



The Baylor University  
Student Body  
Constitution

## PREAMBLE

We, the students of Baylor University, in order to form a cohesive and responsible self-government, serve the collective interests of the University Student Body, foster spiritual fellowship within the University community, encourage intellectual excellence and self-determination, and act on behalf of students' needs and interests, do establish and endorse this Constitution for the Student Body of Baylor University and all student organizations therein.

## ARTICLE I ESTABLISHMENT

### SECTION I — AUTHORITY

- A. This Constitution shall supersede all official documents of Baylor University Student Government.

### SECTION II — NAME

- A. The name of the governmental organization established under this constitution shall be Baylor University Student Government.

### SECTION III — MEMBERSHIP

#### Par. 1. Student Membership Requirements

- A. The membership of the Baylor University Student Government shall consist of full-time enrolled students of Baylor University.
- B. The membership of the Baylor University Student Government shall meet all the qualifications necessary to hold membership within a Baylor University student organization and pay organizational dues.
- C. The Student Senate shall have the ability to establish qualifications for other positions within Baylor University Student Government, which do not stand in violation of this Constitution.
- D. All Student Government member classifications with respect to academic class shall be based upon the candidate's number of completed fall and spring semesters within Baylor University.

#### Par. 2. Student Body Officer Requirements

- A. Student Body Officers shall meet all qualifications necessary to hold membership within a Baylor University student organization and all requirements set forward in this Constitution.
- B. Student Body Officers shall be elected by the Baylor University Student Body in a manner consistent with this Constitution or appointed in a manner consistent within this Constitution.
- C. Student Body Officers shall have been a member of the Baylor University Student Government for at least two semesters immediately prior to the commencement of their term.
- D. Shall have achieved a minimum classification as a junior upon the commencement of their term.

#### Par. 3. Non-discriminatory Statement

- A. Merit-based membership to the Baylor University Student Government shall not be prohibited or denied on the basis of sex, pregnancy, gender identity, age, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, political orientation, or veteran, military, or disability status, or any other status protected under federal, state, and local law.

### SECTION IV — GOVERNANCE

- A. The Student Government shall be divided into executive, legislative, and judicial branches with no branch exercising any power properly belonging to either of the other branches.

ARTICLE II  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION I — INVESTITURE OF LEGISLATIVE POWER

A. All legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in the Baylor University Student Senate.

SECTION II — COMPOSITION

A. The Legislative Branch shall be comprised of the Internal Vice President, the Office of the Legislative Secretary, and the Student Senators.

SECTION III — STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

- A. The Legislative Branch shall adopt Student Senate Bylaws which do not conflict with this Constitution.
- B. Student Senate Bylaws deemed necessary and proper for the conduct of business within the Legislative Branch shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of Student Senate.
- C. The Student Senate Bylaws shall provide additional qualifications and responsibilities of the Legislative Branch not in conflict with this Constitution.
- D. The Student Senate Bylaws will take effect immediately following ratification by two-thirds of the Student Senate.
- E. The Student Senate Bylaws shall not be subject to veto by the Student Body President.
- F. All members of the Legislative Branch shall abide by the Student Senate Bylaws.

SECTION IV — THE BAYLOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

Par. 1. Composition

A. Student Senate shall be comprised of fifty-two undergraduate Student Senators, composed of thirteen Student Senators from each undergraduate class, representing the Baylor University Student Body to be apportioned in a manner determined within the Electoral Code and ratified by two-thirds of the Student Senate and subject to veto by the Student Body President.

Par. 2. Qualifications

A. Members of the Legislative Branch shall meet all qualifications necessary to hold membership in Baylor University Student Government and leadership within a Baylor University student organization, as well as any additional requirements set forth in this Constitution.

Par. 3. Duties and Powers

- A. The Student Senate shall advocate on behalf of the student interests and promote the general welfare of the Baylor University student body.
- B. The Student Senate shall foster mutual understanding between the Baylor University administration, the Baylor University faculty and staff, and the Baylor University student body.
- C. The Student Senate shall investigate such matters as are pertinent to the interests of the Baylor University student body.
- D. The Student Senate shall make recommendations to the Baylor University Board of Regents, the Baylor University administration and the Baylor University faculty and staff.
- E. The Student Senate shall disburse all funds allocated to the Student Senate as they deem necessary and proper.
- F. The Student Senate shall create and maintain, by means of legislation, an Electoral Code for the managing of all Student Government elections.

Par. 4. Student Senator Terms

A. A Student Senator shall be considered to have served one full term beginning at the first Student Senate meeting following their election or appointment with attendance of seventy-five percent of Student Senate meetings and concluding at the last Student Senate meeting of the legislative session.

## SECTION V — INTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT

### Par 1. Qualifications

- A. Shall be considered a Student Body Officer within Baylor University Student Government and meet all qualifications necessary to hold office as a Student Body Officer.
- B. Shall have completed a term within the Legislative Branch for the two semesters immediately prior to the commencement of their term as Student Body Internal Vice President.
- C. Shall not have been removed from office in any Baylor University student organization.
- D. Shall achieve a minimum classification as a junior upon the commencement of their term as Internal Vice President.
- E. Shall not hold membership within any other branch of Student Government or hold any leadership position within any other Baylor University student organization at the commencement of their term and for the duration of their term.

