the election code.

SEC 12.5 RECOGNITION OF HIGHER CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES. This Constitution and its associated rules, regulations, and amendments are subject to provisions of the rules and regulations of Texas Woman's University, the Board of Regents of the Texas Woman's University System, laws of the state of Texas, and laws of the United States of America.

SEC 12.6 REMUNERATION. Members of the SGA who complete their term will receive a stipend. Those who join six (6) weeks after the beginning of the semester will receive 50% of the total stipend. Stipend amounts will be determined by the SGA Leadership Team in consultation with the SGA Advisor.

BYLAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AT TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

ARTICLE I

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

- SEC 1.1 COMPOSITION OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM. The Leadership Team of the SGA shall consist of the Student Body President, Vice President of Campus Affairs, Vice President of Community Relations, Speaker of the Senate, and Chief Justice. The Student Body President shall be the chair of the Leadership Team.
- SEC 1.2 CLOSED SESSIONS. The Leadership Team may meet in closed session with the SGA Advisor when discussing personnel issues or discussing other activities deemed to be confidential.
- SEC 1.3 INTERNAL MANAGEMENT. The Leadership Team shall make decisions of internal SGA policy. It shall attend to the internal management of the SGA such that the normal course of business will flow in an orderly manner. The Leadership Team shall conduct the routine management of SGA affairs during the summer.
- SEC 1.4 PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Student Body President shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Enact resolutions passed by the Student Senate by signing them, or refer resolutions back to the Senate for reconsideration by vetoing them.
 - B. Faithfully execute all enacted legislation.



- C. Represent students before external entities, including but not limited to, the administration of Texas Woman's University, the City of Denton, and the Texas Legislature in a manner consistent with the enacted policies, positions, and stances of the SGA.
- D. Serve on, or send a representative to, the committees, boards, and legislative bodies of which the Student Body President is a regular standing member.
- E. Appoint students to serve on University Committees and boards.
- F. At least once (1) a session, address the Student Senate, give information on the state of the University and Student Government, and recommend their consideration to such measures judged necessary and proper.
- G. On extraordinary occasions, convene the Student Senate in emergency session, giving public notice at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the convening of the emergency session.
- H. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of the SGA.

SEC 1.5 VICE PRESIDENT OF CAMPUS AFFAIRS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Vice President of Campus Affairs shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Serve on the committees, boards, and legislative bodies of which the Vice President of Campus Affairs is a regular standing member.
- B. Coordinate student involvement in University Committees.
- C. Assist the Student Body President or Executive Branch in any task that is deemed necessary by the Student President.

- D. Oversee the Campus Affairs Committee.
- E. Assume the Presidency in the event that the Student Body President is unavailable to fulfill the duties of the office.
- F. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of the SGA.

SEC 1.6 VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Vice President of Community Relations shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Serve on the committees, boards, and legislative bodies of which the Vice President of Community Relations is a regular standing member.
- B. Assist the Student Body President or Executive Branch in any task that is deemed necessary by the Student President.
- C. Oversee the Community Relations Committee.
- D. Research and report the findings of local and federal legislation regarding higher education, or anything that may be deemed associated with Texas Woman's University.
- E. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of the SGA.

SEC 1.7 SPEAKER OF THE SENATE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Chair Student Senate general body meetings.
- B. Coordinate the activities of the standing committees of the Legislative Branch.
- C. Appoint members to the standing committees.

- D. Coordinate the resolution process.
- E. Create ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to further the work of the Legislative Branch with the SGA Advisor approval.
- F. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of the SGA.

SEC 1.8 CHIEF JUSTICE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Chief Justice shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Chair Student Supreme Court meetings.
- B. Coordinate the activities of the Student Supreme Court and any other inferior entities within the Judicial Branch.
- C. Coordinate campus elections.
- D. Coordinate and maintain SGA recruitment and membership records.
- E. Oversee all SGA marketing activities and social media accounts.
- F. Maintain the official journal of all Student Supreme Court opinions.
- G. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of the SGA.

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SEC 2.1 STANDING COMMITTEES. The standing committees of the Executive Branch include the Campus Affairs Committee and Community Relations Committee.

