

**AUTHOR**

Senate Leader French, Carly

**SPONSORS**

Graduate House Leader Valdovinos, Francisco

Senator Bauer, Aeric

Senator Collins, Nicole

Senator Quintana, Austin

Senator Romo, Antonio

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**S.B.23.24.04**

1 **A Bill-**

2 To be entitled "The Student Government Constitution Act of 2024"  
3 that will establish student government under a new constitution  
4 upon ratification of the student body. It seeks to reform all  
5 components of student government in accordance with  
6 recommendations made by the Joint Governing Documents  
7 Reconstruction Committee and the American Student Government  
8 Association Consultant's report.

9

10 **WHEREAS:** The Student Government of Texas State University strives  
11 in all of its efforts to effectively and efficiently serve  
12 the student body of Texas State University; and

13 **WHEREAS:** Over their term, then President Malik Johnson and then  
14 Vice-President Kiersten Florence recognized weaknesses,  
15 inefficiencies, and much miscommunication within the  
16 organization which stemmed from the governing documents.  
17 From this, then Vice-President Florence established the  
18 Joint Governing Documents Review Committee consisting of  
19 the following members: President Kiersten Florence, Vice-

20 President Shaelyn Jaynes, Chief of Staff Olivia  
21 Alexander, Graduate House Leader Francisco Valdovinos,  
22 Senate Leader Carly French, Senator Ashley Waters, and  
23 Student Government Advisor Kathryn Weiser, Student  
24 Government Advisor and Dean of Students Dr. Vincent  
25 Morton, Student Government Advisor and Assistant Vice-  
26 President and Executive Director of Student Success Dr.  
27 Duane Bruce, under the direction of herself and Student  
28 Government advisors to review and analyze ways to deal  
29 with these issues; and

30 **WHEREAS:** After researching other student government constitutions  
31 across Texas and the nation, drawing comparisons in  
32 similarity with Texas State, their operating budget,  
33 legislative processes, procedures, effectiveness, and  
34 other criteria, the Joint Governing Documents Review  
35 Committee found that our Student Government was operating  
36 on lengthy and inconsistent means, outdated practices,  
37 and lacked clear and understandable language found within  
38 the documents of similar institutions; and

39 **WHEREAS:** The consultant and Review Committee outlined deficiencies  
40 which included but are not limited to: communication  
41 within student government and the campus community, lack  
42 of communication between all branches of student

43 government, the level of prestige associated with service  
44 in student government, lack of clear job descriptions for  
45 cabinet and senate members, lack of diverse and committed  
46 candidates for office, exclusion of items that are better  
47 suited for the code of laws, ease of understanding  
48 language within the constitution; and

49 **WHEREAS:** Addressing all of these issues will require attention by  
50 future administrations and future student government  
51 leaders to commit to positive change, establish  
52 organizational goals and priorities; and

53 **WHEREAS:** The Student Government Senators who will be elected into  
54 the senate through the 2024 Student Government election  
55 cycle will be allowed to choose their respective seat, be  
56 it through their college or at-large; and

57 **WHEREAS:** The Joint Governing Documents Committee took the combined  
58 18 months of research and incorporated changes to the  
59 current constitution which can address structural  
60 failures that the organization can easily overcome today  
61 for a more prosperous future; therefore,

62 **BE IT ENACTED:** That in accordance with Article 13, Section 1 of  
63 the current Student Government Constitution, the following  
64 constitution be ratified to reform the Texas State Student  
65 Government into a more effective, efficient, and

66 collaborative representative organization which provides  
67 students a powerful voice, communicates effectively among  
68 its members and the campus community, provides services  
69 and programs to the student body, and is responsive and  
70 transparent;

# 71 The Constitution of the Student Government of Texas State 72 University

## 73 74 **ARTICLE I. NAME**

75 The name of the officially recognized student government of Texas State University will be the  
76 “Student Government of Texas State University” (hereinafter referred to as “Student  
77 Government”).

## 78 **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

79 Subject solely to the authority of the Texas State University Board of Regents, Student  
80 Government officially represents the Texas State University Student Body in voicing concerns,  
81 promoting student interests, and advocating for student and academic life to the faculty, staff,  
82 and administration of Texas State University.

