



Temple Student Government
Constitution

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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: General Organization

1. Temple Student Government shall consist of three separate and equitable branches: The Parliament, The Executive Branch, and The Ethics Board.
2. The Steering Committee, Executive Office, and Constitutionality Council shall lead the functions of their respective branch.
3. The Speaker and President shall be the chief representatives of Temple Student Government on campus.
4. The Senior Leadership Team shall cooperatively organize and manage 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, Deputy Speaker, President, Vice President of Services, Vice President of External Affairs, Chief Judge, and Vice Chief Judge.
5. In order to serve as a member of Temple Student Government, students must meet the following threshold:
 - a. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher;
 - a. Be a full-time student, as defined by Temple University

Article II: The Parliament

Section 1: Organization

1. The Parliament shall be managed and chaired by the Speaker, duly elected by The Parliament, from among the Representatives.
2. The sole leader of Parliament sessions is the Speaker, who leads and sets the agenda for all Parliament meetings.
3. The Speaker shall administer and oversee all procedures of Parliament, these initial decisions are subject to review by the Parliamentary Counselor upon appeal.
4. The Deputy Speaker shall be duly elected by The Parliament, from among the Representatives, and in the absence of the Speaker, shall serve as chair of the Steering Committee and Acting-Speaker.
5. The Steering Committee shall be a permanent committee responsible for aiding the Speaker in the management of Parliament functions.
6. The Steering Committee consists of the chairs of the Standing Committees of the Parliament, including the Deputy Speaker, in addition to the Speaker, as chair.

Section 2: Functions

1. The Parliament shall operate as the legislative body of Temple Student Government.
2. The Parliament shall have the power and responsibility to:

- a. Pass acts and resolutions that express the opinions of the student body and improve the functions of Temple Student Government;
 - i. Acts shall require approval from $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Parliament Representatives and are binding upon Temple Student Government.
 - ii. Resolutions shall require approval from a simple majority of Parliament Representatives and shall be enacted or vetoed by the Executive Office by the seventh day following its passage by Parliament. If the Executive Office fails to veto by that deadline, then the resolution shall immediately become an act.
- b. Create forums for the expression of student concerns;
- c. Elect a Speaker and appoint a Steering Committee using procedures defined in the Parliamentary Bylaws before the end of the Spring semester;
- d. Consider the Executive Office's nominations to the positions of Constitutionality Judge, Parliamentary Counselor, Executive Counselor, and those Executive Staff positions which are essential to the execution of acts of The Parliament—as opposed to those which primarily aid the Executive Office in organizing and managing the Executive Branch—to confirm or deny their appointment through a confirmation process which shall be defined by the Parliamentary Bylaws.

Section 3: Membership

1. Each seat of Parliament shall be up for election annually and the term of office for Parliament Representatives shall end during the Spring semester, immediately after the succeeding Parliament is inaugurated by The Ethics Board.
2. There shall be thirty seats of The Parliament. Four of those seats shall be split evenly between the four classes, with one seat being reserved for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, respectively; another twelve seats shall be split evenly by reserving one seat for each of the twelve schools of the University; two seats shall be for graduate students of the University; one seat shall be reserved for each of the following special interest groups: Commuters, Honors Students, International Students, LGBTQIA+, Multicultural Students, Students associated with Disability Resources and Services, and Transfer Students; five seats shall be at-large and for the general electorate.
3. The electorate for each type of seat is defined by the following:
 - a. At-large seats: any enrolled student at Temple University;
 - b. Freshman seat: students who have completed 29 or less credits;
 - c. Sophomore seat: students who have completed more than 29 credits but less than 60;
 - d. Junior seat: students who have completed more than 59 credits but less than 90;
 - e. Senior seat: students who have completed 90 or more credits;
 - f. School seats: undergraduate students at each of the respective schools (College of Science and Technology, College of Public Health, College of Liberal Arts, College of Education, College of Engineering, Tyler School of Art, Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Media and Communication, Fox School of Business, School of Social Work, School of Sports, Tourism, and Hospitality Management, School of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts);
 - g. Graduate student seats: students enrolled in any graduate program at the University;
 - h. Commuter seat: students self-identified as commuter students;
 - i. Transfer seat: students having completed at least their first 15 college credits prior to enrolling at the University but after high school;
 - j. Disability Resources and Services seat: students registered with DRS;

- k. LGBTQIA+ seat: students self-identified as LGBTQIA+;
 - l. Honors seat: students enrolled in the University Honors Program;
 - m. International seat: students self-identified as international students;
 - n. Multicultural seat: students self-identified as multicultural;
 - o. At-large: all enrolled students at the University.
4. The process for filling Parliament vacancies prior to an election shall be defined by the Parliamentary Bylaws.
 5. Impeachment investigations against Parliament Representatives shall be conducted by the Parliamentary Counselor and where there can be a reasonable belief in the guilt of a Representative, in the form of a trial, the Parliamentary Counselor shall present an Article of Impeachment to Parliament for each alleged constitutional violation. Parliament Representatives shall be convicted on an Article of Impeachment upon $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of each the Steering Committee and the full Parliament. Judgement following Impeachment Convictions are at the discretion of the Parliamentary Counselor but shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any subsequent office within Temple Student Government.

