



SERVE. UNITE. BUILD.

Constitution of Temple Student Government

Passage: 5|15|2018

Preamble

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: Leadership

Section 1: Coequality of Branches

- i. The Parliament, Executive Branch, and Ethics Board shall be coequal
- ii. The Speaker and President shall be the chief representatives of Temple Student Government on campus
- iii. The Steering Committee, Executive Office, and Constitutionality Committee shall lead the functions of their respective branch
- iv. The Senior Leadership Team shall cooperatively organize and lead the functions of Temple Student Government, by communicating at a high volume about the actions of their respective branches; it shall consist of the Speaker, Vice Speaker, Executive Office, Chief Judge, and Vice Chief Judge

Article III: 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 the Speaker, duly elected from among the body
- ii. The sole leader of Parliament sessions is the Speaker
- iii. The Speaker shall administer and oversee all procedures of Parliament, these initial decisions are subject to review by the Parliamentary Counselor upon appeal
- iv. 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
 4. Each respective committee shall elect a Committee Chair that oversees the processes and daily functions of the Committee
 - i. This election shall take place during the first committee session of the year, as well as the first committee session after the chair becomes vacant
 - ii. Should there be a tie, the Speaker has the tie-breaking vote
- 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
- c. Steering Committee:
 1. The Steering Committee shall be a special permanent committee responsible for aiding the Speaker in the management of Parliament functions
 2. Membership of the Steering Committee consists strictly of the chairs of the six standing committees as well as the Speaker of the Parliament
 3. The Speaker of the Parliament serves as the chair of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee additionally elects a vice chair to serve as chair and interim Speaker in the absence of the Speaker

Section 3: Powers and Responsibilities

- i. The Parliament shall operate as the primary 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
 1. The Speaker and the chairs of the standing committees shall comprise the Steering Committee, which shall operate under procedures defined in the Parliamentary Bylaws
 - d. Confirm select appointments of the Executive Branch
 1. The positions to be confirmed are: Ethics Board Judges (3), Executive Counselor, Parliamentary Counselor, Student Liaison, Communications Director, Secretary
 2. Confirmation shall require a majority vote of the Steering Committee of the Parliament

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 seats shall be up for election on an annual basis
- ii. The membership shall consist of 37 representatives:
 - a. One representative 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 and a half

d. One representative from graduate students enrolled at Temple

e. Ten representatives of Special Interest Groups:

1. 1 representative from the Resident Hall Association
 - i. This representative is chosen at the beginning of the academic year by the Resident Hall Association
2. 1 representative for Commuters
3. 1 representative from Fraternity and Sorority Life
 - i. The TUGA President or their designee holds this seat
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 Parliamentary Counselor shall investigate all accusations of Parliament members violating this Constitution or the Bylaws, or for flagrantly abusing their office
- b. If the Parliamentary Counselor finds probable cause for impeachment, they shall recommend Articles of Impeachment to the Parliament, 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, an Article of Impeachment shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of both the Steering Committee and the full body of Parliament, respectively
- 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, the Steering Committee will hold an open discussion with the applicants and decide by a majority vote who receives the position.

v. Emeritus Members

- a. In the interests of continuity and institutional knowledge, select members of Parliament are entitled to Emeritus status for a specified period of time, regardless of the electoral outcome.
- b. Emeritus status grants members every right they would hold in their previous position, including the right to attend and speak at any Parliament session or committee and otherwise perform their position's functions, including confirmation of nominations, but does not grant them introducing or voting rights in full Parliament sessions, and they do not count towards quorum

- c. The Speaker of the Parliament remains Speaker Emeritus until the selection of a replacement Speaker
 - 1. Should the Speaker be unable to serve as Speaker Emeritus, the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee serves in their place
 - 2. Should the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee be unable to serve as Speaker Emeritus, the Steering Committee selects one of their remaining members to serve as Speaker Emeritus
- d. The chair of each standing committee remains Chair Emeritus until the selection of a replacement Chair