## 83 **ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### 84 **Section One. Executive Powers.**

85 Executive powers shall be vested in the Executive Council, hereinafter referred to as “the  
86 Council.”

### 87 **Section Two. Composition.**

88 The Council shall consist of the elected offices of the Student Body President and Student Body  
89 Vice President and the appointed offices of the Chief of Staff and the Executive Cabinet that will  
90 include the Director of Programming, Finance, Marketing and Community Outreach, Freshman  
91 Council, and Governmental Affairs.

### 92 **Section Three. Purpose.**

93 The purpose of the council shall be to:

- 94 1. Execute the decisions of the student body and all branches of the Student Government
- 95 2. Serve as an advisory group to the Student Body President.
- 96 3. Promote and support communication between the student body and branches of the Student  
97 Government.

- 98 4. Recommend to the Legislative Branch policies and actions which will benefit the Texas  
99 State University Student Body.

100 **Section Four. Duties of Council Members.**

101 **A. Student Body President.** The student body president shall:

- 102 1. Chair meetings of the Executive Council.  
103 2. Serve as, or appoint a designee to serve as, a representative to Texas State University  
104 boards and committees whenever student representation is requested by the administration  
105 or required by Student Government.  
106 3. Nominate students to serve, with the confirmation of the Senate, as Directors and members  
107 of Student Government Departments.  
108 4. Attend TSUS Student Advisory Board meetings.  
109 5. Perform other duties as prescribed in this constitution or Code of Laws.

110 **B. Student Body Vice President.** The vice-president shall:

- 111 1. Chair meetings of the Senate.  
112 2. Chair meetings of the Executive Council in the absence of the President.  
113 3. Nominate Senate members to serve, with the confirmation of the Senate, as chairs of Senate  
114 standing committees, unless already provided for in this constitution or associated bylaws.  
115 4. Appoint Senate members to standing committees unless otherwise specified in this  
116 Constitution.  
117 5. Appoint a member of the Senate to serve as Parliamentarian for meetings of the Senate.  
118 6. Appoint a member of the Senate to serve as Senate Leader for meetings of the Senate.  
119 7. Attend TSUS Student Advisory Board meetings.  
120 8. Appoint a Senate Clerk.  
121 9. Perform other duties as prescribed in this constitution, or the Code of Laws by the Student  
122 Government.

123 **C. Chief of Staff.** The chief of staff shall:

- 124 1. Provide administrative support for the meetings of the Council in the absence of the Senate  
125 Clerk; including the taking of minutes, recording attendance and votes, and distributing  
126 agendas and draft minutes.  
127 2. Carry out the lawful orders, goals, and other objectives as set forth by the Student Body  
128 President.  
129 3. Assist President with indirect and direct supervision.  
130 4. Assist President with oversight of SG operations.  
131 5. Assist President with representing SG and the Executive branch.  
132 6. Assistance with responding to emails in the Student Government email.  
133 7. Perform other duties as prescribed in this constitution, or the Code of Laws of Student  
134 Government.

135 **D. Director of Programming.** The director shall:

- 136 1. Manage the Department of Programs.

- 137 2. Carry out the lawful orders, goals, and other objectives as set forth by the Student Body  
138 President.
- 139 3. Advise the President on ways to engage the student body and encourage civility and  
140 camaraderie among Student Government members.
- 141 4. Coordinate Student Government ceremonial or programmatic events such as banquets.
- 142 5. Report on the activities of the department as required or requested by the Senate to do so.

143 **E. Director of Finance.** The director shall:

- 144 1. Manage the Department of Finance.
- 145 2. Carry out the lawful orders, goals, and other objectives as set forth by the Student Body  
146 President.
- 147 3. Maintain a record of Student Government funding and Student Government-funded  
148 accounts with the assistance of an Administrative Assistance.
- 149 4. Oversee the distribution of funds and make financial reports at the third and last Senate  
150 meeting in every fall and spring semester.
- 151 5. Advise the President, Council, Graduate House, and Senate on issues related to the budget  
152 and finances of the Student Government.
- 153 6. Perform other duties as prescribed in this constitution, or in the Code of Laws by the  
154 Student Government.

155 **F. Director of Marketing and Community Outreach.** The director shall:

- 156 1. Manage the Department of Marketing and Outreach.
- 157 2. Carry out the lawful orders, goals, and other objectives as set forth by the Student Body  
158 President.
- 159 3. Advise the President on issues of student outreach and public relations.
- 160 4. Advise the President on issues affecting student communities at Texas State University.
- 161 5. Meet with Texas State University media organizations to ensure the accurate dissemination  
162 of information pertaining to the affairs of the Student Government.
- 163 6. Advise the council regarding legislation related to promotional purposes and marketing  
164 and outreach
- 165 7. Maintain the Student Government social media applications and website in accordance  
166 with university policies.

