



Tennessee
TECH

The
CONSTITUTION
of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

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Tennessee Technological University
Cookeville, Tennessee

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Tennessee Technological University, come together to promote the welfare and interests of all students, to provide the necessary elements of responsible self-government, and to facilitate cooperation among the university administration, faculty, students, and surrounding community. In order to perpetuate an everlasting commitment to these good causes, we do hereby proclaim and establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

Section 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University, hereafter referred to as the “Student Government Association” or “SGA.”

Section 2 – Purpose

- (a) To secure the constitutional liberties and general welfare of the student body with respect to the university community.
- (b) To promote student participation and engagement in the affairs of Tennessee Technological University.
- (c) To serve as a channel for expressing student opinions to the administration of Tennessee Technological University.
- (d) To support student activities and student life on and off campus.
- (e) To encourage the development of student responsibility, character, leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

- (f) To advocate on behalf of and improve the condition and experience of the student body.
- (g) To exercise all other powers and responsibilities granted to the SGA by Tennessee Technological University.

Section 3 – Membership

- (a) Those eligible for membership in the SGA shall consist of all students at Tennessee Technological University, undergraduate and graduate, with no consideration toward or limitation based on age, race, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, veteran status, religion, ethnicity, nationality, class, or any other bases protected by federal and state law.
- (b) All members of the SGA are to be students enrolled at the university in good academic standing at the time of their election or appointment and shall remain steadfastly committed to these requirements for the length of their service.
- (c) All members of the SGA shall abide by the SGA Code of Conduct when operating in their capacity as SGA members.

Section 4 – Organization

The SGA shall be organized into three (3) equal branches of government:

- (a) The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Senate, including the Legislative Council, the Senators, and Senate committees and commissions.
- (b) The Executive Branch shall consist of the Executive Council, the Executive Cabinet, and other appointed officers within the Executive Branch.
- (c) The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Supreme Court and the Office of the Attorney General.

Section 5 – Statement of Compliance

The SGA shall comply with all Tennessee Technological University policies and procedures and all local, state, and federal regulations.

ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1 – General Provisions

The Student Government Association shall grant all legislative power and authority to a Senate.

Members of the legislative branch shall not serve in more than one office of honor, trust, or profit at a time, subject to the limits of this Constitution.

Section 2 – The Senate

- (a) The Senate shall collectively fulfill the following duties:

- a. Adopt, enforce, and interpret the rules governing its proceedings.
 - b. Approve or reject all nominees selected for appointment, except as otherwise specified in the Constitution.
 - c. Approve or reject allocations and expenditures contained within the semester's budget as proposed by the SGA Treasurer.
 - d. Enact, modify, and repeal regulations that govern the student body within the SGA Policies Manual.
 - e. Establish an annual maximum limit of S.O.L.O. Fund requests by registered student organizations.
 - f. Establish committees and commissions as needed to address specific areas of student governance.
 - g. Impeach and try any SGA member who violates their oath, fails to discharge their official duties, or falls from qualification to hold office.
 - h. Hold meetings to discuss, debate, and vote on proposed legislation, amendments, and other matters affecting the student body.
 - i. Maintain a record of all proceedings, decisions, and enacted legislation, in collaboration with the Secretary.
 - j. Override the SGA President's veto as needed.
 - k. Oversee the allocation of SGA-managed funds and resources to registered student organizations.
 - l. Provide opinions and recommendations to university administration and to members of the community on matters of student interest.
 - m. Review existing legislation periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.
 - n. Respond to student petitions and referendums.
 - o. Work with the Executive Branch to ensure that legislation is effectively implemented and enforced.
- (b) The Speaker of the Senate shall be the Vice President, but they shall have no vote except as a tiebreaker if the Senate is equally divided on a motion.
 - (c) The Senate may not vacate the office of the Speaker of the Senate.
 - (d) The Senate shall elect a Speaker Pro Tempore, who shall be a member of the Senate. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall preside when the Speaker of the Senate is absent or is exercising the office of President.
 - (e) The Senate shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, a Chief Clerk, and a Parliamentarian, who need not be members of the Senate or the SGA.
 - (f) The Senate may create additional officer positions deemed necessary to its functioning through the creation of a standing rule.

- (g) All officers of the Senate shall serve at the pleasure of the Senate.
- (h) After the Senate elects its officers, it shall not continue to any other item of business, nor shall it adjourn, until it has adopted a set of standing rules and a parliamentary manual under which to function.

