



# **The Constitution of the Student Government Association**

*The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Date of Ratification: November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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# *The Constitution of the Student Government Association*

## **Preamble**

*We, the students of the University of Tennessee, desiring to provide a means for responsible and effective student participation in the organization and in the operation of student affairs; to provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests; to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, and students rights; to improve student culture, social, and physical welfare; to develop better student educational standards, facilities, and teaching methods; to help promote national and international understanding and fellowship at the student level; to organize and mobilize student involvement in seeking solutions to the serious problems facing the community, the nation, and humankind; to promote the recognition of student's rights and responsibilities to the university, the community, and humanity; do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association at the University of Tennessee.*

## **Article I – Suffrage and Membership**

**Section 1.** Every student of the University of Tennessee shall be a member of the Student Body and shall enjoy equal rights of suffrage under the Student Government Association (SGA).

**Section 2.** Membership in the Student Government Association shall be open to all students regardless of race, sex, religion, handicap, pregnancy, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

**Section 3.** All representatives of the Student Government Association are to be full-time students in good academic standing at the time of the election or appointment and during the term of office.

## **Article II – Executive Branch**

**Section 1.** The SGA Executive Branch shall be composed of the President, Vice President, the Student Services Director, Executive Treasurer, the Executive Cabinet, the Communications Committee, the Board of Trustees Student Representative, and any other committee deemed necessary by the Student Government Association President.

**Section 2.** All executive powers herein granted shall be vested by the President, Vice President, the Student Services Director, and Executive Treasurer who shall be elected by the student body concurrently with the Student Senate.

**Section 3.** The chief executive officer of the Student Government Association shall be the President of the Student Body. The President shall have the duty:

- a) To represent the interests, concerns, and needs of the student body.
- b) To ensure effective and efficient operation of the Student Government Association and all its independent bodies.
- c) To appoint or abolish temporary committees and executive assistants as they deem necessary to the Executive Branch.

- d) To appoint a Chief of Staff, Executive Secretary, Director of Communications, Director of External Relations, Alumni Coordinator, Executive Historian, and Executive Advisor.
  - i. These appointments must be approved by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, provided a quorum is met.
- e) To appoint the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices.
  - i. These appointments must be approved by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, provided a quorum is met.
- f) To appoint student representatives to all administrative, campus-wide, and Faculty Senate committees, except where the appointments are made through a screening process.
- g) To appoint an Election Commissioner and Election Commission members.
  - i. These appointments must be approved by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, provided a quorum is met.
- h) To see that the enactments of the Student Senate, the First-Year Council, Student Services Committees, and the Judicial Branch are properly communicated with the University of Tennessee administration and student body.
- i) To sit on any university committee to which they are appointed.
- j) To actively pursue the workings and initiatives of all SGA bodies with the University of Tennessee administration.
- k) To veto those enactments of the Student Senate, and the First-Year Council to which they take strong objection.

- i. A written message must explain the reasons for a veto and be provided by the President at the following Senate meeting.
- ii. A vote of two-thirds of the number present at the meeting can override said veto, provided a quorum is met.
- l) To approve the SGA budget and all expenditures in conjunction with the Executive Treasurer.
- m) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 4.** The Vice President of the Student Body shall have the duty:

- a) To serve as the President of the Student Senate.
- b) To appoint the Senate Executive Officers including the Senate Chair, Senate Parliamentarian, Senate Secretary, Senate Lobbyists and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms.
  - i. The Senate Chair shall be responsible:
    - 1. For reporting the actions of the Student Senate,
    - 2. For performing all of the duties and responsibilities as outline in the Student Senate Bylaws.
  - ii. These appointments must be approved by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, provided a quorum is met.
- c) To coordinate the orientation and skill development training for Student Senators.
- d) To assist and make reports to the President of the Student Body.