167 **G. Director of Governmental Affairs.** The director shall:

- 168 1. Manage the Department of Governmental Affairs.
- 169 2. Carry out the lawful orders, goals, and other objectives as set forth by the Student Body  
170 President.
- 171 3. Advise the President on matters relating to local, state, and federal government.
- 172 4. Serve as the Student Government representative to government entities external to Texas  
173 State University.
- 174 5. Attend, or assign a member of the Department to attend, regular meetings of the City of  
175 San Marcos Council.
- 176 6. Report on the activities of the department as requested by the Senate to do so.

177 **H. Director of Freshman Council.** The director shall:

- 178 1. Manage the Department of Freshman Council
- 179 2. Carry out the lawful orders, goals, and other objectives as set forth by the Student Body President.
3. Schedule Freshmen Council meetings.
4. Supervise the Freshmen Council
5. Provide Student Government members with council-focused leadership and technical training.
6. Work to provide a mentorship program between the Freshmen Council and Senators.

180 **Section Five. Directors.**

181 **A. Composition.**

182 There shall be the following Student Government Directors: Director of Programming; Director  
183 of Finance; Director of Marketing and Community Outreach, Director of Governmental Affairs,  
184 and Director of Freshman Council;

185 **B. Purpose.**

- 186 1. The Director of Programming shall develop student programs, services, and engagement  
187 activities which collect input, and feedback on the concerns of students. Director of  
188 Programming must hold 6 office hours a week.
- 189 2. The Director of Finance shall oversee and coordinate the Student Government's financial  
190 management, procurement, information, and regulatory policies. This includes budget  
191 review and recommendations, tracking spending, coordinating fundraising, and allocation  
192 of Student Government scholarships and grants. Director of Finance must hold 6 office  
193 hours a week.
- 194 3. The Director of Marketing shall develop and maintain effective communication with and  
195 between the Student Government, Texas State University, the Student Body, and the  
196 public, making the best use of media in all forms. Director of Marketing must hold 6 office  
197 hours a week.
- 198 4. The Director of Community Outreach shall work to ensure adequate and equal  
199 representation within the Student Government for the concerns and ideas of students in  
200 college populations. Director of Community Outreach must hold 6 office hours a week.
- 201 5. The Director of Governmental Affairs shall represent the interests of Texas State  
202 University students to the local, state, and federal government. Director of Government  
203 Affairs must hold 6 office hours a week.
- 204 6. The Director of Freshman Council shall represent the interests of Texas State University  
205 freshmen. Director of Freshman Council must hold 6 office hours a week.

206 **C. Membership.**

207 Departments shall have at least two (2) and no more than six (6) members, nominated by the  
208 Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

209 **Section Six. Qualifications to Hold Office.**

210 **A. Eligibility.**

211 To serve on the Council, a student shall:

- 212 1. Be enrolled at Texas State University.
- 213 2. Be in good academic and disciplinary standing, as verified by the advisors.
- 214 3. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 at the time of appointment and
- 215 maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 while in office.
- 216 4. Have not been previously removed from elected office in Student Government.

217 **Section Seven. Selection of Council Members.**

218 **1. Appointments.**

219 Prior to the start of a term of office, the Student Body President shall send the names, in writing,  
220 or by electronic means of the individuals appointed to the offices of Chief of Staff, and Directors  
221 of the Departments of Programs, Finance, Marketing and Community Outreach, and  
222 Governmental Affairs to the Student Government advisors by the first of June.

223 **Section Eight. Term of Office.**

224 **A. Length of Term.**

- 225 1. Elected Council Members. The Student Body President and the Student Body Vice
- 226 President shall serve a term of one year or until a successor is elected and installed
- 227 following such year. A term of office shall begin on the first of May.
- 228 2. Appointed Council Members shall serve a term of office equivalent to, and at the discretion
- 229 of, the Student Body President.

230 **B. Limitations.**

231 No student may concurrently occupy more than one office in Student Government. A student  
232 elected to more than one office must choose which office they will fill, thereby leaving a vacancy  
233 in the other office(s). There is no limit to the number of terms a student may serve in the same  
234 office.

