

**Preamble:** We, the students of Tennessee Technological University, in order to protect and defend the rights and liberties of student self-governance, to ensure the existence of limited, responsive government, to assure a student voice and participation in the direction of the University, to serve the common interests of students, to train ourselves in a republican form of government with an eye toward the example set by the government of this great nation, and to promote community on campus and righteousness in society, do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association.

## **Article I: Name, Purpose, and Powers of Organization**

**Section 1: Name.** The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University, commonly abbreviated as SGA.

**Section 2: Purpose.** It shall be the purpose of the SGA to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- A. Promote student participation in the affairs of the University.
- B. Serve as a channel for the expression of student opinion.
- C. Support student activities on this campus.
- D. Uphold the constitutional liberties and rights and to promote the general welfare of all segments of the University community.
- E. Encourage the development of student responsibility, character, leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

## **Article II: Membership**

**Section 1:** The membership of this organization shall consist of all students of Tennessee Technological University upon payment of their Student Fees.

**Section 2:** Qualified members may become Committee members, Justices, Senators, Executive Officers, and/or any appointed office holder.

**Section 3:** Members of this organization shall be entitled to vote in Student Government Association elections.

**Section 4:** In all elections concerning a specific college, school, or segment of the student body, only students enrolled in that college or school or who are members of that segment of the student body may vote in that particular election.

## **Article III: The Legislative Branch**

**Section 1: Legislative power.** All legislative powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Congress.

**Section 2: Congressional Composition.** The Student Congress shall be composed of the Student Senate and the Freshman House of Representatives.

### Section 3: The Student Senate.

- A. Senate Composition.** The Student Senate shall consist of senators based on the enrollment of their college. Senators shall be elected from each college to one year terms as follows:
- a. The College of Arts and Sciences
  - b. The College of Business Administration
  - c. The College of Education
  - d. The College of Engineering
  - e. The College of Agriculture and Human Ecology
  - f. The School of Nursing
  - g. The Graduate School
  - h. Two members of the Residence Hall Association to be appointed by the Residence Hall Association President.
  - i. One member from Tech Village to be appointed by the Tech Village Residential Association President.
- B. Senate Apportionment.** Each school or college shall be apportioned one seat in the Student Senate for every 250 students or major fraction thereof enrolled in that school or college with enrollment being determined at the beginning of each spring semester. Regardless of enrollment, no school or college shall have fewer than one representative in the Student Senate
- C. Senate Powers.** The Student Senate shall have the option of exercising the following duties and powers:
- a. To approve and maintain a budget,
  - b. To enact legislation,
  - c. To ratify by a two-thirds majority vote or to reject any or all SGA Supreme Court justices and clerks,
  - d. To override by a two-thirds majority vote a presidential veto,
  - e. To confirm or deny by majority vote all legislation passed by the Freshman House of Representatives
  - f. To maintain and provide for standing legislative committees as follows:
    - i. Internal Affairs Committee
    - ii. Student Affairs Committee
    - iii. Academic Affairs Committee
    - iv. General Welfare Committee
  - g. To maintain and provide for ad hoc committees as necessary,
  - h. To elect from its membership officers as follows:
    - i. Senate President Pro-Tempore
    - ii. Senate Parliamentarian
    - iii. Senate Sergeant-at-Arms
    - iv. Any other position deemed necessary by a majority of vote of the Student Senate
  - i. To conduct and decide all impeachment trials that have been properly initiated and undertaken.

- D. Senate Eligibility.** All candidates seeking a position in the Student Senate must meet the following requirements prior to election day and, if successful, throughout his or her term in office:
- a. Student Senate candidates shall be full-time students, in good standing, at Tennessee Technological University.
  - b. Each Student Senate candidate shall be enrolled in the college or school from which he or she is seeking election.
  - c. Each Student Senate candidate shall possess a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- E. Senate Vacancies.** In the event that a Student Senate seat apportioned to a school or college becomes vacant, the remaining senators from that delegation will recommend a candidate meeting all the requirements in Part D of this section to fill the vacant seat. The candidate must then be approved by a majority vote of the Student Senate in order to take office. In the event that there are no senators in the delegation of a school or college, the Student Government President shall recommend candidates meeting all requirements set forth in Part D of this section to fill the vacant seats in question. These candidates must also be approved by a majority vote of the Senate before taking office.

