

**BY-LAWS
TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

ARTICLE I. General Membership

Section 100. Every student duly elected or appointed to office in the Student Government Association, before entering the duties of the office, shall take the following oath for inauguration to be administered by the President or his/her appointed designate:

“I, (give full name), do solemnly swear: to execute the duties of my office; to assume responsibility for the scope and application of the Constitution and By-laws of the Student Government Association; to maintain respect and perseverance for the Lamar University community; and to morally and ethically execute my office.”

ARTICLE II. Executive Branch

Section 200. THE PRESIDENT

Section 200.1 The President shall not serve as President of any other student organizations or as an officer in more than two student organizations.

Section 200.2 The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Call special Joint Sessions of the Student Government and all SGA committees,
2. Establish such ad-hoc committees as are necessary for carrying out appropriate SGA/student body initiatives,
3. Appoint chairs for standing and ad-hoc committees of the Student Senate and House of Representatives in accordance with regulations outlined in the By-Laws,
4. Make appointments necessary and in accordance with the By-laws for the fulfillment of the responsibilities and duties of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, except those delegated to other officers,
5. Sign or reject all resolutions and bills, including simple resolutions, within one week of their passage,
6. Act as an ex-officio member of all SGA committees,
7. Serve as chair of the Executive Cabinet,
8. Serve on or send his/her representative to all University and Student Engagement Committees requiring SGA representation,
9. Deliver the President’s Report at each Joint Session consisting of the activities and issues presented to University and Student Engagement Committees in which he/she or his/her representative is a member,
10. Serve as the official representative of the student body.
11. Perform any and all duties properly incumbent on the Chief Executive of the SGA,
12. Preside at all Joint Sessions of the Student Congress according to procedures outlined in the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. Serve or send his/her representative to such committees and board meetings of which he/she is a member to express responsible student opinion and report business discussed.

13. Serve as chair of the Executive Committee.
14. Present appointments to initially vacant positions in accordance with the requirements detailed in Section 200.4.
15. Present appointments to fill vacancies that occur during his/her term in accordance with the requirements detailed in Section 200.5.
16. Exercise final authority over all SGA budgets and follow all regulations on finances as outlined in this document.
17. Administer oaths of office to students serving in any capacity for the SGA within two weeks or by the next scheduled joint session, whichever is sooner, or make arrangements for another qualified officer to do so, as outlined in this document,
18. Observe regularly scheduled office hours to carry out responsibilities, and
19. Perform any other duties listed in the By-laws.
20. Lead and attend mandatory On-Campus SGA Executive Officer Transition training hosted by the current SGA Executives and SGA Advisor. Transition training must be held no later than the last month of the current executives' term.

Section 200.3 In the event of the inability of the President to fulfill the duties of the office, or upon removal or resignation from office, the Vice President shall succeed to the office of the Presidency and shall not be required to meet the 45 academic credit hour requirement for the office.

Section 200.4 This section governs required positions that are, by rule, appointed by the President, were vacant at the start of the new term, and have never been occupied during the term in question. The President shall present appointments sufficient to fill each position governed by this section to the Senate by its second regularly scheduled session of each new term. The President shall then present appointments sufficient to fill each position governed by this section that, following the afore-mentioned session, remain vacant at each subsequent session until all such positions have been filled.

Section 200.5 This section governs all required positions that are, by rule, appointed by the President and are not governed by section 200.4. This includes positions that have been appointed, approved, and subsequently vacated during the term in question as they are considered to have been occupied. The President shall present appointments sufficient to fill each required position that has been vacated during his/her term to the Senate by its second regularly scheduled session following the officially recognized vacation of the office in question. The President shall then present appointments sufficient to fill each position governed by this section that, following the afore-mentioned session, remain vacant at each subsequent session until all such positions have been filled.

Section 200.6 Required positions

1. The "required positions" in section 200.4 and 200.5 are the Vice-President per section 201.2, the Secretary/Treasurer per section 202.2, Supreme Court Justices per section 401.3, Chairs of the standing committees per section 204.2, and the executive cabinet per section 205.2.
2. Note that per section 205.3, vacated executive cabinet positions need not be re-appointed. However, they can be at the discretion of the Student Body President.