### Par 2. Duties and Powers

- A. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall act as the President of the Student Senate.
- B. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall appoint members to the Office of the Legislative Secretary.
- C. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall appoint members of Student Senate to act as chairpersons of committees within the Student Senate.
- D. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall have no vote within the Student Senate, except in the event of a tie.
- E. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall post a minimum of twelve office hours, which they shall be required to hold each five-day school week.
- G. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall plan periodic Student Government events throughout their term.
- H. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall enforce this constitution.
- I. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall be subject to the Student Senate Bylaws.

## SECTION VI — OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

### Par. 1. Qualifications

- A. The Internal Vice President shall appoint, from within the membership of Student Senators, a legislative secretary and other members of this office with majority approval of the Student Senate.
- B. All appointees within this office shall be considered members of the Legislative Branch and must meet all qualifications necessary to hold membership within Baylor University Student Government.
- C. Members of the Office of the Legislative Secretary shall be voting members of Student Senate.
- D. The Office of the Legislative Secretary shall maintain voting records and perform all other administrative operations deemed necessary and expedient by the Internal Vice President and the Student Senate.
- E. Members of the Office of the Legislative Secretary shall be considered members of the Internal Vice President's cabinet.

## SECTION VII — STUDENT SENATE OFFICERS

### Par. 1. Composition

- A. The Officers of the Baylor University Student Senate shall be the Internal Vice President and the President Pro Tempore.
- B. The President Pro Tempore shall be elected from among the Student Senators by a majority vote of the Student Senate at the first meeting of the new legislative session.
- C. The President Pro Tempore shall preside over the Student Senate in the event of the absence of the Internal Vice President.
- D. The President Pro Tempore shall meet the requirements set forth to be eligible to hold the office of the Internal Vice President.

## SECTION VIII — COMMITTEES

### Par. 1. Standing Committees

- A. The Student Senate shall create standing committees it deems necessary and proper for the conduct of business.
- B. The Chairpersons of the various Student Senate standing committees shall be members of the Senate Executive Council.

### Par. 2. Senate Subcommittees

- A. The Student Senate shall create subcommittees deemed necessary and proper for the conduct of business within the Student Senate standing committees and the Student Senate.

### Par. 3. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Student Senate ad hoc committees deemed necessary and proper for the conduct of business within Student Senate shall be organized by the Internal Vice President and approved by the Student Senate.

## SECTION IX — IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

### Par. 1. Articles of Impeachment

- A. Articles of impeachment brought against all members of Student Government, except in the case of the impeachment of the Internal Vice President, shall be presented to the Senate Executive Council, who shall communicate the charge and initiate deliberations before the full Student Senate, should they deem it necessary and appropriate by a unanimous vote in the Senate Executive Council.
  - i. In the event of the articles of impeachment having been brought against the Internal Vice President and presented to the Senate Executive Council, the President Pro-Tempore shall preside over the deliberations in the Senate Executive Council meeting.

### Par. 2. Removal from Office

- A. The Student Senate shall have the power to remove any Student Government member or Student Body Officer from office with a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate following a hearing held before the Student Senate.
- B. The Internal Vice President shall preside over Student Government removal from office hearings.
  - a. If removal from office charges have been brought against the Internal Vice President, then the President Pro-Tempore will preside over the removal from office hearings.

## SECTION X — STUDENT SENATE OFFICER VACANCIES

### Par. 1. Internal Vice President

- A. A vacancy in the Office of the Internal Vice President shall be filled by the Student Senate President Pro Tempore.

### Par. 2. President Pro Tempore

- A. A vacancy in the office of the President Pro Tempore shall be filled by a member of the Student Senate to be elected by Student Senate upon vacancy.

## SECTION XI — STUDENT SENATE VACANCIES

### Par. 1. Vacancy in The Office of a Student Senator

- A. The class officers of the class in which the Student Senate vacancy has occurred shall nominate by majority vote a member of the respective class to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of that seat.
- B. A nominee shall be confirmed by two-thirds majority of the Student Senate.

## SECTION XII — RESIGNATION

### Par. 1. Internal Vice President

A. The resignation of the Internal Vice President shall be in writing and submitted to a Student Government advisor and the Student Body President, whereby it shall be effective immediately upon receipt and recognition.

### Par. 2. Legislative Branch Members

A. The resignation of all other members of the Legislative Branch shall be in writing and submitted to the Internal Vice President, whereby it shall be effective immediately upon receipt and acknowledgement.

## SECTION XIII — STUDENT SENATE MEETINGS

### Par. 1. MEETINGS

A. The Student Senate shall hold regular meetings.

B. All regular meetings shall be open to the public unless the Student Senate votes to enter executive session by a two-thirds vote.

