

# ***Constitution of Temple Student Government***

*We, the Students of Temple University – Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education, in order to provide a representative government, foster understanding and involvement among all members of the university community, advocate in the best interests of a diverse student body, serve as a conscience of the university administration in the management of this institution, hold the university administration accountable for the quality of student life, act as the official voice of students in academic, institutional and campus affairs, do ordain and establish this Constitution of Temple Student Government*

## ***Article I: Name and Purpose***

### **Section 1: Name**

- i. The name of this organization shall be Temple Student Government

### **Section 2: Purpose**

- i. The purpose of Temple Student Government shall be to:
  - a. Represent the needs and interests of the student body and to be their voice to the university administration, faculty, and other members of the university community, as well as outside organizations at the local, state, and federal levels,
  - b. Initiate, develop, and maintain services that address student needs and ensure the efficiency of existing services,
  - c. Stimulate and facilitate communication and interaction between the members of the student body, the university community, and the surrounding community,
  - d. Deliver information to students on the state of the students and other issues or events pertinent to the student body,
  - e. Allocate funding for student organizational programming to promote and enhance the educational, recreational, social, and cultural life of the student body, and;
  - f. Adopt whatever additional responsibilities it deems necessary to fulfill its obligation to students.

### **Section 3: Scope:**

- i. No portion of this Constitution or its subsidiary documents, either in whole or in part, shall be interpreted so as to deny students the rights granted unto them by the laws and regulations of the United States of America, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, City and County of Philadelphia, or Temple University.

## ***Article II: The Parliament***

## **Section 1: Purpose**

- i. The parliament shall consist of a representative body of students whose primary function is to consider and propose initiatives that address aspects of student life

## **Section 2: Organization**

- i. The parliament shall be led by a speaker duly elected from among the representatives.
- ii. Committees:
  - a. Standing committees:
    1. The parliament shall be divided into six standing committees:
      - i. Academic Affairs; Student Life; Diversity & Inclusivity; Pride and Tradition; Local, Government, and Community Affairs; Wellness
    2. Each parliament member with the exception of the speaker shall be a member of one and only one standing committee
    3. Membership in standing committees is determined at the beginning of each term by the speaker in concert with the parliamentarian
    4. Each respective committee shall elect a Committee Chair that oversees the processes and daily functions of the Committee
  - b. Ad-hoc committees:
    1. Ad-hoc committees may be formed for the purpose of addressing a topical issue
    2. Membership of an ad-hoc committee shall be at the discretion of the sponsor of the committee in concert with the speaker
    3. Ad-Hoc committees shall function in the same manner as standing committees

## **Section 3: Powers and Responsibilities**

- i. The Parliament shall operate as a legislative body
- ii. The Parliament shall have the power and responsibility to:
  - a. Pass resolutions that express the opinions of the student body,
    1. These resolutions shall take two forms: binding and nonbinding
      - i. Nonbinding resolutions require a simple majority of those present
      - ii. Binding resolutions require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of those present
  - b. Create a forum for student concerns,

- c. Elect a Speaker and other necessary chairs from within its membership to assist in its administration using procedures defined in the Parliamentary Bylaws

#### **Section 4: Eligibility**

- i. Students shall not run for election or serve as a member of the parliament unless they:
  - a. Successfully maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher during elections and while in office
  - b. Maintain full-time status, defined by the University as registered for at least twelve (12) credit hours of “full-time” enrollment as defined by the University
  - c. Pay any and all debts to the university

#### **Section 5: Membership**

- i. All parliament members shall be elected on an annual basis using procedures set forth in the bylaws
- ii. The membership shall consist of 37 representatives:
  - a. One representatives from each undergraduate school or college:
    1. College of Science and Technology
    2. College of Public Health
    3. College of Liberal Arts
    4. College of Education
    5. College of Engineering
    6. Tyler School of Art
    7. Boyer College of Music and Dance
    8. School of Media and Communication
    9. Fox School of Business
    10. School of Social Work
    11. School of Sports, Tourism, and Hospitality Management
    12. School of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts
  - b. Two representatives each from the following years:
    1. First year, defined as students who are not transfers who entered in the current year with 0-29 credits
    2. Second year, defined as students who are not transfers who entered in the previous year or transfer students who entered in the previous year with 0-29 credits
    3. Third year, defined as students who are not transfers who entered in the year before the previous year plus transfer students who entered in the previous year with 30-59 credits