235 **C. Resignation and Removal.**

236 1. Resignation.

- 237 a. The Student Body President and Vice President may resign by notifying the Student
- 238 Government advisors.
- 239 b. An appointed Council member may resign by notifying the Student Body President in
- 240 writing or by electronic means.

241 2. Removal.

242 A member shall be removed from the Council for any of the following reasons.

- 243 a. Failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average.
- 244 b. No longer enrolled at Texas State University.
- 245 c. Unexcused absence from more than three (3) Council regular meetings and/or
- 246 mandatory events.
- 247 d. As a result of successful disciplinary proceedings against a Council member, conducted
- 248 as per the Student Government's disciplinary process, for which removal from office is
- 249 the recommended sanction.
- 250 e. The Student Body President's dismissal, if an appointed council member.

251 **D. Vacancies.**



- 252 1. Elected Offices.  
253 a. A vacancy in the office of Student Body President shall be filled by the Student Body  
254 Vice President.  
255 b. A vacancy in the office of Student Body Vice President shall be filled by Senate Leader.

256 **Section Nine. Compensation.**

257 Members of Council may receive compensation for their service as identified in the Student  
258 Government Code of Laws

259 **Section Ten. Meetings.**

- 260 **A. Regular Meetings.** The Executive Council shall meet weekly or every other week as a  
261 group or individually with the Student Government President during each semester at a time  
262 and place designated by the Student Government President. Members must be provided with  
263 at least 24 hours' notice by telephone, in writing, or by electronic means.
- 264 **B. Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Executive Council may be called by the Student  
265 Government President or upon the request of the Student Government Advisor. The purpose  
266 of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency authorized by the SG  
267 Advisor, at least 48 hours' notice shall be given to members by telephone, in writing, or by  
268 electronic means.
- 269 **C. Quorum.** The quorum for meetings of the Executive Council shall be a 2/3 majority of its  
270 members.

271 **ARTICLE IV. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

272 **Section One. Legislative Powers.**

273 All Legislative Powers shall be vested in the Student Senate and Graduate House.

274 **Section Two. Composition.**

275 The Senate shall consist of 30 Senators representing the student body. 9 Senators should be at-  
276 large spots who shall be elected by the entire student body and 18 Senator spots with each  
277 college have two undergraduate representatives that will be elected by the students in the college.  
278 At least one voting Senate seat for a Graduate student appointed by the Graduate House or  
279 elected. One Senator appointed or elected to represent the Freshman class. One Senator  
280 appointed or elected on to represent transfer students. At least one Senator from the Round Rock  
281 campus appointed or elected.

282 **THE SENATE**

283 Officers.

284 **A. Composition.**

285 The officers of the Senate shall be the elected Student Body Vice President, a Senate Leader,  
286 Senate Clerk, and a Parliamentarian. The Senate Leader and the Parliamentarian shall be elected  
287 members of the Senate appointed by the Student Body Vice President.

288 **B. Duties.**

- 289 1. Senate Leader. The Senate Leader shall:

- 290 a. Maintain a record of the proceedings of the Senate.  
291 b. Assist the Student Body Vice President when needed.  
292 c. Prepare a suggested agenda for meetings of the Senate as established by its chairperson  
293 in the absence of the chairperson.  
294 d. Facilitate communication between the legislative branch and Student Government  
295 leadership as requested.  
296 e. Maintain the Senate's official membership roll  
297 f. Post the Senate agenda on the website the Friday before the Senate meeting.  
298 g. Post the Senate minutes on the website three days after the Senate meeting.  
299 h. Have the official minutes and records available to members, administration, and the  
300 Student Body upon request.  
301 i. Transmit the passed legislation to the Student Body President for signature  
302 2. Parliamentarian. The parliamentarian shall:  
303 a. Advise the chairperson at meetings on proper conduct and procedure as identified in the  
304 Student Government's chosen parliamentary authority.  
305 b. Prepare the rooms for meetings of the Senate as specified by the Senate.  
306 c. Educate members on the practices of parliamentary procedure.  
307 d. Preserve order during meetings.  
308 3. Senate Clerk: The Senate Clerk  
309 a. Take attendance at the Senate meeting.  
310 b. Take votes for pieces of legislation.  
311 c. Take minutes for every Senate meeting.  
312 d. Distribute agendas.

