

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

(Last revised August 2019)

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The Truman State University Student Government is committed to the continual betterment of the University community from the perspective of the Student Association. To this end, the Student Government strives to:

PARTICIPATE actively in the fulfillment of the University's mission as an exemplary Public Liberal Arts and Sciences University,

REPRESENT the views of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy through legislation and membership on University committees,

FACILITATE communication and mutual understanding between the Student Association, faculty, staff, and administration, and

PROMOTE a cohesive vision for the future of the University.

Through this mission, the Student Government seeks to uphold the values and ideals of the Student Association both now and in the future.

## **ARTICLE I: STRUCTURE**

Section 1: Definitions of Student Government, Student Senate, the Executive Board, the Executive Staff, and the Executive Committee

Clause 1

Student Government shall refer to all members of the Student Senate, the Executive Board, the Executive Committee, the Executive Staff, and all subsidiary committees of these bodies.

Clause 2

Student Senate shall refer to the legislative body of the Student Government, which serves to ensure proper representation of the Student Association.

Clause 3

The Executive Board shall refer to the primary executive body of the Student Government, which serves to provide direction for the Student Government.

Clause 4

The Executive Committee shall refer to the secondary executive body of the Student Government, which serves to ensure the yearly functionality of the Student Government.

Clause 5

The Executive Staff shall refer to the administrative personnel of the Student Government, who serve to ensure the efficiency and productivity of the Student Government.

Section 2: Membership Qualifications

All non-associate members of Student Government must have at the time of installation and throughout their tenure in office a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75. Members in their first year at Truman must have throughout their tenure in office a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75.

Section 3: Committee Structure

Clause 1

Committees of the Student Government shall be divided into three categories: primary committees, secondary committees, and ad hoc committees.

Clause 2

Primary committees are permanent committees that exist in order to address current concerns of the Student Association while serving their long term interests. These committees shall be defined and structured so that they may address a wide-range of topics within an overall category of student life.

Clause 3

Primary committees may have permanent subcommittees in order to deal with an ongoing, specific issues. Subcommittee structure shall be defined in the Standing Rules.

Clause 4

Secondary committees are permanent committees that exist in order to provide a particular service to the Student Association. These committees shall be defined and structured so that they may effectively provide this service.

Clause 5

Ad hoc committees are temporary committees that shall exist for a defined time and purpose. These committees shall expire at a time stated upon their creation, or at the spring transitional meeting, whichever comes first. The new President shall have the ability to motion to renew the existence of an ad hoc committee at the spring transitional meeting for the upcoming year, subject to a majority vote of the Student Senate. Ad hoc committees shall be created in order to address a temporary, though pertinent, issue facing the Student Association that cannot be addressed within the existing primary or secondary committees.

## **ARTICLE II: THE STUDENT SENATE**

### **Section 1: Legislative Power**

Clause 1

The legislative power of the Student Government shall be vested in a Student Senate.

Clause 2

The power to bring forth legislation for the consideration of the Student Senate shall rest solely with the membership of the Student Government.

### **Section 2: Membership**

Clause 1

The membership of the Student Senate shall consist of: the Student Representative to the Board of Governors, the Speaker of the Student Senate, five senior senators, fifteen senators, four incoming senators, a graduate senator, organization representatives, and associate members.

Clause 2

Voting members of the Student Senate shall be the five senior senators, fifteen senators, four incoming senators, and the graduate senator. When called to vote, they may respond with a vote of "yes" or "no", or they may abstain from voting.

Clause 3

The non-voting membership of the Student Senate shall be the Student Representative to the Board of Governors, organization representatives, and associate members. When called to vote,

all non-voting members may respond with “support” or “do not support”, or they may abstain from voicing an opinion. The Speaker will not be called to vote and is considered a neutral member of the Student Senate.

### Section 3: Definitions of Majority Votes

#### Clause 1

A simple majority shall be defined as an affirmative vote by at least one fourth of the total voting membership as well as a majority of those members present and voting; this voting total shall not include any who have abstained.

#### Clause 2

A two-thirds majority shall be defined as an affirmative vote by at least one third of the total voting membership as well as a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting; this voting total shall not include any who have abstained.

