

# CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT COMMUNITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Drafted August, 1969

Approved by the Student Body  
April, 1971

Amended Spring, 1972  
Amended Spring, 1973  
Amended Spring, 1974  
Amended Spring, 1975  
Amended Spring, 1976  
Amended Spring, 1980  
Amended Fall, 1981  
Amended Spring, 1983  
Amended Spring, 1992  
Amended Spring, 1994  
Amended Spring, 1997  
Amended Fall, 1998  
Amended Spring, 2001  
Amended Fall, 2002  
Amended Fall, 2003  
Amended Spring, 2005  
Amended Fall, 2009  
Amended Spring, 2010  
Amended Fall, 2011  
Amended Spring 2013  
Amended Spring 2014  
Amended Fall, 2014  
Amended Spring, 2015  
Amended Fall, 2015  
Amended Spring, 2016  
Amended Spring, 2017  
Amended Fall, 2017  
Amended Spring, 2018  
Amended Spring, 2019

CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT COMMUNITY  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

WE, THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON,  
DETERMINE

To establish within our Student Community a government sensitive to the individual and collective needs, and

to provide for an effective means of communication between the various parts of the college community, and

to promote and sustain an atmosphere conducive to academic and social development, and

to join together in working for the advancement of the college community, and to assist in the realization of student rights and fundamental freedoms within the Student Community.

AND WITH FIRM COMMITMENT,

to our beliefs that the students of The University of Texas at Arlington have both the right and responsibility either to legislate or make appropriate recommendations with regard to those matters that affect them, provided such legislation is not in extreme conflict with University regulations,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS AND PURPOSES BY ESTABLISHING THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT COMMUNITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON.

# Article I

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Sec. 1.1 There shall be established as the principle organs with decision making power within the Student Community a Student Government, a Student Programming Board, an Ambassador Program, Constituency Councils, Graduate Student Council, and student representation on selected University Committees.
- Sec. 1.2 Such subsidiary organs as may be found necessary may be established in accordance with this constitution.

# Article II

## LEADING POWER OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Sec. 2.1 **THE HIGHEST FORM OF STUDENT GOVERNING BODY.** The Student Government shall be the highest level of student governing body at The University of Texas at Arlington.
- Sec. 2.2 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT MAY DISCUSS ANY QUESTION OR MATTER.** The Student Government may discuss any questions or any matters it deems appropriate within the scope of this constitution, or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in this constitution, and may make any recommendations to any individual or group or to both on any matters or questions. Discussions with or inquiries to the President of the University, the Chancellor of the U.T. System, or the Board of Regents of the U.T. System will be with the advance knowledge of the advisor.
- Sec. 2.3 **ABILITY TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION.** The Student Government may recommend or propose any legislation on any matter or question that rests entirely in the Student Community with the exception of those functions and powers reserved to the Constituent Councils in Article XI of this Constitution.
- Sec. 2.4 **MAY EXERCISE POWERS DELEGATED BY ADMINISTRATORS.** The Student Government may exercise such other powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the University President or the Vice-President for Student Affairs.
- Sec. 2.5 **EXPRESS FEELING ON ANY TOPIC.** The Student Government may express its feeling concerning any topic that is of interest to the Student Community.
- Sec. 2.6 **SEPARATE BUT EQUAL BRANCHES OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT.** The Student Government shall be composed of the following three separate but equal branches: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch.

Sec. 2.7 ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY ORGANS. The Student Government may establish such subsidiary organs, as it deems necessary for the performance of its duties and functions, with approval of the advisor.

Sec. 2.8 ADVISOR OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her delegate shall be the advisor of the Student Government.

## Article III

### THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Sec. 3.1 VESTMENT OF EXECUTIVE POWER. Executive powers shall be vested in the executive branch of Student Government.

Sec. 3.2 COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The executive branch shall be composed of the Assembly of College Councils and two standing committees, including External Relations and Legislative Relations. In addition, the Graduate Student Council shall be considered part of the executive branch of Student Government (refer to Article XII).

Sec. 3.3 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 Senate of Student Government in a timely manner.

B. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNCILS. The executive branch shall work with the Constituency Councils and Graduate Student Council to respond to student issues and concerns.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES. The executive branch shall plan and implement Student Government programs and initiatives to solicit feedback and serve the Student Community.

Sec. 3.4 OFFICERS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The officers of the executive branch of Student Government shall consist of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Chief of Staff.

