



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

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

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

Section 3 – Membership

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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; and
- (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

- (1) The Student Government Association shall grant all legislative power and authority to a Senate.
- (2) 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

- (1) 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) Delineate and oversee the selection process for the Student Trustee;
 - (e) Enact, modify, and repeal regulations governing the operations of the Student Government Association within the SGA Policies Manual;
 - (f) Establish an annual maximum limit of S.O.L.O. Fund requests by registered student organizations;
 - (g) Establish committees and commissions as needed to address specific areas of student governance;
 - (h) Impeach and remove any SGA member for misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, or for violations of their oath of office;
 - (i) Hold meetings to discuss, debate, and vote on proposed legislation, amendments, and other matters affecting the student body;
 - (j) Maintain a record of all proceedings, decisions, and enacted legislation, in collaboration with the Secretary and Chief Clerk;
 - (k) Override the SGA President's veto as needed;
 - (l) Oversee the allocation of student funds and resources to registered student organizations and other relevant entities;
 - (m) Provide opinions and recommendations to university administration and to members of the community on matters of student interest;
 - (n) Review existing legislation periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness;
 - (o) Respond to student petitions and referendums; and
 - (p) Work with the Executive Branch to ensure that legislation is effectively implemented and enforced.
- (2) 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.
 - (3) 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.
 - (4) The Senate shall elect a Chief Clerk, a Parliamentarian, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, who need not be members of the Senate.
 - (5) The Senate may create additional officer positions as necessary within its rules.
 - (6) All officers of the Senate, notwithstanding the Speaker of the Senate, shall serve at the pleasure of the Senate.

- (7) 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

- (1) The Legislative Council shall be responsible for the administrative operations of the Senate.
- (2) The Legislative Council shall collectively fulfill the following duties:
 - (a) Coordinate any Senate-sponsored initiative;
 - (b) Ensure the efficient operation of Senate meetings;
 - (c) Oversee the operation of Senate committees and commissions as provided in the rules of the Senate;
 - (d) Recognize members of the Senate for good conduct;
 - (e) Review any violations of the Code of Conduct by members of the Senate;
 - (f) Solicit feedback on Senate performance from members of the Senate; and
 - (g) Perform any other duty as established by law or by Senate rule.
- (3) The Legislative Council shall consist of the following members:
 - (a) The Speaker of the Senate;
 - (b) The Speaker Pro Tempore;
 - (c) The Chief Clerk;
 - (d) The Parliamentarian;
 - (e) The Sergeant-at-Arms;
 - (f) A Senator serving on the S.O.L.O. Funding Committee designated by the Treasurer; and
 - (g) The Chairs of all Senate standing committees, excluding the S.O.L.O. Funding Committee.
- (4) All decisions of the Legislative Council shall be subject to review by the Senate.
- (5) Notwithstanding Section 1 of this Article, an individual who holds two or more positions enumerated in this section shall be entitled to a single vote on the Legislative Council notwithstanding that individual's service in multiple capacities.
- (6) The Legislative Council shall meet as provided in the rules of the Senate.

Section 4 – Members of the Senate

- (1) The Senate shall be composed of Senators from each duly recognized constituency as enumerated herein and chosen by their respective constituency.

- (2) The Senate shall be composed of four (4) distinct groups of members:
- (a) Academic Senators
 - (i) These members shall represent the views and interests of their college or school.
 - (ii) The following colleges and schools are entitled to representation in the Senate:
 - (A) the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology,
 - (B) the College of Arts and Sciences,
 - (C) the College of Business,
 - (D) the College of Education and Human Sciences,
 - (E) the College of Engineering,
 - (F) the College of Fine Arts,
 - (G) the College of Graduate Studies,
 - (H) the College of Interdisciplinary Studies,
 - (I) the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing, and
 - (J) any future college or school having a dean and recognized by an official act of the university as a distinct academic unit.
 - (iii) Each college or school shall be entitled to no fewer than two (2) Senators.
 - (iv) The Senate shall provide by law for the apportionment of additional Academic Senators on the basis of enrollment, including the minimum enrollment thresholds, the ratio of Senators to students, and the enrollment data used for calculation.
 - (v) 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
 - (i) These members shall represent the views and interests of freshmen students at the university.
 - (ii) There shall be no fewer than two (2) Freshman Senators.
 - (iii) The Senate shall provide by law for the apportionment of additional Freshman Senators on the basis of enrollment, including the minimum enrollment thresholds, the ratio of Senators to students, and the enrollment data used for calculation.
 - (iv) The freshman membership of the First Year Assembly shall appoint the Freshman Senators from their membership.