Section 3 – The Legislative Council

- (a) The Legislative Council shall have administrative authority over the internal operations of the Senate.
- (b) The Legislative Council shall collectively fulfill the following duties:
 - 1. Coordinate any Senate-sponsored project or initiative.
 - 2. Enforce the Code of Conduct for members of the Senate.
 - 3. Ensure the efficient operation of Senate meetings.
 - 4. Recognize members of the Senate for good effort.
 - 5. Oversee the operation of any Senate committee or commission.
 - 6. Perform any other duty established within the SGA Policies Manual.
- (c) The Legislative Council shall meet regularly to discuss and evaluate the performance of the Senate and shall have the power to propose changes to Senate rules and procedures as needed.
- (d) The Speaker of the Senate shall be responsible for convening the Legislative Council and determining the agenda for such meetings.
- (e) The Legislative Council shall consist of the following members:
 - 1. The Speaker of the Senate
 - 2. The Speaker Pro Tempore
 - 3. The Chairs of all Senate standing committees and commissions
 - 4. Any other officers established by a standing rule of the Senate
- (f) All decisions of the Legislative Council shall be subject to review by the Senate and shall, upon the petition of one-third (1/3) or more Senators, be called as an item of business at the next meeting of the Senate.

Section 4 – Members of the Senate

- (a) The Senate shall be composed of Senators from each duly recognized constituency as enumerated herein and chosen by their respective constituency for a term of one (1) academic year.
- (b) The Senate shall be composed of four (4) distinct groups of members:
 - (a) Academic Senators
 - 1. These members shall represent the views and interests of their college or school.

2. Those colleges and schools entitled to representation in the Senate shall be the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Graduate Studies, the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing, and any future university colleges or schools yet to be recognized.
3. There shall be a minimum of two (2) senators per college or school, with one (1) additional senator for every three-hundred-fifty (350) students beyond seven hundred (700), in their respective college or school based on official enrollment figures from the preceding fall.
4. The students of each college or school shall elect their representatives from their respective college or school at the end of the spring semester.

(b) Freshman Senators

1. These members shall represent the views and interests of freshmen students at the university.
2. There shall be at least two (2) Freshman Senators, with one (1) additional Freshman Senator for every three-hundred-fifty (350) freshman beyond seven hundred (700), based on official enrollment figures from the preceding fall.
3. The freshman membership of the First Year Assembly shall appoint the Freshman Senators from their membership.
4. No member shall serve more than two (2) semesters as a Freshman Senator.

(c) Transfer Senators

1. These members shall represent the views and interests of those in the student body who have transferred to the university from another institution.
2. There shall be at least two (2) Transfer Senators, with one (1) additional Transfer Senator for every three-hundred-fifty (350) transfer students beyond seven hundred (700), based on official enrollment figures from the preceding fall.
3. The Commission for Nominations shall appoint the Transfer Senators.

(d) Senators-at-Large

1. Senators-at-Large shall represent the common interests of the student body as a whole.

2. Any Academic Senator shall become a Senator-at-Large upon any change of their constituency, provided that they still meet the qualifications of being a Senator and that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate votes in favor of their retention.
3. There shall be no more than five (5) Senators-at-Large holding office at the same time.

(e) Special Interest Senators

1. These members shall represent the views and interests of specific student groups of the university who might otherwise be underrepresented in the Senate.
2. The following university entities are hereby entitled to representation:
 - i. The Accessible Education Center (AEC) shall select one (1) Senators familiar with the importance of providing equal access and resources to students with disabilities.
 - ii. The Golden Eagle Battalion shall select one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of students in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program.
 - iii. The Honors Program shall select one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of Honors students.
 - iv. The Residence Hall Association (RHA) shall select one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of students living on campus.
 - v. The Office of Intercultural Affairs (OIA) shall select one (1) Senator to ensure that the perspectives of students from underrepresented ethnic populations are not marginalized and to promote diversity and inclusivity in the Student Government Association.
 - vi. The Office of International Education (OIE) shall select one (1) Senator to represent international students' unique experiences and promote intercultural fluency within the Student Government Association.
3. The Speaker of the Senate shall be responsible for ensuring each Special Interest constituency appoints members to the Senate in accordance with their internal procedures.
4. The Commission on Nominations shall appoint one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of nontraditional students.

Section 5 – Meetings of the Senate

The Senate shall assemble at a time set by the Executive Council, with meetings occurring at least two times per month. The SGA Secretary shall create and publish a schedule of the Senate and its agendas for viewing by the student body.

The first meeting of a new Senate shall occur after the election of a new Executive Council, with adjournment *sine die* the week before the swearing in of a new Executive Council.

The Senate may apply additional regulations to its proceedings or censure or otherwise punish its members for disorderly or unethical behavior upon the consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the chamber.

A majority of Senators present shall constitute a quorum to do business. The Senate shall be permitted to punish absent Senators under any penalties prescribed within its standing rules.

Section 6 – The Legislative Process

The Senate shall establish procedures for the consideration of legislative proposals and shall provide members the opportunity for debate, discussion, and amendment.

All legislative proposals shall require a simple majority vote of the Senate for passage, except those requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority as specified in this Constitution.

The Chief Clerk of the Senate shall transmit all legislation passed by the Senate to the President of the Student Government Association for their signature. If the President vetoes the legislation, the Senate may override the veto by a two-thirds vote (2/3).

All legislation passed by the Senate and signed by the President, or all vetoed legislation that the Senate has subsequently passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, shall be published and codified by the Secretary of the SGA and made available to the student body for viewing.