Sec. 3.5 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. The Student Body President shall be the representative leader of the Student Government.

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

- B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as Student Body President, a student must have completed not less than thirty (30) credit hours of which not less than twelve (12) were completed in residence at The University of Texas at Arlington; must have served as a member of Student Government for at least one (1) session at the time of installment as President; and must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours and have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and maintain no less than a 2.25 for the duration of their respective term.
- C. PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE. The Student Body President shall serve a one year term to begin upon being sworn into office and end upon the installment of his or her successor.
- D. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency for the duration of the term.

Sec. 3.6 STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT. The Student Body Vice President shall assist the Student Body President in representing the student perspective.

- A. ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. The Student Body Vice President shall be elected by the student body at-large during the annual spring Student Government elections.
- B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as Student Body Vice President, a student must have completed not less than thirty (30) credit hours of which not less than twelve (12) were completed in residence at The University of Texas at Arlington; must have served as a member of Student Government for at least one (1) session at the time of installment as Vice President; and must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours and have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and maintain no less than a 2.25 for the duration of their respective term.
- C. VICE PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE. The Student Body Vice President shall serve a one-year term to begin upon being sworn into office and end upon the installment of his or her successor.
- D. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Student Body Vice President, the Chief of Staff shall succeed to the Vice Presidency for the duration of the term.

Sec. 3.7 CHIEF OF STAFF. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for the planning and implementation of Student Government programs and initiatives.

- A. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF. The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the Student Body President, subject to confirmation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the Senate. The Chief of Staff shall be appointed and

confirmed prior to the last day of final exams of the spring academic semester.

- B. **ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE.** To be eligible to serve as Chief of Staff, a student must have served as a member of Student Government for at least one (1) session at the time of installment as Chief of Staff; must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours; and must have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.25 on a 4.0 system.
- C. **CHIEF OF STAFF TERM OF OFFICE.** The Chief of Staff shall serve until appointment of his or her successor the following spring semester.
- D. **VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chief of Staff, the Student Body President will make every effort to appoint a replacement in a timely manner.

Sec. 3.8 **UNSPECIFIED LEADERSHIP ROLES.** The Student Body President may appoint other leadership roles not specified in this Constitution with advisor approval.

Sec. 3.9 **APPEALS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH DECISIONS.** Decisions of the Executive Branch may be appealed and heard by the Supreme Court. A Student Government member or a non-member must file their appeal to the Supreme court within seven (7) days of the formal decision made by the Executive Branch.

## **Article IV**

### **THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

Sec. 4.1 **VESTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE POWER.** Legislative powers shall be vested in the legislative branch of Student Government.

Sec. 4.2 **COMPOSITION OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.** The legislative branch shall be composed of the general membership of the Senate and up to four standing committees, including Academic Affairs, Community Affairs, Student Affairs, and Special Affairs.

Sec. 4.3 **LEGISLATIVE POWERS.** The legislative branch will be charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. **RESEARCH AND VOTE ON LEGISLATION.** The legislative branch shall pass legislation to represent the official voice of the student body and define official Student Government policies, 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 Senate may deny approval of a Presidential appointment for good cause.

- Sec. 4.4 OFFICER OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. The officer of the legislative branch of Student Government shall be the Speaker of the Senate.
- Sec. 4.5 SPEAKER OF THE SENATE. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair all 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 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 have served as a member of Student Government for at least one (1) session at the time of installment as Speaker; and must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours and have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.25 on a 4.0 system.
  - C. SPEAKER OF THE SENATE TERM OF OFFICE. The Speaker of the Senate shall serve until the election of his or her successor the following spring. A Senator who is elected to serve as the Speaker of the Senate will not be required to run for re-election to the Senate if his/her term as Senator expires during his/her term as Speaker.
  - 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 Student Body Vice President shall serve in this capacity until the Senate members can elect a new Speaker.
- Sec. 4.6 COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE. The Senate shall be composed of Senators to represent each degree-granting college or school. There shall be one Senator for, at minimum, every 900 non-distance education students and every 2,000 distance education students (or a fraction of their total thereof) in a college's or school's population. Distance education students are those as defined by the University.
- A. In order to protect the minority of the senate, the amount of senators per college or school shall be capped at nine (9).
- Sec. 4.7 ELECTION OF SENATORS. The seats in the Senate shall be filled by elections from the student body within each constituent college or school.
- A. The Speaker of the Senate shall determine the nature and number of seats up for election for each college and school based upon the most recent enrollment data available.
  - B. Staggered terms shall be established for Senate seats. One half of the seats allotted to each college or school shall be filled by election in the spring

semester, and the remaining seats allotted to each college or school shall be filled by election in the fall. In case of an odd-numbered allotment, the larger number shall be elected in the fall.