- (v) No member shall serve more than two (2) semesters as a Freshman Senator.
- (c) Transfer Senators
 - (i) These members shall represent the views and interests of those in the student body who have transferred to the university from another institution.
 - (ii) There shall be no fewer than two (2) Transfer Senators.
 - (iii) The Senate shall provide by law for the apportionment of additional Transfer Senators on the basis of enrollment, including the minimum enrollment thresholds, the ratio of Senators to students, and the enrollment data used for calculation.
 - (iv) The Commission for Nominations shall appoint the Transfer Senators.
- (d) Special Interest Senators
 - (i) These members shall represent the views and interests of specific student groups of the university who might otherwise be underrepresented in the Senate.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) The following groups are entitled to representation in the Senate:
 - (A) The Accessible Education Center (AEC) shall appoint one (1) Senator familiar with the importance of providing equal access and resources to students with disabilities,
 - (B) The Golden Eagle Battalion shall appoint one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of students in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program,
 - (C) The Honors Program shall appoint one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of Honors students,
 - (D) The Residence Hall Association (RHA) shall appoint one (1) Senator to represent the views and interests of students living on campus,
 - (E) The Office of Intercultural Affairs (OIA) shall appoint one (1) Senator to represent the perspectives of students served by that office,
 - (F) The Office of International Education (OIE) shall appoint one (1) Senator to represent international students'

- unique experiences and promote intercultural fluency within the Student Government Association, and
- (G) The Commission for Nominations shall appoint one (1) Senator, who shall be a nontraditional student as defined by the university, to represent the views and interests of nontraditional students.

Section 5 – Meetings of the Senate

- (1) The Senate shall assemble at a time set by the Executive Council, with meetings occurring at least two (2) times in the months of September, October, November, February, March, and April. The Executive Council may call additional meetings of the Senate in any month. No meeting shall occur during examination periods or during academic breaks. The SGA Secretary shall create and publish a schedule of the Senate and its agendas for viewing by the student body.
- (2) 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.
- (3) The Senate may adopt special rules of order for its proceedings upon the consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the chamber. The Senate may censure its members for disorderly or unethical behavior by majority vote. Other disciplinary action shall require the consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the chamber. However, the expulsion of a member shall only be upon conviction of a charge of impeachment under Article VI.
- (4) A majority of the members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business.
- (5) The Senate may provide by law or by rule for the attendance of its members and of the members of its committees and commissions, and for the enforcement of those requirements.

Section 6 – The Legislative Process

- (1) The Senate shall establish procedures for the consideration of legislative proposals and shall provide members the opportunity for debate, discussion, and amendment.
- (2) 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.
- (3) The Speaker of the Senate, in collaboration with 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

vetoed the legislation, the Senate may override the veto by a two-thirds vote (2/3).

- (4) 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 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 conviction upon a charge of impeachment. Officers of the Senate who are not members of the Senate shall meet the qualifications established for Senators under this Section.

Section 8 – Terms of Office

- (1) The term of office for members of the Senate who are Academic, Freshman, or Transfer Senators 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.
- (2) The term of office for Special Interest Senators shall begin following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office and shall continue until the appointing entity selects a new representative, or until the Senator resigns or is 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 Secretary, who shall announce such resignation to the members of the Senate within three (3) days of its reception.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1 – General Provisions

- (1) All executive powers shall be granted to the Executive Branch. Powers not explicitly granted by this Constitution to any branch of the Student Government Association may be exercised by the Executive Branch only as authorized by law.
- (2) 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

- (1) The Executive Branch shall consist of two (2) classes of officers, those elected by the student body and those appointed by the Executive Council.
- (2) The four (4) executive officers elected by the student body shall be the following:
 - (a) The President;
 - (b) The Vice President;
 - (c) The Secretary; and
 - (d) The Treasurer.
- (3) The following appointed officers are established by this Constitution and shall be members of the Executive Cabinet:
 - (a) The Chief of Staff;
 - (b) The Advisor for the Executive Programs;
 - (c) The Secretary of Communications and Outreach; and
 - (d) The Secretary of Government and Policy.
- (4) The Senate may establish by law additional appointed positions within the Executive Branch. The law establishing a position shall state its title and whether it is a Cabinet position.
- (5) Any individual appointed to an appointed office established by this Constitution, or to a position designated by law as a Cabinet position, shall be subject to confirmation by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership of the Senate.
- (6) The Senate shall provide by law for Executive Programs and for the duties of the Advisor for the Executive Programs.