Section 4: Bylaws

1. The Parliament shall maintain a set of Parliamentary Bylaws to govern the functions of the Parliament.
2. Amending the Parliamentary Bylaws shall require approval from $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Parliament Representatives.
3. This Constitution is supreme before those Bylaws.

Article III: The Executive Branch

Section 1: Organization

1. The Executive Branch shall be led by the Executive Office, which shall consist of the President, the Vice President of Services, and the Vice President of External Affairs.
2. The Executive Branch shall be organized according to the policies set forth by the Executive Office in the Executive Bylaws.
3. 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.
4. Replacement of Executive Office positions, except the President, shall be filled by appointment, according to procedures which shall be defined by the Executive Bylaws.

Section 2: Functions

1. The Executive Branch shall operate as the student body's liaison to administrators, including the Board of Trustees, and any organization external to Temple University.
2. The Executive Branch shall have the power and responsibility to:
 - a. Implement acts of The Parliament and other initiatives which supplement those acts;
 - b. Provide regular status updates to the Parliament regarding implementation of acts;
 - c. Authorize the use of Temple Student Government funds, for the primary purpose of executing acts of Parliament;
 - d. In collaboration with Student Activities, disburse funding to student organizations;

- e. Hold open interviews and nominate the best fit candidates for appointment to the positions of Constitutionality Judge, Parliamentary Counselor, and Executive Counselor;
- f. Hold open interviews and nominate or appoint the best fit candidates to any Executive Staff positions which are necessary and proper for the function of the Executive Branch.

Section 3: Membership

1. The positions of President, Vice President of Services, and Vice President of External Affairs shall be up for election annually and the term of office for all members of the Executive Branch shall end during the Spring semester, immediately after the succeeding Executive Office is inaugurated by the Ethics Board.
2. The Executive Staff shall consist of all members of the Executive Branch whom are not members the Executive Office. Their roles and the process for their termination shall be defined by the Executive Bylaws.
3. Impeachment investigations against members of the Executive Office shall be conducted by the Executive Counselor and where there can be a reasonable belief in the guilt of an officer, in the form of a trial, the Executive Counselor shall present an Article of Impeachment to Parliament for each alleged constitutional violation. Members of the Executive Office shall be convicted on an Article of Impeachment upon $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of each the Steering Committee and the full Parliament. Judgement following Impeachment Convictions are at the discretion of the Executive Counselor but shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any subsequent office within Temple Student Government.

Section 4: Bylaws

1. The Executive Branch shall maintain a set of Executive Bylaws to govern the functions of the Branch.
2. Amending the Executive Bylaws shall require approval from the President in addition to at least one other member of the Executive Office.
3. This Constitution is supreme before those Bylaws.

Article IV: The Ethics Board

Section 1: Organization

1. The Ethics Board shall be managed by, and the Constitutionality Council shall be chaired by, the Chief Judge, who shall be appointed from among and by the Constitutionality Council.
2. The Constitutionality Council shall consist of three Constitutionality Judges. This shall be the appellate division of the Ethics Board.
3. The Vice Chief Judge shall serve as chair of the Constitutionality Council in case of the absence of the Chief Judge and shall immediately become Chief Judge if that role is vacated.
4. The Ethics Board Staff consists of the initial arbiters of potential constitutional infractions: the Executive Counselor, Parliamentary Counselor, and Elections Commissioner. The decisions of these officers may be appealed to the Constitutionality Council and upon review, overturned or upheld by majority vote of that Council.

Section 2: Functions

1. The Ethics Board shall operate as the authoritative 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 regarding conflict management, impeachment investigations, and adjustments to all governing documents.
4. The Ethics Board shall maintain all governing documents, decisional memoranda, and acts of Parliament, and interpret them according to their explicit language.
5. The Ethics Board shall frequently consult with the Administrative Advisor when making decisions that affect members of Temple Student Government.
6. 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.
7. The Chief Judge shall have the power and responsibility to act as the chief administrator and spokesperson of both the Constitutionality Council and the Ethics Board, and serve as an expert on Constitutional procedures.
8. The Constitutionality Judges shall have the power and responsibility to aid the Chief Judge in the management of the Ethics Board and, with the members of the Constitutionality Council, oversee the actions of the Ethics Board.
9. The Parliamentary Counselor shall have the power and responsibility to maintain, interpret, and enforce the Temple Student Government Constitution and Bylaws for The Parliament, and serve as an expert on Parliamentary procedure.
10. The Executive Counselor shall have the power and responsibility to maintain, interpret, and enforce the Temple Student Government Constitution and Bylaws for The Executive Branch.
11. The Elections Commissioner shall have the power and responsibility to:
 - a. Draft and propose the Elections Code to the Constitutionality Council;
 - b. Maintain, interpret, and enforce the Elections Code in all Temple Student Government elections;
 - c. Administer and oversee all elections related matters throughout the year;
 - d. Appoint an Elections Committee to assist in overseeing the elections process;
 - e. Collaborate with the Temple Student Government promotions staff to promote candidacy and engage students in the elections process.