#### **Section 4: The Freshman House of Representatives.**

- A. House of Representatives Composition.** The Freshman House of Representatives shall be composed of twenty students who are freshman at Tennessee Technological University and who are selected for one year terms.
- B. House of Representatives Selection.**
- a. Immediately upon adoption of this Constitution, the SGA shall begin accepting petitions bearing at least twenty-five signatures from eligible candidates seeking consideration for appointments to the Freshman House of Representatives. Each petition shall be accompanied by a résumé. Following a period of at least two weeks, a session of the Student Senate shall be held in which the qualifications of each candidate are read and each candidate will be given the opportunity to address the Student Senate assembled. The Senate shall then vote on each candidate with each candidate requiring a majority affirmative vote in the Student Senate to obtain a seat in the Freshman House of Representatives. In the event that more candidates are confirmed by the Senate to the House of Representatives than available seats allow, the twenty students with the most affirmative votes shall obtain seats in the House of Representatives.
  - b. The above process shall be used to fill all House of Representative seats for the academic year in which this Constitution is approved. For all subsequent academic years, half of the available seats will be filled using the process outlined above and half will be filled through a freshman election.
- C. House of Representatives Powers.** The Freshman House of Representatives shall have the option of exercising the following duties and powers:
- a. To recommend by majority vote legislation for consideration in the Student Senate

- b. To create, provide for, and maintain by majority vote committees whose membership shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Freshman House of Representatives
- c. To elect from its membership officers as follows:
  - i. Speaker of the Freshman House of Representatives
  - ii. Any other position deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Freshman House of Representatives

- D. House of Representatives Eligibility.** All candidates seeking a position in the Freshman House of Representatives must meet the following requirements prior to election day and, if successful, throughout his or her term in office:
- a. Freshman House of Representatives candidates shall be full-time students, in good standing, at Tennessee Technological University.
  - b. Freshman House of Representatives candidates shall be undertaking their first semester of full-time college enrollment following high school graduation.
  - c. Each Freshman House of Representatives candidate shall possess a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- E. House of Representatives Vacancies.** In the event that a seat in the House of Representatives becomes vacant, the Student Government President shall recommend a candidate meeting the requirements set forth in Part D of this section to fill the vacant seat. The candidate must then be approved by a majority vote of Student Senate before taking office.

**Section 5: The Holding of Multiple Offices.** No member of the Student Congress shall be eligible to serve concurrently in any other capacity or office within the SGA, except as otherwise provided for in this constitution.

**Section 6: Office Hours.**

- A. Office hours are required for all senators.
- B. Each senator must maintain a minimum of one office hour per week. These office hours must be recorded in a manner to be prescribed and maintained by the Student Government Secretary.
- C. The Student Government Secretary shall notify the Student Senate when a senator has failed to fulfill three or more scheduled office hours in a given semester.

**Section 7: Legislative Procedures.**

- A. Legislative Order of Business.** The order of business of each legislative meeting shall be as follows:
- a. Roll call.
  - b. Reading and approval of minutes.
  - c. Standing committee reports.
  - d. Special committee reports.
  - e. University committee reports.
  - f. College reports.
  - g. Old business.

- h. New business.
  - i. Special orders.
  - j. Adjournment.
- B. Frequency of Meetings.** Each house of the Student Congress shall meet regularly at a recurring time and place to be decided at each house's first meeting of each semester.
- a. Special sessions of the Student Congress may be called by the Student Government President.
- C. Quorum.** In order for business to be considered at a legislative meeting, at least two-thirds of the relevant house's membership must be present.