Section 3 – The Executive Council

- (1) The Executive Council shall be the chief executive body of the Student Government Association and shall be responsible for the general management and administration of the Executive Branch.
- (2) The Executive Council shall consist of the following four (4) elected members:
 - (a) The President;
 - (b) The Vice President;
 - (c) The Secretary; and
 - (d) The Treasurer.
- (3) The Executive Council shall collectively fulfill the following duties:
 - (a) Advocate for student interests and concerns;

- (b) Appoint members of the Executive Cabinet, non-Cabinet Deputies, and any administrative assistants, subject to the limits of this Constitution;
 - (c) Engage in regular consultation with the student body;
 - (d) Ensure effective communication and collaboration between the various branches of the SGA;
 - (e) Ensure the SGA complies with the SGA Constitution, the SGA Policies Manual, the SGA Code of Conduct, and university policies and regulations;
 - (f) Facilitate professional development and training opportunities for SGA members;
 - (g) Hold meetings to discuss and coordinate on matters of governance, policy, and student welfare;
 - (h) Oversee the operations of the Executive Cabinet and non-Cabinet Deputies;
 - (i) Represent the student body and the Student Government Association to university administration, faculty, staff, students, and surrounding community;
 - (j) Support the organization of campus-wide events and programs;
 - (k) Set the overall mission, vision, and strategy of the Student Government Association; and
 - (l) Work towards creating a positive and tolerant environment within the SGA and the broader university community.
- (4) Each member of the Executive Council shall individually supervise the administrative assistants appointed by that member.
- (5) The President shall fulfill the following duties:
- (a) Approve, reject, or acquiesce to, in their entirety, pieces of legislation passed by the Senate within seven (7) days of their reception;
 - (b) Delegate the implementation of policies and regulations to other executive officers as appropriate;
 - (c) Formulate and implement policies for the effective functioning of the Executive Branch;
 - (d) Issue a report to the student body, within the first month of the Spring semester, regarding the state of the campus;
 - (e) Meet regularly with the Executive Council and other executive officers;
 - (f) Meet regularly with members of university administration to bring issues of concern to their attention;
 - (g) Serve as the chair of the Executive Council;

- (h) Serve as a non-voting, ex officio member of all committees, commissions, and other bodies established within the Executive Branch or by executive order, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution or by law;
 - (i) Serve as a voting member of various university committees as directed by university policy and the university president; and
 - (j) Write, amend, or retire executive orders as necessary to properly govern the operations of the Executive Branch.
- (6) The Vice President shall fulfill the following duties:
- (a) Attend all meetings of the Senate;
 - (b) Assist the President in the proper and orderly administration of the SGA;
 - (c) 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;
 - (d) Ensure any Senate legislation is appropriately forwarded to relevant university offices, in collaboration with the Secretary;
 - (e) Oversee special projects and initiatives as assigned by the President or the Executive Council;
 - (f) Serve as Speaker of the Senate and as a non-voting, ex officio member of all Senate Committees and Commissions;
 - (g) Serve as Chair of the Legislative Council and Vice Chair of the Executive Council; and
 - (h) Vote in Senate proceedings in the event of a tie.
- (7) The Secretary shall fulfill the following duties:
- (a) Attend all meetings of the Senate;
 - (b) Prepare, compile, and disseminate official reports, proposals, and other documents on behalf of the Executive Council or as required by this Constitution or by law;
 - (c) Coordinate the scheduling of SGA meetings and events;
 - (d) Ensure historical documents and records of SGA are stored and archived appropriately in a manner provided by law;
 - (e) Facilitate effective communication within the SGA and between the SGA and the student body, faculty, and university administration;
 - (f) Preserve all legislation within the SGA Policies Manual in a manner provided by law;
 - (g) Maintain accurate and complete records of all SGA meetings, including minutes, attendance, and important decisions, except as otherwise provided by law or court order;