#### Clause 3

Any further types of majority votes shall be defined as at least the majority needed divided by two of the total voting membership voting affirmatively as well as the majority needed of those members present and voting; this voting total shall not include any who have abstained.

### Section 4: Student Representative to the Board of Governors

#### Clause 1

The Student Representative to the Board of Governors shall serve as an intermediary between the Student Government, the Student Association, and the Board of Governors.

#### Clause 2

The Student Representative to the Board of Governors should attend and participate in as many full body meetings of the Student Government and Executive Committee meetings as possible.

#### Clause 3

The search for a new Student Representative to the Board of Governors shall be conducted by a secret, all-student committee chosen by the President of the Student Association and the most recent Student Representative to the Board of Governors. The membership function of this committee shall be detailed in the Standing Rules.

#### Clause 4

The Student Representative to the Board of Governors may not hold any position within Student Government aside from their own.

### Section 5: The Speaker of the Student Senate

#### Clause 1

The Speaker of the Student Senate shall be the neutral member of the Student Government and shall work to ensure the functionality of the Student Government, neither speaking in favor of nor against any matter brought before the Senate, but speaking only on fact and procedure.

#### Clause 2

The Speaker of the Student Senate shall preside over all full body meetings of the Student Senate and shall set the agenda for all full body meetings of the Student Senate.

#### Clause 3

Meetings shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the governing documents of the Student Government, the most updated version of parliamentary procedure, and precedent set by former Speakers, in that order of priority.

Clause 4

If desired, the Speaker may select a Speaker Pro Tempore to preside over meetings in the Speaker's absence. Any member of the Student Government that is not on the Executive Board may serve as Speaker Pro Tempore. The Speaker Pro Tempore does not need to be confirmed by the Student Senate. While serving as Speaker, the Speaker Pro Tempore may not vote.

Clause 5

In the absence of a Speaker Pro Tempore, a senior senator selected at random will preside over meetings.

Clause 6

In the absence of an Ethics Justice, the Speaker shall serve as Ethics Justice. The Speaker may hold no other position, except for an ad hoc committee chair.

Clause 7

In the event that the Speaker presents a resolution while acting as ad hoc committee chair, the resolution shall not state that the Speaker is sponsoring it, but rather the ad hoc committee chair. During the presentation of this resolution, the Speaker Pro Tempore or a random senior senator shall preside over the meeting, should the Speaker Pro Tempore be a member of the ad hoc committee.

Clause 8

The Speaker shall have the authority to call special meetings of the Student Senate.

Clause 9

The voting members of the Student Senate shall elect the Speaker by a two-thirds majority vote. The Speaker shall be selected for a term beginning at the transitional meeting and ending at the next transitional meeting.

Clause 10

The procedure for election of the Speaker shall be outlined in the Standing Rules.

## Section 6: Organization Representatives

Clause 1

Any organization that is chartered by and in good standing with the University may petition the Student Senate to send a representative to the Student Senate.

Clause 2

The Funds Allotment Council, the Student Activities Board, and Residential Hall Association are not required to petition the Student Senate in order to send a representative, but their representative must still be approved by the Senate.

Clause 3

While attending meetings of the Student Senate, organization representatives shall have all of the rights and obligations of voting members of the Student Senate except for the right to vote.

Clause 4

Organization representatives shall be called upon during a roll call vote to voice, on behalf of their organization, an opinion of "support", "do not support", or "abstain".

## Section 7: Associate Members

### Clause 1

While attending meetings of the Student Senate, associates shall have all of the rights and obligations of voting members of the Student Senate except for the right to vote.

### Clause 2

Associates shall be called upon during a roll call vote to voice an opinion of “support”, “do not support”, or “abstain”.

### Clause 3

Associate members shall be selected for a term beginning on their confirmation and ending at the next transitional meeting.

### Clause 4

Associate members shall be members of at least one committee and may be removed from the Student Senate should they fail to meet the duties required by their committee chair.

## Section 8: Powers

### Clause 1

The Student Senate shall approve such legislation as it deems necessary through a simple majority vote, unless another vote or majority requirement is stipulated in this constitution or the standing rules. In the event that the presidency is vacant or invalid, all legislation must be adopted with a two-thirds majority vote, unless a higher majority is required.

### Clause 2

The Student Senate shall have the power to override Presidential vetoes by a two-thirds majority vote.

