

# CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## ARTICLE I Scope & Policies

**Section 1.** This document shall represent the full time members of the undergraduate student body as defined by Texas Christian University.

**Section 2.** All official bodies, offices and agencies listed within this Constitution or created by the President, the Cabinet or the House will be collectively named the Student Government Association of Texas Christian University.

**Section 3.** A member of the Student Government Association is any student who actively serves in any capacity as outlined in Article I, Section 2.

**Section 4.** Student Government Association and its members at TCU are reminded that the institution bans hazing in its Code of Student Conduct (section 3.2.2) and takes appropriate disciplinary action against groups or individuals found to have violated the Code. Student Government Association defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off the campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include any act of personal servitude; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of TCU. Hazing under the statute means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one (1) person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include, students in an educational institution. The term hazing under the statute includes but is not limited to offenses that subject the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student. Individuals within the organization as well as the organization itself may be found in violation. Investigations and/or sanctioning of individual hazing offenses will be conducted in collaboration with the office of Campus Life. Individuals who have firsthand knowledge of hazing, including those being hazed, are required by law to report that knowledge to appropriate University officials. Any student who has been hazed or thinks he/she is going to be hazed should report such actions to the University Hazing Hotline at 817-257-HAZE (4293), the OSO, Office of Campus Life or the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Section 5. Membership of Student Government Association shall be open to any current TCU student and will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, covered veteran status, or any basis protected by law.

## **ARTICLE II The Legislative Branch**

**Section 1.** The House of Student Representatives will have the legislative powers of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** The undergraduate student body will annually elect members of the House of Representatives. Representatives are apportioned as follows:

- A. There will be fifty-six voting seats in the House.
- B. Eight seats will be filled by students in the First-Year, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes with two seats for each class.
- C. Forty-eight seats shall be filled by representatives elected by the members of the undergraduate Student Body in the primary academic units of the University.
- D. No student may hold a seat for more than one constituency simultaneously.

**Section 3.** The House will select one of its members to be the Speaker of the House. The Speaker will serve as the executive officer and preside over House of Student Representatives meetings and fulfill other roles as defined by the Student Body Code.

**Section 4.** The House shall have the following legislative responsibilities:

- A. To collaborate on legislation that is beneficial to the student body and Texas Christian University;
- B. To propose the Student Body Fee;
- C. To appropriate expenditures from the Student Body Fund;
- D. To effectively manage internal House proceedings as necessary in service of the Student Body;
- E. To adopt, modify, or revoke portions of the Student Body Code;
- F. To consider all business brought before it by its members, the Cabinet, undergraduate students, faculty, or staff.

**Section 5.** A quorum of three-fifths of House members is needed to hold a meeting. A simple majority of those present and voting is required to pass or approve all business, except as otherwise established in this Constitution or by legislation.

**Section 6.** All meetings of the House will be open to the public unless two-thirds of the members present vote to meet in executive session.

### **ARTICLE III The Executive Branch**

**Section 1.** The Executive Branch, otherwise known as the Cabinet, will have the executive powers of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** Cabinet will consist of the following members:

- A. Student Body President;
- B. Student Body Vice President;
- C. Student Body Treasurer;
- D. The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- E. Up to three additional voting members appointed by the President;
- F. Any number of non-voting members appointed by the President with the approval of the House.

**Section 3.** The Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected annually by a vote of the undergraduate student body. Each elected official shall serve a term of one year and may not fill more than one office in the Student Government Association simultaneously.

**Section 4.** The roles of the elected officers shall be defined in the Student Body Code.

**Section 5.** Cabinet will have the following responsibilities:

- A. To act as the executive representatives of the undergraduate student body;
- B. To collaborate with all branches of the Student Government Association;
- C. To coordinate with outside agencies in support of the student body interests.
- D. To internally manage Cabinet proceedings as necessary.

**Section 6.** A simple majority of the voting members of Cabinet is needed to hold a meeting. A simple majority of voting members present are required to pass or approve all business, unless otherwise established in this Constitution or legislation.

**Section 7.** No individual shall hold two or more of the following offices concurrently: President, Vice President, or Treasurer.

**Section 8.** The order of seniority and succession of the Executive Branch shall be established within the Student Body Code.

### **Article IV Student Programming**

**Section 1.** SGA will allocate funds annually to support student-run, on-campus programming for undergraduate students.

**Section 2.** SGA-funded student programming shall meet the following requirements:

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

**Section 3.** The duties and powers of the official provider of SGA-funded student programming shall be defined in the Student Body Code.

## **ARTICLE V The Judicial Branch**

**Section 1.** The Judicial Board will have the judicial powers of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** The Judicial Board will have the final decision on judicial questions and serve as an appellate body as defined by the Student Body Code.

## **ARTICLE VI Fiscal Affairs**

**Section 1.** The Student Body Fee will be proposed by the House, voted on by the Undergraduate Student Body, and approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 2.** Changes in the fee may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the House. Changes will then be voted on by the undergraduate Student Body within the semester of House's consideration. Upon approval by a simple majority of the Student Body, a recommendation will be proposed to the Board of Trustees for final adoption.

**Section 3.** The Student Body Fees and other funds made available to the Student Government Association will comprise the Student Body Fund.

**Section 4.** The House of Student Representatives, Executive Branch, Judicial Board, and official student programming may utilize the Student Body Fund as defined by the Student Body Code.

**Section 5.** The officers of the Student Government Association may be paid a stipend. The amount of an officer's stipend may not be modified for the period for which the officer has been appointed or elected. Modifications to the stipend must be approved by the House of Student Representatives through legislation.

## **ARTICLE VII Impeachment**

**Section 1.** Impeachment proceedings may be initiated against any member of the Student Government Association by submission of a petition signed by at least 25 percent of the members of the House or by submission of an order to remove signed by the Judicial Board.

**Section 2.** Members and officers may be impeached only in the following cases:

- A. The member has violated the Constitution of the Student Body or the Student Body Code;
- B. The member has shown conduct grossly unbecoming an officer or received undue personal financial or material gain through his or her actions.

**Section 3.** After the petition or order to remove has been submitted, the Judicial Board will hold a hearing to determine whether or not a violation occurred. If the Judicial Board finds the member or officer in violation, they will recommend sanctions, as outlined in the Student Body Code, to the House. Sanctions will be imposed following a two-thirds majority vote of the House.

## **ARTICLE VIII Amendments**

**Section 1.** All proposed amendments to this Constitution must be proposed by a two-thirds vote of House. The amendments will then be voted on by the undergraduate Student Body within the semester of House's consideration, except in those cases where amendment(s) would be required to remain compliant with University policy. In such instances, amendment(s) may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the House and Cabinet. All other amendment(s) will be adopted upon approval by a simple majority of the Student Body.