- A. CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. The Campus Affairs Committee shall plan and implement programs and activities to connect with the Student Community at Texas Woman's University. The Committee shall work

with the other branches of the SGA to promote the organization's mission and initiatives.

B. COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE. The Community Relations Committee shall serve as a liaison between the campus and local community and will be responsible for coordinating all off campus events and partnerships.

C. Quorum for the committees will be met when one-half of the committee's regular membership is present.

D. No standing committee shall be composed of less than three (3) students.

E. The Chief of Justice with approval of the Student Body President and consultation of the SGA Advisor shall appoint members of the committees.

SEC 2.2

FLOC PROGRAM. The FLOC Program shall involve first-year students in the SGA by providing opportunities for students to learn more about governance, the different branches of the SGA, and how they can get involved beyond their first year. The FLOC program shall participate in educational sessions and host SGA outreach events designed specifically for first time in college students. The FLOC program shall consist of first time in college students.

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SEC 3.1

MEETINGS. The Student Senate general body and/or Student Senate committees shall meet weekly during the fall and spring sessions on a specific



day and time to be set by the Speaker of the Senate with the approval of the SGA Advisor.

A. No formal action can be taken by the Student Senate without a quorum present, which shall consist of one-half (1/2) of the Student Senate membership.

B. The Student Senate can hold meetings during the Summer if deemed necessary by the Speaker of the Senate or called by the Student Body President.

C. A Student Senate regular meeting shall be when a quorum is met and business is conducted.

SEC 3.2

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE. Texas Woman's University SGA is the only entity that may pass student resolutions to the administration for consideration.

A. RESOLUTIONS: A resolution is a written document that addresses problems, situations, or concerns which affect students and requires university wide action for solutions.

i. Any resolution may be presented to the floor of the Student Senate by a sponsoring Senator.

ii. A resolution must be read by its author or a sponsor on the floor of the Student Senate.

iii. The Chair will, when applicable, refer the resolution to a standing committee or an ad hoc committee. The decision of which committee will receive the resolution will be left to the discretion of the Chair.

- iv. The committee must report on the progress or research and evaluation of the resolution and its subject matter by the second general meeting following its introduction.
- v. Standards for resolution research shall be set by the Speaker of the Senate in coordination with the SGA Advisor.
- vi. Any resolution given a negative approval vote after being researched by a committee shall be referred to the Speaker of the Senate for final disposition. The Speaker can choose whether or not to forward a resolution to the general body.
- vii. All resolutions voted out of a committee must be accompanied by a brief explaining the majority and minority votes.
- viii. Once a resolution is submitted to the general body, the floor will be open for discussion and/or amendments of the resolution.
- ix. After the conclusion of discussion, the resolution will be read in its final form, and the resolution will be voted on. Format of the vote shall be the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate and shall be conducted in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedure.
- x. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at any Student Senate meeting will be required in order to suspend temporarily Article III, Section 3.2.

B. PROPOSALS. A proposal is a written document requesting the Student Senate to take a vote on an issue that another branch of the SGA deems appropriate.

- i. A proposal will be introduced as New Business in a general body meeting and voted on no sooner than the following general body meeting.
- ii. A proposal may not be referred to a committee if appropriate research was completed by another branch of the SGA. If adequate research was not completed, the Student Senate may send the proposal to a standing committee for additional research.
- iii. Standards for proposal research shall be set by the Speaker of the Senate and the SGA Advisor.
- iv. Once a proposal is read as old business to the general body, the floor will be open for discussion and/or amendments to the proposal.
- v. After the conclusion of discussion, the proposal will be read in its final form, and the proposal will be voted on. The format of the vote shall be at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate and shall be conducted in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedure.
- vi. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at any Student Senate meeting will be required in order to suspend temporarily Article III, Section 3.2.

SEC 3.3 STANDING COMMITTEES. The standing committees of the Legislative Branch may include the Academic Affairs Committee, Community Affairs Committee, and Student Affairs Committee.

