The Constitution of the Student Government Association of East Texas Baptist University

Preamble:

We, the students of East Texas Baptist University in a common effort to protect our rights, voice our opinions, and promote the general welfare of the University, do hereby establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of East Texas Baptist University.

Article I:

The Student Government Association shall be divided into two branches: Legislative and Executive.

Article II: The Legislative Branch

Section 1 – Definition and Composition

The legislative and judicial powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Legislature which shall consist of the Student Senate. The Student Senate shall consist of three (3) senators elected from each class and three (3) senators-at-large.

Section 2 – Senator Qualifications

A. Senators must observe the following requirements:

    1. Be a member of the class of the Senate Seat for which they are running, according to number of credit hours at the time of election.
    2. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
    3. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
    4. Be a full-time student at East Texas Baptist University.

B. Senators-at-Large must observe the following requirements:

    1. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
    2. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
    3. Be a student at East Texas Baptist University.

C. Graduate level Senators must observe the following requirements:

    1. Be a member of the Graduate Program.
    2. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
    3. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
    4. Be a student at East Texas Baptist University.

Section 3 – Senator Election Procedures and Length of Terms

Senators shall be elected by their respective classes in a general election of the student body. Upperclassman senator elections shall be held at the end of each academic year (spring semester), and Freshman senator elections shall be held at the beginning of each academic year (fall semester). A Senator's term shall last until the time of induction the following academic year.

Section 4 – Filling Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur in a senate seat, the latest election's runner-up for the respective seat shall be asked to fill the vacancy. Should there be no runners-up or if all runners-up decline the seat, a replacement may be nominated by a senator or officer. The nominee must fulfill all requirements with the exception of the class requirement and be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Student Senate.

Section 5 – Senator Duties

A. All Senators are required to:
    1. Attend all meetings of the Student Senate. Only absences approved by the Senate shall be excused. The second unexcused absence will result in censure, and the third unexcused absence will be cause for impeachment.
    2. Serve on at least one Student Government Association committee.
    3. Work at least one office hour per week. Two missed office hours shall be considered an unexcused absence.

B. The Student Senate shall have full authority and power to:
    1. Make Student Government Association budget appropriations.
    2. Approve official proposals to be submitted to the University Cabinet.
    3. Sponsor events and programs which support and enrich the campus community.
    4. Enact, amend, and repeal By-Laws for the Student Government Association
    5. Grant organization charters (as outlined in the ETBU Policies and Procedures Handbook).
    6. Do anything necessary and proper to carry out the aforementioned powers as long as its actions do not contradict the Student Government Association Constitution or By-Laws.

Section 6 – Quorum

No business that is transacted in the absence of a quorum shall be valid. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the senate.

Article III: The Executive Branch

Section 1 – Definition and Composition

The executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of the officers of the Student Government Association: the President,

Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary and any additional officers or honorary officers created by the By-Laws of the Student Government Association.

Section 2 – The President
The President shall be the official head and executive officer of the Student Government Association.

A. The President must observe the following qualifications:
   1. Be a member of the incoming junior or senior class.
   2. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
      If the GPA falls below 2.5, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   3. Have previously served as a senator at least two academic semesters.
   4. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
   5. Be a full-time student at East Texas Baptist University.
      If the class load falls below full-time, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   6. Reside in University housing.

B. The President shall have full power and responsibility to:
   1. Preside over meetings of the senate.
   2. Act as a non-voting ex-officio member of all committees.
   3. Call special senate meetings.
   4. Set general direction for the association.
   5. Veto Senate proposals or by-laws if necessary. A presidential veto may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the senate.
   6. Do anything necessary and proper to carry out the aforementioned powers as long as it does not contradict the Student Government Association Constitution or By-Laws.

Section 3 – The Vice-President

A. The Vice-President must observe the following qualifications:
   1. Be a member of the incoming junior or senior class.
   2. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
      If the GPA falls below 2.5, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   3. Have previously served as a senator at least two academic semesters.
   4. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
   5. Be a full-time student at East Texas Baptist University.
      If the class load falls below full-time, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   6. Reside in University housing.

B. The Vice-President shall:
   1. Exercise the powers of the President upon the temporary inability of the President or at the request of the President.

2. Assume the Presidency if the President becomes ineligible or permanently unable to serve as President.
3. Act as an official advisor on parliamentary procedure and policy for the Senate.

Section 4 – The Secretary

A. The Secretary must observe the following qualifications:
   1. Be a member of the incoming sophomore, junior, or senior class.
   2. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
      If the GPA falls below 2.5, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   3. Have previously served as a senator at least two academic semesters.
   4. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
   5. Be a full-time student at East Texas Baptist University.
      If the class load falls below full-time, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   6. Reside in University housing.

B. The Secretary shall:
   1. Keep an accurate written record of the proceedings, reports, and attendance of all meetings of the Senate and Executive Council.
   2. Keep copies of all documents necessary for the function of the Student Government Association.
   3. Submit meeting agendas and minutes to the Vice President for Student Affairs weekly.

Section 5 – The Treasurer

A. The Treasurer must observe the following qualifications:

   1. Be a member of the incoming sophomore, junior, or senior class.
   2. Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
      If the GPA falls below 2.5, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   3. Have previously served as a senator at least two academic semesters.
   4. Be in good standing with the University, i.e. not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
   5. Be a full-time student at East Texas Baptist University.
      If the class load falls below full-time, he/she will be required to submit a formal letter of resignation.
   6. Reside in University housing.

B. The Treasurer shall:

   1. Keep an accurate and detailed account of all receipts, expenditures, and allocations to organizations.
   2. Present a comprehensive report to the Senate weekly.

Section 6 – Responsibilities of Officers

All Officers shall be required to:

1. Attend all meetings of the Student Senate. Only absences approved by the Senate shall be excused. The first unexcused absence will result in censure. The second unexcused absence is cause for impeachment.
2. Work at least two office hours per week. Two missed office hours shall be considered an unexcused absence.
3. Serve as the Chair of one or more committees, meet with the committee(s) on a regular basis, and submit a weekly report to the senate on the status of each committee.
4. Fulfill all the responsibilities designated for their specific office as described in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7 – Officer Election Procedures and Length of Terms

Officers shall be elected in a general election at the end of each academic year (spring semester). An officer's term shall last until the time of induction the following year.

Section 8 – Filling Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur for the position of President, the Vice-President will assume the presidency, as outlined in Article III, Section 3 of this Constitution.

Should a vacancy occur for the position of Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary, the President shall appoint a qualified replacement. If there is more than one qualified replacement then this appointment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the senate.

Article IV: Amendment and Ratification

Any proposed amendment to this constitution, approved by the University Cabinet and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate, shall become a binding part of this constitution.

This constitution supersedes all previous Student Government Association constitutions and shall become binding upon the approval of the Student Body and University Cabinet.