Section 201. THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Section 201.1 The Vice President shall not serve as an officer in more than two student organizations.

Section 201.2 In the event of the inability of the Vice President to fulfill the duties of the office or upon removal or resignation from position, the President shall appoint a duly qualified student to the office of Vice President.

Section 201.3 The duties of the Vice President shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Serve as President of the Student Senate. When the Student Senate has a tie vote, he/she may cast the tiebreaker vote.
2. Preside over Joint Sessions of the Student Congress according to procedures outlined in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order in the absence of the President.
3. Assist the President with assigned responsibilities.
4. Serve in an appropriate capacity to all branches of SGA when needed or requested.
5. Perform any and all duties properly incumbent on the Vice President.
6. Serve as an ex-officio member of all Student Senate and House of Representatives committees.
7. Serve as a member of the Executive Cabinet and Executive Committee,
8. Effectively utilize a regular system of committee referral, committee investigation, and committee reports.
9. Appoint a duly qualified person in the event an elected position in the Student Senate should become vacant which must be approved by a 2/3rd vote of the Student Senate, and
10. Solicit the appointment of all vacant non-elected positions in the senate throughout his/her term.
11. Attend mandatory On-Campus SGA Executive Officer Transition training hosted by the current SGA Executives and SGA Advisor. Transition training must be held no later than the last month of the current executives' term.

Section 202. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Section 202.1 The Secretary/Treasurer shall not serve as an officer in more than two student organizations.

Section 202.2 In the event of the inability of the Secretary/Treasurer to fulfill the duties of the office, or upon removal or resignation from office, the President shall appoint a duly qualified student to the position of the Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 202.3 The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Record attendance at Joint Sessions of the Student Congress and meetings of the Executive Cabinet.
2. Keep accurate minutes of all regular and special Joint Sessions of the Student Congress, meetings of the Executive Cabinet, and of all regular and special sessions of the Student Senate,

3. Provide a copy of all meeting minutes on the current SGA website within 3 business days of the meeting.
4. Maintain an accurate, permanent file of all minutes of the Student Congress Joint Sessions.
5. Maintain an accurate, permanent file of all receipts, cash balances, and expenditures of SGA.
6. Present an accurate financial report to the SGA at least once each month.
7. Present an itemized expense report to the SGA at least once each month.
8. Submit, no later than thirty-five days following the close of registration of any long semester, a complete audit of all SGA funds.
9. Serve as a member of the Executive Cabinet and the Executive Committee,
10. Compile an accurate, permanent, indexed annual report of said minutes and resolutions of the Student Congress.
11. Serve as chair of any regular meeting where both the President and Vice President are absent, afterward informing one or both officers of the agenda and results of said meetings.
12. Prepare all requisitions for the Student Government Association's General Fund.
13. Pay all debts legitimately approved by SGA.
14. Make disbursements only upon the direct order of the President of SGA.
15. Maintain an accurate and up-to-date Constitution and By-laws, and
16. Perform any and all duties properly incumbent on the Secretary/Treasurer of the Student Government Association.
17. Attend mandatory On-Campus SGA Executive Officer Transition training hosted by the current SGA Executives and SGA Advisor. Transition training must be held no later than the last month of the current executives' term.

Section 203. THE ELECTION COMMISSION

Section 203.1 The Chief Justice Shall serve as chair of the Election Commission except while running for office. If the Chief Justice's name is to appear on the ballot, the Chief Justice shall nominate an Election Coordinator from the Student Senate (whose name is not to appear on the ballot) and shall be confirmed by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. The Election Coordinator shall chair the Election Commission but shall not receive a vote.

Section 203.2 Any member who has filed for office cannot serve on the election commission.

Section 203.3 The functions of the Election Commission shall be to uphold campaign regulations and the election rules for each election.