### Clause 3

The Student Senate shall have the power to confirm or reject all appointments except where stated in this Constitution or the Standing Rules. The following appointments do not have to be confirmed by Student Senate: temporary representatives to external committees and Speaker Pro Tempore. All slates of nominees may be split unless specified in this constitution or the standing rules.

### Clause 4

The Student Senate shall have the power to create and charge with a duty any necessary ad hoc committees by a majority vote.

### Clause 5

The Student Senate may override an executive order by a two-thirds majority vote.

### Clause 6

The Student Senate shall have the final authority to interpret this Constitution and the Standing Rules.

## Section 9: Impeachment

### Clause 1

All members of the Student Government shall be subject to removal from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, serious violations of the Student Government’s Ethical Code of Conduct, Standing Rules of the Student Government, Constitution of the Student Government, violations of the Student Conduct Code, University Regulations, Missouri statutes, and or federal law.

Clause 2

The Student Senate shall have the authority, by a two-thirds majority vote of the total current voting membership, to impeach any member of the Student Government.

Clause 3

The Student Senate shall convict and remove impeached members of the Student Government from office by a three-fourths majority vote of the current total voting membership.

Clause 4

Neither articles of impeachment nor removal from office may be reconsidered, repealed, or expunged from the record in any way by the Student Senate.

Section 10: Censure

Clause 1

All members of the Student Government shall be subject to censure for violations of the Student Government's Ethical Code of Conduct, Standing Rules of the Student Government, Constitution of the Student Government, or other important misconduct.

Clause 2

The Student Senate shall have the authority by a two-thirds majority vote of the total current voting membership to censure any member of the Student Government.

Clause 3

Censure may not be reconsidered, repealed, or expunged from the record in any way by the Student Senate.

Section 11: Primary Committees and Subcommittees

Clause 1

The Academic Affairs Committee strives to nurture the academic quality of Truman State University from the perspective of the Student Association. This committee strives to promote a diverse curriculum encompassing the philosophy, values, content, and ideals of a Liberal Arts and Sciences education; academic integrity and other ethics and values inherent in a liberal arts and sciences education; academic advising which assures that students understand the role of the Liberal Arts and Sciences in the University's curriculum; and proper student representation within faculty and University governance.

Clause 2

The Student Affairs Committee strives to ensure the fulfillment of the University's mission in the non-academic aspects of the University community from the perspective of the Student Association. This committee actively works to improve the quality of student life; guarantee the rights and promote the desires of the Student Association; further the enhancement of an all-encompassing living and learning environment; gather student opinion on issues that impact the Student Association and the University community; and ensure that University policies and programs are commensurate with the best interests of the Student Association.

- a. The Purple Friday Committee is a subcommittee of the Student Affairs Committee.
- b. The Purple Friday Committee's structure shall be detailed in the Standing Rules.

Clause 3

The External Affairs Committee strives to promote communication between the Student Association and the larger society of which it is a part. This committee works to establish and

maintain communication with members of the Kirksville community and the Kirksville City Council, the Missouri State Government, and the student governments from other universities in order to share perspectives and gather information, thereby increasing the awareness of the Student Association on issues which impact its well-being in order to create an informed citizenry.

#### Clause 4

The Environmental Affairs Committee strives to promote a sustainable and environmentally sound campus from the perspective of the Student Association. The committee carefully considers issues concerning resource management and recycling, campus beautification, sustainable behaviors and practices, and informational outreach to the Student Association and the community pertaining to the above. This is in order to assure that all facilities and grounds are maintained and utilized in an environmentally responsible manner; decisions affecting the campus environment will receive input from students and appropriate guidance from faculty, staff, and administration prior to implementation; and the environmental impacts of the University are managed locally and regionally.

#### Clause 5

The Diversity Committee strives to promote an inclusive campus environment that recognizes the diverse backgrounds and needs of the Student Association and works to represent the interests and needs of all students, especially those from marginalized groups and communities. The Committee shall fulfill its stated mission through an annual Diversity Week, other diversity programs, involvement in University policy making, and collaboration with administrative and student groups across campus that promote diversity and inclusion.