- C. Any vacancies that occur in the Senate membership during the year shall be filled from the college or school in which the vacancies occurred by application to and appointment by the Speaker of the Senate, or by the provisions of Resolution 92-51, until the next general election.
- D. In the event of a candidate who is elected to represent more than one constituency in any given term, the candidate must notify the Chief Justice within seven (7) days which office he/she will represent and the vacancy created thereby shall be filled by appointment or Resolution 92-51, whichever is applicable.
- E. To be eligible for initial membership in the Senate, a student must be taking at least six credit hours in residence, and have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.0 on a 4.0 system. First semester students must be enrolled for six hours.
- F. Senators must be enrolled in the college or school that they were elected or appointed to represent while filing for office and throughout their term in office.

Sec. 4.8 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. The Senate and all standing or special committees will follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Sec. 4.9 SENATE ELECTION OF UNSPECIFIED LEADERSHIP ROLES. The Senate may elect leadership roles not specified in this Constitution, with advisor approval.

Sec. 4.10 ONE VOTE PER SENATOR. Each Senator shall have one vote.

Sec. 4.11 APPEALS OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH DECISIONS. Decisions of the Legislative Branch may be appealed and heard by the Supreme Court. A Student Government member or a non-member must file their appeal to the Supreme Court within seven (7) days of the formal decision made by the Legislative Branch.

## **Article V**

### THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Sec. 5.1 VESTMENT OF JUDICIAL POWER. Judicial powers and authority shall be vested in the Supreme Court of Student Government.



- Sec. 5.2 COMPOSITION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH. The judicial branch shall be comprised of the Supreme Court and additional inferior entities as may be deemed necessary with advisor approval.
- Sec. 5.3 JUDICIAL POWERS. The judicial branch will be charged with the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. UPHOLD CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS. The Supreme Court shall hear and issue appropriate rulings on all cases in which any student, faculty members, staff member, administrator, or student organization at The University of Texas at Arlington 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 Bylaws, or substantive rules and regulations.
  - B. FUNDING ALLOCATION. The Supreme Court shall hold hearings to allocate funds to registered student organizations through the Program Assistance Fund.
  - C. STUDENT ELECTIONS. The judicial branch shall oversee the Student Election process through assisting in the recruitment of candidates, approval of the Election Code, and hearing disputes that arise from the elections.
- Sec. 5.4 OFFICER OF JUDICIAL BRANCH. The officer of the judicial branch of Student Government shall be the Chief Justice.
- Sec. 5.5 CHIEF JUSTICE. The Chief Justice shall chair all 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 membership of the Supreme Court prior to the last day of final exams of the spring semester. Election for the office shall be by secret ballot. The office shall be filled by a vote to select the top two (2) candidates, followed by a plurality vote of those two (2) candidates. In the instance that a candidate has received a majority vote on the first round of elections, said candidate will automatically win that position and forgo the final round of voting.
  - B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as Chief Justice, a student must have served as a member of the Supreme Court for at least one (1) session at the time of installment as Chief Justice; and must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours and have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.25 on a 4.0 system.
  - C. CHIEF JUSTICE TERM OF OFFICE. The Chief Justice shall serve until the election of his or her 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 Student Body Vice President will chair Supreme Court meetings until a new Chief Justice can be elected.

Sec. 5.6 COMPOSITION OF THE SUPREME COURT. The Supreme Court shall consist of 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 Senate.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. To be eligible to serve as a Justice, a student must not be on scholastic or disciplinary probation at the time of appointment or while serving; must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours and have an overall grade point average of not less than 2.25 on a 4.0 system. Justices shall not hold any concurrent position within the executive or legislative branches of Student Government.

C. JUSTICE TERM OF OFFICE. Justices will serve lesser of a two-year term on the Supreme Court or until graduation from the University.

D. VACANCIES ON THE SUPREME COURT. In the event of a vacancy on the Supreme Court, the Student Body President will bring before the Senate one 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. 5.7 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. 5.8 CLERKS. The Supreme Court shall have the power to select and appoint non-voting clerks to aid the Court, with approval of the Student Government Advisor. Clerks of the Court shall not be a justice nor a member of the Executive or Legislative Branches of Student Government.