or who entered in the year before the previous year with 0-29 credits

4. Fourth plus year, defined as students who are not transfers who entered in or before three years previous plus transfer students who entered in the previous year with 60+ credits or who entered in the year before the previous year with 30+ credits or who entered in or before three years previous with 0+ credits
  - c. One representative from new transfer students, defined as students who are transfer students and began taking courses at Temple within the past year
  - d. One representative from graduate students enrolled at Temple
  - e. Ten representatives of Special Interest Groups:
    1. 1 representative from the Resident Hall Association
    2. 1 representative for Commuters
    3. 1 representative from Fraternity and Sorority Life
    4. 1 representative for Student Athletes
    5. 2 representatives for Multicultural Students
    6. 1 representative for Honors Students
    7. 1 representative for Disability Resource Services
    8. 1 representative for International Students
    9. 1 representative for LGBTQIA+ Students
  - f. Five at large representatives from among the eligible student body
- iii. Impeachment
- a. The Auditor General shall investigate all accusations of violating this Constitution or the Bylaws or for flagrant abuse of the office by any member of TSG upon the authorization or direction of the Parliament
  - b. If the Auditor General finds probable cause for impeachment, they shall recommend to the Parliament Articles of Impeachment, which shall specifically detail any transgressions and why an impeachment is necessary.
  - c. The Parliament shall debate the merits of the Articles of Impeachment and vote on each Article of Impeachment.
  - d. In order to convict in Cases of Impeachment, each Article of Impeachment shall require a 2/3 majority vote of current membership of the Parliament
  - e. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any subsequent office within Temple Student Government

iv. Vacancies

- a. In the event of a vacancy, the first runner up that ran for the vacant seat during elections shall be offered the seat
- b. If the first runner up is unable or unwilling to assume the position, an invitation shall be extended to the second runner up and the process shall continue in this manner until the position is filled
- c. Should there be no other candidates for a seat, the parliament shall offer an open invitation for the general student body to apply for the position.
  1. In this case, Parliament will hold an open discussion with the applicants and decide by a majority vote who receives the position.

### **Section 6: Bylaws**

- i. The parliament shall maintain a set of Parliamentary Bylaws to govern the function of the parliament
- ii. Amending the Parliamentary Bylaws shall require either a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote plus the approval of the Parliamentarian or a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote without the approval of the Parliamentarian
  - a. A vote to amend the Bylaws must be taken one session after cloture of the discussion of the proposed amendment so as to allow time for the proposed amendment to be fully considered
- iii. This constitution takes precedence at all times over the Bylaws

## ***Article III: The Executive Branch***

### **Section 1: Purpose**

- i. The Executive Branch shall consist of a team of students whose primary functions include executing initiatives to improve the student experience and serving as the liaison between administrators and the student body.

### **Section 2: Roles and Succession**

- i. Student Body President
  - a. The duties of the Student Body President shall include, but shall not be limited to:
    1. Serving as the chief student advocate,
    2. Executing, implementing, and promoting the initiatives and decisions of Temple Student Government,
    3. Acting as the face of Temple Student Government both internally and externally,
    4. Appointing the Chief of Staff,
    5. Serving as an ex-officio member with speaking and introducing rights on any and all Parliament meetings, be they full or committee, and;
    6. Forming internal working groups as needed
- ii. Vice President of Services
  - a. The duties of the Vice President of Services shall include, but shall not be limited to:
    1. Advocating for services that meet the demonstrated needs of students,
    2. Maintaining communication throughout the university community with students, faculty, staff, and administration, and;
    3. Overseeing and improving existing services
- iii. Vice President of External Affairs
  - a. The duties of the Vice President of External Affairs shall include, but shall not be limited:
    1. Maintaining communication between the university community and the surrounding community,
    2. Collaborating with university partners in designing, implementing, and improving student engagement with the surrounding community, and;
    3. Advocating for Temple University students to all levels of government
- iv. Chief of Staff

- a. The duties of the Chief of Staff shall include, but shall not be limited to:
  - 1. Advising the Student Body President,
  - 2. Organizing the daily operations of Temple Student Government,
  - 3. Overseeing the process of dispersing allocations to student organizations in concert with the Student Activities Office,
  - 4. Assigning and organizing functions and responsibilities within Temple Student Government, and;
  - 5. Supporting the Executive Office
- v. Auditor General
  - a. The duties of the Auditor General shall include, but shall not be limited to:
    - 1. Acting as the internal monitor of the organization,
    - 2. Maintaining, enforcing and interpreting the Temple Student Government Constitution and Bylaws,
    - 3. Conducting all impeachment investigations, and;
    - 4. Administering the oath of office to all members of Temple Student Government.
- vi. Communications Director
  - a. The duties of the Communications Director shall include, but shall not be limited to:
    - 1. Promoting awareness of Temple Student Government and Temple University services,
    - 2. Providing mechanisms for student feedback,
    - 3. Overseeing all media relations, and;
    - 4. Managing all outreach efforts including social media and The Temple Student Government website
- vii. Administrative Advisor
  - a. The Director of Student Activities shall serve as the Administrative Advisor
  - b. The Administrative Advisor shall provide advice and continuity through all decision making processes within Temple Student Government
- viii. Executive Office
  - a. The Executive Office shall include the Student Body President, Vice President of Services, Vice President of External Affairs, and Chief of Staff.
- ix. Senior Leadership Team