- (h) Maintain and update the SGA's membership roster, contact lists, and distribution lists;
 - (i) Serve as the Secretary of the Executive Council and the Senate; and
 - (j) Submit records of the SGA to University Archives & Special Collections for preservation.
- (8) The Treasurer shall fulfill the following duties:
- (a) Advise the Executive Council on all financial matters concerning the SGA, registered student organizations, and the student body;
 - (b) Ensure compliance with SGA and university financial policies and procedures, as well as all local, state, and federal financial regulations;
 - (c) Keep account of the income, expenditures, and allocations of all funds under the control of the SGA;
 - (d) Monitor the status of the SGA Emergency Loan and other financial services the Student Government Association offers to the student body;
 - (e) Oversee the disbursement of funds for SGA-sponsored events, initiatives, and registered student organizations;
 - (f) Propose a budget to the Senate in a manner prescribed by law;
 - (g) Publicize all non-confidential financial information of the SGA at the end of every semester; and
 - (h) Report to the Executive Council and the Senate regarding the financial status of the SGA on a regular basis.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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 – The Executive Cabinet

- (1) The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the appointed officers established by this Constitution and such additional appointed officers as are designated by law as Cabinet positions. Membership in the Executive Cabinet shall not arise from service on the Executive Council or from appointment as a non-Cabinet Deputy, administrative assistant, or other support officer.
- (2) The Executive Cabinet shall collectively fulfill the following duties:
 - (a) Advise the Executive Council on matters affecting the student body, based on their areas of expertise and student feedback;

- (b) Provide advice to the various committees and commissions within the SGA upon request;
 - (c) Develop and implement policies and strategies in accordance with the goals and objectives set by the Executive Council;
 - (d) Engage in continuous dialogue with the student body;
 - (e) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of SGA programs and initiatives;
 - (f) Participate in regular meetings with the Executive Council to report on their activities, discuss challenges, and determine future actions; and
 - (g) Respond proactively to emerging issues and crises affecting the student body.
- (3) 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.
 - (4) Nominees for Executive Cabinet appointments shall be presented to the Senate at least one (1) week before the vote for confirmation.
 - (5) Executive Cabinet appointments shall be subject to the consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership of the Senate.
 - (6) The Senate shall further provide by law for the duties of the Executive Cabinet collectively, its members individually, and such other officers of the Executive Branch as the Senate deems necessary.
 - (7) Non-Cabinet Deputies and other appointed officers not designated as members of the Executive Cabinet shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Council and shall not require Senate confirmation unless otherwise provided by law.
 - (8) Any member of the Executive Cabinet may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Council for any of the following:
 - (a) material neglect or persistent failure to perform assigned duties;
 - (b) material violation of the SGA Policies Manual, the SGA Code of Conduct, or university policy;
 - (c) material misuse of office, authority, or SGA resources; or
 - (d) conduct that materially undermines the effective operation of the Executive Branch.
 - (9) Before any such vote, the Executive Council shall provide the officer, not less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance, written notice stating the specific grounds and facts to be considered, and shall afford the officer a reasonable opportunity to address the Executive Council before the vote is taken. The Secretary shall record the motion, the vote, and the grounds, shall notify the

officer in writing within three (3) business days, and shall transmit notice of the action to the Senate.

- (10) Such removal is an internal personnel action of the Executive Branch, is distinct from impeachment, and does not by itself disqualify the officer from holding future office. Removal for failure to maintain the qualifications for office shall instead proceed under Article VI.

Section 5 – Executive Orders

- (1) The President may issue directives managing the operations of the Executive Branch, which shall be known as executive orders.
- (2) Executive orders may not create, modify, or repeal legislation that the Senate has enacted into law, nor may they be issued during a meeting of the Senate.
- (3) All newly written or modified executive orders must be transmitted to the Speaker of the Senate and the Chief Clerk within three (3) business days of their issuance. The Speaker shall place the executive order on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Senate for informational purposes.
- (4) Executive orders shall be valid until they are rescinded.
- (5) Each executive order shall be assigned a sequential number, shall bear the date of its issuance, and shall be published by the Secretary within five (5) business days of issuance. The Secretary shall maintain a register of all executive orders, which shall be open to the student body for inspection.
- (6) An executive order shall take effect immediately upon its issuance unless the order itself specifies a later effective date.