Section 203.4 The ex-officio advisor, chief Student Affairs officer or designee shall enforce all campaign rules and regulations and serve as administrator of the election process.

Section 203.5 In the event of noncompliance by any candidate of the election rules and regulations, the Election Commission shall submit a written complaint to the ex-officio adviser, chief Student Engagement officer or designee.

Section 203.6 The chair of the Election Commission shall have the power to appoint temporary commissioners from the Student Body to replace members who, for any reason, cannot fulfill their duties. A 2/3 vote by the Senate must be made to confirm the temporary commissioners.

Section 203.7 Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the chair or by request of three other members of the Election Commission.

Section 203.8 Any member of the commission who acquires two unexcused absences from Election Commission meetings and/or elections shall be removed from the commission,

Section 203.9 The Election Commission shall be composed of:

1. Chief Justice of the SGA Supreme Court.
2. The other justices of the SGA Supreme Court as well as one member-at-large appointed by the Election Commission chair with the approval of the Student Senate by a 2/3 vote, and
3. One staff advisor or chief Student Affairs officer who shall be an ex-officio member.

Section 203.10 Chief Justice Ineligibility

In the event that the Chief Justice plans to be a campaign staff member in the election, the Chief Justice will relinquish their appointment duties as Chair or member of Election Commission. A replacement must be appointed by the President of SGA and approved by the Senate with a 2/3 vote.

Section 203.11 All Executive officers shall assume their elected office June 1. From the day of inauguration to June 1 the newly elected Executive Officers are to be referred to as Executive "Elect".

Section 204. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 204.1 The President shall serve as chair of the Executive Committee.

Section 204.2 The President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Chief Supreme Court Justice shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 204.3 The Executive Committee shall serve to facilitate communication and cooperation between the executive officers and the legislative chambers on matters relevant to those chambers.

Section 204.4 Attendance at the Executive Committee meetings shall be recorded by the Secretary/Treasurer. After four absences, the offending officer will be subject to impeachment. Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the chair or by request of three members of the Executive Committee.

Section 205. THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Section 205.1 The Executive Cabinet shall be an advisory council to the President of SGA.

Section 205.2 The Executive Cabinet shall consist of eight students, at least five of which should be undergraduates, appointed by the President, and approved by a simple majority vote of the senate. The cabinet shall serve until the end of the President's term.

Section 205.3 Members of the cabinet are allowed two unexcused absences from cabinet meetings after which the President may dismiss them. Vacancies of the cabinet need not be filled.

Section 206. EXECUTIVE TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 206.1 All officers elected in the spring shall hold office for approximately one year from taking office. Those officers elected in the fall by the Student Congress or by the student body or any portion thereof shall hold office until the newly elected officer assumes their position.

Article III. The Student Congress

Section 300. STUDENT CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP AND REQUIREMENTS

Section 300.1 The Student Congress shall include membership of the following chambers as defined by the Constitution:

1. Senate,
2. House of Representatives.

Section 300.2 Each chamber shall, at the start of each new term, establish for themselves a document outlining its "Rules and Procedures" which may be amended without authorization from another branch of government, but which must not conflict with the Constitution, infringe or affect the powers and responsibilities of the separate branches and chambers, or conflict with the By-Laws.

Section 300.3 Student Senate membership shall include and be limited to:

1. Vice President shall vote to break a tie,
2. One student appointed from each college by that college's Dean,
3. One representative elected from each academic class Sophomore, Junior & Senior,
4. One member appointed by the Greek Council,
5. One member appointed by the Residence Hall Association.

Section 300.4 House of Representatives membership shall include and be limited to:

1. One student representing each registered student organization and
2. One student representing each varsity athletic team.

Section 300.5 All House of Representatives members must register with the Student Government Association through LUHub. House of Representative members shall serve from the day they are approved by the ex-officio advisor through May 31st.

Section 300.6 Student Congress committees shall be established to effectively and efficiently facilitate student body business.