#### Clause 6

The Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee strives to nurture a campus environment of well-being by working to improve the public health and safety of the members of the University community. The committee shall encourage positive physical and mental health practices among members of University community; promote awareness of healthy lifestyle development; identify safety concerns; promote sexual assault prevention; and advocate for safety measures and policies that aid the general welfare of all University students, faculty, and staff.

- a. The Sexual Assault Prevention Designee is a member of the Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee.
- b. The details of the Sexual Assault Prevention Designee position shall be listed in the Standing Rules.

### Section 12: Secondary Committees

#### Clause 1

The Select Committee on Parking Appeals shall render decisions on student parking appeals. The membership function of this committee shall be defined in the Standing Rules.

#### Clause 2

The Appropriations Committee shall oversee the allotment of funds to the Truman community. The membership function of this committee shall be defined in the Standing Rules.

#### Clause 3

The Athletic Fee Accountability Committee shall exist to oversee the use of the Athletic Fee. The membership, structure, and procedures of this committees shall be detailed in its governing documents.

Clause 4

The Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committees shall exist to oversee the use of the Environmental Sustainability Fee. The membership, structure, and procedures of this committees shall be detailed in its governing documents.

Section 13: Meetings

Clause 1

A quorum consisting of a majority of the current voting membership of the Student Senate shall be necessary to conduct legislative business.

Clause 2

The legislative session of the Student Senate shall be defined as the period of time from the first day of classes until the day before finals begin of each semester.

Clause 3

The Student Senate shall meet at least once every two weeks during the Fall and Spring legislative sessions at the time provided in the standing rules. The Student Senate may waive this requirement for one week by a two-thirds majority vote.

Clause 4

Members of the Student Senate shall have the authority to call a special meeting during the legislative session by presenting a petition, signed by ten voting members, to the Speaker, who shall thereupon call such a meeting within seventy-two hours of the presentation of the petition.

### **ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1: Executive Power

The executive power herein granted shall be vested in the President of the Student Association. The Executive Board shall assist the President by carrying out the duties delegated to them by the governing documents of the Student Government.

Section 2: Membership

Clause 1

The Executive Board shall refer to the primary executive body of the Student Government, which serves to ensure the longevity of and provide direction for the Student Government.

Clause 2

The membership of the Executive Board shall include: the President of the Student Association, the Vice President of the Student Association, the Speaker of the Student Senate, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Clause 3

Executive Board decisions being made on behalf of all Student Government shall be decided by a majority vote of all members of the Executive Board.

Clause 4

The Executive Board shall meet regularly, as needed. Any member of the Executive Board may call for an Executive Board meeting.

### Section 3: President of the Student Association

#### Clause 1

The President shall be the chief executive of the Student Government.

#### Clause 2

The President shall serve as the chief representative of the Student Association and Student Government to the faculty, staff, and administration of this University.

#### Clause 3

The President may not hold any additional position on the Student Government. Clause 4

The President shall have the power to veto legislation adopted by Student Senate within 96 hours of its passage and shall file a written account of their veto with the Speaker and Secretary within 96 hours from the adjournment of the meeting in which the legislation was passed.

#### Clause 5

Legislation adopted by the Student Senate shall become effective after the President signs it or 96 hours after its passage, whichever occurs first.

#### Clause 6

The President shall have the authority to call special meetings of the Student Senate.

#### Clause 7

The President shall call special elections in the case of initiatives and referendums in accordance with the provisions in this constitution and the standing rules.

#### Clause 8

The President shall serve as a student representative to Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive Committee. In the event of scheduling conflicts, the Vice President shall attend or the President may appoint a temporary replacement representative.

#### Clause 9

The President shall give a regular report to the Board of Governors on behalf of the Student Government and the Student Association.

#### Clause 10

The President shall have the authority to issue executive orders, which shall be recorded in the records of the Student Government. These orders may:

- a. authorize student representatives to committees to have the Student Government's support or opposition of a matter recorded in their respective minutes as long as this authorization does not conflict with an effective piece of legislation,
- b. require committees of Student Senate to investigate a specified area of interest at a time,
- c. require committees of Student Senate to present their findings and subsequent proposals to the Student Senate by a specified date,
- d. create ad hoc committees and charge them with specific duties.

#### Clause 11

The President shall preside over the Executive Board and Executive Committee except where specified in this constitution or the standing rules.

