

CONSTITUTION OF THE TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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Preamble

We the members of the Truman State University Student Association, recognizing the need for a unified and dedicated body of students committed to the continual betterment of our University community from the perspective of the Student Association, hereby establish the Truman State University Student Government. 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.

In the fulfillment of these charges, the Student Government, as described in this Constitution, shall serve as the official student representation of the Truman State University Student Association.

Article I: Rights and Obligations of Members and Nonmembers and Structure**Section 1: Non-Discriminatory Statement**

Every student of Truman State University has the right to be a member of the Student Government regardless of sex, disability, age, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Section 2: Rights and Obligations of Members

Every member of the Truman State University Student Government has the right to a seat at weekly meetings, including closed session, of the Student Government, speak in debate, and to introduce motions and legislative actions. All non-associate members of the Student Government must have at the time of installment and throughout their tenure in office a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 and shall uphold the oath of office, Constitution, Standing Rules, and Ethical Code of Conduct of the Truman State University Student Government to the best of their ability.

Section 3: Rights and Obligations of Non-member Students and Visitors

Non-member students and visitors have the right to sit in the gallery, provide comments and questions throughout public debate, and speak before the Student Government as a body. Visitors and non-members are obligated to remove themselves from the meeting chamber during closed session and, should the Speaker of the Student Senate order it, from the meeting chamber for the remainder of the meeting.

Section 4: 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 5: Committee Structure

Clause 1

Committees shall be divided into three categories: primary committees, secondary committees, and ad hoc committees. Committees shall meet weekly to discuss issues, projects, and solutions affecting Student Government, the Student Association, and the University as a whole. Committees are the primary method of outreach to faculty, staff, and students across campus, disciplines, and issue areas.

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. These committees shall include:

- Academic Affairs
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Environmental Affairs
- External Affairs
- Health, Wellness, and Safety
- Student Affairs

Clause 3

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. These committees shall include:

- Athletic Fee Accountability Committee
- Appropriations Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee
- Purple Friday Committee
- Parking Appeals Committee

Clause 4

Ad hoc committees are temporary committees that exist for a defined time and purpose in order to address a temporary, though pertinent, issue facing the Student Association that cannot be addressed within an existing primary or secondary committee. 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.

Article II: The Legislative Branch

Section 1: Legislative Powers

Clause 1

The legislative power of the Student Government shall be vested in a Student Senate. The power to bring forth legislation for the consideration of the Student Senate shall rest solely with the membership of the Student Government.

Clause 2

The Student Senate shall be authorized with the power to:

- A. Adopt necessary and proper resolutions to address the concerns of the Student Association through a simple majority vote;
- B. Create and charge with a duty any necessary and proper ad hoc committees;

- C. Adopt a budget on a biannual basis, allocate funds to campus organization and projects, and approve money motions in consultation with the Treasurer and relevant members of the Student Government;
- D. Elect the Speaker of the Student Senate;
- E. Override an executive order or Presidential veto by a two-thirds majority vote;
- F. Vote on censure, articles of impeachment, and removal of any member of the Student Government for violations of the Student Government's governing documents or other misconduct;
- G. Submit any legislative proposal and specifications for adoption to the Student Association by a two-thirds majority vote, initiating a special election held between the seventh (7th) and fourteenth (14th) day after the decision, excluding holidays and vacations, unless otherwise specified by the Student Senate;
- H. The Student Senate shall have the final authority to interpret this Constitution and the Standing Rules

Section 2: Membership

The membership of the Student Senate shall consist of voting and non-voting members:

- A. Voting members of the Student Senate shall include five (5) Senior Senators, fifteen (15) Voting Senators, four (4) Incoming Senators, and one (1) graduate senator. When called to vote, voting members shall respond with a binding vote of affirmation, opposition, or abstention.
- B. Non-voting membership of the Student Senate shall include the Speaker of the Student Senate, Student Representative to the Board of Governors, organization representatives, and Associate Senators. When called to vote, all non-voting members, excluding the Speaker of the Student Senate, may respond with a nonbinding vote in support, not in support, or in abstention.

Section 3: The Speaker of the Student Senate

Clause 1

The Speaker of the Student Senate shall preside over all Student Senate meetings and work to ensure the functionality and efficiency of the Student Government in line with the governing documents, parliamentary procedure, and precedent. As the neutral member, the Speaker of the Student Senate shall only speak on matters of procedure, fact, and precedent.