- A. **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.** The Academic Affairs Committee shall be responsible for investigating and improving the general welfare of students in the academic sphere.
- B. **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.** The Community Affairs Committee shall be responsible for investigating and improving the general campus community.
- C. **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.** The Student Affairs Committee shall be responsible for investigating the general welfare of the students in the non-academic sphere.
- D. No member of the Student Senate shall serve on more than one (1) standing committee in the Legislative Branch.
- E. Quorum for committees will be met when one-half of the committee's regular membership is present.
- F. Any member of the Student Community may serve on a committee without vote if approved by the Leadership Team and the SGA Advisor.
- G. No standing committee shall be composed of less than three (3) Senators.
- H. Chairs of the standing committees shall be chosen by the Speaker of the Senate from among the members of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE IV

JUDICIAL BRANCH

- SEC 4.1 **MEETINGS.** The Student Supreme Court shall meet at least twice (2) per month during the fall and spring semesters.



- A. The Chief Justice may call special meetings of the Supreme Court as long as 24 hours notice has been provided to the Justices and the SGA Advisor.
- B. No formal action may be taken by the Court without a quorum present, which shall consist of at least three (3) sitting justices.
- C. If there are fewer than three (3) sitting justices; the SGA Leadership Team, in consultation with the SGA Advisor, may determine a plan for the work of the Student Supreme Court to continue in the interim.

SEC 4.2 JURISDICTION. The Student Supreme Court shall have sole original and supreme jurisdiction in all cases arising under this Constitution and the Student Government Association Bylaws, as well as any matter concerning controlling authority upon the acts of the SGA. The Student Supreme Court shall interpret this Constitution and Bylaws, in consultation with the SGA Advisor, and shall decide the final interpretation of any questioned standing rule or resolution, which has already been passed.

SEC 4.3 POWER TO DECLARE NULL AND VOID. The Student Supreme Court shall have the power to declare null and void any act of the SGA that materially violates this Constitution or the Student Government Association Bylaws, or substantive rules and regulations of the University.

SEC 4.4 STANDING. Any determination of standing to bring a case before the Court shall require no more than a minimal threshold designed to prevent frivolous complaints.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

SEC 5.1 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. Members of the SGA will be expected to meet attendance and participation requirements as stated in the membership policies and procedures as determined by the SGA Leadership Team. Failure to do so will result in removal from their position, as outlined in Article VIII of the Constitution for the Student Government Association.

A. ATTENDANCE. Expulsion from membership shall be automatic upon the acquisition of four (4) absences in one (1) term from either general meetings or committee meetings.

- i. Absences may be excused with a University Excused Absence letter, which must be submitted to the branch's respective Leadership Team Member within one (1) week of the absence for consideration of being excused.
- i. Members with two (2) absences will be notified with a warning sent via letter or electronic communication.
- ii. Members will be counted absent if they miss more than ten (10) minutes. For meetings lasting longer than two (2) hours, members will be counted absent if they miss more than twenty-five (25) percent of the meeting.

B. TARDY. A tardy shall be recorded for members who are not present when their name is called during roll call in general body or committee meetings. Three (3) tardy occurrences shall equal one (1) absence.

- i. A tardy shall be recorded if a member is not present during roll call or misses a portion of the meeting not to exceed ten (10)



minutes, for meetings lasting longer than two (2) hours, members will be counted absent if they miss more than twenty-five (25) percent of the meeting; however, a member shall be excused without penalty if the member has given prior notice to the branch's respective Leadership Team Member and has received prior, written approval.

C. PARTICIPATION. All members of the SGA shall be obligated to earn required participation points. The SGA Leadership Team shall determine the required participation points to be earned per month and notify members of each month's required points prior to the beginning of each month. Failure to earn the required points during a given month will result in the member receiving one (1) absence.

ARTICLE VI

RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

SEC 6.1 APPROVAL PROCESS FOR BYLAW AMENDMENTS. The Bylaws may be amended by introducing proposed amendments in writing to the Student Senate at least one (1) regular general body meeting prior to voting. They shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present for approval.

SEC 6.2 ENACTMENT OF AMENDMENTS. Amendments to the Bylaws become effective upon approval of the SGA Advisor, the Dean of Students, and the Vice President for Student Affairs and, if applicable, the President of Texas Woman's University.

SEC 6.3 CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY. In case of any conflict between these Bylaws and the Student Government Association Constitution, said Constitution shall prevail in all instances.

FRESHMAN LEADERS ON CAMPUS [FLOC] BYLAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AT TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

ARTICLE I

