

**Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Student Government Association Constitution**

Preamble

We, the Islanders, of the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, are the only association dedicated to representing the Student Body. It is truly a privilege to serve the Undergraduate and Graduate students within the Islander community. We firmly believe that we can best represent a diverse perspective and provide support to the Island University.

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1

This organization shall be known as the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

SECTION 2

The Student Government Association shall be the only organization on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi which exists to represent the Student Body as granted through this constitution.

ARTICLE II STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

There shall be committee membership of the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi open to students of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. These committee members shall have powers, responsibilities, and duties as specified within the bylaws^{2.01}.

SECTION 2

There shall be a number of elected positions within the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as specified within Articles III and IV of this constitution, and the bylaws.

SECTION 3

There shall be a number of appointed positions within the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as specified within Articles III and V of this constitution, and the bylaws.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1

There shall be an Executive Branch of The Student Government Association, within which all executive power shall be vested.

SECTION 2

The Executive Branch shall consist of a Student Government Association President and a Student

Government Association Vice President, who shall be elected together by a plurality vote of the Student Body of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as well as an appointed executive cabinet.

SECTION 3

The duties and powers of the Student Government Association President shall include but not be limited to:

- i. Administering the Oath of Office.
Appointing the succeeding Chief Justice of the Student Government Association Judicial Branch, following an interview which includes the outgoing President and Chief Justice. This appointment shall require the approval of a two-thirds vote by the Student Senate.
- iii. Appointing up to four associate justices, as required. These appointments shall require the approval of a two-thirds vote by the Student Senate.
- iv. Creating and appointing an executive cabinet, who shall serve at the discretion of the Student Government Association President, to assist with the duties and powers of the Executive Branch described within the constitution and bylaws.
- v. Appointing a treasurer, to serve as a liaison between the Student Government Association Advisor and the Executive Branch.
- vi. Appointing a new Student Government Association Vice President or Chief Justice in the event of resignation, removal from office, or incapacitation, all of which shall require the approval of a two thirds vote by the Student Senate.
- vii. Presenting the State of Student Government Association address.
- viii. Briefing the Student Government Association President-elect and the Student Government Association Vice President-elect on all University affairs.
- ix. Choosing the Representative for the Chancellor Student Advisory Board, when outgoing.
- x. Representing the Student Body on the Student Service Fees Advisory Committee.
- xi. Serving as the ceremonial representative of the Student Body.
- xii. Setting scheduled meetings with the University President and the University Provost, the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success, the Dean of Students, and the Student Government Association Advisor.
- xiii. Setting and keeping scheduled meetings throughout the calendar year with University officials as specified within the bylaws.
- xiv. Approving or vetoing any bill or resolution passed by the Student Senate. Should the President fail to act on a bill or resolution within ten working days of its passing by the Student Senate, the bill or resolution shall take effect without their signature.
- xv. Issuing an executive order, within the bounds of the constitution and bylaws, with the approval of the majority of the Student Senate. If the Student Senate does not act on said executive order by the end of their next Student Senate meeting, the executive order will take effect.

SECTION 4

The Student Government Association President cannot veto any constitutional amendment, any amendment to the bylaws, or measures approved in initiatives or general elections.

SECTION 5

The duties and powers of the Student Government Association Vice President shall include but not be limited to:

- i. Succeeding the Student Government Association President in case of resignation, removal from office or incapacitation^{3.02}.
- ii. Appointing the Chairpersons for all standing committees which shall require the approval by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.
- iii. Meeting with the Chairpersons for all standing committees monthly to advise the chair and track the committee's progress.
- iv. Assisting the Student Government Association President with their assigned duties.
- v. Presiding over meetings and serving as parliamentarian in the absence of the Speaker of the Student Senate.
- vi. Managing all operations of the Student Government Association as assigned by the Student Government Association President.
- vii. Recruiting and retaining new members of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE IV LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1

There shall be a Student Senate, within which the legislative powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested.

SECTION 2

The Student Senate shall be composed of a number of senators, who shall be elected members of every college, each college being represented as specified within the bylaws^{4.02}. In the event of a new college being added to Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, senator positions shall be added for that college to this constitution without the need for a constitutional amendment, in accordance with the number of senator positions specified within the bylaws.

In addition, there shall be a number of senators representing the following designations, the number being specified within the bylaws: international students, housing, disability services, veteran students, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi athletics, the Mary and Jeff Bell Library and the freshman class. All senators will have full voting power elected or appointed.

SECTION 3

The First Year Council shall consist of first year from each college. The First Year Council shall be represented by the First Year Council President in the Student Senate. This First Year Council shall have powers, duties, and responsibilities as stated in the First Year Council Manual.

SECTION 4

The duties and the powers of the Student Senate shall include but not be limited to:

- i. Enacting any measures necessary and proper for the general welfare of the Student Body, within the bounds of the constitution and bylaws.
- ii. Establishing bylaws, which are necessary for the proper functioning of the Student Government Association and the Student Senate. This may be done with a majority vote of the Student Senate.

- iii. Calling a referendum of the Student Body in order to consider proposed legislation. The results of the referendum shall be presented to the Student Government Association President to be enacted.
- iv. Confirming all individuals appointed to campus committees by the Student Government Association President or Vice President.
- v. Confirming all individuals appointed to chair standing committees by the Student Government Vice President.
- vi. Overriding a veto by the Student Government Association President with a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate present.
- vii. Approving all appropriations requests made by the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association.
- viii. Maintaining the offices of the Student Government Association.
- ix. Creating and appointing any committees necessary to represent the Student Body.
- x. Confirming or overriding an executive order with a majority vote.