### **Section 8: Legislative Actions on Bills.**

- A. Definition.** The term "bill" shall be any act of the Senate that shall effect a major change in University policy or tradition.
- B. Bill Construction.** The Senate shall adopt rules at the outset of each legislative term governing construction, format, submission procedures, and amendment procedures for bills.
- C. Legislative Authority.** All legislation is enacted by the authority of the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University
- D. Passage.** A bill is considered passed when a simple majority of senators present vote for passage.
- E. Transition to the Executive.** Following the passage of a bill, the legislation shall be transmitted by the President of the Senate to the Student Government President for action.
- F. Presidential Inaction.** In the event that the Student Government President takes no action on a bill that has been passed by the Student Senate within two weeks of its transmission to the Student Government President, the legislation will be considered enacted.

### **Section 9: Legislative Action on Resolutions.**

- A. Definition.** A resolution is defined as in Robert's Rules of Order Revised.
- B. Adoption.** Resolutions may be adopted by a simple majority vote of the members present.
- C. Transmission.** Copies of resolutions passed shall be presented to the Student Government Secretary for referral to the appropriate University office or committee, if necessary.

## **Article IV: The Executive Branch**

**Section 1: Executive Composition.** The executive branch shall have as its elected officers the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

**Section 2: The President.** The President shall be the acknowledged head of the student body in all student affairs and student relations with the faculty, the staff, and the administration.

- A. Powers of the President.** The Student Government President shall have the following powers and duties:
- a. The power to preside at all meetings of the executive cabinet.
  - b. The power to appoint special committees and administrative assistants.
  - c. The power to enter into agreements, contracts, and consultations as a representative of the SGA in accordance with University policies.
  - d. Supervisory responsibilities over SGA finances, records, and programs.
  - e. The power to veto any and all legislation passed by the Student Senate.
  - f. The power to serve as a voting member of the Administrative Council, the Athletic Committee, and the Chapter 606 Student Monies Allocation Committee.
  - g. The power to appoint one member of the executive cabinet to the Elections Commission, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
  - h. The power to appoint students to positions in the executive cabinet.

### **Section 3: The Vice President.**

- A. Powers of the Vice President.** The Student Government Vice President shall have the following powers and duties:
- a. The responsibility to discharge the duties of the President in the event that the President is not able to discharge his or her duties.
  - b. Become the President in the event of a vacancy in said office.
  - c. The power to act as the President of the Student Senate.
  - d. The power to vote in the proceedings of the Student Senate in the case of a tie vote.
  - e. The power to appoint members of Student Senate standing committees.
  - f. The power to designate and appoint members to ad hoc committees in the Student Senate.
  - g. The responsibility to transmit all legislation passed by the Student Senate to the Student Government President within three days of passage.

### **Section 4: The Secretary.**

- A. Powers of the Secretary.** The Student Government Secretary shall have the following powers and duties:
- a. The responsibility to maintain all records of the SGA.
  - b. The responsibility for all official correspondence of the SGA.
  - c. The responsibility for recording all proceedings at Student Senate and Freshman House of Representatives meetings.
  - d. The power to act as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Student Senate.
  - e. The responsibility to keep accurate records of all committees and their actions.

### **Section 5: The Treasurer.**

- A. Powers of the Treasurer.** The Student Government Treasurer shall have the following powers and duties:
- a. The responsibility to be in charge of the finances of the SGA.
  - b. The responsibility to present a budget report to the Student Senate before the end of each semester.
  - c. The power to act as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Student Senate.

**Section 6: The Cabinet.** There shall be an executive cabinet composed of students who are selected by and serve exclusively at the pleasure of the President. The cabinet will consist of the following officers:

- A. Chief of Staff to the President,** who will:
- a. Execute any tasks or representation that the President deems necessary.
- B. Secretary of Internal Affairs,** who will:
- a. Be responsible for the handling of administrative work for the SGA
  - b. Be responsible for monitoring the functions of the University committee system and the attendance of all student members of these committees,
  - c. Be responsible for the flow of legislation from the President into the University committee system and for the maintenance of an accurate record of the status of all legislation.
- C. Secretary of Economic Affairs,** who will:
- a. Advise the President on matters pertaining to SGA finances and budgetary responsibilities.
- D. Secretary of Greek Life,** who will:
- a. Serve as a liaison between the SGA and the various Greek organizations of Tennessee Technological University.
  - b. Prepare bi-weekly reports on Greek affairs.
- E. Secretary of Athletic Affairs,** who will:
- a. Serve as a liaison between the SGA and the campus Athletic Department.
  - b. Promote student involvement in athletic events.
- F. Secretary of Academic Affairs,** who will:
- a. Be responsible for the SGA's involvement in campus academic affairs.
  - b. Serve as the official representative of the President in matters relating to admissions and records of students attending Tennessee Technological University.
  - c. Serve as a liaison between the SGA and the Graduate School.
  - d. Be responsible for the SGA's involvement in the active development of a continued placement program.
- G. Secretary of Student Organizations,** who will:
- a. Be responsible SGA's involvement in student life.
  - b. Monitor the activities of other student-related services at Tennessee Technological University, such as Safety and Security, Health Services, the Physical Plant, and Housing.
  - c. Prepare bi-weekly reports on the activities of student organizations.
- H. Attorney General,** who will:

- a. Represent the SGA before the Supreme Court as prescribed elsewhere in this constitution.
  - b. Counsel, upon request, any student who desires aid concerning the University's judicial system or the SGA Supreme Court.
  - c. Serve as the SGA's representative of the Tennessee Intercollegiate Student Legislature.
- I. Secretary of Religious Affairs, who will:**
- a. Prepare a bi-weekly report on the activities of Tennessee Technological University's various faith-based organizations.
- J. Secretary of Minority Affairs, who will:**
- a. Serve as a liaison between the SGA and Tennessee Technological University's various minority organizations.
  - b. Provide reports to the President based on the cares and concerns of minority organizations on campus.
- K.** Any other cabinet office that the Student Senate may by a two-thirds majority vote establish.

**Section 7: Office Hours.** All executive officers shall maintain regular office hours during the fall and spring semesters.

- A. Publication.** Office hours must be published outside of the SGA office as well as on the SGA website so that they may be known by the entire student body.
- B. Minimum Requirements.** Each executive officer shall meet a minimum number of officer hours as follows:
- a. President: fifteen hours per week.
  - b. Vice President: eight hours per week.
  - c. Secretary: eight hours per week.
  - d. Treasurer: eight hours per week.
  - e. Members of the executive cabinet: one hour per week.

**Section 8: Executive Eligibility.** All executive officers and candidates for executive office shall be required to be capable of meeting the following requirements at all times:

- A.** Each must possess a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- B.** Each must be enrolled as a full-time student, in good standing, at Tennessee Technological University.
- C.** The President and Vice President must be of at least junior standing the fall semester following election to office.
- D.** The Secretary and Treasurer must be of at least sophomore standing the fall semester following election to office.

**Section 9: Executive Salaries.** The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall receive a salary during the fall and spring semesters as approved by the Student Senate and subsequently by the Student Affairs Committee. The salaries shall be payable during the specified period in a manner consistent with the financial policies of the University.

**Section 10: Executive Terms of Office.** Terms of office for all executive positions, whether elected or appointed, are one year.

**Section 11: The Holding of Multiple Offices.** No member of the executive branch shall be eligible to serve concurrently in any other capacity or office within the SGA, except as otherwise provided for in this constitution.

## **Article V: The Judicial Branch**

**Section 1: Judicial Power.** All judicial powers and responsibilities of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the SGA Supreme Court, specifically:

- A.** The responsibility to hold impeachment hearings on charges against any elected or appointed official of the SGA when impeachment proceedings have been properly initiated.
- B.** The power to adopt, by a majority vote, its own rules and regulations under which to function, provided that no rule shall be made which is inconsistent with, or in violation of, this constitution or official University policy. These rules and regulations shall include a schedule of meeting times and places and shall be submitted to the SGA Secretary within two weeks of the first Supreme Court meeting of the fall semester. Following submission, these rules may only be amended by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
- C.** The responsibility to provide for an administrator of faculty member to advise the court in its actions.
- D.** The power to present to the President of the University or representative thereof, upon complaint of the Student Judicial Advisor, an opinion as to whether or not a University regulation is vague, ambiguous, and/or in violation of law and to make a request for clarification of vague and/or ambiguous regulations and present a revision of regulations found to be in violation of law.
- E.** The power to here and render decisions on all cases brought before it that involve the following:
  - a. Student traffic appeals
    - i. These shall be referred to the Supreme Court by the Office of University Police.
    - ii. These shall be heard by the Supreme Court
  - b. Student disciplinary appeals
    - i. These shall be conducted in accordance with University policy.