Section 7 – Qualifications for Office

Senators shall be full-time or part-time students with an overall grade point average of at least 2.75 with no record of academic or personal misconduct or removal from office.

Section 8 – Terms of Office

The term of office for members of the Senate shall begin following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office, which shall be held at most one (1) month after their election or confirmation. Their terms shall end following the swearing-in of the

newly elected members of the next Executive Council unless they resign or are otherwise removed from office.

Section 9 – Resignations

Any member of the Legislative Branch may resign from their position by submitting a notice of resignation to the SGA Secretary, who shall announce such resignation to the members of the Senate within three (3) days of its reception.

ARTICLE III: COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Section 1 – General Provisions

- (a) The Student Government Association, or any constituent bodies thereof, may form committees and commissions to provide recommendations to their parent body, except as otherwise specified in the Constitution or the SGA Policies Manual.
- (b) Committees may only include persons who are members of the SGA. Commissions may include persons outside of the SGA.
- (c) The Senate may establish ad-hoc committees or commissions through a simple majority vote.
- (d) Each standing Committee and Commission shall establish documented procedures that define its purpose, the methods for accomplishing that purpose, and guidelines for implementation, subject to the following limits:
 - 1. Procedures shall be submitted to the Senate and adopted by a simple majority of the Senate.
 - 2. Each Committee and Commission shall review its procedures as needed.
 - 3. All documented procedures shall follow the format set by the Legislative Council.
- (e) Members of the Senate shall serve on at least one (1) Senate standing committee or commission and any number of ad-hoc committees or commissions as specified in the Constitution or the SGA Policies Manual.
- (f) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve as a non-voting, *ex officio* member of all Senate standing committees and commissions.
- (g) Each committee and commission shall develop a schedule of regular meetings at or before their first meeting. All committees and commissions shall meet at least twice monthly, absent good cause, except as specified in the Constitution or SGA Policies Manual.
- (h) All meetings of committees or commissions shall be open to the public except on deliberations regarding the allocation of funds or concerning disciplinary proceedings.

Section 2 – Standing Committees and Commissions

(a) General

1. Commission for Elections
2. Commission for Nominations

(b) Senate

1. The Committee for the Student Organization Life Opportunity (S.O.L.O.) Fund
2. Other Senate standing committees shall be defined in the Rules of Order of the SGA Senate

Section 3 – Officers of Committees and Commissions

(a) Each committee and commission shall have the following officers, at minimum:

1. The Chair
2. The Secretary

(b) Each Senator may only serve as the chairperson of one committee or commission.

(c) The Senate shall have the power to define the duties of Senate committee and commission officers in the rules of order adopted by the Senate.

(d) Selection of Committee and Commission Officers

1. The Chair shall be elected by a simple majority of the body's membership or by simple majority of the Senate if no nominations are made from within the committee or commission.
2. The Secretary shall be elected by a simple majority of the body's membership.

Section 4 – Membership of Committees and Commissions

(a) The Commission for Elections shall consist of the following nine (9) members:

1. The SGA Secretary (*non-voting, ex officio*)
2. The Attorney General (*non-voting, ex officio*)
3. Five (5) Senators appointed by the Legislative Council
4. Two (2) non-affiliated students appointed by the Executive Council.

(b) The Commission for Nominations shall consist of the following eight (8) members:

1. The SGA President (*non-voting, ex officio*)
2. The SGA Vice President (*non-voting, ex officio*)
3. The Attorney General (*non-voting, ex officio*)
4. Five (5) Senators appointed by the Legislative Council

- (c) The Committee for the Student Organization Life Opportunity (S.O.L.O.) Fund shall consist of the following seven (7) members:
 - 1. The Treasurer
 - 2. Six (6) voting members of the Senate appointed by Executive Council
- (d) Members of General committees and commissions shall be appointed by the Executive Council to serve for the full academic year.
- (e) Members of Senate committees and commissions shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate or their designee to serve for the full academic year.
- (f) Reassignment of Committee and Commission Membership
 - 1. If a member of a committee or commission wishes to change their assignment, they must:
 - i. Be eligible to do so under the provisions of this Constitution.
 - ii. Be granted leave by the by the President (in the case of General committees or commissions) or the Speaker of the Senate (in the case of Senate committees or commissions).
 - iii. Obtain the consent of another member of the Branch in which they serve to take their seat on their committee or commission.
 - 2. The member shall then be considered assigned to the committee or commission (if applicable) of the individual with whom they asked to take their seat. The same applies to the other members.
 - 3. Only one (1) reassignment may be initiated by any member during their term of office.

Section 5 – Duties of Committees and Commissions

- (a) The Commission for Elections
 - 1. The Commission for Elections shall perform the following functions:
 - i. Administer all elections for SGA, including officer elections, elections for Mr. and Mrs. Tennessee Tech, and any other election that the Senate may specify through legislation.
 - ii. Validate any ballot measure initiated by the SGA or any member of the student body.
 - iii. Adhere to the procedure outlining the body’s purpose and function outlined in the Constitution and the SGA Policies Manual.
 - 2. The Commission for Elections shall establish regulations and procedures for any referenda or any election under its administration in a document entitled “The Election Guidelines of the Student Government Association”.