#### Clause 12

The President shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the committees of Student Government except where specified in this constitution or the standing rules. While attending meetings of the Student Senate or its committees, the President shall have the same rights and obligations of voting members except for voting privileges.

#### Section 4: Vice President of the Student Association

##### Clause 1

The Vice President shall assist the President and encourage internal communication within the Student Senate, as is enumerated within the Standing Rules.

##### Clause 2

The Vice President may not hold any additional position on the Student Government, other than pro tempore committee chair, chair of an ad hoc committee.

##### Clause 3

The Vice President shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the committees of Student Government except where specified in this constitution or the standing rules. While attending meetings of the Student Senate or its committees, the Vice President shall have the same rights and obligations of voting members except for voting privileges.

##### Clause 4

The Vice President shall serve as an additional representative of the Student Association and Student Government to the faculty, staff, and administration of this University.

#### Section 5: Treasurer

##### Clause 1

A student shall assume the office of Treasurer upon appointment by the President and confirmation by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

##### Clause 2

While attending meetings of the Student Senate, the Treasurer shall have the same rights and obligations of voting members except for voting privileges.

##### Clause 3

The Treasurer shall serve as the Appropriations Committee chair, but may not hold any additional position on the Student Government, except for chair of an ad hoc committee and their own.

##### Clause 4

The Treasurer shall be responsible for making deposits and withdrawals on behalf of the Student Government.

##### Clause 5

The Treasurer shall act as a consultant to the Student Senate on budgetary matters.

#### Section 6: Secretary

##### Clause 1

A student shall become the Secretary upon appointment by the President and confirmation by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

##### Clause 2

The Secretary may not hold any additional position on the Student Government, except for chair of an ad hoc committee.

Clause 3

The Secretary shall have the responsibility of keeping the records of the Student Government up to date and in order. The Secretary shall maintain an up to date copy of this constitution and the standing rules and ensure both are publically available.

Clause 4

The Secretary shall, with the assistance of other relevant members of the Student Government, have the responsibility of compiling the End of the Year Report.

Clause 5

The Secretary shall have the independent responsibility for enforcing the absence policy as adopted by the Student Government for all positions except for their own. The absence policy of the Secretary shall be maintained by the Executive Committee.

Clause 6

The Secretary shall have the responsibility to inform members of the Student Government that a veto has been filed upon receiving the written account of the veto from the President.

Clause 7

The Secretary may not hold any position on the Student Government, except for chair of an ad hoc committee and their own.

## **ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE STAFF**

### **Section 1: Purpose**

The Executive Staff shall refer to the administrative personnel of the Student Government, who serve to ensure the efficiency and productivity of the Student Government.

### **Section 2: Membership**

Clause 1

The membership of the Executive Staff shall include: the Legislative Director, the Public Relations Director, the Information Technology Director, the Ethics Justice, and all individuals appointed as a Presidential Aide.

Clause 2

The powers and responsibilities of individual members of the Executive Staff shall be defined in the Standing Rules.

Clause 3

Executive Staff decisions being made on behalf of all Student Government shall be made in concert with and are beholden to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Clause 4

While attending meetings of the Student Senate, members of the Executive Staff, who are not already Voting Members of the Student Senate, shall have the same rights and obligations of voting members except for voting privileges.

## **ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Section I: Purpose**

The Executive Committee shall refer to the secondary executive body of the Student Government, which additionally serves in order to ensure the yearly functionality of the Student Government.

## Section II: Membership

### Clause 1

The membership of the Executive Committee shall include: the Executive Board, all individuals holding a chairship, the Student Representative to the Board of Governors, the Ethics Justice, the Executive Staff, the Faculty Advisor, and the Staff Advisor.

### Clause 2

Executive Committee decisions being made on behalf of all Student Government shall be decided by a majority vote of all members of the Executive Committee, excluding the Faculty Advisor, Staff Advisor, and Student Representative to the Board of Governors.

### Clause 3

The Executive Committee shall be required to meet every week there is a full body meeting.

### Clause 4

While attending meetings of the Student Senate, all members of the Executive Committee, who are not already Voting Members of the Student Senate, except the Speaker of the Student Senate, the Faculty Advisor, and the Staff Advisor, shall have the same rights and obligations of voting members except for voting privileges.