Clause 2

The Speaker of the Student Senate is authorized to set the agenda for all full body meetings of the Student Senate, call special meetings of the Student Senate, and appoint a Speaker Pro Tempore to preside over meetings in the absence of the Speaker.

Clause 3

The Speaker of the Student Senate shall be elected, as outlined by the Standing Rules, during the Spring transitional meeting for a term ending at the next transitional meeting and must be appointed prior to consideration of any legislative items by the Student Senate. The Speaker of the Student Senate shall hold no other position except as outlined in this Constitution.

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 Board of Governors, Student Government, and Student Association.

Clause 2

The Student Representative to the Board of Governors may not hold any position within the Student Government other than their own, but should attend as many meetings of the Student Government 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.

Section 5: 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. The Student Senate shall approve Organization Representatives in accordance with the Standing Rules.

Clause 2

The Funds Allotment Council, 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 Student Senate.

Section 6: Associate Members

Clause 1

Associate Senators shall be appointed by the President of the Student Association and shall serve until the next transitional meeting. Associate Senators shall serve on at least one committee and, should they fail to uphold their responsibilities, are subject to removal.

Clause 2

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.

Section 7: 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 Branch

Section 1: Executive Power

The chief executive power shall be vested in the President of the Student Association. The Executive Board, Executive Committee, and Executive Staff shall assist the President by carrying out the duties delegated to them by the governing documents of the Student Government.

Section 2: President of the Student Association

The President shall be the chief executive of the Student Government and shall serve as the chief representative of the Student Association and Student Government to the faculty, staff, and administration of Truman State University. The President may not hold any additional positions on the Student Government, shall be an ex-officio member of the committees of the Student Senate, and shall have the same rights and obligations as voting members, except for voting privileges. The President shall be

authorized to:

- A. Call special meetings of the Student Senate;
- B. Preside over the Executive Board and Executive Committee except where specified in this constitution or the standing rules;
- C. Serve as a student representative to the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The President can assign the Vice President or a temporary replacement representative in their stead;
- D. Give a regular report to the Board of Governors on behalf of the Student Government and Student Association;
- E. Call special elections in the case of initiatives and referendums in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Rules;
- F. Appoint members of the Student Government or Student Association to Student Government positions or as official representatives to University or community committees;
- G. Veto legislation adopted by the Student Senate;
- H. Issue Executive Orders.

Section 3: The Veto

Clause 1

The President may veto legislation within 96 hours of its adoption. A written account of the veto shall be filed with the Speaker of the Student Senate and the Secretary within 96 hours of the adjournment of the meeting in which the legislation was adopted.

Clause 2

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

Section 4: Executive Orders

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.

Section 5: 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. The Vice President shall serve as an additional representative to the faculty, staff, and administration of Truman State University.

Clause 2

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

Section 6: 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

The Treasurer shall be responsible for making deposits and withdrawals on behalf of the Student Government and shall act as a consultant to the Student Senate on budgetary matters.

Clause 3

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

Clause 4

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.

Section 7: 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 shall be authorized to:

- A. Independently enforce 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;
- B. Keep the records of the Student Government up to date;
- C. Ensure the governing documents are up to date and publicly available;
- D. Compile, with the assistance of relevant members of the Student Government, the End of Year Report;
- E. Inform members of the Student Government that a veto has been filed upon receiving the written account of the veto from the President.

Clause 3

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

Section 8: The Executive Board

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. 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 2

The Executive Board shall meet regularly, as needed. Any member of the Executive Board may call for an Executive Board meeting. Executive Board decisions made on behalf of Student Government shall be decided by a majority vote of all members of the Executive Board.

Section 9: The Executive Staff

Clause 1

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.

Clause 2

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 3

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

Clause 4

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 5

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.

Section 10: The Executive Committee

Clause 1

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.

Clause 2

The membership of the Executive Committee shall include: the Executive Board, all individuals holding a chairship, the Executive Staff, the Faculty Advisor, and the Staff Advisor.

Clause 3

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, and Staff Advisor.

Clause 4

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

Clause 5

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 6

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 IV: The Judicial Branch

Section 1: Judicial Authority

Clause 1

The Speaker of the Student Senate, as the neutral member of the Student Government, shall serve as the Ethics Justice, the chief member of the Judicial Branch. The full duties of the Ethics Justice shall be listed in the Standing Rules. The Judicial Branch serves to ensure fairness, justice, and compliance in ethical and electoral matters affecting the Student Government.