**Section 2: Supreme Court Composition.** The SGA Supreme Court shall have as its members nine justices and three clerks, who will be recommended to the Student Senate after submitting an application to and being chosen by the Judiciary Selection Committee. Each Supreme Court candidate will then be voted on individually by the Student Senate with confirmation requiring a two-thirds majority vote. The membership of the Supreme Court will be as follows:

- A. The Chief Justice,** who shall be a junior or a senior having at least one year of experience on the Supreme Court and who shall have the power to:

- a. Direct and be responsible for the performance of the judiciary and its members.
  - b. Ensure that all elected and appointed officials of the Student Government Association are administered the oath of office, either personally or by a justice designated by the Chief Justice.
  - c. Appoint one member of the Supreme Court to serve as a member of the Election Commission.
  - d. To preside over all impeachment proceedings, unless the Chief Justice is the accused.
- B. The Associate Chief Justice**, who shall be a sophomore, junior, or senior and who shall have the power to:
- a. Perform all duties of the Chief Justice when the Chief Justice is unable to perform said duties.
  - b. Assist the Chief Justice in the performance of his or her duties.
  - c. To preside over all impeachment proceedings where the Chief Justice is the accused.
- C. Seven Associate Justices**, each of whom shall be a sophomore, junior, or senior.
- D. Three Clerks**, each of whom shall be a freshman and a non-voting member of the Supreme Court.

**Section 3: Judicial Eligibility.** All Supreme Court members must meet the following requirements:

- A.** All members of the SGA Supreme Court shall have and maintain throughout their terms a minimum overall quality point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- B.** All members of the SGA Supreme Court shall maintain full-time enrollment status throughout their terms.

**Section 4: Judicial Terms of Office.** All members of the SGA Supreme Court shall serve for a period of one year with no member serving more than four consecutive terms.

**Section 5: Vacancies on the Supreme Court.** In the event of a vacancy on the SGA Supreme Court, the Judiciary Selection Committee shall, within fifteen days, nominate a candidate for approval before the Student Senate. Before taking office, the prospective justice or clerk must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

**Section 6: The Judiciary Selection Committee.** The task of finding, recruiting, and recommending prospective Supreme Court justices and clerks to the Student Senate shall rest with the Judiciary Selection Committee.

- A. Composition of the Judiciary Selection Committee.** The Judiciary Selection Committee shall have the following membership, which shall include at least one woman and one minority representative:
  - a. The SGA President, who shall act as the chairperson of the committee.
  - b. The SGA Vice President
  - c. Three representatives appointed by the President.

- B. Vacancies on the Judiciary Selection Committee.** An appointment to fill an unexpired term of the Judiciary Selection Committee shall be made by the Executive Officers when a vacancy occurs during a term of office.
- C. Eligibility.** All members of the Judiciary Selection Committee shall be eligible for reappointment.
- D. Meetings.** The Judiciary Selection Committee shall meet at the end of the spring semester of each year for the purpose of selecting judicial candidates with all meetings being called by the committee chairperson.

## **Article VI: Elections**

**Section 1: Frequency of Elections.** Regularly scheduled election shall be held once during each fall semester and twice during each spring semester with the following stipulations:

- A. Dates of Elections.** The Elections Commission shall be responsible for setting the exact date for every election. The Elections Commission shall meet the first week of March or the earliest possible date thereafter to discuss exact dates of elections.
- B. Election Assignments.** Freshman representatives, and the homecoming court shall be elected during the fall election each year, executive officers shall be elected during the first spring election each year, and student senators shall be elected during the second spring election each year.
- C. Special Elections.** If deemed necessary by a two-thirds vote of the Elections Commission, special elections may be held at any time during the fall and spring semesters, provided there is a clear purpose for doing so.