Section 6 – 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 law;
- (b) Veto – Should the President wish to veto the legislation, they shall write “VETO” instead of their signature and return the legislation with a written reason for their veto to the Senate; or
- (c) Acquiesce – If the legislation is not signed or vetoed within seven (7) days of its reception, it shall become law.

Section 7 – Compensation

- (1) All members of the Executive Council shall receive compensation for their services during the fall and spring semesters as approved by the SGA Advisor.
- (2) The compensation shall be given during the specified period in a manner consistent with the financial policies of Tennessee Technological University.

Section 8 – Qualifications for Office

- (1) The President and Vice President shall:
 - (a) Be a full-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term;
 - (b) Be of at least junior standing at the start of the fall semester after their election;
 - (c) Have served in SGA for at least one (1) year at the start of the fall semester after their election; and
 - (d) Maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.75 before and during their term of office.
- (2) The Secretary and Treasurer shall:
 - (a) Be a full-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term;
 - (b) Be of at least sophomore standing at the start of the fall semester after their election;
 - (c) Have served in SGA for at least one (1) year at the start of the fall semester after their election; and
 - (d) Maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.75 before and during their term of office.
- (3) All other members of the Executive Branch shall:
 - (a) Be a full-time or part-time student of the university during the fall and spring semesters of their term;
 - (b) Be of at least sophomore standing at the start of their term of office; and
 - (c) Maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.75 before and during their term of office.

Section 9 – Terms of Office

- (1) The term of office for members of the Executive Council shall begin following the administration of the oath or affirmation of office, which shall be held within one (1) month after the general election unless the Senate provides otherwise by law. 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.
- (2) The term of office for appointed Executive Branch officials, notwithstanding any administrative assistants, 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.

- (3) The term of office for administrative assistants shall begin after their appointment. 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 10 – Resignation

- (1) Any member of the Executive Branch may resign from their position by submitting a notice of their resignation to the Secretary. The relevant position shall become vacant immediately unless stated otherwise in the resignation. The Secretary shall announce the resignation to the members of the Executive Branch within three (3) days of its reception.
- (2) In the event of the resignation of the Secretary, such notice shall be submitted to the President.

ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1 – General Provisions

- (1) All judicial powers granted to the Student Government Association shall be vested in a Supreme Court.
- (2) 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

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Any case heard by the Supreme Court shall be in the form of a petition. Any petition shall be signed by at least two (2) members of the Legislative or Executive Branch or at least one percent (1%) of the student body. Upon the concurrence of half the number of Justices, rounded down, the Supreme Court shall accept the case petitioned.

- (4) The Supreme Court shall serve as the Student Traffic Citation Appeals Committee, which shall hear all traffic ticket appeals from the student body.
- (5) The Supreme Court may, upon petition by an involved party, hear disputes between registered student organizations, including but not limited to those governing the allocation or use of SGA-managed funds, provided other administrative remedies have been exhausted.
- (6) 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

- (1) The Supreme Court, by simple majority vote, shall appoint a student not from their current membership to serve as the Attorney General.
- (2) The Attorney General shall ensure that all SGA operations comply with the Constitution and the SGA Policies Manual.
- (3) The Attorney General shall conduct investigations into allegations of malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or nonfeasance within the SGA.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) The Attorney General shall have the authority to appoint deputies to assist with the functioning of their office, subject to confirmation by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate.

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, or conviction upon a charge of impeachment.

Section 5 – Terms of Office

- (1) 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 unless they resign or are removed from office. A justice who ceases to meet the qualifications for office shall be removed as provided in Article VI.

- (2) 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 V: THE S.O.L.O. SYSTEM

Section 1 – General Provisions

- (1) The Student Organization Life Opportunity (S.O.L.O.) System is established to provide financial support for registered student organizations and to plan and execute large-scale campus events for the benefit of the student body.
- (2) The S.O.L.O. System shall consist of the S.O.L.O. Fund, the S.O.L.O. Funding Committee, and the S.O.L.O. Events Committee.
- (3) The S.O.L.O. Fund shall be divided into two components:
 - (a) The S.O.L.O. General Fund, from which allocations may be made to registered student organizations; and
 - (b) The S.O.L.O. Superfund, from which appropriations may be made for large-scale campus events.
- (4) All expenditures from the S.O.L.O. Fund shall be subject to the oversight of the Treasurer.