Sec. 5.9 SUPREME COURT JOURNAL AND OPINIONS. The 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. 5.10 PERSUASIVE VALUE OF SUPREME COURT OPINIONS. Published Opinions and rulings of the Supreme Court shall have persuasive, but not controlling, precedential value in subsequent proceedings of the Supreme Court.

Sec. 5.11 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 Election Code.

## **Article VI**

### STUDENT ELECTIONS

Sec. 6.1 ANNUAL FALL AND SPRING ELECTIONS. Regular Student Elections shall be held in the Fall and Spring session and will follow the election code published by the Judicial Branch. In the event that the election code has not yet been published by the Judicial branch in the appropriate timeline, then the election code followed by the previous election shall act as the serving election code.

Sec. 6.2 ELECTION CODE APPROVAL. Any student may submit an amendment to the Election Code. The Supreme Court will review the Election Code each semester 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 election cycle.

Sec. 6.3 ELECTION DISPUTES. The Supreme Court, in accordance with the Election Code, shall hear election disputes and grievances.

## **Article VII**

### IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL, AND RESIGNATION

Sec. 7.1 QUALIFICATION FOR IMPEACHMENT. The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the Senate, Chief Justice, Senate members, and other Justices 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.

Sec. 7.2 IMPEACHMENT LEGISLATION. Impeachment legislation must be sponsored by a voting member of the Senate along with the submission of a petition of twenty-five (25) percent of the voting members of the 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. 7.3 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 his/her position before the 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. 7.4 OPEN PROCEEDINGS. Impeachment hearings shall be open to the public.
- Sec. 7.5 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 Student Government for a period of one (1) term.
- Sec. 7.6 QUALIFICATION FOR REMOVAL. All Senate members and appointed positions within Student Government 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. 7.7 REMOVAL PROCEDURES. The Student Government member shall be sent a letter or electronic communication 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 Supreme Court. If the member fails to appeal within the allotted time, the member forfeits their membership.
- Sec. 7.8 INELIGIBILITY AFTER REMOVAL. No person after being removed from their office may be allowed to be considered as a candidate or a nominee/appointee for any position in the Student Government for a period of one (1) term. The member forfeits all sessions previously elected or appointed to as well.
- Sec. 7.9 APPEAL FOR READMISSION. If a Student Government member appeals for readmission to their previous position, the Supreme Court shall hold a hearing to listen to all parties involved in the case.
- A. The Chief Justice shall serve as the presiding officer of the hearing.
  - B. 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 Student Government 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. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Supreme Court shall be required to overrule the initial removal decision.

- Sec. 7.10 RESIGNATIONS. Any member of Student Government may resign from their position by sending an email outlining their resignation to the highest-ranking officer in their respective branch. Student Government officers may resign from their position by sending an email outlining their resignation to the Student Government Advisor.
- A. A member of Student Government 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 in Student Government for a period of (1) term.
- B. A member of Student Government 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 VIII

### INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

- Sec. 8.1 RIGHT TO REFERENDUM. Students have the right to call a binding referendum that follows the Resolution process or a non-binding referendum that bears the signatures of at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) UTA student signatures with the students' identification numbers. Complying with either method resolves in the student concern being put on the ballot during the next student election.
- Sec. 8.2 CALLING FOR REFERENDUMS OF A BINDING NATURE. In order for a student to call for a binding referendum the student must submit their concern as a resolution to the Student Senate. The "Be it Therefore Resolved" statement of the resolution should clearly state that the student is calling for a referendum. After submission, the resolution/referendum will follow the resolution process: the Student Senate will vote on the resolution/referendum, then it will go to the Student Body President who will present it to the University President. The University President must approve the resolution/referendum in order for it to be placed on the next student election ballot. If the University President approves the resolution/referendum, the referendum will become a binding referendum, and by majority vote of the Student Body during Student Elections, the referendum will be enforced by the university.
- Sec. 8.3 CALLING FOR REFERENDUMS OF A NON-BINDING NATURE. Students may petition for a non-binding referendum by collecting at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) signatures and student ID numbers of UTA students. Petitioners must understand that the referendum they are calling for is non-binding and is

used solely for judging students' feelings on an issue and if the referendum does receive majority vote from the student body in favor of the concern, the university is not subjected to enforce the actions that the referendum is requesting. The petition will become a referendum only if the petitioner follow the processes listed below:

- A. Petitioner must file a statement of intent with the Speaker of the Senate with draft of language of the referendum six (6) weeks prior to the first day of filing for Student Elections.
- B. Wording of the referendum must be approved by the Speaker of the Senate, and the UTA legal team four (4) weeks prior to the first day of filing for Student Elections.
- C. Petition format must be approved by the Speaker of the Senate three (3) weeks before the first day of filing for Student Elections. Petitions must include the language of referendum, student printed name, student signature, and student ID number. Petitions may not be online through any digital source or format.
- D. The one thousand five hundred (1,500) student signatures must be turned into the Chief Justice and the Election Supervisory Board by the last business day prior to the first day of filing for Student Elections. The Chief Justice and the Election Supervisory Board will then validate the student ID numbers by the end of the week of filing for Student Elections.
  - a. If at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) student signatures and ID numbers are valid, then the referendum will be put on the ballot for the next student election.
  - b. If less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) student signatures and ID numbers are valid, then the petitioner will have exactly one (1) week to gather the necessary signatures to satisfy the mentioned signature requirement.
- E. Upon the validation of the student signatures and ID numbers listed on the petition, petitioners are then subjected to the Election Code same as any other student candidate.
- F. If the referendum receives an in-favor majority vote by the student body, then the Student Body President will send the referendum results to the University President within one (1) week of the elections results being posted.
- G. The University President then is encouraged to respond via public statement to the university community or written decision to the Student Body President within three (3) weeks of the election results being posted.

Sec. 8.4 AMENDMENTS TO REFERENDUM. The wording of a referendum or initiative submitted by petition may be amended only if approved by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall not approve the amending of a ballot item if requested less than three (3) weeks in advance of the scheduled election. Additionally, the Supreme Court shall not approve the amending of the ballot if the proposed

amendment changes the effect or substance of the original petition submitted, or if the amendment significantly alters the original petition in any other way.

## **Article IX**

### THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- Sec. 9.1      **AMBASSADOR STRUCTURE.** The Ambassador Program shall be composed of Mr. UTA, Ms. UTA, and a number of Ambassadors to be determined by the Department of Student Governance.
- Sec. 9.2      **ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS AN AMBASSADOR.** Eligibility to serve as an ambassador requires a student to have an overall grade point average of not less than a 2.0 on a 4.0 system (excluding first semester students) and to be currently enrolled for at least six hours. First semester students shall be permitted to be candidates for ambassador.
- Sec. 9.3      **ELECTION OF MR. AND MS. UTA.** Mr. UTA and Ms. UTA shall be elected at large from the Student body each spring semester for a one year term.
- Sec. 9.4      **STAGGERED TERMS.** The terms for the Ambassadors shall be staggered in the following manner: A fraction of the positions shall be filled by at-large election in the Spring and Fall to serve one year or six month terms.
- Sec. 9.5      **VACANCIES IN AMBASSADORS.** Vacancies that occur in the Ambassador Program during the year shall be filled by appointment; by Mr. and Ms. UTA with the approval of the advisor, until the next general election.
- Sec. 9.6      **FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF AMBASSADORS.** The members of the Ambassador Program shall act as official University hosts and hostesses; maintain and promote campus pride and traditions; and plan and implement events to encourage student spirit.
- Sec. 9.7      **ADVISOR.** The Director of Student Governance or his/her delegate shall be the advisor of the Ambassador Program.
- Sec. 9.8      **OWN RULES FOR PROCEDURE.** The Ambassador Program shall adopt its own rules for procedure.

## **Article X**

### STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD

- Sec. 10.1      **NECESSARY ESTABLISHMENT TO ACHIEVE GOALS.** The Student Programming Board shall establish such offices as may be necessary to achieve its goals and discharge its responsibilities.