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 a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of Parliament
 - 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 IV: 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 in concert with the Speaker
 - 2. Executing, implementing, and promoting the initiatives and decisions of Temple Student Government,
 - 3. Acting as the face of Temple Student Government externally,
 - 4. Appointing the Chief of Staff,
 - 5. 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 to:
 - 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 the Executive Branch,
 - 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 the Executive Branch, and;
 - 5. Supporting the Executive Office
- v. 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
- vi. 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
- vii. 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.
 - b. The Executive Office shall, by consensus, set the direction of the Executive Branch
- viii. Executive Leadership Team
 - a. The Executive 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 Executive Leadership Team is responsible for:
 - 1. Collectively managing the operations of the Executive Branch
- ix. Executive Staff
 - a. The Executive Staff shall include the Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Communications Director, and whatever other roles the Executive Office fills to aid in the execution of Temple Student Government initiatives
 - b. The Executive Office shall determine the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Staff, which shall be delineated in the Bylaws
- xii. Succession
 - a. In the case of Presidential incapacitation or impeachment, the order of succession to the Presidency shall be:
 - 1. Vice President of Services
 - 2. Vice President of External Affairs
 - 3. Speaker of the Parliament
 - b. Replacement of Executive Office positions, except the President, shall be filled by appointment at the discretion of the remaining members of the Executive Office

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 communications of TSG which are external to the University
- 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 the Elections Commissioner
 - c. The process and procedures shall be further delineated in the Elections Code. 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 shall hold open interviews for all Executive Staff positions and, upon their inauguration, shall appoint the best candidate for each position
 - b. Termination of members of the Executive Staff is at the discretion of the Executive Office, with the advice of the Executive Counselor
 - 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
- iii. Impeachment

- a. The Executive Counselor 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 Executive Counselor finds probable cause for impeachment, they shall recommend Articles of Impeachment to the Parliament, which shall specifically detail any transgressions and why an impeachment is necessary.
 2. 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, an Article of Impeachment shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of both the Steering Committee and the full body of Parliament
- 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 a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the members of the Executive Office
- iii. This constitution takes precedence at all times over the Executive Bylaws

Article V: Ethics Board

Section 1: Purpose

1. The Ethics Board shall consist of a team of students whose primary function is to hold Temple Student Government accountable, promote transparency, and investigate all violations of governing documents

Section 2: Roles and Succession

1. Constitutionality Committee
 1. The Constitutionality Committee is the administrative head of the Ethics Board as well as its appellate division, and consists of three Ethics Board Judges
 2. The role of the Constitutionality Committee is:
 - i. To appoint a Chief Judge and Vice Chief Judge from among its members, organize and maintain all Temple Student Government

governing documents, by consensus, set the direction of the Ethics Board, and to otherwise aid the Chief Judge in the management of Ethics Board functions

- ii. To appoint the Elections Commissioner
- iii. By majority vote, adjudicate the potentially unconstitutional decisions of action or inaction by members of the Ethics Board

3. Officers:

i. Chief Judge

- 1. The Chief Judge is the chief administrator and spokesperson of both the Constitutionality Committee and the Ethics Board
- 2. The Chief Judge has no greater voting weight than any other Ethics Board Judge
- 3. The Chief Judge administers the oath of office to the Executive Office and Student Liaison
- 4. The Chief Judge serves as an expert on constitutional procedures

ii. Ethics Board Judges (2)

- 1. Aid the Chief Judge in the management of the Ethics Board and, with the members of the Constitutionality Committee, oversee the actions of the Ethics Board
- 2. Each shall administer the oath of office to the Executive Staff and Parliament, respectively
- 3. The Vice Chief Judge shall administer the oath of office to the Constitutionality Committee and Ethics Board Staff
 - a. If the Vice Chief Judge must be sworn-in, then a different adjudicatory member of the preceding Ethics Board shall swear them in

2. Ethics Board Staff

- 1. The Ethics Board Staff consists of the initial arbiters of potential constitutional infractions, the Executive Counselor, Parliamentary Counselor, and Elections Commissioner
- 2. The authority of the respective members of the Ethics Board Staff are non-overlapping

3. Officers:

i. Executive Counselor

- 1. Maintaining, interpreting, and enforcing the Temple Student Government Constitution and Bylaws for the Executive Branch