Section 2 – S.O.L.O. Funding Committee

- (1) The S.O.L.O. Funding Committee is established as a standing committee of the Senate with exclusive jurisdiction over allocations from the S.O.L.O. General Fund to registered student organizations.
- (2) The S.O.L.O. Funding Committee shall consist of the following seven (7) members:
 - (a) The Treasurer; and
 - (b) Six (6) Senators appointed by the Executive Council.
- (3) The officers of the S.O.L.O. Funding Committee shall be selected as provided in the rules of the Senate.

- (4) The S.O.L.O. Funding Committee shall perform the following functions:
 - (a) Review all applications by registered student organizations for S.O.L.O. General Fund monies;
 - (b) Interview all applicants for S.O.L.O. General Fund monies;
 - (c) Make recommendations to the Senate regarding funding allocations; and
 - (d) Adhere to the procedures established in the SGA Policies Manual.
- (5) The S.O.L.O. Funding Committee, in collaboration with the Treasurer, shall make recommendations regarding the amounts allocated to the S.O.L.O. Superfund and the S.O.L.O. General Fund.

Section 3 – S.O.L.O. Events Committee

- (1) The S.O.L.O. Events Committee is established to plan and execute large-scale, campus-wide events funded by the S.O.L.O. Superfund.
- (2) The S.O.L.O. Events Committee shall be governed by a six-member Board consisting of:
 - (a) The SGA Treasurer, ex officio;
 - (b) The Chair;
 - (c) The Vice Chair;
 - (d) The Secretary, appointed by the Executive Council; and
 - (e) Two (2) Events Coordinators.
- (3) The Chair, Vice Chair, and both Events Coordinators shall be elected by a majority vote of the Committee membership.
- (4) The S.O.L.O. Events Committee shall have the ability to propose programming expenditures from the S.O.L.O. Superfund, subject to appropriation by the Senate.
- (5) The S.O.L.O. Events Committee shall not directly appropriate or allocate any funds, nor shall it recommend allocations from the S.O.L.O. General Fund.
- (6) No funds appropriated to the S.O.L.O. Events Committee shall be disbursed without the signature of the Chair and the countersignature of the Treasurer.
- (7) The membership, structure, procedures, and operations of the S.O.L.O. Events Committee shall be established by legislation.

Section 4 – Removals and Appeals

- (1) The Chair, Vice Chair, and Events Coordinators may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Committee membership for malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty.

- (2) The Secretary appointed by the Executive Council may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Council for malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty.
- (3) Any member of the Board subject to removal under this section shall be entitled to written notice of the charges against them and an opportunity to respond before any vote on removal.
- (4) A removal under this Section may be appealed to the Supreme Court within five (5) business days of the vote. The Supreme Court shall review whether the removal was supported by sufficient evidence of malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final.
- (5) The Treasurer's service on the Board is incident to their constitutional office and is not subject to removal under this section.
- (6) The scope and procedures for other appeals shall be established by legislation.

ARTICLE VI: IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

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

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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

- (1) 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.
- (2) When an executive or legislative officer is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside over the Senate. When the Chief Justice is tried, the Associate Chief Justice shall preside. When any other judicial officer is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside. In all cases, the presiding officer shall have no vote.

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

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Any judgement shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any office or title within the SGA.

Section 6 – Removal for Failure to Maintain Qualifications

- (1) Any member of the Student Government Association who fails to maintain the qualifications for office prescribed by this Constitution for their respective branch shall be subject to removal from office under the procedures of this Section, which shall be separate from and independent of the impeachment process.
- (2) Upon a reasonable belief that a member has ceased to meet the qualifications for their office, a petition for removal may be filed with the Attorney General by any of the following:
 - (a) Any three (3) members of the Senate;
 - (b) Any two (2) members of the Executive Council;
 - (c) Any two (2) Justices of the Supreme Court; or
 - (d) The SGA Advisor.
- (3) The petition shall identify the member in question, specify the qualification(s) believed to be unmet, and include any available supporting evidence.