## 313 **Section Four. Selection of Members.**

### 314 **A. Qualifications to Hold Office.**

- 315 1. Eligibility. To hold the office of Senator, a student shall:  
316 a. Be enrolled part-time and have matriculated at Texas State University for at least one  
317 semester at the time of their selection.  
318 b. Be in good academic and disciplinary standing, as verified by the advisors.  
319 c. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.25 while in office.  
320 d. Have not been previously removed from office in Student Government.

### 321 **B. Appointments.**

- 322 A. The Graduate House of Representatives shall appoint the required number of members to  
323 serve *ex-officio* as members of the Senate and communicate the names of these members to  
324 the Student Government President and Vice President by the second Senate meeting in the  
325 Fall semester.  
326 B. Students whom meet the proper qualifications for eligibility and go through the application  
327 process will have their application notes presented by the Student Body President to be voted  
328 on for confirmation by The Senate.

329 **Section Five. Term of Office.**

330 **A. Term.**

331 Senators shall serve a term of two years or until a successor is elected and installed. A term of  
332 office shall begin on the first Senate meeting in the Fall.

333 **B. Term Limits.**

334 Individuals may only serve in one office at a time. A student is limited to four years of service  
335 as a Senator.

336 **C. Removal and Resignation.**

337 1. Removal. A Senator shall be removed from office for any of the following reasons:

338 a. Failing to maintain good standing with the University.

339 b. Unexcused absence from more than three (3) Senate regular meetings and/or mandatory  
340 events.

341 c. As a result of successful disciplinary proceedings against the senator, conducted as per  
342 the Student Government's disciplinary process, in which removal from office is the  
343 recommended sanction.

344 2. Resignation. A senator may resign by submitting a request in writing or by electronic  
345 means to the Student Body Vice President or Student Government Advisor.

346 **D. Vacancies**

347 1. Undergraduate senator vacancies shall be filled by the candidate receiving a majority vote  
348 of The Senate at a regular or special meeting.

349 **Section Six. Meetings.**

350 **A. Regular Meetings.**

351 Regular meetings of the Senate shall be held biweekly on Monday at 7:00 pm at the location  
352 specified by the Chairperson (Student Body Vice President) unless otherwise decided by the  
353 Senate. The first meeting of each semester shall occur in the first full week of classes. The Senate  
354 shall not meet when classes are in recess or during the summer session.

355 **B. Special Meetings.**

356 Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the Vice President or upon the written request  
357 of seven (7) Senators. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of  
358 emergency authorized by the SG Advisor(s), at least two (2) days' notice shall be given to  
359 members by telephone, in writing, or by electronic means.

360 **C. Quorum.**

361 The quorum for regular and special meetings of the Senate shall be a simple majority of its  
362 members.

363 **D. Rules of Order.**

364 1. Open meetings. Unless ordered into executive session, meetings of the Senate shall be open  
365 to the public.

366 2. Remote participation. At the discretion of the Chair of the Senate, when necessary, could  
367 allow for meetings to be accomplished through electronic or telephonic means provided  
368 that a majority of the Senators can access the meeting. All persons participating in the

- 369 meeting must be able to simultaneously hear and respond to each other. Participation by  
370 such means shall constitute presence at such meetings. Those Senators without access must  
371 waive their right to participate as a condition for electronic or telephonic meetings to occur.
- 372 3. Roll call vote. All final votes on legislation shall be taken by a calling of the roll to promote  
373 transparency to the public about the positions supported by Senators.
- 374 4. Public forum. Regular meetings of the Student Government shall provide an opportunity  
375 for comments from constituents. Students may address the Senate during the Public Forum  
376 for a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. The Senate, by a vote of two-thirds, may  
377 establish a time limit for the Forum itself.
- 378 5. Guest speakers shall be limited to 20 minutes for presentation and questions unless  
379 otherwise ordered by the Senate. The order in which guest speakers present shall be set in  
380 the agenda for the meeting.