Section 300.7 Special Joint Sessions of the Student Congress shall be called by a quorum of the Senate; by request of the SGA President or Vice President; or by petition of twenty-five members of the student body. Announcement of Special Joint Sessions must be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the session; a written statement of purpose must accompany any request for a special meeting.

Section 300.8 The most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the reference for any points of order not specifically addressed in the Constitution and By-laws.

Section 301. SENATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Section 301.1 In addition to compliance with ARTICLE IV, Section I. of the Constitution, Class Senators, by the time of the Senator's term of office, must attain the amount of credit hours necessary (as detailed in the latest edition of the Lamar University General Catalog) to be properly classified as elected.

Section 301.2 College Senators shall be appointed by that college's Dean. In addition to compliance with ARTICLE IV, Section I of the Constitution, one must have declared a major in that particular college to be eligible for appointment as a College Senator.

Section 301.3 To be elected as a Class Senator, in addition to compliance with ARTICLE IV, SECTION I of the Constitution, one must hold the required hours to be deemed a classification of sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student.

Section 301.4 Graduate students with a min. of 6 hours shall be eligible to be appointed to any College Senatorial position in which they have declared an area of graduate study.

Section 302. DUTIES OF THE SENATE

Section 302.1 The Student Senate shall perform, but not be limited to, the following duties:

1. Enact all measures necessary and proper for the general welfare of the Student Body and the purposes of this Constitution,
2. Approve all appointments of the President of the SGA by a simple majority of the members present,
3. Approve all students who sit on a University policy-making committee when the appointment is under the jurisdiction of the Student Government,
4. Establish such By-laws and procedures as are necessary for the proper functioning of the Senate,

5. Impeach, if necessary, any Senator, Senate officer, Judicial member, or Executive officer,
6. Foster communication among students, faculty, staff, and administration,
7. Recommend actions and programs to various university organizations,
8. Perform all other duties as outlined in the Constitution and By-laws, and
9. Oversee the addition, modification, or removal of any Student Fee.
10. Regularly update the Public Relations Advisement Committee regarding the status of ongoing projects.
11. Write and submit a transition report to the SGA Advisor and Executive Committee by the date of Transition Training (i.e., the senator's last month in office) for the student who will be filling their respective positions for the following year.

Section 302.2 Bi-Annual Budget Authorization:

1. The SGA President shall submit an annual budget to the Student Senate by the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting in April.
2. Provisions of the budget authorization process:
 - i. Budget items must be categorized into specific expense categories.
 - ii. Budget must have the following mandatory expenses; office supplies, house expenses, senate expenses, executive expenses, phone usage, material management, wages, and travel expenses. Other expenses may be added by the SGA President before submitting the proposal.
 - iii. Budgets must be reviewed by the Student Senate and made into a bill.
 - iv. Budgets must contain a category for expenses while the Congress is not in session, which includes the summer and holiday breaks.
 - v. Budgets must be sent to the Student Senate for a final vote no later than the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting in April.
 - vi. Budgets must be advanced for approval as a bill.
 - vii. Expenditures must not exceed the categorized amounts allocated by the Senate in the authorized budget.

Section 302.3 No business of the Senate shall be conducted at any meeting wherein a quorum is not present. In any such meeting, the only actions that are in order shall be a quorum call, a motion to recess, and a motion to adjourn. Quorum is defined as a simple majority of the Student Senate.

Section 303. DUTIES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Section 303.1 The House of Representatives shall perform, and be limited to, the following duties:

1. The House can draft legislation to be presented to the President of SGA, only after being approved by a simple majority of a House meeting in which a quorum is present. This legislation must be presented by the Speaker of the House,
2. Foster communication among students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Section 303.2 Representatives must meet regularly with their organizations or athletic teams to discuss issues facing the Student Congress.

Section 303.3 Representatives must regularly attend House meetings, Joint Sessions of Congress, and Committee meetings in which they are a member.

Section 303.4 To address time sensitive issues through a resolution, a three-fourths majority of voting members present may confer emergency status to the resolution, allowing the resolution to have a second reading, a report, discussion/debate and a vote in the same meeting.