- (4) Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving a petition, the Attorney General shall conduct an inquiry to determine whether the member has, in fact, failed to maintain the qualifications for their office. The Attorney General, through the SGA Advisor, may request verification of enrollment status, academic standing, or other relevant records from the appropriate university office.
- (5) If the Attorney General determines that the member has failed to maintain the qualifications for their office, the Attorney General shall issue a written finding to the member and to the presiding officer of the branch in which the member serves. The finding shall specify the qualification(s) not met and the factual basis for the determination.
- (6) Upon receipt of the Attorney General's finding, the member shall have seven (7) calendar days to submit a written response to the Attorney General demonstrating that they do, in fact, meet the qualifications for their office, or that the disqualifying condition has been remedied.
- (7) If the member fails to respond within the allotted period, or if the Attorney General, upon review of the response, determines that the member remains unqualified, the Attorney General shall certify the removal to the presiding officer of the branch in which the member serves. The removal shall take effect immediately upon certification unless an appeal is taken under this Section.
- (8) A member who disputes the Attorney General's certification may appeal to the Supreme Court within seven (7) calendar days of the certification. The Supreme Court shall hear the appeal on an expedited basis and issue a final determination within fourteen (14) calendar days. The member shall remain suspended from the exercise of their duties pending the outcome of the appeal but shall not be formally removed until the Supreme Court renders its decision or the appeal period expires without action.
- (9) If the member whose qualifications are in question is the Attorney General, the petition shall be filed with the Chief Justice, who shall discharge the duties otherwise assigned to the Attorney General under this Section. If the members whose qualifications are in question are Justices of the Supreme Court, any appeal under this Section shall be heard by a panel consisting of the remaining qualified Justices, provided a quorum of at least three (3) Justices can be assembled; if fewer than three (3) qualified Justices remain, the appeal shall be heard by the Legislative Council.
- (10) Removal under this Section shall not constitute conviction upon a charge of impeachment for purposes of any disqualification provision of this Constitution, but the vacancy created shall be filled in accordance with Article VII.

- (11) Nothing in this Section shall preclude the Senate from pursuing impeachment proceedings under this Article against any member, whether or not a petition for removal has been filed under this Section.

ARTICLE VII: VACANCIES

Section 1 – The Commission for Nominations

- (1) The Commission for Nominations shall nominate candidates to the Senate for any vacant Senate or Supreme Court seat.
- (2) The Commission for Nominations shall meet and submit nominations within one (1) month of any vacancy, except for vacancies occurring after the General Election in the spring semester.
- (3) The Commission for Nominations shall consist of the following seven (7) members:
 - (a) The SGA Secretary;
 - (b) The Attorney General; and
 - (c) Five (5) Senators appointed by the Legislative Council.
- (4) Members of the Commission for Nominations shall remain non-partisan and unbiased throughout all processes administered by the Commission.

Section 2 – Executive Branch Vacancies

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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. Upon the Speaker Pro Tempore's assumption of the Vice Presidency, the Senate shall elect a new Speaker Pro Tempore from among its members at the next regular or special meeting of the Senate. 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 nominate an individual to serve out the remainder of the term, subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.
- (3) In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Secretary or Treasurer, the remaining members of the Executive Council shall nominate an individual to serve out the remainder of the term, subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.
- (4) In the case of a vacancy in the Executive Cabinet, the Executive Council shall appoint an individual to fill the office for the remainder of the term within

one (1) month of the office becoming vacant, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Section 3 – Legislative Branch Vacancies

In the case of a vacancy in the Senate, the Commission for Nominations shall nominate an individual 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 4 – Judicial Branch Vacancies

- (1) In the case of a vacancy in the positions of Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice, the Supreme Court shall select an Associate Justice to fill the office within one (1) month of the office becoming vacant.
- (2) In the case of any other vacancies on the Supreme Court, the Commission for Nominations shall nominate individuals to fill such vacancies, subject to the advice and consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.
- (3) In the case of a vacancy in the position of Attorney General, the Supreme Court shall appoint an individual to fill the office within one (1) month of the office becoming vacant.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Elections

- (1) 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.
- (2) Each registered student of the university may cast one (1) ballot for their preferred candidates in the elections which apply to them.
- (3) Candidates shall not be on the ballot for more than one (1) office during the same election period.