381 **Section Seven. Committees. Standing Committees.**

- 382 1. Composition. There shall be the following standing committees of the Senate: Academic  
383 Affairs Committee, Auxiliary Services, Transportation, and Sustainability Committee, and  
384 Health and Safety Committee.
- 385 2. Purpose.
- 386 a. The Academic Affairs Committee shall review legislation concerning academic issues  
387 including course descriptions, course availability, new courses, curriculum, course  
388 syllabi, the Honor Code, and advising.
- 389 b. The Auxiliary Services, Transportation, and Sustainability Committee shall review and  
390 recommend legislation related to the University Bookstore, Dining Services, Student ID  
391 Services, Copy-Cats, and Print & Mail Services. Shall review and recommend  
392 legislation related to mobility on campus, including parking services, the university bus  
393 system, inter-agency or inter-organization transportation agreements, and ADA  
394 accessibility. shall review and recommend legislation related to sustainability efforts on  
395 campus, including the environmental service fee and related projects, composting,  
396 recycling, waste, and renewable energy programs.
- 397 c. The Health and Safety Committee shall review and recommend legislation concerning  
398 the health and safety of the campus and community including issues related to the  
399 University Police Department, Student Health Center, Student Recreation Center,  
400 campus lighting, emergency call boxes, cameras, and emergency response.
- 401 3. Membership.
- 402 a. Senate Standing Committees shall be comprised solely of members of the Student  
403 Government.
- 404 b. Unless otherwise stated, each Senate standing committee shall have a chairperson and  
405 at least two (2) and no more than six (6) members, nominated by the Student Body Vice  
406 President.

407 **E. Special Committees.**

408 Special Committees shall be created as ordered by the Chair of the Senate. Special Committees  
409 shall consist of a chair and at least two (2) other members, nominated by the Student Body Vice  
410 President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate. Special Committees shall be chaired

411 by a member of the Senate and may be composed of any member of the Texas State University  
412 Student Body.

413

414 **F. Powers of Committees.**

415 Committees are not authorized to act on their own volition. Committees shall make  
416 recommendations to the Senate for any action that is to be taken on behalf of the Student  
417 Government. Committees shall report as required or requested by the Senate to do so.

418

**ARTICLE V. GRADUATE HOUSE**

419 **Section One. Legislative Powers.**

420 All Legislative Powers shall be vested in the Student Senate and Graduate House

421 **Section Two. Composition.**

422 The House shall be composed of the House Leader, Representatives, and other House officers.  
423 The House shall be the representatives of the graduate students at Texas State University.

424 (a) The House shall be apportioned with two seats for each of the following colleges:

425 1. College of Liberal Arts, the College of Fine Arts and Communications, the College of Science  
426 and Engineering, the College of Applied Arts, the Emmett & Miriam McCoy College of  
427 Business Administration, the College of Health Professions, and the College of Education.

428 **Section Three. Legislative**

429 The House shall possess legislative powers concerning graduate students, legislate on behalf of  
430 graduate students, and shall exercise the powers stated herein. The House shall only legislate:

- 431 1. (a) Through the resolution, expressing the opinion and will of the graduate students at  
432 Texas State University,  
433 2. (b) To regulate the House through bills which, when properly passed and approved, will  
434 become a statute and Student Government law.

435 The House shall require a quorum of two-thirds of the total voting membership as apportioned  
436 by this constitution to conduct any business.

437 Any action by the House shall not pass unless it has attained at least a majority vote of the  
438 House; the House may prescribe a higher threshold as it deems necessary. Each Representative  
439 shall have one vote.

440 Representatives may only vote if they are present when the vote is called.

441 The House shall have limited regulatory power over the rest of Student Government but shall  
442 exercise exclusive rights over the regulation of the House through bills which shall:

- 443 1. (a) Establish rules, eligibility standards, operations and business of the House,
- 444 2. (b) Regulate selection of its members and fill vacancies as needed, and
- 445 3. (c) Establish House committees, which shall follow the same criteria for classification as  
446 a committee as is done in the Senate, as it sees fit.

447 Through resolution, the House shall have other powers, including:

- 448 4. Make recommendations or express the opinion of the graduate student body to the university  
449 administration,

450 The House shall have the power to

- 451 1. Override a Presidential veto of its bills or resolutions by two-thirds vote.
- 452 2. The House must override a Presidential veto of its bills or resolutions at its next regularly  
453 scheduled meeting for the override to be valid.
- 454 3. Confirm graduate students nominated to university committees and other Student  
455 Government positions, and
- 456 4. Confirm House committee chair nominations.

#### 457 **Section Four: Duties**

458 1. The Vice President shall be Chair of the House and the highest- ranking member of the House.

459 2. The House Leader shall be an officer and second highest ranking member of the House, and  
460 shall fulfill the Vice President's House duties in the event of the Vice President's yield of floor  
461 or absence. The House Leader shall be elected by a majority of the House at the second meeting  
462 of each new session of the House. A candidate for the office of House Leader must be a  
463 Representative sitting in the current session and the selected person must maintain current status  
464 as a Representative to retain the position. In the event of a vacancy in the position of House  
465 Leader, a special election in the House will take place no later than the second meeting of the  
466 session following the vacancy.