Section 303.5 One-fourth of registered voting members in attendance shall be considered a quorum for the House of Representatives.

Section 304. LEGISLATIVE TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 304.1 Duly elected members of the Student Senate shall hold office for approximately one year from the date of their inauguration, or the next regularly scheduled election for the office to which they are elected, whichever shall come first.

Section 304.2 Duly appointed College Senators shall hold office for two terms, including the term during which they were sworn into office. At the conclusion of the second term, that senate position shall be considered vacant and shall be up for appointment by the Dean of the college to which the seat in question belongs. A senator who is sworn in after the last senate meeting of a term shall be considered to have been sworn in during the following term.

Section 305 LEGISLATIVE VOTING ELIGIBILITY

Section 305.1 To retain voting privileges, a member must not miss more than four mandatory Senate, House, Joint Session, or Committee meetings during one semester without approval from the respective chamber. After four missed meetings, the Senate will hold a vote of confidence for the Senator or Representative. A vote of confidence will allow the student to remain in his/her current position without interruption. A vote of no confidence will remove the offending student from his/her position effective immediately. Representatives or Senators who are removed from office shall not be counted when calculating quorum.

Section 306. JOINT SESSIONS OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS

Section 306.1 Joint Sessions of the Student Congress shall be held within the second week of each month on a day and time agreed upon by the current Senate. The Judicial Branch, Senate, and House of Representatives shall attend the meetings.

Section 306.2 Senate shall hold session within the first and third week of each month on a day and time agreed upon by the current Senate. Open sessions.

Section 306.3 House of Representatives shall hold session within the first and third week of each month on a day and time agreed upon by the current House. Open sessions.

Section 306.4 The basic agenda at regular Joint Sessions shall be as follows:

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Invocation
- IV. Approval of the minutes
- V. Officer reports
- VI. Committee reports
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Open Forum
- X. Advisor's comments
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Adjournment

Section 307. Legislation

Section 307.1 Legislation shall be defined as any proposal significant to the functioning of the Student Body. Legislation may be proposed or suggested by any Representative, Senator, or Committee. Legislation shall be introduced and sponsored by members of either the Student Senate or House of Representatives. The legislation must be submitted in written form and copies shall be distributed to each member of the Student Senate and other interested parties.

Section 307.2 The process of reading, debating, and voting of legislation shall follow the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Only eligible members of each respective body may vote on legislation.

Section 307.3 An agenda item shall be filed with Secretary/Treasurer before the publication of the agenda. Once placed on the agenda, the respective legislative body shall consider the legislation according to the following:

1. Call for a second reading of proposed legislation by the committee in its original or amended form,
2. A committee report, discussion and/or debate of the proposed legislation, and
3. Vote upon proposed legislation.

Section 307.4 After either chamber passes the legislation, it shall be submitted by the Vice President to the President of the SGA. The legislation must be approved or vetoed within one week from its passage. If the president approves the legislation within the given time limit, the legislation shall become legal and binding. If the President vetoes the legislation or takes no

action, the President, at an Executive Committee meeting before the next Joint Session must explain his/her reasoning behind this veto or inaction and recommend any changes that might make the basic idea of the legislation more acceptable. Upon veto or inaction on the legislation, the legislation shall be considered defeated. If a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate votes to reinstate a senate bill, then it shall become legal and binding.

Section 307.5 At the time the President approves a resolution or the Student Senate overrides his veto, the resolution shall be sent to the appropriate university authority.

Section 307.6 Note that the House of Representatives does not have the authority to override a Presidential veto.

Section 307.7 The respective committee chair shall follow through and report on progress for each resolution.

Section 308. CONGRESSIONAL OFFICERS

Section 308.1 Upon beginning a new term of office, as outlined in the Constitution, the Senate must vote to elect a President Pro Tempore from among its members. The President Pro Tempore shall preside over all meetings of the Student Senate in absence of the Vice President, represent the Student Senate, coordinate the activities of the Senators with the approval of the Vice President, work with the Vice President of the SGA, and set the agenda for Student Senate meetings.

