

X. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TLU STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Revised: Spring 2015

PREAMBLE:

We, the students enrolled at Texas Lutheran University (TLU), under the auspices of the Board of Regents of TLU, in order to provide a means of self-government, to promote the growth of the academic, social, and religious life at TLU, to further relations between individuals and groups both within and outside of TLU, and to manage our monies and properties, do hereby form this association and submit ourselves to be governed by this constitution and its bylaws.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The name of this association shall be the Student Government Association of TLU, hereafter referred to as the Student Government Association (SGA).

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of the SGA at TLU is to provide a link between students, faculty and staff while representing the student body's needs. The SGA also supports student organization activities through an allocation process.

ARTICLE II: AUTHORITIES AND POWERS

Section 1: Establishing Authority

The SGA of TLU is established under the authority granted by the students enrolled at TLU, under the auspices of the Board of Regents of TLU.

Section 2: Granted Authority and Power

The authority and power granted to the SGA by the students enrolled at TLU shall be exercised by the officers and the senate of the SGA or by its delegation to agents or agencies established under this constitution and its bylaws.

Section 3: Final Authority

Final authority on major resolutions is held by the president of TLU and/or the Board of Regents of TLU.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

All persons registered as full-time and part-time students shall be members (hereafter referred to as students) of the Texas Lutheran University Student Government Association. Students enrolled for a minimum of 12 hours of coursework may hold offices and will become active members until the end of their term. In their final semester, graduating seniors need only the number of hours necessary for graduation. All students are subject to the provisions of the constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

Section 1: The Executive Branch

The executive branch of the SGA shall consist of a president, vice president, and comptroller. Details shall be set forth in the bylaws.

Section 2: The Legislative Branch

The legislative body of the SGA shall be known as the senate. A quorum of the senate shall be two-thirds of the voting members of the senate. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the basis for conducting the parliamentary activities of the senate. Details shall be set forth in the bylaws.

Section 3: The Judicial Branch

All disciplinary responsibilities are referred to the disciplinary panel for the institution overseen by the Vice President and Dean of Student Life & Learning. Issues or concerns regarding SGA in particular should be brought to the attention of the advisors and ultimately the Vice President and Dean of Student Life & Learning.

Section 4: Appointed Officials

Appointed officials shall consist of a paid secretary appointed by the president, and a sergeant at arms and a speaker pro-tempore elected by the senate. Details shall be set forth in the bylaws.

Section 5: SGA Committees

The SGA committees shall exist to assist in the execution of the operations of the SGA. Details shall be set forth in the bylaws.

ARTICLE V: INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL

All members of TLU SGA shall have the rights of initiative, referendum, and recall within the SGA. Details shall be set forth in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: BYLAWS

The bylaws of the SGA shall be the means by which the precepts of this constitution shall be implemented.

ARTICLE VII: INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Any student enrolled at TLU may make requests through the president of the SGA for an interpretation of this constitution and its bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Placing Proposed Amendments on Ballot

Articles of amendment or amendments to specific portions of this constitution may be placed on a SGA ballot by two-thirds vote of the senate, or by a petition containing the signatures of 15% of the current students enrolled at TLU. Figures for said percentage shall be based upon the enrollment at the Seguin campus. Such proposed amendments to this constitution shall be presented to the senate in writing.

Section 2: Timetable for Election

Upon vote approval or receipt of petition by the senate, the senate shall direct the elections committee to hold an election on the proposed amendment no less than ten days or more than three weeks after being proposed.

Section 3: Publicizing Proposed Amendments

Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be publicized in the official student newspaper, the Lone Star Lutheran, from the time of the senate directive for election until the time of that election.

Section 4: Adoption of Proposed Amendments

Proposed amendments to this constitution, having been duly publicized, shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those students enrolled at TLU casting ballots on the proposal, as certified by the election committee.

Section 5: Implementation

Proposed amendments to this constitution that are adopted by the students enrolled at TLU shall come into effect upon certification of passage by the election committee, and approval by the Board of Regents of TLU.

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ARTICLE IX: RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1: Requirements of All Organizations

The senate of the SGA shall have the power to give temporary or full charter to any student organization voted by the senate to be in accordance with the SGA constitution. Any and all student organizations recognized by the senate shall be deemed legitimate organizations subject to the rules and regulations of the TLU SGA constitution and bylaws.

Section 2: Additional Requirements for Social Greek Organizations

Any student organization seeking to be chartered as a social Greek organization must first be approved by the Greek Council to be in accordance with the Greek Council constitution.

ARTICLE X: PUBLICATIONS POLICY

Section 1: Officially Recognized Publications

The SGA of TLU recognizes the official student newspaper as being the Lone Star Lutheran, and the official school yearbook as being The Growl.

Section 2: Procedure for Approval of Additional Publications

All recognized student organizations that seek to publish and distribute a student organization publication must abide by the libel and slander laws of the state of Texas.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This constitution and its bylaws shall become operative upon a two-thirds vote of those students enrolled at TLU casting ballots on the proposal, as certified by the elections committee, and upon approval of the Board of Regents of TLU. Upon ratification of this document, all other constitutions and their bylaws shall become null and void. (NOTE: Copies of the by-laws are available in the Student Government Association office in the ASC and in the Student Activities office.)