467 3. The House shall meet on the first Friday of the first full week of classes in the fall semester  
468 and thereafter every other Friday at that same time and location, until the last week of classes in  
469 the spring. The House shall not meet on holidays, during the final week of classes in the spring,  
470 during finals, or emergency university closures. Any change to meeting time or place after  
471 having been set on the first meeting can be changed by the House Leader 72 hours in advance.  
472 The time and place of these meetings shall be made public 72 hours before hand and the  
473 proceedings shall be recorded, including final votes of legislation which shall be made public  
474 within 72 hours after the meeting. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules  
475 established by the House and the tenets in Roberts Rules of Order.

#### 476 **ARTICLE VI. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

477 **Section One. Judicial Powers.**

478 The Judicial Power shall be vested in the Supreme Court, hereafter referred to as “the Court.”

479 **Section Two. Duties of the Court.**

480 **A. Interpretation of Rules.**

481 The Court shall hear cases arising from the interpretation of the governing documents of the  
482 Student Government.

483 **B. Constitutionality of Actions.**

484 The Court shall hear cases on the constitutionality of actions taken by another branch of the  
485 Student Government or on the procedures used by another branch in arriving at a decision.

486 **Section Three. Composition.**

487 **A. Justices.**

488 The Court shall consist of five (5) Justices. Prior to the start of a term of office, the Student Body  
489 President shall submit the names and qualifications of individuals nominated to the office of  
490 Justice to the Senate for confirmation at its first Senate meeting of the fall semester.  
491 Appointments shall be confirmed by a majority vote of those Senators present and voting.

492 **B. Chief Justice.**

493 From the five Justices, one will be elected by a majority vote of the Court to serve as the Chief  
494 Justice. No Chief Justice shall be elected should the Court have fewer than three (3) Justices at  
495 the time of election.

496 **Section Four. Qualifications to Hold Office.**

497 **A. Eligibility.**

498 To serve on the Court, a student shall:

- 499 1. Be enrolled at least part-time and have matriculated at Texas State University for at least  
500 one semester at the time of their selection.
- 501 2. Be in good academic and disciplinary standing, as verified by the advisors.
- 502 3. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5.
- 503 4. Not be a candidate or support candidates for Student Government office in the year they  
504 seek application to the Judiciary.
- 505 5. Have not been previously removed from office in Student Government.

506 **Section Five. Term of Office.**

507 Members of the Court shall serve a term of two years except in the case of retirement or removal.

508 **Section Six. Retirement and Removal.**

509 **A. Retirement.**

510 A member of the Court may retire by notifying the Student Body President and Student  
511 Government Advisor in writing.

512 **B. Removal.**

513 A member of the Court shall be removed from the Court for any of the following reasons.

- 514 1. Failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average.  
515 2. No longer attending Texas State University.  
516 3. Failure to attend three meetings of the Court during the year without notification.  
517 4. As a result of successful disciplinary proceedings against a member of the Court, conducted  
518 as per the Student Government’s disciplinary process, for which removal from office is the  
519 recommended sanction.

520 **Section Seven. Vacancies.**

521 The Student Body President shall provide to the Senate the names and qualifications of nominees  
522 to fill vacated positions within 14 days of the vacancy being announced to the Senate.  
523 Appointments shall be confirmed by a majority vote of those Senators present and voting at a  
524 regular or special meeting at which the nomination is considered.

525 **Section Eight. Hearings.**

526 **A. Convening the Court.**

527 The Court shall convene at the request of the Chief Justice when a case is pending. At least five  
528 (5) days’ notice shall be given to the Justices by telephone, in writing, or by electronic means.

529 **B. Quorum.**

530 Quorum for meetings of the Court shall be 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of its members.

531 **C. Rules of Order.**

- 532 1. Requests for a ruling by the Court shall be submitted to the Chief Justice by either the  
533 Student Body President on behalf of the Executive Council, or by the Student Body Vice  
534 President on behalf of the Senate. The Court shall decide, by a majority vote, whether to  
535 hear any request.  
536 2. Rulings of the Court shall be binding upon the Student Government.  
537 3. The Court shall adopt its own rules and procedures for hearing cases and place them in the  
538 Bylaws of the Student Government.