Section 308.2 Upon the beginning of a new term of office as outlined in the Constitution, the House of Representatives must vote to elect a Speaker of the House from among its members. The Speaker of the House shall preside over all meetings of the House of Representatives, represent the House, coordinate the activities of the Representatives, work with the Vice President of the SGA, and set the agenda for House of Representatives meetings.

Section 309. ELECTIONS

Section 309.1 There shall be a Spring general election on a date as set by the SGA Executive Committee and approved by the Student Senate for the purpose of electing the SGA President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and class Senators. Any elected post not filled or vacated since the Spring elections can be elected in the Fall.

1. The Student Body is defined as all full-time and part-time students who are duly registered at Lamar University. This includes, but is not limited to, students defined as undergraduates, graduate students, dual-credit TALH on-campus and online.

Section 309.2 The President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by the Student Body in the Spring. Each office shall be elected independently.

Section 309.3 Representatives shall be elected/selected by any recognized student organization as defined by the Office of Student Organizations and from each varsity athletic team.

Section 309.4 The time and place for any special election shall be decided by the Student Senate.

Section 309.5 Any student desiring to be a candidate for any elected office shall:

1. Prior to the beginning of the campaign period, file a request to be on the official ballot through LUHub.
2. Meet the eligibility requirements as described under Article IV. Section I of the Constitution,
As described in Article IV Section I of the Constitution, all students desiring to be a candidate or serve as an elected or appointed official, including the Speaker of the House, shall hold a minimum of 2.5 cumulative and maintain a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA. If a student falls below a 2.5 cumulative GPA at the end of each semester, the student forfeits his/her rights to hold office,
3. Not file as a candidate for more than one Student Office.

Section 309.6 In all elections provided for under the Constitution or under the jurisdiction of SGA, each member of the Student Body shall have the right to cast his/her vote for the candidate of his/her choice for each election in which he/she is eligible to vote (i.e. correct: class).

Section 309.7 There shall be run-off elections following the general elections in a position where no candidate receives a majority of the vote.

Section 309.8 The run-off elections shall consist of the top two candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for that position.

Section 309.9 The person receiving the most votes in the runoff shall be elected to office.

Section 309.10 Official results of all elections shall be made available as outlined in the Election Rules.

Section 309.11 Elections shall be run via Student Information System. Election Commission approved ballots will be added to the Student Information System by the Staff Administrator.

ARTICLE IV. The Judicial Branch

Section 400. IMPEACHMENT

Section 400.1 Any Executive, Legislative, or Supreme Court member may be impeached from the Student Government Association.

Section 400.2 Action subject to impeachment includes any malfeasance in office and/or neglect of duty.

Section 400.3 Charges of removal may be instituted by a petition of a majority of the Student Senate or by a petition of at least five percent of the Student Body. This petition shall be presented to the Student Supreme Court to review and to determine whether the charges are a

just cause for impeachment. If the Student Supreme Court affirms the charges for impeachment, the person charged shall be given an open hearing and the right to defend himself/herself before the Student Senate. A two-thirds vote of all eligible voting Senators in good standing as detailed in ARTICLE III Section 301 and Section 305 of the By-laws at the time of the original impeachment charge shall result in the impeached officer's or member's removal.

Section 400.4 The time and place for the hearing shall be determined by the Student Senate and shall be presided over by the Vice President of the SGA, unless the Vice President of the SGA is the officer being charged or is the chief accuser of the officer/member being charged, in which case the President of the SGA shall preside. If this too results in a conflict of interest, the Pro-Tempore of the Senate may preside.

Section 401. STUDENT SUPREME COURT

Section 401.1 The Student Supreme Court shall be composed of five students appointed by the SGA President with the approval of the Student Senate by a 2/3 vote. One of the five shall be designated Chief Justice by the President of the SGA and approved by a 2/3 vote by the Senate.

Section 401.2 The term of office for the Chief Justice and Supreme Court shall be until his/her graduation.