- i. These guidelines shall be submitted to the Senate for approval through a simple majority vote.
 - ii. These guidelines shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
 - iii. The Commission shall publicize these guidelines within one month of any election.
 - 3. Members of the Commission for Elections shall remain non-partisan and unbiased throughout all processes administered by the Commission.
 - i. This section shall apply regardless of a member’s length of service on the Commission.
- (b) The Commission for Nominations
 - 1. The Commission for Nominations shall perform the following functions:
 - i. Nominate candidates for any office within the Judicial Branch except for the Attorney General.
 - ii. Nominate candidates for any vacant Senate seat.
 - iii. Adhere to the procedure outlining the body’s purpose and function outlined in the Constitution and the SGA Policies Manual.
 - 2. The Commission for Nominations shall meet and submit nominations whenever any Judicial Branch vacancy occurs, except for the Attorney General.
- (c) The Committee on the Student Organization Life Opportunity (S.O.L.O.) Fund
 - 1. The Committee on the Student Organization Life Opportunity (S.O.L.O.) Fund shall perform the following functions:
 - i. Review all applications by registered student organizations for S.O.L.O. General Fund monies.
 - ii. Interview all applicants for S.O.L.O. General Fund monies.
 - iii. Adhere to the procedure outlining the body’s purpose and function outlined in the Constitution and the SGA Policies Manual.
 - 2. The Committee for the Student Organization Life Opportunity (S.O.L.O.) Fund, in collaboration with the SGA Treasurer, shall make recommendations regarding the amount of money allocated to the S.O.L.O Superfund and the S.O.L.O. General Fund.
- (d) Other General Committees and Commissions
 - 1. Adhere to the procedures outlining the body’s purpose and function adopted by the Executive Council.
- (e) Other Senate Committees and Commissions
 - 1. Plan and produce events and initiatives throughout the year related to the purposes and objectives of the body as documented in their procedures.

2. Develop legislation to improve or remedy the topic or issue relevant to the nature of the body.
3. Obtain approval from the Legislative Council for any planned event or activity before commencement.
4. Adhere to the procedures outlining the body's purpose and function adopted by the Senate.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1 – General Provisions

All executive powers, and those powers not explicitly granted herein to other branches of the Student Government Association, shall be granted to the Executive Branch, the head of which shall be the President.

Members of the executive branch shall not serve in more than one office of honor, trust, or profit at a time, subject to the limits of this Constitution.

Section 2 – Composition

The Executive Branch shall consist of three (3) classes of officers: those elected by the student body, those appointed by the Executive Council, and those appointed by the Supreme Court, notwithstanding any deputy officers.

- (a) The four (4) executive officers elected by the student body shall be the following:
 1. The President
 2. The Vice President
 3. The Secretary
 4. The Treasurer
- (b) The four (4) minimum executive officers appointed by the Executive Council and confirmed by the Senate shall be the following:
 1. The Chief of Staff
 2. The Advisor for the Executive Programs
 3. The Secretary of Communications and Outreach
 4. The Secretary of Government and Policy

With the advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate, the Executive Council may create additional appointed positions within the Executive Branch, subject to the limits of this Constitution.

Section 3 – The Executive Council

- (a) The Executive Council shall be the executive committee of the Student Government Association.

- (b) The Executive Council shall consist of the following four (4) elected members:
1. The President
 2. The Vice President
 3. The Secretary
 4. The Treasurer
- (c) The Executive Council shall collectively fulfill the following duties:
1. Advocate for student interests and concerns.
 2. Appoint members of the Executive Cabinet, non-Cabinet Deputies, and any administrative assistants.
 3. Delineate the selection process for the Student Trustee.
 4. Engage in regular consultation with the student body.
 5. Ensure effective communication and collaboration between the various branches of the SGA.
 6. Ensure the SGA complies with the SGA Constitution, the SGA Policies Manual, the SGA Code of Conduct, and university policies and regulations.
 7. Facilitate professional development and training opportunities for SGA members.
 8. Hold meetings to discuss and coordinate on matters of governance, policy, and student welfare.
 9. Oversee the operations of the Executive Cabinet, non-Cabinet Deputies, and any administrative assistants.
 10. Represent the student body to the university administration, faculty, students, and surrounding community.
 11. Support the organization of campus-wide events and programs.
 12. Set the overall mission, vision, and strategy of the Student Government Association.
 13. Work towards creating an inclusive and diverse environment within the SGA and the broader university community.
- (d) Meetings of the Executive Council shall be called and chaired by the President. In the event that the Executive Council is equally divided on a question, the President's vote shall prevail.
- (e) Members of the Executive Council may appoint up to two (2) administrative assistants for a maximum duration of one (1) semester, whereupon they shall be subject to a vote of the Executive Council to retain them for the remainder of the academic year.