539 **ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS**

540 General elections shall be held once a year in the spring semester on a date established by the  
541 Senate statute.

- 542 1. (a) The newly elected Student Body President (hereafter referred to as “the President”),  
543 Student Body Vice President (hereafter referred to as “the Vice President”), Student  
544 Senators (hereafter referred to as “Senators”), and Graduate Representative (hereafter  
545 referred to as “Representatives”), will assume the powers of their office on the first of  
546 June.  
547 2. (b) The President and Vice President shall be sworn in by the university President, or a  
548 designee, preferably at the aforementioned joint session or at a public ceremony before  
549 this date. Regardless of when the oath is administered, these officers and all other Student  
550 Government members shall assume the powers of their office on the first of June.  
551 3. (c) All procedures in this section and related subsections will be done only once in order  
552 to establish a two-year term of office for Senators and Representatives with one-half



553 being elected or selected each year and shall expire thereafter. The Senators and  
554 Representatives, the first time they are assembled under this constitution, shall be  
555 numbered and divided as equally as possible into two classes by random selection. The  
556 seats of the Senators and Representatives of the first class shall be vacated at the  
557 expiration of the first session of the new Senate and House. The second class shall be  
558 vacated at the expiration of the second session of the Senate and House.

- 559 4. (d)The President and Vice President shall be elected by a majority of students voting in  
560 an election. Senators shall be elected by a plurality of students voting in an election.  
561 Representatives shall be selected by each College Dean by the conclusion of Student  
562 Government elections each year.
- 563 5. (e)All members of the Student Government shall take an oath and affirmation upon  
564 taking office which they are sworn to abide.

565 Timing. The Texas State University Student Body shall elect, by either written or electronic  
566 ballot, the Student Body President, and the Student Body Vice President. Elections shall  
567 be held annually during the spring semester for four consecutive academic class days  
568 starting on the third Monday in February. A plurality shall elect.

569

570 Additional Ballots. In the event of a tie, only the names of the candidates tied shall be  
571 placed on a new ballot and a new election conducted within ten (10) days of the original  
572 election date.

573 **The Election Board:** There will be five Election Board members selected and confirmed by The  
574 Senate. From the five members, one will be selected as chair by The Senate and the process will  
575 be further explained in the Code of Laws.

576 The Election Board has original jurisdiction involving issues related to the Student Government  
577 elections, special or general, and will enforce and interpret rules

#### 578 **D. Eligibility.**

579 To serve on the Election Board, a student shall:

- 580 4. Be enrolled at least part-time and have matriculated at Texas State University for at least  
581 one semester at the time of their selection.
- 582 5. Be in good academic and disciplinary standing, as verified by the advisors.
- 583 6. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5. A first-year student without a  
584 college GPA shall have graduated in the top quarter of their high school class.
- 585 7. Not be a candidate or support candidates for Student Government office in the year they  
586 seek application to the Judiciary.
- 587 8. Have not been previously removed from office in Student Government.

588

### **ARTICLE VIII. ADVISORS.**

589 Two (2) advisors to Student Government shall be appointed by the Vice President of Student  
590 Success and one (1) advisor to the Graduate House shall be appointed by the Dean of The  
591 Graduate College to serve a term of service at the discretion of that office. The advisors may  
592 attend Student Government and Executive Council meetings and participate in discussion and

593 debate, but may not vote, make motions or second motions, and do not count toward a meeting's  
594 quorum requirement.

595 **ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

596 The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Student  
597 Government in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with  
598 this Constitution and any Bylaws that the Student Government may adopt.

599 **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

600 **Section One. Amendments.**

601 Amendments to this constitution shall be approved by a vote of two-thirds at a regular meeting of  
602 the Senate provided the amendment has been announced to the Texas State University student  
603 body at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting in which it is considered. The notice shall  
604 include the complete text of the proposed amendment.

605 **Section Two. Effective date: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

606 Amendments to this constitution shall take effect upon their approval by the Texas State  
607 University President as outlined in the Texas State University System Board of Regents Rules  
608 and Regulations.

609 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** That if passed and signed, the senate  
610 will immediately begin the revision of the code of laws  
611 to reflect the Constitution of the Student Government of  
612 Texas State University; and

613 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** That, if passed and signed, this bill be  
614 forwarded to Student Body President Kiersten Florence  
615 for further action.