- e) To create and dissolve, with the approval of the Senate majority, any Senate committees and commissions that they deem necessary.
- f) To call a special meeting of the Student Senate.
- g) To hold jurisdiction in regards to the decisions of appointment and selection of members within the Student Senate and First-Year Council.
- h) To appoint two (2) Advisors to the First-Year Council.
- i) To conduct a biannual evaluation process of all Senators and First-Year Council members in coordination with the Student Senate Chair and the First-Year Council Advisors, respectively.
- j) To appoint the General Body Executive Members, including the General Body Chair
  - i. The General Body Chair shall be responsible:
    - 1. For holding, at minimum, monthly General Body meetings planned in conjunction with the Student Body Vice President and the General Body Executive Members
    - 2. For relaying the actions of the General Body Branch to the Student Body Vice President
- k) For relaying the actions of the General Body Branch to the Student Body Vice President
- l) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 5.** The Student Services Director shall have the duty:

- a) To appoint Student Services Committee Co-Directors for each current Committee.
  - i. These appointments must be approved by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, provided a quorum is met.
- b) To appoint an Assistant Student Services Director and Student Services Secretary.
- c) To conduct and coordinate the overall application, selection, and admittance process of Student Services Committee members in accordance to application preferences.
- d) To advise Committee Co-Directors with the operations of their respective Committees.
- e) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

***Section 6.*** The Executive Treasurer shall have the duty:

- a) To prepare financial summaries of budget proposals at the beginning and end of each fiscal year to file in the Student Government office and make it public record.
- b) To present budget allocations to the Student Senate.
- c) To serve on the Student Programming Allocation Committee.
- d) To approve or deny any funding requests from members of the Student Government Association in conjunction with the President.
- e) To maintain and organize all receipts and request forms.

- f) To be responsible for presenting regular Treasurer reports to the Executive Cabinet, the Student Senate, the First-Year Council, and the Student Services Branch.
  - i. Such reports shall include the current status of the SGA budget and updates from the Student Programming Allocation Committee.
- g) To regularly meet with the President, Vice President, Student Services Director, the Executive Cabinet members, the Senate Chair, and the First- Year Council Chair for discussion and allocation of funds.
- h) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 7.** The President of the Student Body, Vice President of the Student Body, Student Services Director, or Executive Treasurer may be removed for blatant neglect of duty, disregard of the University of Tennessee’s rules and regulations, disregard of SGA directives or willful and intentional violation of the SGA Constitution or the Bylaws of the Student Senate, or the First-Year Council.

- a) To remove the President, Vice President, Student Services Director, or Executive Treasurer:
  - i. A written request must be filed with the Student Government Association Advisor by either of the following:
    - 1. Three members of the Student Senate, or;
    - 2. A petition signed by ten percent of the number of students who voted in the immediately preceding election.

- ii. A vote must be taken at two successive regular Student Senate meetings. An affirmative vote of a 2/3rds majority of the Student Senate is necessary for removal, provided a quorum is met.
- iii. Appeals may be made before the Judicial Branch, then the Student Tribunal.

**Section 8.** The membership of the Executive Cabinet of the Student Government Association shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Student Services Director, the Executive Treasurer, the Chief of Staff, the Executive Secretary, the Director of Communications, the Director of External Relations, the Executive Historian, the Alumni Coordinator, the Board of Trustees Student Representative when available at the Knoxville campus, and any other deemed pertinent to the purpose of the Executive Cabinet by the President.

- a) The Executive Cabinet shall serve as the coordinating body of communication and cooperation among the various branches of SGA, student organizations, the University of Tennessee administration, and the student body at large.
- b) The Executive Cabinet shall make recommendation on activities undertaken by the Student Government Association or by any of its committees.

**Section 9.** The Chief of Staff shall have the duty:

- a) To serve as the official Proxy for the President.
- b) To aid the President and Cabinet members in fulfillment of their duties and responsibilities.

