

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Troy University  
Troy, Alabama

**PREAMBLE**

We, the students of Troy University, in order to promote active participation in student activities and to provide experiences in democratic government processes, do hereby establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of Troy University, Troy, Alabama.

**ARTICLE I-PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Student Government Association shall be:

1. To promote excellence in scholarship.
2. To coordinate and establish reasonable standards for all activities within the scope of the Student Government Association.
3. To promote an open relationship between the student body and the administration in matters of policy formation and students relations.
4. To encourage participation in social and educational group activities.
5. To stimulate and promote good citizenship and democracy on all levels of university activities.

**ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP, PRIVILEGDES, and ORGANIZATION**

**Section A:** All registered students at Troy University, Troy Alabama, are, upon payment of the Student Activities Fee, members of this organization. The membership is subject to all rules and regulations herein and hereafter enacted by this organization.

**Section B:** Members of this organization shall be entitled to vote in Student Government Association elections.

**Section C:** In Student Government Association elections, members will be allowed to vote for candidates of their respective areas only as described in the Code of Laws.

**Section D:** The Student Government Association shall be divided in three separate and distinct branches; Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

**ARTICLE III- LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section A:** All Legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in the Student Senate.

1. The Senate shall be the deciding body on legislation put before it in resolutions or bills.
2. The Senate shall determine its rules and procedures compel the attendance of its absent members, censure or expel a member by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, after such member has been placed before it.

3. The Senate shall elect its officers with the exception of the President of the Senate who will be the vice-president for legislative affairs of the Student Government Association.
4. The Senate shall approve appointments of the president as they are described in the Constitution and the Code of Laws.
5. The Student Senate shall establish standing committees, as they are deemed necessary.
6. The Student Senate shall vote articles of impeachment against the president, the vice-president, director of administration, director of representation, or any other Student Government Association officer. The process will follow that described in the Code of Laws.
7. The Student Senate shall vote to send a ratified or amended Constitution to be voted on in a Student Government Association Election.
8. The Senate shall have the power to override a presidential veto by a vote of two-thirds (2/3).
9. The Senate shall maintain two (2) Senators at the polls at all times during elections. One senator will remain at the table with the executive officer and one senator will monitor the voting area.
10. The Senate shall have the power to reapportion itself yearly, if necessary.
11. Senate vacancies shall be filled in a vacancy election to be held no later than the third (3) full calendar week of the fall and spring semesters. Seats vacant after that date shall remain so for the balance of said semester.

**Section B:** All other powers duties, responsibilities, and other information pertaining to the Legislative Branch will be contained in the Code of Laws, Title III.

## **ARTICLE IV-EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section A:** All executive powers granted herein shall be vested in the president of the Student Government Association who shall be assisted by the vice president for legislative affairs, the vice president for campus activities, the director of administration, and the director of representation.

**Section B:**

The appointment of executive assistants shall be described in the Code of Laws.

**Section C:** The president of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The president shall execute the laws and regulations of the Student Government Association.
2. The president, with the approval of the advisor, shall have the power to call special meetings of the Student Government Association and the Student Senate whenever deemed necessary or whenever petitioned by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate.
3. The president-elect shall make student appointments to all University standing committees where student representation is recognized.
4. The president shall become a member of the Student Affairs Committee, Homecoming Committee, and the University Student Publication Board upon assumption of office.

5. The president assisted by the executive officers and the appropriate cabinet members shall plan and coordinate events to commemorate Black History Month, Women's History Month and other such occasions.
6. The president shall prepare a budget to be submitted each semester to the Student Senate for the approval by a two-thirds vote.
7. The president shall be required to present a report at the last regular meeting of each semester. This report shall include a statement concerning the status of all the legislation passed through the Student Senate, an updated budget report, and a statement of position from each student representative on the University Standing Committees.
8. Each bill passed by the Senate shall be signed by the President and the Vice President at Legislative Affairs. The President's signature signifies his/her approval. If the President disapproves, he/she shall issue a presidential veto within seven days after the passage through the Senate. If no action is taken after seven days, the bill automatically becomes law and must be carried out by the executive office in accordance with the constitution.