### Clause 5

In the event the presidency is vacant or invalid, the Vice President shall become the temporary chair of the Executive Committee. Should both the presidency and vice presidency be vacant or invalid, the voting members of the Executive Committee shall elect from among themselves a temporary chair.

## **ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS**

### Section 1: Terms

The Fall term shall be defined as the first day of first semester classes to the day before finals. The Spring term shall be defined as the first day of second semester classes through the Spring transitional meeting. Only service in the legislature or executive shall count when determining the number of terms served. If a member of the Student Association serves for over one-half of a term in the executive or legislature beginning with the date of their confirmation by the Student Senate, their service shall count as a full term.

### Section 2: Election Administration

Student Government elections shall be administered according to the Standing Rules.

### Section 3: Incoming Senator Eligibility

A student meeting the necessary requirements for office shall be eligible to run for incoming senator if they are in their first semester at the University, not counting summer or winter interim sessions.

### Section 4: Senator Eligibility

Any student meeting the necessary requirements for office shall be eligible to run for senator.

### Section 5: Senior Senator Eligibility

Any student meeting the necessary requirements for office shall be eligible to run for senior senator if they have served for two terms as an elected member of the Student Government, two academic years as an appointed member of the Student Government Executive Committee, or one term as an elected member of the Student Government and one academic year as an appointed member of the Student Government Executive Committee.

#### Section 6: Graduate Senator Eligibility

Any student meeting the necessary requirements for office shall be eligible to run for graduate senator.

#### Section 7: Presidential Ticket Eligibility

Any pair of students, enrolled full-time at Truman State University and meeting the necessary requirements for office, shall be eligible to run as a ticket for President and Vice President.

#### Section 8: Length of Term – Spring Installation

##### Clause 1

The President, Vice President, three senior senators, and twelve senators shall be elected in the Spring general election for a term beginning at the transitional meeting and ending at the next transitional meeting.

##### Clause 2

Installation of these members shall occur providing the member meets the necessary requirements. Installation of students nominated and confirmed to fill vacancies in these seats shall occur after their confirmation.

#### Section 9: Length of Term – Fall Installation

##### Clause 1

Two senior senators, three senators, a graduate senator, four incoming senators, and any positions vacant before petitions for elections are made available to the Student Association for the Fall general election shall be elected in the Fall general election for a term beginning at the date of installation and ending at the next transitional meeting.

##### Clause 2

Installation of these members shall occur at a regular Fall meeting, no later than the date specified in the standing rules, providing the member meets the necessary requirements. Installation of students nominated and confirmed to fill vacancies in these seats shall occur after their confirmation.

#### Section 10: Presidential Vacancy

##### Clause 1

If there is a vacancy in the office of the presidency of the Student Association, the Vice President will assume the office of the presidency for the remainder of the term, appointing a new Vice President from within the Student Government as soon as possible. If there is a vacancy in both the offices of the President and Vice President, a special election will be held between 10 and 20 school days after the office became vacant, excluding vacations and holidays, to fill the office. This election shall be administered according to the standing rules.

##### Clause 2

If there is a vacancy in both the offices of President and Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate shall serve as President Pro Tempore until a new President is elected and sworn in.

#### Section 11: Exclusivity of Positions

No student shall be eligible to seek election to more than one Student Government position at a time.

### **ARTICLE VII: STANDING RULES AND ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

#### Section 1: Standing Rules

##### Clause 1

The Student Government shall develop and maintain a set of Standing Rules, which shall be a governing document inferior to this constitution. The Student Senate shall adopt these rules by a two-thirds majority vote.

##### Clause 2

The Student Senate may amend and approve an updated version of the Standing Rules within the first four weeks of the Fall and Spring semesters, not counting the extended freshman week, by a two-thirds majority vote. If no new version is approved, the last approved copy shall remain in effect.

##### Clause 3

Standing Rules changes proposed by an ad hoc committee created for such a purpose shall require a two-thirds majority vote.

##### Clause 4

The Student Senate may amend the Standing Rules at other times than those specified above by a three-fourths majority vote.

##### Clause 5

The sections of the Standing Rules dealing with impeachment and censure may not be suspended. The sections of the Standing Rules dealing with impeachment and censure may only be amended within the first four weeks of the Fall or Spring semester, excluding the extended freshman week, and may not be amended while an impeachment or censure is pending.