Clause 2

Should the Speaker of the Student Senate be unfit to perform their judicial duties as Ethics Justice due to unwillingness, conflicts of interest, or active campaigning in an election, a replacement Ethics Justice shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Student Senate by a majority vote.

Section 2: The Governing Documents Review Board

The Governing Documents Review Board shall review the Constitution, Standing Rules, and the Code of Conduct to ensure functionality and modernity of the governing documents. The Governing Documents Review Board shall recommend amendments to the governing documents to the Student Government and Student Association for their approval.

Section 3: The Election Hearing Board

The Election Hearing Board shall be established during the fall and spring elections to address violations of the adopted election handbook during the fall and spring elections. The Ethics Justice shall oversee the Election Hearing Board and administer elections. Membership and procedures shall be outlined in the Standing Rules.

Section 4: The Ethics Hearing Board

The Ethics Justice shall establish and chair the Ethics Hearing Board to consider violations of the Student Government Ethical Code of Conduct and the Standing Rules and the Constitution of the Student Government. The membership and procedures for the Ethics Hearing Board shall be outlined in the Standing Rules. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct shall be recommended to the University Conduct Board.

Section 5: 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 6: Impeachment**Clause 1**

All members of the Student Government shall be subject to removal from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, violations of the Student Government's Ethical Code of Conduct, Standing Rules of the Student Government, Constitution of the Student Government, the Student Conduct Code, University regulations, Missouri statutes, 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.

Article V: 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. 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: Eligibility Requirements

Any full-time student with a minimum cumulative 2.75 Grade Point Average shall be eligible to run for office. No student shall be eligible to seek election to more than one Student Government position at a time. Further eligibility requirements include:

- A. Any student in their first semester at the University, excluding summer or winter interim sessions, shall be eligible to run as an Incoming Senator;
- B. Any student meeting the necessary requirements for office shall be eligible to run as a Voting Senator;
- C. Any student who has served for four terms as an elected member of the Student Government, four terms as an appointed member of the Student Government Executive Committee, or two terms as an elected member of the Student Government and two terms as an appointed member of the Student Government Executive Committee shall be eligible to run as a Senior Senator;
- D. Any graduate student shall be eligible to run as a Graduate Senator;
- E. Any pair of students shall be eligible to run as a ticket for President and Vice President.

Section 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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 becomes vacant 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 Student Senate shall elect from among themselves a President Pro Tempore. This election shall be administered according to the Standing Rules.

Article VI: Powers of the Student Association

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 by a petition signed by at least fifteen percent of the Student Association.

Clause 2

The petition shall be presented to the Student Senate once duly signed. The seat 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.

Clause 3

If a majority of the voters, which 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. All vacancies shall be filled according to the governing documents.

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 ten percent of its members, shall cause a special election for consideration of any resolution or proposed changes to this or an independent council's constitution adopted by the Student Government. This petition must be submitted within thirty school days from the date the Student Senate approved the legislation.

Clause 2

The special election is to be held between the fifth and tenth school day after said petition has been presented unless the petitioning party waives this right.

Clause 3

The minimum number of votes cast in an initiative election must represent ten percent of the Student Association.

Clause 4

Resolutions, motions, and amendments that did not receive a simple majority of those voting in the initiative election shall be declared null and void.

Clause 5

Constitutional amendments shall take effect at the next transition meeting following the special election if a simple majority of those voting in the initiative election 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 VII: Amendment

Section 1: Ethical Code of Conduct

The Ethical Code of Conduct of the Truman State University Student Government may be amended, by a three-fourths majority vote, at either of the two meetings of the Student Senate immediately following the Fall general election. The Ethical Code of Conduct of the Truman State University Student Government shall be binding on all members of the Student Government.

Section 2: 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. Standing Rules changes proposed by the Governing Documents Review Board shall require a two-thirds majority vote. The Student Senate may amend the Standing Rules at other times than those specified above by a three-fourths majority vote.

Clause 2

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 3: Constitution

Amendments 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. Passage of ~~any~~ proposed amendment shall require a majority vote of the Student Association voting in a general election. In a special election, a majority shall constitute at least five percent of the Student Association.

Article VIII: Constitutional Authority

Section 1: Constitutional Supremacy

The Student Government Constitution shall take supreme precedence over any other special rules of order or legislation the Student Senate may adopt unless stated otherwise in the relevant section(s) of this constitution. All members of the Student Government are bound to this Constitution.

Section 2: Nullification

Any and all bylaws, rules and regulations, legislation, and other documents and procedures that are inconsistent with this constitution shall be null and void.