



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Mission

The Student Government Association (SGA) advocates for student interests by serving on student standing and university-wide committees to gather feedback and create a culture of student participation and civic engagement.

Purpose

The Student Government Association at Texas A&M International University serves as the official voice of the student body. The Student Government Association shall be considered and referred to as the official advisory body of the students to university administration, faculty, and staff. In addition, it will serve as a voice to the Board of Regents and the Texas Legislature in all matters affecting the student body.

THE CODE OF ETHICS

No member shall knowingly misrepresent the truth while acting in their capacity as a Student Government Association member. No member of the Student Government Association shall bestow favors or offer special considerations of any kind. No member of the Student Government Association shall misuse, mismanage, or misappropriate the equipment, facilities, or funds of the Student Government Association. No member of the Student Government Association shall hold office while on disciplinary probation. All members of the Student Government Association must be in good standing with the University as defined in the student handbook and uphold the policies and procedures of the student handbook. Each member must be able to give a thorough accounting of all Student Government Association funds they spent and a thorough inventory of all goods and/or services received. Each member must make every reasonable attempt to fulfill their responsibilities to the best of their ability. Each member must discharge their duties in good faith and with due regard for the welfare of the entire Student Body. Each member of the Student Government Association shall conduct themselves professionally at all official TAMIU functions. All officers of the Student Government Association are to remain impartial in personal opinions on all actions taken and only act based on the welfare of their constituents.

THE OATH OF OFFICE

"I (state your full name) -- do solemnly swear -- that I will uphold the Constitution and By-Laws -- of the Student Government Association -- of Texas A&M International University -- and that I will faithfully and impartially -- execute and perform -- all of the duties incumbent upon me -- according to the best of my ability and understanding."

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CODE OF ETHICS AND OATH OF OFFICE

The Code of Ethics is important in establishing a standard of conduct for Student Government Association members (SGA). Ethical behavior is vital to an effective and respected SGA. All members of SGA, whether they are appointed or elected, should keep the Code of Ethics at the forefront of their affairs and always be prepared to account for their words and actions.

READING THE CODE OF ETHICS AND OATH OF OFFICE

The Code of Ethics and Conduct shall be read in full at the beginning of the first (1st) Regular Student Senate Meeting of each of the long semesters, directly following the swearing in of newly elected and/or appointed officers, at the beginning of the first (1st) meeting of the SGA Judicial Branch, the SGA Appeals Court, and the Student Body President's Executive Board.

TITLE I: THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) Student Government Association (SGA).

ARTICLE 2: GOVERNING STRUCTURE

The governing structure of SGA shall consist of three (3) branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

ARTICLE 3: CHECKS AND BALANCES

To establish an effective system of Checks and Balances, it shall be stated that SGA officers may solely occupy one (1) elected or appointed position within one (1) branch. Exception being membership in University Wide Committee, Ad-Hoc Committees, and Student Standing Committees.

ARTICLE 4: REPRESENTATION

SGA shall be considered and referred to as the official advisory body of the students to university administration, faculty, and staff. In addition, it will serve as a voice to the Board of Regents and the Texas Legislature in all matters affecting the student body.

ARTICLE 5: Student Body's Role in the SGA

All full-time and part-time students enrolled and attending TAMIU are members of SGA. All meetings of the Student Senate are open to every member of the Student Body.

ARTICLE 6: SGA Advisor

The Advisors are entrusted to aid and advise officers in all branches of SGA, provide beneficial relations between administration and SGA officers, make provisions, and finalize all actions taken by SGA. They are to be non-voting member(s) of SGA.

ARTICLE 2: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1: GPA

- a. All members of the Executive Branch shall have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 TAMIU GPA while holding office.
- b. There shall be no GPA requirement for the first semester of a freshman or transfer student.

SECTION 2: ENROLLMENT

All members must be registered for at least six (6) semester credit hours at the time of filing and while holding office.

SECTION 3: STUDENT HANDBOOK

No member of the SGA shall be on disciplinary probation while serving their term of office. All members must have a good standing with the University as defined in the student handbook.

TITLE II: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Branch of the SGA shall be composed of the Student Body President and Vice President, Director of Advocacy, Director of Records, Director of Finance, Director of Public Relations, Director of Staff, PAC Committee Co-Chairs, Traditions Committee Co-Chairs, IDEA Committee Co-Chairs, and LOVE Committee Co-Chairs.

TITLE III: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP

The Judicial Branch of the SGA shall be composed of the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.

TITLE IV: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP

The Legislative Branch of the SGA shall be composed of ten (10) Senators. One (1) shall be elected as the Speaker of the senate, and one (1) shall be elected as the Speaker Pro-Tempore.

TITLE V: AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 1: AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE SGA

This Constitution has 3 sets of By-Laws and an Elections Code, which are all official Governing Documents. Changing any Governing Document requires an amendment with a two-thirds vote from the total number of Student Senators present.

SECTION 1: Amendments to any Governing Document, may be proposed exclusively by a member of the Student Senate.

SECTION 2: All amendments must be reviewed by the SGA Court, prior to the voting process, to ensure that the proposed amendments do not conflict with or contradict any part of any Governing Document.

Section 3: Legislation not signed or vetoed by the President within five (5) academic calendar days shall be considered enacted.

ARTICLE 2: AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE STUDENT BODY

The privilege of initiative is hereby secured to the Student Body, meaning they can propose constitutional amendments in the following order.

SECTION 1: A petition must be signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Student Body and submitted to the Speaker of the Senate. This shall be followed by a presentation by the petitioner at the upcoming senate meeting requesting an election for consideration of a constitutional amendment. If the request is approved by 2/3 of the senate, an election must be held by the SGA between ten (10) to twenty (20) academic days following the presentation.

TITLE VI: SGA RECORDS

SGA Records exist as a tab in the official SGA Website. The purpose for this tab is to promote transparency by keeping up-to-date records of the SGA Senate meeting minutes, SGA Executive Cabinet Meeting Minutes, SGA Finance reports, and amendments to any governing documents.

TITLE VII: AUXILIARY DOCUMENTS

Any amendment document (e.g. Bill, Resolution, Executive Order, etc.) shall be entered at the end of their respective Governing Document's "Auxiliary Records" title by the Chief Justice within 48 hours of becoming official.

TITLE VIII: AREA OF APPLICATION

SECTION 1: This Constitution, along with its By-Laws and official actions, is the highest authority for student matters at Texas A&M International University. However, it doesn't take away any fundamental rights that the student body retains.

SECTION 2: Nothing in this Constitution shall supersede the power and authority of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, the laws of the State of Texas, or the laws of the United States of America.

ARTICLE IX: TERM LIMITS

SECTION 1: A term of office for all membership in the Executive Branch shall commence upon being sworn into office and shall expire upon the swearing in of new membership.

SECTION 2: Elected members of the Executive Branch shall be sworn in to take office during the Emerging Leaders Celebration Award Event.

ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION

This Constitution has been ratified by the Student Government Association of Texas A&M International University through a voting process. The signatures below verify this vote was fair.

Student Body President

Speaker of the Senate

Chief Justice

Student Government Association Advisor