- c) To oversee the application process, coordination, and implementation of appointments to Administrative Committees in conjunction with the President.
- d) To coordinate the special activities of the Student Government Association as assigned by the President.
- e) To serve as the liaison to student government at colleges and universities for the purpose of benchmarking and general communication.
- f) To delegate the representation and distribution of materials of the Student Government Association for university-wide recruitment efforts.
- g) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

***Section 10.*** The Executive Secretary shall have the duty:

- a) To record and distribute the minutes of all Executive Cabinet meetings.
- b) To keep a record of all legislation and minutes presented throughout the year.
- c) To update and maintain the Student Government Association master calendar with, and not limited to, events and meetings by SGA and registered student organizations.
- d) To be responsible for obtaining, organizing, and managing all minutes from all Student Government Association branches and bodies.
- e) To create and distribute internal updates to all branches of SGA as deemed necessary.

- f) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 11.** The Director of Communications shall have the duty:

- a) To oversee all relations with all University of Tennessee media outlets through building, maintaining, and delegating communication.
- b) To oversee the implementation of all Student Government Association publications.
- c) To create and oversee press releases when deemed necessary.
- d) To appoint members that are deemed fit to serve on the Student Government Association Communications Committee.
- e) To ensure effective and efficient operations of the Student Government Association Communications Committee.
  - i. The Student Government Association Communications Committee shall have the duty:
    1. To maintain effective communication with all campus and local media outlets.
    2. To publish an update including the current business of the Executive Cabinet and branches.
    3. To maintain the general history of the Student Government Association.
    4. To manage all social media accounts and delegation of passwords.

5. To create and publicize videos or media messages for the purpose of informing the student body of current activities and pertinent campus issues.
  - a. The Communications Committee must consist of a Webmaster. The Webmaster shall be responsible:
    - i. For maintaining and regularly updating the SGA website.
    - ii. For serving as a member of the Technology Advisory Board.
    - iii. For serving as the Director or Co-Director of any technology Student Service Committee.
  - f) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 12.** The Director of External Relations shall have the duty:

- a) To serve as the official liaison between the Student Government Association and the city of Knoxville.
- b) To be a standing member of the Government Affairs Committee of the Student Services.
- c) To maintain relations with the UT Office of Government Relations and Advocacy.
- d) To be responsible for reporting activities or updates regarding the city of Knoxville to the Student Senate as deemed necessary.
- e) To be the Chair of the Mayor's Student Advisory Board, if called by the City of Knoxville Mayor.

- f) To coordinate and seek any co-sponsorships with registered student organizations or university departments.
- g) To serve as the liaison between Student Government Association and registered student organizations.
- h) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 13.** The Alumni Coordinator shall have the duty:

- a) To assist in developing relationships with Student Government Alumni.
- b) To cultivate the SGA Centennial Leadership Scholarship Endowment.
- c) To celebrate important moments and anniversaries for SGA's alumni and history.
- d) To develop a quarterly SGA Alumni Newsletter.
- e) To coordinate and sit on the SGA Alumni Council.
- f) To facilitate networking opportunities for SGA students and alumni.
- g) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 14.** The Executive Historian shall have the duty:

- a) To work with the SGA Executive Cabinet, Student Senate, First Year Council and Student Services Historian to document all events and initiatives produced by SGA.
- b) To create and maintain digital files for SGA.
- c) To transition the current SGA roster kept with the Executive Secretary to the Alumni Coordinator.
- d) To aid graduating members in connecting with SGA's alumni engagement.

- e) To aid SGA members in finding relevant historical information to aid with a current event or initiative.
- f) To aid the Alumni Coordinator in their duties of cultivating relationships with alumni.
- g) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

**Section 15.** The Executive Advisor shall have the duty:

- a) To work with the SGA Executive Cabinet to advise initiatives proposed by the team
- b) To advise the Vice President of the Student Body on initiatives related to the Undergraduate Student Senate or the First Year Council
- c) To advise the Student Services Director in initiatives related to the Student Services Branch
- d) To perform any additional duties, subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association

**Section 16.** The Board of Trustees Student Representative, when representing the Knoxville campus, shall have the duty:

- a) To serve as a liaison between the Student Government Association and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.
- b) To provide a report to the Executive Cabinet and Student Senate in regards to any Board of Trustees meetings.