**Section 2: Voting in Student Government Elections.** All members of the Tennessee Technological University student body shall have the right to vote for representation in student government by logging on to the University's voting server with the following provisions:

- A. Voting for Executives.** All students shall be eligible to vote for the SGA President, SGA Vice President, SGA, Secretary, and SGA Treasurer.
- B. Voting for Students.** All students shall be eligible to vote for representation in the Student Senate from the college or school in which they are enrolled.
- C. Vote by Proxy.** Each student is eligible to vote by proxy in a given election with the Elections Commission having the power to review and, if necessary, disqualify each proxy vote on the basis of validity, provided that the following conditions are met:
  - a. The student is registered through the Office of Career Services as a co-op student or is student teaching during the voting period.
  - b. A written document on company or school letterhead is faxed or delivered to the Elections Commission containing the following information:
    - i. A photocopy of the student's Tennessee Technological University identification card, clearly displaying all information on the card.
    - ii. The vote of the student.
    - iii. The signature of the student.

**Section 3: General Requirements for Election to Office**

- A. Executive Officers.** All executive officers shall be elected by a majority of those voting.
  - a. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, a second election will be held between the two candidates receiving the largest pluralities within five days of the first election. The candidate receiving the most votes in this second election shall then be declared elected.
  - b. In the event that multiple candidates receive an equal number of votes, a new election shall be held between these candidates within five days of the first election. The candidate receiving the majority of votes in this election shall be declared elected.
- B. Congresspersons.** All senators and elected freshman representatives shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast.

**Section 4: Requirements to Appear on Ballots.** Each candidate seeking to appear on official University ballots must meet the following requirements:

- A. Release of Information.** Each candidate must release to the Student Government Association advisor or proper official, by the required date, a consent of release of his or her overall quality point average, grade point average, and an information sheet with name, campus address, phone number, social security number, e-mail address, and college or school of major.
- B. Petitions for Executive Officers.** Each candidate for executive office must present a petition of one hundred student legal names to the Elections Commission before the qualification deadline.
- C. Petitions for Congresspersons.** Each candidate for the Student Senate or an elected House of Representatives seat must present a petition of twenty-five student legal names to the Elections Commission before the qualification deadline.
- D. Appearance Under Alternative Names.** A name other than a candidate's legal name may be placed on the ballot in addition to the candidate's legal name if, in the judgment of the Elections Commission, the candidate is generally known by a name other than a legal name.

#### **Section 5: Elections for Homecoming King and Homecoming Queen**

- A.** All candidates for Homecoming King and Homecoming Queen shall be students of at least junior status, enrolled full-time with a minimum overall quality point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- B.** All candidates for Homecoming King and Homecoming Queen must be sponsored by an organization recognized by the University.
- C.** An organization may sponsor only one candidate for Homecoming King and one candidate for Homecoming Queen.

#### **Section 6: The Elections Commission.**

- A. Composition of the Elections Commission.** The Elections Commission shall be composed of seven members as follows:
- a. Three Student Senators
  - b. One SGA Cabinet Officer
  - c. One SGA Supreme Court Justice
  - d. Two civilian members of the student body
- B. Civilian Members.** The civilian members of the Elections Commission shall be those deemed most qualified among applications solicited from the student body and shall be selected by the Internal Affairs Committee.
- C. The Commission Chairperson.** The chairperson of the Elections Commission shall be elected by the membership of the commission from the three SGA senators of the commission.
- D. Election Eligibility.** No member of the Elections Commission may be a candidate for SGA Executive office while serving as a member of the Commission. Commission members may be candidates for the Student Senate during their terms in office, but they shall not oversee the election from the college or school in which they are a candidate.
- E. Commission Procedures.**
- a. The Elections Commission shall be responsible for the conduct and integrity of all elections.
  - b. The Elections Commission shall set the date of all elections.
  - c. The Elections Commission shall ensure that all information necessary for qualification for election will be published in the SGA office.
  - d. Candidates shall be listed on ballots in alphabetical order.
  - e. The Elections Commission shall be charged with organizing debates between candidates for SGA President.
  - f. The Elections Commission shall ensure that all polls are open from 8am until 5pm on the days in which there are elections.
  - g. The Elections Commission along with the SGA President will count the ballots from the voting server.
  - h. Each candidate shall be allowed to have a representative at the counting of the ballots.
  - i. The Elections Commission shall ensure that the results of each election are posted outside the SGA Offices, on the SGA website, and e-mailed to all Tennessee Technological University students.
- F. Active Campaigning.**
- a. Active campaigning for all elected positions shall last for two weeks. This campaigning time shall start immediately following the proper submission of application and petition at the official meeting of the candidates preceding the election.
  - b. Candidate shall follow the SGA Election Rules that will be handed out during the official meeting.
  - c. The Elections Commission shall be charged with enforcing all rules and regulations dealing with SGA elections and the Elections Commission Chair shall be responsible to see that SGA Election Rules are updated and passed by