- ii. Parliamentary Counselor
 - 1. Maintaining, interpreting, and enforcing the Temple Student Government Constitution and Bylaws for Parliament
 - 2. Serves as an expert on Parliamentary procedure
 - iii. Elections Commissioner
 - 1. Maintaining, interpreting, and enforcing the Elections Code in all Temple Student Government elections
 - 2. Administering and overseeing all elections related matters throughout the year
 - 3. Appointing an Elections Committee to assist in overseeing the elections process
 - 4. Collaborating with Temple Student Government promotions staff to promote candidacy and engage students in the elections process
3. Student Liaison
- 1. Non-adjudicatory member of the Ethics Board
 - 2. Liaising with both the Temple University Administration and the student body, sharing information between both
 - 3. Regularly attend Board of Trustees meetings and meet with students to gather concerns

Section 3: Powers and Responsibilities

- 1. The Ethics Board shall operate as the judicial branch of the organization
- 2. The Ethics Board shall act as the internal monitor of Temple Student Government
- 3. The Ethics Board shall serve as a point of contact in regards to conflict management, impeachment investigations, and adjustments to all governing documents
- 4. The Ethics Board shall frequently consult with the Administrative Advisor when making decisions that affect members of Temple Student Government
- 5. The Ethics Board shall advise the Administrative Advisor and either the Executive Office or Steering Committee as appropriate if a Temple Student Government member is at risk of termination

Section 4: Eligibility

- 1. Students shall not serve as a member of the Ethics Board unless they:
 - a. Successfully maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher during the appointment process 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

1. Appointment and Confirmation Process:
 - a. The Executive Office shall hold open interviews and nominate the best fit candidates for the three positions of Ethics Board Judge and the positions of Executive Counselor, Parliamentary Counselor, and Student Liaison, respectively
 - b. The Parliament must have a confirmation vote on the six appointees
 - c. Upon confirmation, the Constitutionality Committee shall appoint a Chief Judge and Vice Chief Judge, and then hold open interviews and appoint the best fit candidate for the Elections Commissioner role
 - d. The Elections Commissioner shall use their discretion in appointing an Elections Committee to assist in overseeing all elections related matters
 - e. The appointment and confirmation process of the Ethics Board, excluding the Student Liaison and the Elections Committee, must be completed by the end of the academic year
2. Removal from Office
 - a. Termination of any Ethics Board member shall require at least a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of Parliament and the Executive Leadership Team

Section 6: Bylaws

1. The Ethics Board shall maintain a set of Ethics Board Bylaws to govern the function of the branch
2. Amending the Ethics Board Bylaws shall require a unanimous vote of the Constitutionality Committee, or a combination of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Constitutionality Committee and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Ethics Board Staff
3. This constitution takes precedence at all times over the Ethics Board Bylaws

Article V: Elections

Section 1: Elections Code

- i. The Elections Commissioner shall maintain the Elections Code to govern the elections process.
- ii. Amending the Elections Code shall require the following:
 - a. The Elections Commissioner must draft and, after seeking advice from the Parliament and Executive Office, propose the amendment to the Ethics Board

- b. The Ethics Board must approve the proposed amendment with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority in order for it to be ratified
- iii. Annual Elections Code annulment
 - a. Immediately following the Spring election, the elections code is null and void, requiring a re-ratification to occur before a date set by the Ethics Board prior to the first Parliament meeting of each year.
 - b. The null Elections Code will govern the freshman Parliament election, if it occurs prior to the ratification of a new Elections Code.
- iv. This constitution takes precedence at all times over the Elections Code

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendment Process

- i. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be presented in writing to a joint committee consisting of the Steering Committee, the Executive Office, and the Chief Judge
- ii. Upon the approval of the strict majority of this committee, the amendment shall be presented to the Parliament
- iii. Before being put to a vote, all members of Parliament shall have at least two weeks to consider the changes so as to allow time for the proposed amendment to be fully considered
- iv. The amendment shall then be put to a vote in the Parliament
- v. A favorable response by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Parliament shall be required to approve the amendment
- vi. Should the amendment be approved, an old version of the Constitution must be maintained and publicly available. The new version, with the amendment incorporated, shall be dated the day of the amendment's passage and shall immediately take force