**Section 17.** Executive Cabinet officers may be removed for blatant neglect of duty, disregard for the University of Tennessee's rules and regulations, malfeasant

violation and disregard for SGA directives and for willful and intentional violation of the SGA Constitution.

- a) To remove a Cabinet member:
  - i. A written request must be filed with the Student Government Association Advisor by two members of the Cabinet.
  - ii. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Cabinet must be taken, not including the person in question.
  - iii. Appeals may be made before the Judicial Branch.

### **Article III – Officer Vacancies**

**Section 1.** Should the office of the President of the Student Body become vacant, the Vice President of the Student Body shall succeed to the Presidency until the next general election and accept all responsibilities therein.

**Section 2.** Should the office of the Vice President of the Student Body become vacant, the Chair of the Student Senate shall succeed to the Vice President and accept all responsibilities therein.

- a) The Student Senate will elect a new Chair as outlined in the Student Senate Bylaws.

**Section 3.** Should the officer of the Student Services Director become vacant, the Assistant Student Services Director shall succeed to the Student Services Director until the next general election and accept all responsibilities therein.

**Section 4.** Should the office of Chief of Staff become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 5.** Should the office of Executive Treasurer become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 6.** Should the office of Executive Secretary become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 7.** Should the office of Director of Communications become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 8.** Should the office of Director of External Relations become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 9.** Should the office of Alumni Coordinator become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 10.** Should the office of Executive Historian become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 11.** Should the office of Executive Advisor become vacant, the President shall make a new appointment subject to approval by the Student Senate.

**Section 12.** Shall the Board of Trustees Student Representative become vacant, the Executive Cabinet shall nominate three students subject to approval by the Student Senate, as chaired by the Student Government Association President.

- a) The means by which the Executive Cabinet determines any nomination shall be at the discretion of the Student Government Association President.

## **Article IV – Student Senate**

**Section 1.** The Student Senate shall serve as a legislative body within the Student Government Association. The Senate shall represent the student body in the creation of legislation regarding policies, regulations, or services pertinent to student life at the University of Tennessee. The decisions of passed legislation will be made in consultation with and subject to final actions or decisions by the Dean of Students, Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus, the University of Tennessee President, or the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee. The Student Senate, provided a quorum of fifty percent plus an additional voting member is met, has the authority and responsibility:

- a) To approve, by a two-thirds (2/3) the number present at a Senate meeting, all amendments to the SGA Constitution.
- b) To maintain a set of a Bylaws, specifying the procedures necessary for execution of authorities provided in this article.
- c) To approve, by a two-thirds (2/3) the number present at a Senate meeting, all amendments to the Undergraduate Student Senate Bylaws.
- d) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all members of the Executive Cabinet as appointed by the SGA President.
- e) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all members of the Judicial Branch as appointed by the SGA President.

- f) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all directors of Student Services committees as appointed by the Student Services Director.
- g) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, the Election Commissioner and members of the Election Commission.
- h) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all Co-Directors of Student Services committees as appointed by the Student Service Director.
- i) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all appointed officers, the heads of standing committees, agencies, and boards provided for in the Student Senate Bylaws.
- j) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, the nominations made by the President of the Senate for persons to fill non-voting Senate liaison positions.
- k) To create and approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, non-voting Senate liaison positions.
- l) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, the Student Government Association budget.
- m) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all appointments of student representatives as Members-At-Large to the Student Government Association Student Senate, as recommended by the President of the Senate.
- n) To approve, by a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, all appointments of student representatives to replace seats vacated throughout the year, as recommended by the President of the Senate.