SECTION 5

There shall be a Speaker of the Student Senate. The duties and powers of the Speaker of the Student Senate shall include but not be limited to:

- i. Presiding at Student Government Association Student Senate meetings and overseeing parliamentary procedure as detailed by the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
- ii. Serving as the liaison between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch.

SECTION 6

The 1990-91 Student Senate shall be classified as the "First (1st) Session", the 1991-92 Student Senate shall be classified as the "Second (2nd) Session", and all subsequent sessions shall be numbered accordingly in increasing order for all archiving and operational purposes. New sessions shall begin on Spring Commencement each year.

ARTICLE V JUDICIAL COURT

SECTION 1

All judicial powers shall be vested in the Judicial Court.

SECTION 2

The Judicial Court shall be made up of one Chief Justice and four Associate Justices.

SECTION 3

The duties and powers of the Judicial Court shall include but not be limited to:

- i. Certifying or rejecting any and/or all races, referendum issues, and other issues voted on by the Student Body.
- ii. Hearing all appeals of parking violations received on the campus.
- iii. Hearing all appeals of Library fines.
- iv. Hearing on other matters that may be brought to the Student Government Association Judicial Court.
- v. Hearing all impeachment proceedings.

- vi. Exercising the power of judicial review over any and all actions of the Student Government Association.
- vii. Exercising sole authority over the interpretation of the constitution and bylaws.

SECTION 4

The duties and powers of the Chief Justice of the Judicial Court shall include, but not limited to:

- i. Acting as the sole contact from the Judicial Court to the University Police Department and the Library Officials regarding the appropriate appeals.
- ii. Presiding over the Judicial Court, and setting all meeting times and locations.
- iii. Presiding over Judicial Court hearings.

ARTICLE VI – IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

SECTION 1

Any student shall have the right to initiate an impeachment inquiry against an appointed or elected Student Government Association member.

SECTION 2

Grounds for initiating an impeachment inquiry are as follows:

- i. Violating the Student Code of Conduct.
- ii. Failing to maintain duties or responsibilities as specified within the constitution and bylaws.
- iii. Engaging in any immoral or unethical behavior in the course of performing the duties, powers, or responsibilities of their respective position.

SECTION 3

If an individual creates an impeachment inquiry, said impeachment inquiry shall be directed immediately to the Chief Justice of the Judicial Court.

If the Chief Justice of the Judicial Court receives such an inquiry, the Judicial Court shall decide whether or not to proceed with an impeachment investigation with a majority vote of all five justices^{6.03-6.04}.

If the majority of all five justices agree to proceed with the impeachment investigation, the impeachment investigation shall begin. This investigation shall be investigative, rather than adversarial, in nature.

SECTION 4

Once the Judicial Court has completed their investigation, the Judicial Court will bring forward their findings to the Student Senate if, and only if, a majority of all five justices agree that the member in question is guilty by a preponderance of the evidence.

The Student Senate shall then be called to a special session meeting. The member in question has the right to be present at this special session meeting.

The Student Senate shall then approve or deny the findings of the Judicial Court by a two-thirds vote. If the findings are approved, the member in question will be removed from his or her office.

Immediately following this approval, another two-thirds vote will be held to disqualify this member from holding future office in the Student Government.

The decision of the Student Senate shall be final, unless it is appealed to the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success.

SECTION 5

If an elected or appointed Student Government Association member has missed a certain number of meetings as specified within the bylaws, they may be removed by the Student Government Association President without impeachment proceedings. This removal shall require the approval of a majority of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1

Should it be deemed necessary to amend the constitution, the senator who wrote or is endorsing the amendment shall present it to the Student Senate for endorsement by a two-thirds vote.

SECTION 2

Once the Student Senate has endorsed said constitutional amendment, it will be incorporated into the constitution in the section specified within the amendment.

SECTION 3

This constitution provides for the creation of the bylaws necessary to carry out the duties specified within the Student Government Association Constitution. The bylaws should appear as a completely separate document from the constitution at all times. The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

SECTION 4

All legislation that amends the constitution or bylaws, together with the parts affected within the constitution and bylaws, shall be forwarded to the Chief Justice by the Speaker of the Senate. The Chief Justice must ensure that the most recently updated Constitution and Bylaws are available to the Student Body at all times.

SECTION 5

This constitution shall reign supreme over both the bylaws and any action of the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and the bylaws shall reign supreme over any action of the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

SECTION 6

All previous constitutions are null and void as of date stated in Article VII, Section 7.

SECTION 7

This Student Government Association Constitution stands approved by the Student Body as of the 18th day of September, 2015.

ARTICLE VIII STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 1

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi does not exclude any qualified individual from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject anyone to discrimination based on their race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, genetic information, or disability.

SECTION 2

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall not abridge the right to freedom of speech and press, or the free exchange of ideas, of the Student Body.

SECTION 3

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall not abridge the right of the Student Body to petition for a redress of grievances against the former.

SECTION 4

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall not abridge students their right to an advisor in all student conduct proceedings.

SECTION 5

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall not abridge the students in their right to personal privacy.

SECTION 6

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall not abridge the right of the Student Body in their power to enact measures independent of the Student Senate through a referendum petition.

SECTION 7

The Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall not abridge the right of the Student Body to a private ballot or the freedom to choose the candidate of their choice.

This constitution was last updated on January 15th, 2019.