- Sec. 10.2      **STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION.** A member of Student Government shall serve as a non-voting member of the Student Programming Board.
- Sec. 10.3      **REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.** A student must have and maintain an overall grade point average of not less than 2.0 on a 4.0 system and be neither on disciplinary nor scholastic probation in order to be eligible for membership on the Student Programming Board.
- Sec. 10.4      **SPONSOR FOR THE STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD.** The Director of Student Activities or his/her delegate shall be the Sponsor of the Student Programming Board.
- Sec. 10.5      **RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD.** The Student Programming Board shall have the primary responsibility for planning and administering a program of activities that strive to fulfill the cultural, recreational, social, and special needs and interests of the Student Community.
- Sec. 10.6      **CREATION OF SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEES.** The Student Programming Board shall create such subsidiary committees as may be necessary for the achievement of its goals.
- Sec. 10.7      **COORDINATION FOR SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEES.** The Student Programming Board shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of the subsidiary committees.
- Sec. 10.8      **CONSIDER OPTIONS FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT.** The Student Programming Board shall consider the opinions and the recommendations of the Student community as expressed by the Student Government.
- Sec. 10.9      **OWN RULES FOR PROCEEDURE.** The Student Programming Board shall adopt its own rules for procedure; however, the Student Programming Board shall not put any restrictions on the number of members.
- Sec. 10.10     **MINIMUM MEETING REQUIREMENT.** The Student Programming Board shall hold a minimum of one regular meeting each month.
- Sec. 10.11     **PRESENTATION OF BUDGET.** The Student Programming Board shall supply, upon request of the Student Government, an itemized budget of all activities each semester. This budget shall include all costs, revenues, and a breakdown of attendance figures for all programs.

## **Article XI**

### **CONSTITUENCY COUNCILS**



- Sec. 11.1 SUBJECT TO UNIVERSITY RULES. Each Constituency Council is subject to University rules which govern student organizations.
- Sec. 11.2 GOAL OF CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL. The Constituency Councils shall strive to increase student participation within their respective School or College.
- Sec. 11.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES. Each Constituency Council may establish such offices as may be necessary to achieve its goals and discharge its responsibilities.

## **Article XII**

### GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

- Sec. 12.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTION. The Graduate Student Council may establish a constitution as deemed necessary, provided that the constitution and subsequent amendments be approved by the overarching Student Government.
- Sec. 12.2 QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP. The Graduate Student Council shall establish its own qualifications for membership.
- Sec. 12.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES. The Graduate Student Council may establish such offices as may be necessary to achieve its goals and discharge its responsibilities.
- Sec. 12.4 GOAL OF GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL. The Graduate Student Council shall strive to increase graduate student participation within the University Community and help the Student Government represent the needs of graduate students.
- Sec. 12.5 ADVISOR. The Director of Student Governance or his/her delegate shall be the Advisor of the Graduate Student Council.

## **Article XIII**

### UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- Sec. 13.1 SUBMISSION OF NAMES. The Leadership Team of the Student Government in consultation with the Vice-President for Student Affairs shall submit to the President of The University of Texas at Arlington the names of those committees upon which student representation is desired.

- Sec. 13.2 NUMBER OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. The number of student representatives may vary on the several committees as determined by the President of The University of Texas at Arlington.
- Sec. 13.3 RECOMMENDATION BY THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. The student members of the University Committees shall be recommended by the Student Body President for appointment by the President of The University of Texas at Arlington, through the Vice-President for Student Affairs, and shall serve for a one-year term.
- Sec. 13.4 ELIBILITY TO SERVE ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES. Eligibility to serve on the University Committees requires a student to have an overall grade point ratio of not less than 2.0 on a 4.0 system (except for first semester students) and to be currently enrolled for at least six hours.
- Sec. 13.5 RIGHT TO VOTE. The student members of the several University Committees shall have the right to vote on their respective committees unless this right is specifically denied by the President of the University.
- Sec. 13.6 INTRODUCTION OF IDEA. The Student Government, by a simple majority vote of the Leadership Team, may direct a student member of one of the several University Committees to introduce a particular idea, motion, or piece of legislation to his respective committee, but shall have no control over his/her vote.
- Sec. 13.7 REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES. The student members of the several University Committees shall report regularly to the Vice President of the Student Government the activities of their respective committees.
- Sec. 13.8 REMOVAL FROM A UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE. A student member of the University Committee may be removed for cause from his/her position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Supreme Court, provided said member has been given seven (7) days advance notice of the proposed removal and is granted the opportunity to defend him/herself before the Supreme Court.

# Article XIV

## AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 14.1 APPROVAL PROCESS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be introduced in writing to the Senate not less than one regular meeting prior to voting and shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting for approval.
- Sec. 14.2 ENACTMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. Proposed amendments shall become effective upon the approval of the Student Government, the advisor, the Vice-President for Student Affairs, the President of The University of Texas at Arlington, and if applicable, the Chancellor of The University of Texas System, and the Board of Regents.