- o) To have the power to request the impeachment of the President, Vice President of the Student Body, and/or Student Services Director from office; to request the impeachment of a Senator; to request the impeachment of officers approved or elected by the Senate.
- p) To make, at the approval of a majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, proclamations in honor of a person or organization for contributions to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the Knoxville community.
- q) To take all actions deemed necessary and proper for carrying out the functions of the Undergraduate Student Senate.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee of the Undergraduate Student Senate shall consist of the following:

- a) President of the Student Senate.
- b) The Senate Chair from the body of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- c) The Secretary from the body of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- d) The Parliamentarian from the body of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- e) The Sergeant-at-Arms from the body of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- f) Three or more Lobbyists from the body of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

**Section 3.** The election of the Executive Committee shall be conducted as outlined in the Student Senate Bylaws.

**Section 4.** The election of Senators shall be conducted according to the regulations set forth by the SGA Election Rules and Procedures, as adopted by the Student Senate.

**Section 5.** All bills, resolutions, and declarations that passed with the requisite majority vote through the First-Year Council and/or the Undergraduate Student Senate shall be taken action upon by the SGA executive by either signing or vetoing the legislation within 72 hours (3 days) of the conclusion of the respective session in which it was passed.

- a) If a bill, resolution, or declaration is not acted upon within 72 hours (3 days) of the conclusion of the session in which it was passed, then it is automatically vetoed and sent back to the respective body which originally passed the legislation.
- b) If a bill, resolution, or declaration is vetoed by the SGA executive, regardless of it was their decision or their inactivity, it is the responsibility of the executive branch to address the respective body at their next regularly scheduled meeting in order to detail the reasons the legislation was vetoed.

**Section 6.** The removal of any Senator shall be conducted as outlined in the Student Senate Bylaws.

## **Article V – Student Services**

**Section 1.** All service and programming functions, as related to advocating for the best interests of all students, shall be vested in the Student Services and led by the Student Services Director.

**Section 2.** Student Services shall maintain a set of Bylaws, which will specify the procedures necessary for the execution of authorities provided in this Article.

**Section 3.** The Executive Committee of the Student Services Branch shall be composed of the Student Service Director, the Assistant Student Services Director, the Student Services Secretary, the Public Relations Chair, and Co-Directors that the Student Services Director shall appoint per Committee.

**Section 4.** The Student Services shall have the duty:

- a) To select and determine membership for any full-time student that applies to a Student Services Committee.
- b) To institute and carry out programs and policies that it deems necessary for implementation of its own functions.

**Section 5.** Student Services members shall have the duty:

- a) To attend meetings bi-weekly at minimum decided upon by the Committee Director.
- b) To present progress on Committee projects.
- c) To establish campus partnerships.

**Section 6.** Student Services Committees shall have the ability to create legislation relevant to the mission of the Committee.

- a) Student Services legislation shall be brought before the Student Senate by a liaison who must be a voting member of the Senate.

## **Article VI – First-Year Leadership Council**

**Section 1.** The First-Year Leadership Council shall represent the needs and interests of all first- year students at the University of Tennessee.

**Section 2.** The Council has the power to create and pass legislation as deemed necessary.

- a) Any legislation passed within the First-Year Council must be also presented and passed within the Student Senate for further consideration.
- b) The decisions of passed legislation will be made in consultation with and subject to final actions or decisions by the Dean of Students, Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus, the University of Tennessee President, or the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee.

**Section 3.** The First-Year Council shall maintain a set of Bylaws, which will specify the procedures necessary for the execution of authorities provided in this article.

**Section 4.** The First-Year Council shall be comprised of no more than 60 voting members.

- a) The application and screening process shall be governed within the guidelines of the First-Year Council Bylaws.
- b) The Student Body Vice President shall have ultimate jurisdiction over the application and selection process.

**Section 5.** All members of the First-Year Council must be both a first-year and a full- time student.

**Section 6.** The First-Year Council has the authority and responsibility:

- a) To advocate and lobby on behalf of freshman class needs to the SGA Executive Branch and the University of Tennessee administration.
- b) To establish programs for first-year students in consultation with Student Services.
- c) To establish committees that the Council deems necessary.
- d) To elect officers and committee chairs.

**Section 7.** The membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of the First-Year Council Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

**Section 8.** The Student Body Vice President shall appoint two (2) First-Year Council Advisors to be approved by the Student Senate.