Section 4 – Duties of Executive Council Officers

(a) The President shall fulfill the following duties:

1. Approve, reject, or acquiesce to, in their entirety, pieces of legislation passed by the Senate within seven (7) days of their reception.
2. Delegate the implementation of policies and regulations to other executive officers as appropriate.
3. Formulate and implement policies that improve the quality of life of the student body.
4. Issue a report to the student body, within the first month of the Spring semester, regarding the state of the campus.
5. Meet regularly with the Executive Council and other executive officers.
6. Meet regularly with members of university administration to bring issues of concern to their attention.
7. Serve as the chair of the Executive Council.
8. Serve as a non-voting, *ex officio* member of all executive committees and commissions, except as specified in the Constitution.
9. Serve as a voting member of various university committees as directed by university policy and the university president.
10. Write, amend, or retire executive orders as necessary to properly govern the operations of the Executive Branch.

(b) The Vice President shall fulfill the following duties:

1. Attend all meetings of the Senate.
2. Assist the President in the proper and orderly administration of the SGA.
3. Discharge the duties of the President if the President cannot perform their duties and ascend to the Office of the President in the event of a vacancy in that office.
4. Ensure any Senate legislation is appropriately forwarded to relevant university offices, in collaboration with the Secretary.
5. Oversee special projects and initiatives as assigned by the President or the Executive Council.
6. Serve as Speaker of the Senate and as a non-voting, *ex officio* member of all Senate Committees and Commissions.
7. Serve as Chair of the Legislative Council and Vice Chair of the Executive Council.
8. Vote in Senate proceedings in the event of a tie.

(c) The Secretary shall fulfill the following duties:

1. Attend all meetings of the Senate.

2. Assist in the preparation and dissemination of reports, proposals, and other documents as required by the SGA.
 3. Coordinate the scheduling of SGA meetings and events.
 4. Ensure historical documents and records of SGA are stored and archived appropriately.
 5. Facilitate effective communication within the SGA and between the SGA and the student body, faculty, and university administration.
 6. Forward all legislation passed by the Senate to the Executive Council and the Executive Cabinet within three (3) business days.
 7. Preserve all legislation within the SGA Policies Manual.
 8. Maintain accurate and complete records of all SGA meetings, including minutes, attendance, and important decisions.
 9. Maintain and update the SGA's membership roster, contact lists, and distribution lists.
 10. Serve as the Secretary of the Executive Council and of the Senate.
 11. Submit records of the SGA to the university archives for preservation.
- (d) The Treasurer shall fulfill the following duties:
1. Advise the President on all financial matters concerning the SGA, registered student organizations, and the student body.
 2. Ensure compliance with university financial policies and procedures, as well as all local, state, and federal financial regulations.
 3. Keep account of the income, expenditures, and allocations of all funds under the control of the SGA.
 4. Monitor the status of the SGA Emergency Loan and other financial services the Student Government Association offers to the student body.
 5. Oversee the disbursement of funds for SGA-sponsored events, initiatives, and registered student organizations.
 6. Present a budget to the Senate at the beginning of each semester.
 7. Publicize all non-confidential financial information of the SGA at the end of every semester.
 8. Report to the Executive Council and the Senate regarding the financial status of the SGA on a regular basis.

Section 5 – The Executive Cabinet

- (a) The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the appointed officers of the Executive Branch explicitly named in this Constitution and any other appointed officers designated by the Executive Council as members of the Executive Cabinet.
- (b) The Executive Cabinet shall collectively fulfill the following duties:

1. Advise the Executive Council on matters affecting the student body, based on their areas of expertise and student feedback.
 2. Coordinate and supervise the various committees, commissions, and departments within the SGA.
 3. Develop and implement policies and strategies in accordance with the goals and objectives set by the Executive Council.
 4. Engage in continuous dialogue with the student body.
 5. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of SGA programs and initiatives.
 6. Participate in regular meetings with the Executive Council to report on their activities, discuss challenges, and determine future actions.
 7. Respond proactively to emerging issues and crises affecting the student body.
- (c) Meetings of the Executive Cabinet may be called by any member of the Executive Council, the Chief of Staff, or by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Executive Cabinet.
- (d) Nominees for Executive Cabinet appointments shall be presented to the Senate at least one (1) week before the vote for ratification.
- (e) Executive Cabinet appointments shall be subject to the consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership of the Senate.
- (f) The duties of each Executive Cabinet member shall be defined in the SGA Policies Manual.

Section 6 – Executive Orders

The President may issue directives managing the operations of the Executive Branch, which shall be known as executive orders.

Executive orders may not create, modify, or repeal legislation that the Senate has previously enacted into law, nor may they be issued during a meeting of the Senate.

All newly written or modified executive orders must be presented to the Senate at its next meeting.

The Senate may repeal any executive order by a majority vote, except for executive orders written to appoint students to standing positions or bodies, which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

No executive order may amend or conflict with this Constitution.

Executive orders shall be valid for the President’s term in office or until they are rescinded.