# Article XV

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 15.1 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. 15.2 NO DEFICIT EXPENDITURES. No expenditures shall be allowed that would result in a deficit in any Student Government account.
- Sec. 15.3 PROHIBITION ON SERVING IN TWO ELECTED POSITIONS OR DUPLICITY OF OFFICERS. Two elective offices shall not be held simultaneously by the same person, nor shall two persons simultaneously hold the same elective office.
- Sec. 15.4 PROHIBITION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENTS. Student Government, 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 Student Government election code.
- Sec. 15.5 RECOGNITION OF HIGHER CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES. This Constitution and its associated rules, regulations, and amendments are subject to provisions of the rules and regulations of The University of Texas at Arlington, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, laws of the state of Texas, and laws of the United States of America.

**BYLAWS**  
TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT COMMUNITY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

## **Article I**

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Sec. 1.1      **COMPOSITION OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM.** The Leadership Team of Student Government shall consist of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Chief of Staff, 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 Student Government 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 Student Government policy. It shall attend to the internal management of the Student Government such that the normal course of business will flow in an orderly manner. The Leadership Team shall conduct the routine management of Student Government 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 and bills passed by the Senate by signing them, or refer resolutions and bills 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 The University of Texas at Arlington, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, the City of Arlington, and the Texas Legislature in a manner consistent with the enacted policies, positions, and stances of Student Government.
  - D.    Serve on, or send a representative to, the committees, boards, and legislative bodies of which the President is a regular standing member.
  - E.    Appoint students to serve on University Committees and boards.
  - F.    At least once a session, address the 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 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 Student Government.

- Sec. 1.5 VICE PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Vice President shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Serve on the committees, boards, and legislative bodies of which the Vice President is a regular standing member.
  - B. Coordinate student involvement in University Committees, oversee the Assembly of College Councils, oversee the Maverick Discount Program, and serve on the Undergraduate Assembly.
  - C. Assist the President with assigned responsibilities.
  - D. Assume the Presidency in the event that the President is unavailable to fulfill the duties of the office.
  - E. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of Student Government.
- Sec. 1.6 CHIEF OF STAFF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Chief of Staff shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Assist the President or Executive Branch in any task that is deemed necessary by the President.
  - B. Oversee the External Relations Director and Legislative Relations Director.
  - C. Research and report the findings of local and federal legislation regarding higher education, or anything that may be deemed associated with the University of Texas at Arlington
  - D. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of Student Government.
- Sec. 1.7 SPEAKER OF THE SENATE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Chair 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 advisor approval.
  - F. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of Student Government.
- Sec. 1.8 CHIEF JUSTICE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Chief Justice shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Chair Supreme Court meetings.
  - B. Coordinate the activities of the Supreme Court and any other inferior entities within the judicial branch.
  - C. Manage the Program Assistance Fund and monitor the Student Government budget.
  - D. Maintain the official journal of all Supreme Court opinions.
  - E. Perform other duties as deemed necessary for the running of Student Government.

# Article II

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Sec. 2.1 ASSEMBLY OF COLLEGE COUNCILS. The Assembly of College Councils shall exist to promote relationships between each of the Constituency Councils to better serve the Student Community.

- A. COMPOSITION. The Assembly of College Councils will be composed of two representatives from each Constituency Council, including the Graduate Student Council. If a College or School does not have an active Constituency Council, the Student Body Vice President will work with the Dean of the College/School to appoint two representatives.
- B. MEETINGS. The Assembly of College Council will meet at least once per month during the fall and spring semesters.
- C. CHAIR. The Student Body Vice President shall chair the Assembly of College Councils.

Sec. 2.2 STANDING COMMITTEES. The standing committees of the executive branch include the External Relations Committee and Legislative Relations Committee.

- A. EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. The External Relations Committee shall plan and implement programs and activities to connect with the Student Community at The University of Texas at Arlington. The Committee shall work with the other branches of Student Government to promote the organization's mission and initiatives.
- B. LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS COMMITTEE. The Legislative Relations Committee shall maintain already existing and establish new relationships with the governing bodies that influence the University. Namely, the UT System Board of Regents, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, municipal leaders in the City of Arlington, and the State of Texas elected officials. The External Relations Committee shall be responsible for all programming pertaining to the City of Arlington, State of Texas, and National Elections.
- C. Quorum for the committees will be met when one-half of the committee's regular membership is present.
- D. Any member of the Student Community may serve on a committee without vote and if approved by the Leadership Team and advisor.
- E. No standing committee shall be composed of less than six students.
- F. The Chief of Staff with approval of the Student Body President and consultation of the Student Government Advisor shall appoint members of the committees.
- G. Chairs of the standing committees shall be chosen by the Chief of Staff from among the members of the committees.