**Section 9.** The First-Year Council Advisors shall have the responsibilities:

- a) To lead recruitment efforts for the First-Year Council.
- b) To schedule and conduct interviews for the First-Year Council.
- c) To attend all First-Year Council scheduled meetings.
- d) To aid members in the creation of legislation.
- e) To develop an introductory curriculum for the Council.

**Section 10.** The election of First-Year Council officers shall be conducted as outlined in the First-Year Council Bylaws.

## **Article VII – Judicial Branch**

**Section 1.** The Judicial Branch shall serve to enforce grievance policies within all branches and hold ultimate interpretation of the SGA Constitution.

**Section 2.** The Judicial Branch shall maintain a set of Bylaws, which will specify the procedures necessary for the execution of authorities provided in this Article.

**Section 3.** Membership within the Judicial Branch shall consist of one (1) Chief Justice and six (6) Associate Justices.

- a) All Justices must be appointed by the SGA President and approved by the Student Senate.
- b) No member of the Judicial Court shall be on scholastic or conduct probation with the university.
- c) Justices may not be an active member in any other branch of Student Government Association, including the Election Commission, during their term in the Judicial Branch.
- d) Justices may not run for or be elected for an Executive or Senatorial position during their term in the Judicial Branch.
- e) Justices must certify neutrality upon their appointment to the Judicial Branch.
- f) A minimum of one (1) graduate student must serve on the Judicial Branch each year.
- g) The term of a Justice shall be limited to be no longer than the length of that Justice's enrollment at the University of Tennessee.

**Section 4.** The Judicial Branch shall have the duties and responsibilities:

- a) To address all grievances which may be brought before the Court through hearings, which may end in grievance resolution, member probation, or member impeachment.

- b) To make decisions regarding the Constitutionality of passed legislation, including the Election Rules and Procedures, at their discretion.
- c) To serve as the Ethics Committee as defined by the Election Rule and Procedure.
- d) To send a justice as a liaison to represent judicial at all Undergraduate Student Senate meetings.

***Section 5.*** The Chief Justice shall have the duties and responsibilities:

- a) To uphold the integrity of the Student Government Association of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- b) To call and chair all cases which may be brought before the Court.
- c) To hear, discuss, and vote on cases that may be brought before the Court.
- d) To delegate judicial responsibilities among Justices.
- e) To swear in new justices upon appointment by the SGA President and confirmation by the Undergraduate Student Senate to the Judicial Branch.
- f) To remove themselves from Grievance Hearings in which they feel personal bias may influence their actions.
- g) To immediately notify, outside of election week, the Student Body President, Vice President, and Student Services Director when a hearing is scheduled, who are then responsible to notify their respective branches in a timely manner.
- h) To compile a list of cases brought during election week and to notify in a timely manner the Student Body President, Vice President, and Student Services Director of this list after the conclusion of election

week, who are then responsible to notify their respective branches in a timely manner.

- i) To add amendments passed by the Student Senate to ensure that amendments are being added to the constitution in a reasonable time and manner so that the SGA Constitution stays up to date.

**Section 6.** Associate Justices shall have the duties and responsibilities:

- a) To uphold the integrity of the Student Government Association of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- b) To hear, discuss, and vote on cases that may be brought before the Court.
- c) To support the administrative activities of the Judicial Branch.
- d) To remove themselves from Grievance Hearings in which they feel personal bias may influence their actions.

**Section 7.** In the event that a Justice violates their duties or responsibilities, they may be reprimanded or removed through a Grievance Hearing conducted by the Chief Justice, Student Body President, and Vice President, as well as through a formal removal process in the Undergraduate Student Senate.

- a) Such a Grievance Hearing shall not include other Associate Justices, except in the case that the Chief Justice is reprimanded, when an appointed Associate Justice shall replace the Chief Justice.
- b) Such a removal process shall be conducted with a written request filed with the Student Government Association Advisor by either of the following:
  - i. Three members of the Undergraduate Student Senate, or;
  - ii. A petition signed by ten percent of the students who voted in the immediately preceding election.