Section 401.3 In the instance of a vacancy of a seat in the Student Supreme Court, the vacancy shall be filled through Presidential appointment with approval of the Student Senate with a 2/3 vote per Article II sections 200.4, 200.5, and 200.6.

Section 401.4 The Chief Justice shall serve as the presiding officer of the Student Supreme Court.

Section 401.5 Three members shall constitute a quorum and in the absence of the Chief Justice, the remaining justices shall elect one of their own to preside for that session of the Student Supreme Court.

Section 401.6 The Student Supreme Court shall:

1. Have original jurisdiction in all cases and controversies arising under this Constitution concerning questions of fact and law, injunction, and mandamus proceedings,
2. Having the power to rule (resolve) any question of Constitutional interpretation, and shall review charges to determine if there is just cause for impeachment,
3. Have original jurisdiction in all cases of disciplinary action in which the student is granted a hearing between the Student Supreme Court and an official of the Student and University Student Affairs Office,
4. Have original jurisdiction in all cases of disciplinary action in which the student is granted a hearing between the Student Supreme Court and an official of the Academic Affairs Office,
5. Shall establish and preserve a "Lamar University SGA Code of Official Conduct".

Section 401.7 The Supreme Court shall establish a regular schedule for sessions of the Student Supreme Court to hear all cases under its jurisdiction. The Court itself may call special sessions as needed with 24 hours' notice given to all Court members and the student body.

Section 401.8 Any student at Lamar University may petition the court by formal means, to address violations of any SGA governing documents, with the following information provided:

1. A petition to the Supreme Court should reference an action taken which may be considered in violation of the SGA governing documents, with a scenario, question, and accusation of wrong-doing or violation.
2. Each petition should have the name(s) of the petitioner(s), the complaint being filed, the section of the Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules and Procedures under contention, and any perceived violation therefore of.
3. Petitions to the court may be filed with the Supreme Court Chief Justice, President of the SGA, Vice President of the SGA, President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate, or Speaker of the House. It shall be the responsibility of these officers to ensure the request is given to the court within 15 days of receiving it.
4. The court must set a hearing date within 10 days of having received the petition, the date of which shall be no later than within 20 days of the petitions filing; all hearings will be open to the public.
5. All decisions shall be published in a written court record and published electronically via the SGA Campus Groups online portal. A signed copy of the majority decision shall be delivered to the SGA President.

Section 401.9 Requesting Interpretation:

1. Any student at Lamar University may request the court, by formal means, for a formal interpretation of any specific section of any SGA governing document, with the following conditions:
 - a. A request to the Supreme Court should reference a section or sections of any of the SGA governing documents, individually or collectively,
 - b. Each request should have the name of the requestor or requestors, the question being asked, the sections of the governing document in question and any additional information of importance.
2. Requests to the court may be filed with the Supreme Court Chief Justice, President of the SGA, Vice President of the SGA, President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate, or Speaker of the House. It shall be the responsibility of these officers to ensure the request is given to the court within 15 days of receiving it,
3. Deliberations on requests are not required to be open to the public.
4. All decisions shall be published in a written record and published electronically via the SGA Campus Groups online portal. A signed copy of the majority interpretation shall be delivered to the SGA President.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 500. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 500.1 The standing committees shall include but shall not be limited. to the Academic Affairs Advisement Committee, the Legislative Affairs Advisement Committee, the Student Engagement Advisement Committee, the Public Relations Advisement Committee, and the Campus Sustainability Advisement Committee. All standing committee chairs (except for the Public Relations Advisement Committee) must be a senator. The Chair of the Public Relations Advisement Committee may be any Lamar University student nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Section 501. THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ADVISEMENT COMMITTEE

Section 501.1 The Academic Affairs Advisement Committee serves as a communication link between administration, faculty, and students concerning academic issues. In order to improve or provide new academic services, the committee works with policies affecting the quality of students' education at Lamar University. The committee is also committed to improving academic awareness and faculty-student relations.