# Article III

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Sec. 3.1 MEETINGS. The Senate and/or 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 approval of the advisor.

- A. No formal action can be taken by the Senate without a quorum present, which shall consist of one-half (1/2) of the Senate membership.
- B. The 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 Senate regular meeting shall be when a quorum is met and business is conducted.

Sec. 3.2 LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE. The University of Texas at Arlington Student Government is the only entity that may pass student resolutions to the administration for consideration.

### A. RESOLUTIONS

- a. Any resolution may be presented to the floor of the Senate by a sponsoring Senator.
- b. A resolution must be read by its author or a sponsor on the floor of the Senate.
- c. The Chair must 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.
- d. 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.
- e. Standards for resolution research shall be set by the Speaker of the Senate.
- f. Any resolution given a negative approval vote after being researched by a committee shall be referred to Speaker of the Senate for final disposition. The Speaker can choose whether or not to forward a resolution to the general body.
- g. All resolutions voted out of a committee must be accompanied by a brief explaining the majority and minority votes.
- h. Once a resolution is submitted to the general body, the floor will be open for discussion and/or amendments of the resolution.
- i. 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.

- j. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at any Senate meeting will be required in order to suspend temporarily Article III, Section 3.2.

#### B. PROPOSALS

- a. A proposal is a written document requesting Student Senate to take a vote on an issue that another branch of Student Government deems appropriate.
- b. A proposal will be introduced as New Business in a General Body meeting and voted on no sooner than the following General Body meeting.
- c. A proposal may not be referred to a Committee if appropriate research was completed by another branch of Student Government. If adequate research was not completed, Student Senate may send the proposal to a standing committee for additional research.
- d. Standards for proposal research shall be set by the Speaker of the Senate.
- e. Once a proposal is read as Old Business to the general body, the floor will be open for discussion and/or amendments of the proposal.
- f. After the conclusion of discussion, the proposal will be read in its final form, and the proposal 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.
- g. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at any 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, Student Affairs Committee, and Special 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. SPECIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. The Special Affairs Committee shall be responsible for investigating the general welfare of matters not specified for the other standing committees.
- E. No member of the Senate shall serve on more than one standing committee in the legislative branch.
- F. Quorum for committees will be met when one-half of the committee's regular membership is present.



- G. Any member of the Student Community may serve on a committee without vote and if approved by the Leadership Team and advisor.
- H. No standing committee shall be composed of less than six senators.
- I. Chairs of the standing committees shall be chosen by the Speaker of the Senate from among the members of the Senate.

## **Article IV**

### JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Sec. 4.1      **MEETINGS.** The Supreme Court shall meet at least twice 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 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 Student Government Leadership Team, in consultation with the Student Government Advisor may determine a plan for the work of the Supreme Court to continue in the interim.
- Sec. 4.2      **JURISDICTION.** The Supreme Court shall have sole original and supreme jurisdiction in all cases arising under this Constitution and the Student Government Bylaws, as well as any matter concerning controlling authority upon the acts of Student Government. The Supreme Court shall interpret this Constitution and Bylaws, in consultation with the Student Government 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 Supreme Court shall have the power to declare null and void any act of Student Government that materially violates this Constitution or the Student Government 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 Student Government will be expected to meet attendance and participation requirements as stated in the membership policies and procedures as determined by the Student Government

Leadership Team. Failure to do so will result in removal from their position, as outlined in Article VIII of the Constitution for the Student Community.

- A. ATTENDANCE. Expulsion from membership shall be automatic upon the acquisition of three (3) absences in one (1) session from either general meetings or Standing 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.
  - ii. Members with two (2) absences will be notified with a warning sent via letter or electronic communication.
  - iii. Members will be counted absence if they miss more than ten (10) minutes of a 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. Two tardy occurrences shall equal one 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 10 minutes; 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 Student Government shall be obligated to earn required participation points. The Student Government 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 Senate at least one 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 Vice President for Student Affairs and the President of The University of Texas at Arlington.

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

Amended Fall 1994

Submitted for Ratification Spring 1995

Approved on April 18, 1995

Amended Fall 1998

Amended Spring 2001

Amended Fall 2002

Amended Spring 2005

Amended Fall 2009

Amended Spring 2010

Amended Fall 2014

Amended Fall 2014

Amended Spring 2016

Amended Spring 2017

Amended Spring 2018

Amended Spring 2019