Section 7 – Executive Programs

- (a) With the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate, the President may establish programs to assist the student body with matters of particular interest or concern. The creation of a program shall be accompanied by an executive order detailing the program’s name, purpose, membership, and leadership structure.
- (b) Executive Programs shall be overseen by the Advisor for the Executive Programs. The duties of the Advisor shall be:
 - 1. Develop an introductory curriculum for the program.
 - 2. Lead recruitment efforts for the program.
 - 3. Schedule each meeting of the program.
 - 4. Oversee the membership requirements of the program.
 - 5. Perform any additional duties as described by the Constitution or the SGA Policies Manual.
- (c) Programs may establish subsidiary bodies to aid them in the execution of their purpose(s), as described by the executive order accompanying its creation.

Section 8 – Legislative Branch Relations

After receiving legislation passed by the Senate from the Speaker of the Senate, the President may take one of the following actions:

- (a) Sign – If the President signs the legislation, it shall become effective on the specified date.
- (b) Veto – Should the President wish to veto the legislation, they shall write “VETO” instead of their signature and present a written reason for their veto to the Senate.
- (c) Acquiesce – If the legislation is not signed or vetoed within seven (7) days of its passage, it shall become effective on the specified date as determined in the legislation.

Section 9 – Compensation

- (a) All members of the Executive Council shall receive compensation for their services during the fall and spring semesters as approved by the SGA Advisor.
- (b) Any other member of the Executive Cabinet explicitly named in this Constitution or in the SGA Policies Manual may receive compensation for their services during the fall and spring semesters as approved by the SGA Advisor.
- (c) The compensation shall be given during the specified period in a manner consistent with the financial policies of Tennessee Technological University.

Section 10 – Qualifications for Office

(a) The President shall:

1. Be a full-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term.
2. Be of at least junior standing at the start of the fall semester after their election.
3. Have served in SGA for at least one (1) year at the start of the fall semester after their election.
4. Maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.00 before and during their term of office.

(b) The Vice President shall:

1. Be a full-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term.
2. Be of at least junior standing at the start of the fall semester after their election.
3. Have served in SGA for at least one (1) year at the start of the fall semester after their election.
4. Maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.00 before and during their term of office.

(c) The Secretary and Treasurer shall:

1. Be a full-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term.
2. Be of at least sophomore standing at the start of the fall semester after their election.
3. Have served in SGA for at least one (1) year at the start of the fall semester after their election.
4. Maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.75 before and during their term of office.

(d) All other members of the Executive Branch shall:

1. Be a full-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term.
2. Be of at least sophomore standing at the start of their term of office.
3. Maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.75 before and during their term of office.

Section 11 – Terms of Office

(a) The term of office for members of the Executive Council shall begin following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office within the second half of

the spring semester. Their terms shall end following the swearing-in of the newly elected members of the next Executive Council, unless they resign or are otherwise removed from office.

- (b) The term of office for appointed Executive Branch officials, notwithstanding the Attorney General, shall begin after the Senate confirms them and following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office. Their terms shall end following the swearing-in of the newly elected members of the next Executive Council, unless they resign or are otherwise removed from office.

Section 12 – Resignation

Any member of the Executive Branch may resign from their position by submitting a notice of their resignation to the President. The relevant position shall become vacant immediately unless stated otherwise in the resignation. The President shall announce the resignation to the members of the Executive Branch within three (3) days of its reception.

In the event of the resignation of the President, such notice shall be submitted to the Secretary.

ARTICLE V: JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1 – General Provisions

All judicial powers granted to the Student Government Association shall be vested in a Supreme Court.

Members of the judicial branch shall not serve in more than one office of honor, trust, or profit at a time, subject to the limits of this Constitution.

Section 2 – The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court shall consist of nine (9) Justices, among them a Chief Justice, an Associate Chief Justice, and seven (7) Associate Justices. The Associate Chief Justice shall discharge all duties of the Chief Justice should the Chief Justice be unable to perform their duties. The Supreme Court, by simple majority vote, shall appoint officers including, but not limited to, the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice, for a term of one (1) calendar year, and adopt rules of procedure consistent with the SGA Policies Manual.

In the event that a vacancy on the Supreme Court cannot be filled due to unforeseen circumstances or the lack of available qualified candidates, a former Supreme Court justice who is currently serving as an SGA Senator may be temporarily appointed to the Supreme Court by the Commission for Nominations, subject to approval by the Senate,

to ensure the Court maintains quorum and can continue its essential functions. This temporary appointment shall last only until a permanent justice is appointed and approved, but in no case shall exceed a period of sixty (60) days.

The Supreme Court shall have original and sole jurisdiction in suits arising from the SGA Constitution, actions of the Executive or Legislative branches, and all policies, codes, and legislation adopted by the SGA. The Supreme Court is the final interpretative authority of the SGA Constitution and the SGA Policies Manual, and the Supreme Court shall carry full power of judicial review.

Any case heard by the Supreme Court shall be in the form of a petition. Any petition shall be signed by at least one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of Senators, at least one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of Executive Cabinet members, or at least one (1) Executive Council member. Upon the concurrence of half the number of Justices, rounded down, the Supreme Court shall accept the case petitioned.