#### Section 2: Ethical Code of Conduct

The Student Government's Ethical Code of Conduct will be binding on all members of the Student Government and may be amended or replaced by the Student Government at either of the two meetings of the Student Senate immediately following the Fall general election. After that time, the Student Government's Ethical Code of Conduct may only be amended by a three-fourths majority vote.

### **ARTICLE VIII: RECALL, REFERENDUM, AND INITIATIVE**

#### Section 1: Recall

##### Clause 1

The President of the Student Association, Vice President of the Student Association, and any voting member of the Student Senate are subject to recall at any time.

#### Clause 2

An incoming senator or graduate senator may be subject to recall by a petition signed by at least fifteen percent of their constituency as defined in this constitution.

#### Clause 3

The constituency of a member of the Student Government shall be defined as members of the Student Association who were able to vote for the candidate during their most recent election to the body.

#### Clause 4

The President, Vice President of the Student Association, senior senator, or senator may be subject to recall by a petition signed by at least fifteen percent of the Student Association.

#### Clause 5

When a recall petition has been duly signed, it shall be presented to the Student Senate, the seat that is being petitioned will be declared temporarily invalid. Thereupon, the Student Senate shall call a special election, which shall be held between the fifth and tenth days after said petition has been presented, excluding holidays and vacations, unless the petitioning party waives this right.

#### Clause 6

If a majority of the voters, which shall constitute at least ten percent of the position's constituency, favor the recall, the Student Government member in question shall be recalled and their office declared vacant.

#### Clause 7

All vacancies due to recall shall be filled as all other vacancies that occur in positions in the Student Government.

### Section 2: Referendum

The Student Senate may, by a two-thirds majority vote, submit any proposal to the Student Association for a vote. The Student Senate may specify requirements for passage of measures submitted by referendum. The special election is to be held between the seventh and fourteenth day after this decision, excluding holidays and vacations, unless the Student Senate specifies otherwise.

### Section 3: Initiative

#### Clause 1

The Student Association, by a petition signed by at least five percent of its members, shall cause a special election for consideration of any resolution or motion adopted by the Student Government. This petition must be submitted within thirty days, excluding holidays and vacations, from the date the Student Senate approved the legislation.

#### Clause 2

The Student Association, by a petition signed by at least ten percent of its members, shall cause a special election for consideration of its proposed amendments to this constitution or an independent council's constitution.

#### Clause 3

The special election is to be held between the seventh and fourteenth day after said petition has been presented, excluding holidays and vacations, unless the petitioning party waives this right.

#### Clause 4

The minimum number of votes cast in an initiative election must represent five percent of the Student Association for elections regarding resolutions and motions. The resolution or motion shall be declared null and void if a simple majority of those voting in the initiative election vote in favor of overturning the resolution or motion.

Clause 5

The minimum number of votes cast in an initiative election must represent ten percent of the Student Association for elections regarding amendments to this or an independent council's constitution. The amendment shall take effect at the transition of the Student Senate at the next transitional meeting following the special election, unless otherwise specified, if a majority of those voting on the amendment vote in favor of its adoption.

Clause 6

The Student Government's standing rules and an independent council's by-laws may not be amended through an initiative.

## **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT**

### **Section 1: Proposal**

Amendments to the constitution of the Student Government may be proposed by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members of the Student Senate present or through an initiative from the Student Association.

### **Section 2: Passage**

Passage of any proposed amendment(s) shall require a majority vote of the Student Association voting at a general election. In a special election, this majority shall constitute at least five percent of the Student Association.

### **Section 3: Reoccurring Review**

Both the Constitution and Standing Rules of the Student Government must be formally reviewed by the body at least once in between Organizational Activity Fee (OAF) review cycles and informally reviewed annually.

## **ARTICLE X: CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY**

### **Section 1: Authority**

The authority of the Student Government and this constitution is derived from the authority inherent in the Truman State University Student Association.

### **Section 2: University President**

The Truman State University President or their designee shall serve as the agent for the Board of Governors, as defined in the Board of Governors by-laws.

### **Section 3: Constitutional Supremacy**

The Student Government Constitution shall take precedence over any other special rules of order the Student Senate may adopt unless stated otherwise in the relevant section(s) of this constitution.