Section 502. THE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS ADVISEMENT COMMITTEE

Section 502.1 The Legislative Advisement Committee serves as an advisory committee on all legislation which may impact students and/or higher education. This committee tracks legislation on the local, state, and federal levels which may impact students and higher education.

Section 503. THE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ADVISEMENT COMMITTEE

Section 503.1 The Student Engagement Advisement Committee is responsible for meeting the needs and interest of the students. This committee works on issues that are of immediate concern to the Lamar Student Body. Members of the committee are encouraged to seek input from students in order to determine what issues are considered most important. The committee is also committed to be aware of and actively seek out the needs of the Student Body and to meet the needs of the students.

Section 504. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISEMENT COMMITTEE

Section 504.1 The Public Relations Advisement Committee is responsible for publicizing and promoting activities of SGA by communicating with students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community. The committee is also responsible for implementing Student Engagement activities with the surrounding community. The committee is also committed to make student aware of SGA, to facilitate student input, and to improve community awareness of Lamar University.

Section 505. THE CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY ADVISEMENT COMMITTEE

Section 505.1 The Campus Sustainability Advisement Committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding campus sustainability. They will work with current Director of Sustainability to guide the campus's progress toward sustainability. They will provide valuable data to the Office of Sustainability in regard to the students' engagement in the project.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISORS

Section 600. ADVISORS

Section 600.1 One advisor shall be a tenured member of the faculty recommended by the President of the Faculty Senate.

Section 600.2 Another shall be the Chief Student Engagement Officer, or a staff member appointed by the Chief Student Engagement Officers.

Section 600.3 The Chief Student Engagement officer shall serve as the permanent ex –officio advisor or delegate this responsibility to another Student Engagement administrator.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATIONAL OVERSIGHT

Section 700. ORGANIZATIONAL OVERSIGHT

Section 700.1 Any Legislative, Executive, or Judicial action or duty, which is not in compliance with the Constitution, shall be considered invalid.

1. The Student Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over the actions and duties of the Executive and Legislative Branches of this SGA,
2. The Office of Student Engagement shall have jurisdiction over the actions and duties of the judiciary and Executive Board of this SGA.

ARTICLE VIII. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Section 800. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Section 800.1 The governing documents of the Student Government Association of Lamar University are:

1. Student Government Association Constitution,
2. Student Government Association By-laws,
3. Student Government Association Election Code, and
4. Student Government Association Code of Official Conduct.

ARTICLE IX. DEFINITIONS

Section 900. DEFINITIONS

Section 900.1 Simple Resolutions – A resolution passed by only one chamber.

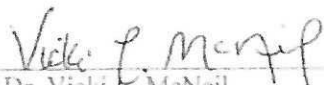
Section 900.2 Joint Resolutions – A resolution passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 900.3 Ex-officio Member – A member by virtue of office with no voting privileges or special powers excepting the right to discuss. Please note that ex-officio members are not counted when calculating quorum.

Section 900.4 Closed Session – A meeting consisting only of members, ex-officio members, and duly authorized guests.

1. A duly authorized guest is defined as:
 - i. having been approved by the chair and properly recorded on the agenda
 - ii. having been submitted in writing for approval by the chair at least forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled meeting time but not approved.
2. Any prospective guest meeting the provisions of 900.4.1(ii) is eligible to be sponsored for attendance by a member or ex-officio member to be considered for addition to the agenda during the respective phase of the meeting.

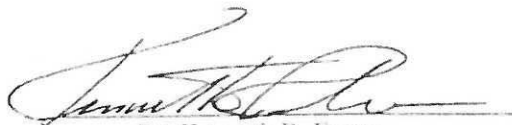
Section 900.5 Open Session - A meeting open to the general public.



Dr. Vicki E. McNeil
Chief Student Engagement Officer



Edward Doan
President of SGA



Dr. Kenneth R. Evans
President of Lamar University



Tyler Martin
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Approved in accordance with TSUS process by VPSE and President – May 31, 2020