The Supreme Court shall serve as the Student Citation Appeals Committee, which shall hear all traffic ticket appeals from the student body.

The Supreme Court may write an opinion to the President of Tennessee Technological University or their designee regarding any university policies or procedures that are vague, ambiguous, or contrary to federal or state law and request clarification and/or remediation of the policies or procedures in question.

Section 3 – The Attorney General

The Supreme Court, by simple majority vote, shall appoint a student not from their current membership to serve as the Attorney General.

The Attorney General shall ensure that all SGA operations comply with the Constitution and the SGA Policies Manual.

The Attorney General shall oversee or conduct investigations into allegations of misconduct within the SGA.

The Attorney General shall provide advice on interpreting the Constitution or SGA Policies Manual to any entity created by the aforementioned, including, but not limited to, the Senate, the Legislative Council, the Executive Council, the Executive Cabinet, and any SGA Committees or Commissions.

The Attorney General shall serve as the Secretary and Reporter of the Supreme Court and shall be responsible for publicizing the decisions of the Supreme Court.

On the initiative of the Senate, the Attorney General shall have the authority to appoint deputies to assist with the functioning of their office.

Section 4 – Qualifications for Office

Any member of the Judicial Branch shall be a full-time or a part-time student of at least sophomore standing with an overall grade point average of at least 2.75 with no record of academic or personal misconduct, removal of office, or conviction upon a charge of impeachment.

Section 5 – Terms of Office

- (a) The terms of office for Supreme Court justices shall begin after the Senate confirms them and following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office. Their terms shall last until the completion of their degree program or until the justice is no longer qualified under this Constitution, whichever is sooner.
- (b) The term of office for the Attorney General shall begin after the Supreme Court appoints them and following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office. Their term shall end following the appointment of their successor unless they resign or are otherwise removed from office.

Section 6 – Resignation

Any member of the Judicial Branch may resign from their position by submitting a notice of their resignation to the Attorney General or Chief Justice. The relevant position shall become vacant immediately unless stated otherwise in the resignation. The Attorney General or Chief Justice shall announce the resignation to the members of the Judicial Branch within three (3) days of its reception.

ARTICLE VI: IMPEACHMENT

Section 1 – General Provisions

Any elected or appointed executive, legislative, or judicial official who has deviated from the qualifications to hold office, neglected their duties, misused their power or position for personal gain, or otherwise diverged from the professional ethics and standards of the SGA, or the policies of the university, may be impeached and, upon conviction, barred from holding any office or position of trust within the SGA.

Section 2 – Ad-hoc Committee on Impeachment

Upon a reasonable suspicion that a violation necessitating impeachment has occurred, a Senator may move that the Senate form an Ad-hoc Committee on Impeachment to launch an inquiry to collect facts and determine the scope and validity of such

violation. This Ad-hoc Committee shall not exceed seven (7) members nor contain less than three (3) members.

Should the Ad-hoc Committee on Impeachment find grounds for a charge of impeachment, they shall appoint an impeachment manager to present any findings to the Senate. The impeachment manager shall then report the article of impeachment to the Senate and, upon a majority vote to adopt the article, the Secretary shall send seven (7) days' notice to the official who is the subject of the article of impeachment as well as the Vice President.

Section 3 – Trial

When sitting for the purposes of considering an impeachment, the Senators shall swear an oath or affirmation to uphold justice and remain impartial throughout the trial proceedings. When an executive officer of the Student Government Association is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside over the Senate.

Section 4 – Rights of the Accused

The impeached party shall have the right to a fair trial, self-representation, and to face their accusers publicly. However, they shall not find themselves compelled to testify or make self-incriminatory statements.

Section 5 – Conviction

No person shall be convicted on an article of impeachment without the concurrence of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Senate present.

The impeachment manager and the members of the impeached party's defense, should they be Senators, must recuse themselves from any vote relating to a conviction.

Any judgement shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any office or title within the SGA.

ARTICLE VII: VACANCIES

Section 1 – Executive Branch Vacancies

In the case of a vacancy in the position of President, the Vice President shall become President and assume the duties and responsibilities of the office for the remainder of the term.

In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Vice President, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate shall become Vice President and assume the duties and responsibilities of the office for the remainder of the term. Should the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate not meet the qualifications of executive office as outlined in this Constitution, the

remaining members of the Executive Council shall select and appoint a nominee to serve out the remainder of the term subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.

In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Secretary or Treasurer, the remaining members of the Executive Council shall select and appoint a nominee to serve out the remainder of the term subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.

In the case of a vacancy in the Executive Cabinet, the Executive Council shall appoint a nominee to fill the office for the remainder of the term within one (1) month of the office becoming vacant.

In the case of a vacancy in the position of Attorney General, the Supreme Court shall appoint a nominee to fill the office for the remainder of the term within one (1) month of the office becoming vacant.

Section 2 – Legislative Branch Vacancies

In the case of a vacancy in the Senate, the Commission for Nominations shall select and appoint a nominee to serve out the remainder of the term subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.