Section 2 – The Commission for Elections

- (1) The Commission for Elections shall oversee and manage the planning, preparation, advertising, and execution of the general election, any special election, elections for Mr. and Mrs. Tennessee Tech, any ballot measures, and any other election that the Senate may specify by law.
- (2) The Commission for Elections shall establish regulations and procedures for any ballot measures or any election under its administration. These guidelines shall be submitted to the Senate for approval through a simple majority vote and reviewed annually thereafter. The Commission shall publicize the latest revision of these guidelines within one month of any election.

- (3) The Commission for Elections shall consist of the following nine (9) members:
 - (a) The SGA Secretary;
 - (b) The Attorney General;
 - (c) Five (5) Senators appointed by the Legislative Council; and
 - (d) Two (2) non-affiliated students appointed by the Executive Council.
- (4) Members of the Commission for Elections shall remain non-partisan and unbiased throughout all processes administered by the Commission. No member may serve as an officer on the Commission while they are a candidate for office under an election administered by the Commission.

Section 3 – 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 4 – Campaigning

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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 Commission for Elections shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- (3) 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

- (1) The Oath or Affirmation of Office shall be administered to all newly elected and appointed officials of the Student Government Association by any Justice of the Supreme Court before taking office.
- (2) Administrative assistants and other support personnel designated by law shall, before assuming their duties, sign a written acknowledgment of their obligation to comply with the SGA Constitution, the SGA Policies Manual, and the SGA Code of Conduct. The acknowledgment shall be filed with the Secretary.
- (3) In the event of a complete vacancy of the Supreme Court, the oath or affirmation shall be administered by the longest continuously serving member of the Student Government Association.

Section 2 – Timeline

- (1) 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.
- (2) The Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall swear in any newly appointed officials after their appointment under the processes laid out within this Constitution.

Section 3 – Text

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

I, [insert full name], 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

- (1) 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.
- (2) The Senate shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 2 – Voting

- (1) All initiatives, referendums, and amendments shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the student body. Recalls shall be decided as provided in this Article.
- (2) Voting on initiatives, referendums, recalls, and amendments shall be conducted in a manner prescribed by law or by regulation of the Commission for Elections.

Section 3 – Effective Date

- (1) 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.

- (2) 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.
- (3) If the student body votes to recall an officer of the Student Government Association, the official in question shall be removed from office immediately upon the declaration of results, and any successor elected in the recall election shall assume the office at the same time.

Section 4 – Initiative

- (1) 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.
- (2) Any student may submit an initiative to the Student Government Association by presenting a petition signed by at least five percent (5%) of the student body to the SGA Secretary.
- (3) The Commission for Elections shall review the initiative to ensure that it is in proper form and that the petition meets the required signatures.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Referendums may be binding or non-binding. Such status shall be indicated in the text of the referendum.
- (4) The Commission for Elections shall review the referendum to ensure that it is in proper form and that the petition meets the required signatures.
- (5) If the petition meets the required signatures, the Commission for Elections shall schedule a referendum on the relevant legislation within one (1) month.

Section 6 – Recall

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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, or by law.
- (3) The Commission for Elections shall review the recall petition to ensure that it is in proper form and that the petition meets the required signatures.
- (4) If the petition meets the required signatures, the Commission for Elections shall schedule a special election to recall the named individual from office within one (1) month.
- (5) Where one or more candidates other than the official named in the petition have qualified for the ballot, the recall election shall be conducted as a single election under the method of voting selected by the Commission for Elections. If the official named in the petition prevails under that method, the official shall not be recalled. If any other candidate prevails, the official named in the petition shall be recalled and the candidate who prevailed shall assume the office for the remainder of the term.
- (6) Where no candidate other than the official named in the petition has qualified for the ballot, the ballot shall present the question of recall alone, and the official shall be recalled upon the affirmative vote of a simple majority of those voting. A vacancy arising under this subsection shall be filled in accordance with Article VII.

Section 7 – Amendment

A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the SGA Senate present and voting may amend this Constitution, subject to the approval of the student body at the next general election. Alternatively, a four-fifths (4/5) majority of the voting membership of the SGA Senate may amend this Constitution with the approval of the SGA President.