a majority Senate vote on a yearly basis. This shall be done no later than the fourth Senate meeting of the spring semester.

- d. A debate will be required for all SGA Presidential candidates during the last week of the campaign.
- e. Each candidate shall be fully responsible for the observation of election rules during his or her campaign. If the Elections Commission deems a candidate has violated the rules, that candidate will be immediately disqualified unless the Elections Commission does not see it as necessary due to underlying circumstances or suspicion of foul play.
- f. Disqualifications may be appealed to the SGA Supreme Court within two days of the election.

## **Article VII: Impeachment and Removal from Office.**

**Section 1: Grounds for Removal.** Any elected or appointed official in the Student Government Association may be impeached and removed from office if any of the following conditions are met:

- A.** Incompetence, bribery, or unlawfulness in office.
- B.** Failure, at the time of election, to possess the academic qualifications for office.
- C.** Willful violation of any express provision of this constitution.
- D.** Abandonment of office or, in the case of the Student Senate, change of school or college.
- E.** Failure, for any other cause, to perform the duties of office.
- F.** Failure to meet the requirements for holding the office in question, pursuant to this constitution.

## **Section 2: Procedure for Removal.**

- A. Initiation of Proceedings.** The impeachment process may be begun by any of the following methods which shall state explicitly the charges against the official in question and be delivered to the Chief Justice of the SGA Supreme Court or, if the Chief Justice is the official in question, the Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court:
  - a. The passage of articles of impeachment by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
  - b. A recommendation by a majority vote of the Executive Council.
  - c. A recommendation by a majority vote of the Supreme Court.
  - d. A petition bearing the signatures of five percent of the student body.
- B. Judicial Hearing.** Following receipt of an initiation of impeachment, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall call a public hearing in which all relevant facts shall be examined through all necessary means. The Supreme Court will then write an opinion on the merit of impeachment charges.
- C. Trial.** Following the judicial hearing, the Senate will assemble with the Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice presiding and consider the results of the judicial hearing as

well as any other information or testimony related to the case. At the conclusion of the trial, the Senate will vote on the issue of guilt of the official in question, with a two-thirds vote of guilty required to remove the official from office.

### **Article VIII: The Oath of Office**

**Section 1: The Oath.** Upon taking office, all officials of the Student Government Association shall be required to take the following oath:

- A. I, , having been duly elected/ appointed as an officer of the Student Government Association of Tennessee Technological University, and ever mindful of the public trust invested in me, do hereby swear to uphold the Constitutional rights, the SGA Constitution and By-laws, and the liberties of the students.

### **Article IX: Amendments**

**Section 1: Procedures to Amend.** Amendments to this constitution must be initiated by a petition of twenty percent of the student body or by a vote of two-thirds in the Student Senate.

**Section 2: By-Laws.** The by-laws of this constitution may be ratified or amended by a two-thirds voted of the Student Senate and by approval of the Student Affairs Committee.

**Section 3: Referendum.** All amendments to this constitution shall require a vote of the student body. The Student Senate shall inform the student body of a referendum at least two weeks prior to the vote. An amendment is considered passed if a majority of the students voting assent to its passage.