Section 3 – Judicial Branch Vacancies

In the case of a vacancy of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Associate Chief Justice shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Justice for the remainder of the term of office.

In the case of any other vacancies of Justices of the Supreme Court, the Commission for Nominations shall select and appoint nominees to fill such vacancies subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Elections

The Commission for Elections shall oversee and manage the planning, preparation, advertising, and execution of all elections under its administration.

A general election to elect the members of the Executive Council and the Academic Senators shall be held during the second half of every spring semester.

Each registered student of the university may cast one (1) ballot for their preferred candidates in the elections which apply to them.

Candidates shall not be on the ballot for more than one (1) office during the same election period.

Section 2 – Method of Voting

The Commission for Elections shall select the voting method used in all elections overseen by the body. The method shall be a preferential or approval-based method of voting.

Section 3 – Campaigning

The Commission for Elections shall establish guidelines for campaigning, including, but not limited to, the distribution of campaign materials, the use of social media, and the use of campaign funds.

Candidates shall campaign in a manner that is respectful and professional, and that does not disrupt the functioning of the university or the SGA. Any candidate found to violate the campaigning guidelines established by the Election Commission shall be subject to disciplinary action.

All candidates shall have the opportunity to present their platforms to the student body.

All candidates and their supporters shall adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Commission for Elections regarding campaigning.

ARTICLE IX: OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Section 1 – Procedure

The Oath or Affirmation of Office shall be administered to all newly elected and appointed officials of the Student Government Association by the Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court before taking office.

Section 2 – Timeline

After the general election in the spring, the Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall swear in the newly elected members of the Executive Council and Senate.

The Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall swear in any newly appointed officials after the Senate confirms their appointments under the processes laid out within this Constitution.

Section 3 – Text

The text of the oath or affirmation shall be as follows:

(a) I [insert name here, stating your full name separately, not in concert], having been duly [elected/appointed] as [insert office or title here] of the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University, and ever mindful of the public trust invested in me, do hereby [swear/affirm] that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and policies of the Student Government Association and the liberties of the students. I will discharge my duties with honesty, integrity, and impartiality, and will, to the best of my ability, faithfully and conscientiously execute the duties of my office.

ARTICLE X: INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, RECALL, AND AMENDMENT

Section 1 – General Provisions

The student body shall have the right to propose, amend, or repeal legislation, call a referendum on existing legislation, and recall elected officials through initiatives, referendums, and recalls.

The Senate shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 2 – Voting

All initiatives, referendums, recalls, and amendments shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the student body.

Voting on initiatives, referendums, recalls, and amendments shall be conducted as established within The Election Guidelines of the Student Government Association produced by the Commission for Elections.

Section 3 – Effective Date

If a simple majority of the student body votes in favor of an initiative, it shall become effective immediately unless otherwise specified in the initiative.

If a simple majority of the student body votes in favor of a referendum, the specific question, issue, or piece of legislation shall be amended or repealed as specified in the referendum.

If a simple majority of the student body votes to recall an officer of the Student Government Association, the elected official in question shall be removed from office immediately.

Section 4 – Initiative

An initiative is a proposed piece of legislation initiated by the student body and presented to the SGA Senate for consideration, except for Constitutional amendments.

Any student may submit an initiative to the SGA by presenting a petition signed by at least five percent (5%) of the student body to the SGA Secretary.

The SGA Secretary shall review the initiative to ensure that it is in proper form and that the petition meets the required signatures.

If the initiative is in proper form and the petition meets the required signatures, the SGA Secretary shall present the initiative to the SGA Senate for consideration within one (1) month.

The SGA Senate shall have the option to either pass the initiative as written or to propose amendments to the initiative. The Senate may also repeal an enacted initiative by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

If the SGA Senate proposes amendments to the initiative, it shall be returned to the student body for a vote on the amended version within one (1) month.

Section 5 – Referendum

A referendum is a vote by the student body on a specific question, issue, or piece of legislation already introduced or passed by the SGA Senate.

Referendums may be initiated by a simple majority vote of the Senate or by a petition signed by at least ten (10) percent of the student body.

Referendums may be binding or non-binding. Such status shall be indicated in the text of the referendum.

The SGA Secretary shall review the referendum to ensure that it is in proper form and that the petition meets the required signatures.

If the petition meets the required signatures, the SGA Secretary shall schedule a referendum on the relevant legislation within one (1) month.

Section 6 – Recall

Any student may request the recall of an elected official in their constituency by presenting a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of their constituency to the SGA Secretary.

The elected official in question shall have the opportunity to defend themselves before their constituency before the recall election. The elected official in question shall automatically be qualified to appear on the ballot. Other candidates shall be subject to the qualification process as specified by the Commission for Elections.

The SGA Secretary shall review the recall petition to ensure that it is in proper form and that the petition meets the required signatures.

If the petition meets the required signatures, the SGA Secretary shall schedule a special election to recall the named individual from office within one (1) month.

Section 7 – Amendment

A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership of the SGA Senate may amend this Constitution.