Section 3: Eligibility

Students shall not be nominated to or serve as a member of The Constitutionality Council unless they are a qualified candidate, as defined by the Code of Juridical Qualification.

- a. The Code of Juridical Qualification shall be a binding document which regulates the nomination process for the appointment of Constitutionality Judges.
- b. The original Code of Juridical Qualification and this Constitution shall be ratified concurrently. Amendments to the Code of Juridical Qualification shall be ratified by $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of each the Constitutionality Council, the Steering Committee, and the Executive Office.
- c. This Constitution is supreme before the Code of Juridical Qualification

Section 4: Membership

1. The Ethics Board shall consist of the Constitutionality Council, which shall include three Constitutionality Judges, and the Ethics Board Staff, which shall include the Elections Commissioner, the Parliamentary Counselor, and the Executive Counselor.
2. The three Constitutionality Judge positions, and the positions of Elections Commissioner, Parliamentary Counselor, and Executive Counselor, shall be appointed annually and the term of office for all members of the Ethics Board shall end during the Spring semester, upon the inauguration of each member's successor.

3. Constitutionality Judges shall be terminated upon the recommendation of the Ethics Board and approval from $\frac{2}{3}$ of each The Parliament and the Executive Office. The process for Ethics Board impeachment recommendation shall be defined by the Ethics Board Bylaws.
4. Ethics Board Staff members shall be terminated upon the recommendation of the Constitutionality Council and approval from $\frac{2}{3}$ of each The Parliament and the Executive Office. The process for Ethics Board impeachment recommendation shall be defined by the Ethics Board Bylaws.

Section 5: Bylaws

1. The Ethics Board shall maintain a set of Ethics Board Bylaws to govern the functions of the Branch.
2. Amending the Ethics Board Bylaws shall require a unanimous vote of the Constitutionality Council, or a combination of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Constitutionality Council and at least one member of the Ethics Board Staff.
3. This Constitution is supreme before those Bylaws.

Article V: The Elections Code

1. The Elections Commissioner shall maintain the Elections Code to govern the elections process.
2. Amendments to the Elections Code shall be ratified upon the recommendation of the Elections Commissioner and the approval of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Constitutionality Council.
3. This Constitution is supreme before the Elections Code.

Article VI: Ratification

Section 1: Original Ratification Procedure

This Constitution shall be presented in writing to a joint committee consisting of the Steering Committee, the President, the Vice President of Services, the Vice President of External Affairs, and the Chief Judge. Upon approval of a strict majority of this committee, this Constitution shall be presented to The Parliament. Before being put to a vote, all members of The Parliament shall have at least two weeks to consider the document. This Constitution shall then be put to a vote in The Parliament. Approval of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Parliament shall ratify this Constitution.

Section 2: Constitutional Amendment Procedure

Amendments to this Constitution shall originate in The Parliament and require $\frac{3}{4}$ approval of The Parliament in order to advance as a proposal. Proposals shall be reorganized by the Chief Judge before being confirmed by The Parliament. Confirmed proposals shall be ratified as amendments to this Constitution upon the approval of the Executive Office.

Article VII: Advisor

The Director of Student Activities shall serve as the Administrative Advisor to Temple Student Government. The Administrative Advisor shall be an advocate for Temple Student Government within the University administration, provide continuity for successive Temple Student Government terms, and advise Temple Student Government, especially regarding superior regulations like that of the University and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Constitutional Addenda follows.

Code of Juridical Qualification

Section 1: Jurisdiction

This Code of Juridical Qualification shall define those students who are qualified to be appointed to the Constitutionality Council.

Students who do not fit the qualifications expressed by this Code of Juridical Qualification may not be nominated, confirmed, nor appointed to the Constitutionality Council.

Section 2: General Qualifications

1. Students who are qualified to be appointed to the Constitutionality Council possess the following qualities:
 - a. A strong understanding of the way in which Temple Student Government should operate, as defined by the Constitution;
 - b. A general recollection of decisional memoranda of the Constitutionality Council;
 - c. A strong grasp of the reasoning employed by decisional memoranda of the Constitutionality Council, upon review of those memoranda.

Section 3: Assessing Qualifications

1. Applicants shall be examined by the Director of Student Activities to rank qualification, as defined by this Code of Juridical Qualification.
2. Each applicant shall be assessed quantitatively, and qualified applicants shall rank either among the top three applicants or the top fifty percent of all applicants.
3. Applicants shall be assessed for all three of the aforementioned qualities of qualification.
 - a. Applicants' understanding of the way in which Temple Student Government should operate shall be examined by way of an open-ended test which shall include questions relating to the interplay between the three branches of Temple Student Government.
 - b. Applicants' recollection of decisional memoranda of the Constitutionality Council shall be examined by way of an open-ended test which shall require applicants to list as many memoranda as they can recall, either by title or description.
 - c. Applicants' grasp of the reasoning employed by decisional memoranda of the Constitutionality Council shall be examined by way of an open-book oral test which will require applicants to trace and explain the reasoning of certain decisional memoranda of the Constitutionality Council.