**Section D:** The Vice President for Legislative Affairs (VPLA) shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The VPLA in case of absence of the president shall perform all the duties of the president. If the office of the president is vacated, the VPLA shall assume office.
2. The VPLA shall be the President of the Student Senate, except in impeachment hearings. The VPLA shall preside over the impeachment proceedings against the Chief Justice.
3. The VPLA shall be an ex-officio member of all Senate Standing Committees.
4. The VPLA shall assure that legislation receives the proper attention of both the president and the Senate with the time allotted.
5. The VPLA shall be thoroughly knowledgeable of parliamentary procedure.

**Section E:** The Vice President for Campus Activities shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The vice president for Campus Activities (VPCA) shall serve the students as their liaison to the Student Government Association and the University.
2. The VPCA shall appoint a member of Senate to serve as the appointment to the University Activities Council (UAC) in order to coordinate activities. The VPCA shall oversee all responsibilities and duties of said position.
3. The VPCA shall serve as a liaison with student organizations and shall meet regularly with organization leaders.
4. The VPCA shall serve as coordinator for Homecoming, spirit activities for Troy athletics and SGA's involvement in alumni relations sponsored events, such as St. Patrick's Day week celebration.
5. The VPCA shall appoint the Homecoming director and oversee all responsibilities and duties of the said position.
6. The VPCA shall appoint a blood drive coordinator to oversee the planning of SGA Blood Drives. The VPCA shall organize a House of Representatives to include one representative from each recognized student organization. This shall serve solely as a networking and communication body.

7. The VPCA shall advise the Freshman Forum and shall direct any officers thereof.

**Section F:** The director of administration of the Student Government Association shall have the following power and duties:

1. The director of administration shall record the proceedings of all meetings of the Student Government Association and the Student Senate and keep a permanent typewritten record of the same.
2. The director of administration shall prepare a typewritten transcript of the minutes of each Senate meeting, except in impeachment hearings.
3. The director of administration shall handle all correspondence under the supervision of the president and the vice presidents.
4. The director of administration, with the assistance of the director of representation, shall be responsible for the distribution of correspondence materials to senators, and for distribution of SGA publications.
5. The director of administration shall fulfill any duties as so prescribed by Executive Committee and the president.
6. The director of administration shall check senator's grades each semester to assure they meet the requirements as established in the Code of Laws and shall report any senators who do not meet the aforementioned requirements.
7. The director of administration shall be responsible for any financial transactions involving all incoming money for the Student Government Association, with exception of candidacy fees which will be the responsibility of the director of representation.
8. A strict record of all transactions shall be kept by the director of administration of all revenues and expenditures.
9. The director of administration shall be responsible to planning the SGA retreat, SGA banquet, and social meetings.

**Section G:** The director of representation of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The director of representation shall be responsible for all physical arrangements pertaining to the Student Government Association elections and make a typewritten report of the election results for entry into the student Government Association records.
2. The director of representation, director of elections, and two (2) members of the Student Supreme Court, shall supervise all ballot tabulations. If for any reason the director of representation is unable to be present, the director of representation shall, with the president, designate a chairman of the group.
3. The director of representation shall be responsible for placing qualified candidates on the ballot. In all elections, the director of representation shall determine the eligibility of each candidate and prepare the ballot.
4. The director of representation, along with the director of elections, shall be responsible for removing Candidates campaign material twenty-four (24) hours prior to the close of elections from the building in which the election is being held. They are also responsible for removing all election publicity materials twenty-four (24) hours after the elections.
5. If the incumbent director of representation is running for re-election and is unopposed, he/she has the authority to count the votes for the upcoming election.

6. The director of representation shall coordinate the general office procedure as adopted by the Executive Committee and coordinate the operation of the Student Government Association Office.
7. The director of representation, with the assistance of the director of administration, shall be responsible for the distribution of correspondence material to senators, and for distribution of SGA publications.
8. The director of representation shall fulfill any duties as so prescribed by the Executive Committee and the president.
9. The director of representation shall be the timekeeper on all bills, resolutions, and executive orders during senate meetings.
10. The director of representation will review the receipts issued for candidacy fees along with candidate applications. On the day of the application deadline, the director of representation shall review receipts issued and applications received to insure accountability and ballot accuracy.