- c) A vote must be taken at two successive regular Student Senate meetings. An affirmative vote of a 2/3rds majority of the Student Senate is necessary for removal, provided a quorum is met.
- d) Appeals may be made before the Student Tribunal.

## **Article VIII – General Body**

**Section 1.** The General Body Branch shall serve as a means of access for all students to freely participate in the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** The General Body shall maintain a set of Bylaws, which will specify the procedures necessary for the execution of authorities provided in this Article.

**Section 3.** The Executive Committee of the General Body Branch shall be appointed by the Student Body Vice President and shall consist of the following:

- a) The General Body Chair
- b) The General Body Vice Chair
- c) The General Body Secretary
- d) Two General Body Outreach Coordinators
- e) The General Body Events Coordinator
- f) The General Body Director of Social Responsibility

**Section 4.** The General Body Executive team will have the following responsibilities:

- a) To plan and conduct General Body meetings
- b) To collect relevant data and information from General Body meetings
- c) To report the recorded information to the Student Body Vice President

**Section 5.** General Body Meetings shall occur, at minimum, once a month for the duration of the academic year and be conducted as outlined in the General Body Bylaws.

- a) These meetings shall be advertised to the entire student body to ensure access for all students.
- b) These meetings shall serve to create a community space where students feel empowered to discuss topics important to the University and beyond.

**Section 6. General Body members shall have the duty:**

- a) To attend the monthly meetings as set by the General Body Executive Committee
- b) To assist the General Body Executive Committee to carry out the scheduled meetings

## **Article IX – Term of Office and Elections**

**Section 1.** All elected or appointed members, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, shall serve concurrent one-year terms that begin and end in relation to the dates of the Election Rules and Procedures.

**Section 2.** The Student Government Association elections shall be held during the spring semester.

**Section 3.** The Election Rules and Procedures, as established by the Election Commission, shall govern the Student Government Association elections.

- a) The Election Rules and Procedures packet must be adopted and approved by the Student Senate.

**Section 4.** The Election Commission has the authority and responsibility:

- a) To establish the Election Rules and Procedures packet.
- b) To review formats, rules, and regulations outlining the parameters of the sponsored debate.

**Section 5.** All disputes regarding elections between candidates or political parties will be under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Branch.

## **Article X – Advisor**

**Section 1.** The Student Government Association Program Coordinator shall serve as the advisor for the Student Government Association.

**Section 2.** The Student Government Association Program Coordinator shall have the responsibility for assuring that the activities of the Student Government Association acts in compliance with university regulations.

## **Article XI – Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments to this Constitution presented as legislation shall become effective by the approval of two-thirds the number present at two successive Student Senate meetings.

**Section 2.** Amendments to this Constitution presented as public referenda shall become effective by a majority vote in favor of the amendment.

- a) Any referendum must follow the criteria as outlined in the Election Rules and Procedures packet.

- b) Amendments by this process shall supersede any previous actions of the bodies of the Student Government Association.

## **Article XII – Public Referendum**

**Section 1.** Any student or registered student organization may place a referendum on the ballot during the Student Government Association elections.

**Section 2.** The validity of referenda will be as outline in the Election Rules and Procedures packet.

**Section 3.** The Election Commission shall have the authority to reject any referenda.

- a) The Student Senate may override a rejected referendum by a majority vote, provided a quorum is met.

**Section 4.** Any passed referendum will be implemented in consultation with and subject to final actions and decisions by the Chancellor of the Knoxville campus, President, and Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee.

## **Article XIII – Constitutional Authority**

**Section 1.** This Constitution of the Student Government Association shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions as of the date of ratification.

**Section 2.** This Constitution of the Student Government Association shall supersede any and all previous, or current, Bylaws of the Student Government Association as of the date of ratification.

## **Article XIV – Ratification**

***Section 1.*** This Constitution shall become ratified after two successive Student Senate meetings.

- a) Any passed amendments shall become effective at the next Officer Transition.