- a. The Senior Leadership Team shall include the Student Body President, Vice President of Services, Vice President of External Affairs, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Communications Director.
- b. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for:
  - 1. Collectively managing the operations of the Executive Branch
  - 2. By consensus setting the direction of the Executive Branch
- x. Executive Staff
  - a. The Executive Office shall determine the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Staff, which shall be delineated in the Bylaws
- xi. Succession
  - a. In the case of Presidential incapacitation or impeachment the order of succession shall be:
    - 1. Vice President of Services
    - 2. Vice President of External Affairs
    - 3. Chief of Staff
  - b. Replacement of Executive Office positions vacant due to succession shall be filled by appointment at the discretion of the remaining Executive Officers

### **Section 3: Powers and Responsibilities**

- i. The Executive Branch shall operate as a liaison between the student body, administrators, including the Board of Trustees, and any organization external to Temple University
- ii. The Executive Branch shall serve as the point of contact for all external communications of TSG
- iii. The Executive Branch shall have the power and responsibility to:
  - a. Organize and enact initiatives that improve the experience of the student body,
    - 1. These initiatives shall be proposed by either the Parliament or the Executive Branch
    - 2. Should a resolution be binding, the Executive Branch shall provide regular status updates to the Parliament
  - b. Authorize the use of TSG funds by any member of TSG
  - c. In collaboration with Student Activities, disburse funding to student organizations

### **Section 4: Eligibility**

- i. Students shall not run for election or serve as a member of the executive branch unless they:
  - a. Successfully maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher during elections and while in office



- b. Maintain full-time status, defined by the University as registered for at least twelve (12) credit hours of “full-time” enrollment as defined by the University
- c. Pay any and all debts to the university

## **Section 5: Membership**

### **i. Elections**

- a. Temple Student Government shall hold annual student body elections between March and April
- b. These elections will be organized by an elections commissioner, who shall be appointed by the Executive Office
- c. The process and procedures shall be further delineated in the Bylaws. At a minimum, there shall be annual elections for Student Body President, Vice President of Services, and Vice President of External Affairs

### **ii. Appointment and Termination of Executive Staff**

- a. The Executive Office, upon their inauguration, shall hold open interviews for all Executive Staff positions and shall appoint the best candidate for each position
- b. Termination of Executive Staff other than the Auditor General is at the discretion of the Executive Office, with the advice of the Auditor General
- c. Reasons for Termination shall include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Violation of the Student Conduct Code, this Constitution, or the Executive Bylaws
  - 2. Dereliction of duty
  - 3. Insubordination
- d. Termination of the Auditor General shall occur only with the consent of the Administrative Advisor

### **iii. Impeachment**

- a. The Auditor General shall investigate all accusations of violating this Constitution or the Bylaws or for flagrant abuse of their office by any member of the Executive Office
  - 1. If the Auditor General finds probable cause for impeachment, they shall recommend to both the Executive Branch and the Parliament Articles of Impeachment, which shall specifically detail any transgressions and why an impeachment is necessary.
  - 2. Both the Executive Branch and Parliament shall debate the merits of the Articles of Impeachment and vote on each Article of Impeachment.

3. In order to convict in Cases of Impeachment, each Article of Impeachment shall require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of both the Parliament and the Executive Branch
- b. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any subsequent office within Temple Student Government

### **Section 6: Bylaws**

- i. The Executive Branch shall maintain a set of Executive Bylaws to govern the function of the branch.
- ii. Amending the Executive Bylaws shall require either a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote plus the approval of the Auditor General or a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote without the approval of the Auditor General
- iii. This constitution takes precedence at all times over the Executive Bylaws

## ***Article IV: General Assembly***

### **Section 1: Membership**

- i. The membership of the General Assembly shall be composed of students representing various constituencies, including but not limited to student organizations, the schools and colleges of the university, graduating classes and representatives-at-large

### **Section 2: Meetings**

- i. The General Assembly shall hold public meetings every Monday during the academic year between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM, unless extreme circulations cause cancellation

## ***Article V: Amendments***

### **Section 1: Amendment Process**

- i. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be presented in writing to a joint committee consisting of the Chair of each of the six standing Parliamentary Committees, the Speaker of the Parliament, Parliamentarian, Auditor General, Student Body President, Vice President of Services, Vice President of External Affairs, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, and the Communications Director.
- ii. Upon the approval of the strict majority of this committee, the request shall be moved to a vote by the entire Temple Student Government Team.
- iii. A favorable response by 3/4 each of the Parliament and the Executive Branch combined shall be required to approve the amendment.
- iv. All amendments to this Constitution shall be added to the end of this document under the heading "Amendments," and shall be numbered according to the date of adoption.

## ***Article VI: Ratification***

### **Section 1: Ratification of a Replacement Constitution**

- i. A Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) vote of both the Parliament and the Executive Branch along with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the General Assembly. Upon ratification, all previous Constitutions, Bylaws, and other governing documents shall be rendered null and void, and all Assemblies and Committees organized under the same name shall be dissolved. All Officers shall transfer to their corresponding roles under the new Constitution if such a corresponding role exists.