## **Section H: Vacancies**

1. Vacancy of the executive office of the president, vice presidents, director of administration, or director of representation of the Student Government Association shall occur if, during and semester of the elected officer's terms, the elected officer is not enrolled at Troy University; or if the officer should resign; or if the officer is removed from office as a result of an impeachment procedure.
2. If the office of president shall become vacant, the vice-president of legislative affairs shall assume the office of president.
3. If a vacancy occurs in the positions of vice-presidents, director of administration, or director of representation, before the third class day of the spring semester, the president, with the Student Senate's approval, shall call a special election to fill that position. This special election shall be held within twenty class days of the time the office was vacated.
4. If there are no candidates for an executive officer during a general election, the president with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Student Senate, may appoint a temporary replacement for the office and that position shall be available in the fall semester elections. The replacements shall receive all compensation and have all rights and privileges and responsibilities as designated for that office in this constitution and code of laws and in the Senate laws passed during their tenure.
5. If the office of vice-president for legislative affairs is vacated after the third class day of the spring semester the president pro-tempore shall assume that office.
6. If the office of vice-president for campus activities is vacated after the third day of the spring semester the Chairman for the Student Life Committee shall assume that office. If the Student Life Committee Chairman declines, the SGA President shall appoint a replacement, who shall be confirmed by a (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.
7. If the office of president pro-tempore is vacated, a new president pro-tempore shall be chosen by the student Senate at the next regular meeting by a majority vote.
8. If the office of Chief Justice is vacated, the president of the Student Government Association shall fill the vacancy by appointment, subject to a two thirds (2/3) vote of approval by the Student Senate.

9. In the event the offices of director of administration or director of representation are vacated after the third class day of the spring semester, the vacancy shall be filled during the next general or vacancy election.

10. The president shall make temporary appointments to fill vacancies in the Executive Branch until election can be held within the allotted time.

**Section I:** All powers and duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and structure of the Executive Branch not aforementioned will be discussed in the Code of Laws.

## **ARTICLE V-JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**Section A:** The Judicial Branch shall consist of two (2) separate and distinct branches: the Student Government Association Supreme Court and the Student Government Association Traffic Appeals Committee.

**Section B:** All Supreme Court justices and Traffic Appeals Committee members shall be nominated by the president and shall be subject to review by the Constitution and the Rules Committee which will issue a report of favorable or unfavorable to the Student Senate which will confirm the appointment by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

**Section C:** The composition, duties and powers, responsibilities, qualifications, and structure of the Judicial Branch shall be discussed in the Code of Laws, Title IV.

## **ARTICLE VI-CODE OF LAWS**

**Section A:** All duties and powers, responsibilities, qualifications, rights and privileges, structure and penalties not contained in the Student Government Association Constitution are contained in the Code of Laws.

**Section B:** The Code of Laws shall be amended and ratified by a majority vote of the SGA Senate, with approval of the SGA president.

## **ARTICLE VII-METHOD OF AMENDMENT**

**Section A:** Amendments may be initiated by one of the following methods:

1. Approval of the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
2. A petition presented in writing to the president of the Student Government Association conveying the signature of ten (10) percent of the membership of the Student Government Association.

**Section B:** Voting on constitutional amendments shall be taken in the following manner:

1. Publications of the full text of the amendment I one sice of the Tropolitan or current publication the student body in equally wide manner including electronic media, shall be done at least five (5) days prior to the vote of the student body.

2. At elections, the amendment must receive a vote of two thirds (2/3) approval of the votes cast according to voter turn out, in order to pass.

**Section C:** Final action on amendments shall be taken in the following manner:

1. Publications of the full text of the amendment in one issue of the Tropolitan or current publication of the student body in equally wide manner including electronic media, shall be done at least five days prior to the vote of the student body.
2. At elections, the amendment must receive a vote of two-thirds (2/3) approval of votes cast according to voter turn out, in order to pass.

**Section D:** Ratification of the constitution will follow the same outlines and guidelines as described above for amendments.

**Section E:** All amendments and ratifications that pass the vote of student body shall take the effect at the beginning of the fall semester following approval, unless otherwise noted in the amendment or ratification.