### Par. 2. QUORUM

A. A majority of current Student Senators shall constitute quorum.

## SECTION XIV — TERMS OF OFFICE

### Par. 1. The Student Body Internal Vice President-Elect

A. Following the spring election cycle the newly elected Student Body Internal Vice President-Elect shall begin their term of office as Student Body Internal Vice President-Elect at the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.

B. The Student Body Internal Vice President-Elect shall assume office as Student Body Internal Vice President at noon of the first day of the new Baylor University fiscal year.

C. The Student Body Internal Vice President shall preside over all Student Senate meetings of the new legislative session and carry out all duties and responsibilities necessary for the new legislative session.

D. The incumbent Student Body Internal Vice President from the previous year shall hold their offices until the beginning of the new Baylor University fiscal year.

### Par. 2. Student Senators Elected in the Fall Election Cycle

A. Student Senators elected during the fall general election cycle shall begin their terms of office at the first Student Senate meeting following their election.

B. Student Senators elected during the fall general election cycle shall serve until the last Student Senate meeting of the legislative session of which they entered.

### Par. 3. Student Senators Elected in the Spring Election Cycle

A. Student Senators elected during the spring general election cycle shall begin their terms of office at the first Student Senate meeting of the following legislative session.

B. Student Senators elected during the spring general election cycle shall serve until the last Student Senate meeting of the legislative session of which they entered.

### Par. 4. Student Government Vacancy Appointments

A. Any person appointed or otherwise delegated to fill an office vacancy within the Legislative Branch office shall serve the remainder of that term of office.

ARTICLE III  
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION I — INVESTITURE OF EXECUTIVE POWER

- A. The executive power shall be vested in a Baylor University Student Body President.
- B. They shall hold this Office during the term of one academic year, concurrently with the External Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected by means within this Constitution.

SECTION II — COMPOSITION

- A. The Executive Branch shall be comprised of the Student Body President and their Cabinet, the Student Body External Vice President and their Cabinet, and the Class Officers.

SECTION III — EXECUTIVE BRANCH BYLAWS

- A. The Executive Branch shall adopt Executive Branch Bylaws which do not conflict with this Constitution. Executive Branch Bylaws deemed necessary and proper for the conduct of business within the Executive Branch may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of Executive Branch members and be voted on by the Student Senate within two Student Senate meetings following their adoption by the Executive Branch.
- B. The Executive Branch Bylaws shall provide additional qualifications and responsibilities of the Executive Branch not in conflict with this Constitution.
- C. The Executive Branch Bylaws will be ratified and take effect immediately after the Student Senate has held its vote, unless the Student Senate chooses not to ratify them with a two-thirds nay vote. D. All members of the Executive Branch shall abide by the Executive Branch Bylaws.

SECTION IV — THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Par. 1. Qualifications

- A. Shall be considered a Student Body Officer within Baylor Student Government and meet all qualifications necessary to hold office as a Student Body Officer.
- B. Shall achieve a minimum classification as a junior upon the commencement of their term as Student Body President.
- C. Shall have completed a term within the Legislative Branch or have held an office within the Executive Branch for two semesters immediately prior to the commencement of their term as Student Body President.
- D. Shall not have been removed from office in any Baylor student organization.
- E. Shall not hold membership within any other branch of Student Government or hold a leadership position, as defined by the University Administration, within any other Baylor University student organization, at the commencement of their term and for the duration of their term.

Par. 2. Duties and Powers

- A. The Student Body President shall enforce this Constitution.
- B. The Student Body President shall, along with the Student Senate, see that all passed legislation is faithfully executed.
- C. The Student Body President shall maintain lines of communication between their office and the Student Body, all other branches of Student Government, and members of the university administration.
- D. The Student Body President shall be the representative of the Baylor Student Body to all Baylor constituencies, the public, media, and other higher education institutions.
- E. The Student Body President shall be empowered to establish special committees and positions to aid in the execution of their duties.
- F. The Student Body President shall be empowered to appoint the following positions:

- i Student Court justices and court clerks with two-thirds approval of the Student Senate, within five weeks of a vacancy occurring.
  - ii Directors and members within the following Executive Branch Cabinet Offices with approval of the Student Senate:
    - a. The Office of the Student Government Secretary The Office of the Student Body President Chief of Staff
    - b. The Student Government Communications Office
    - c. The Office of the Attorney General
    - d. The Office of Student Government Policy
  - iii An ex-officio liaison from Student Senate to the Student Body President Cabinet.
  - iv Be empowered to appoint student members to designated University standing committees. The Student Body President shall advise the Class Officers and recommend to them measures he or she deems necessary and expedient.
- G. The Student Body President shall recommend to the consideration of Student Senate such measures they deem necessary and expedient.
- H. The Student Body President shall present a Student Government operating budget for review, alteration, and majority approval of the Student Senate at the beginning of the academic year.
- I. The Student Body President shall disburse all funds allocated to the executive branch as they deem necessary and proper
- J. The Student Body President shall be empowered to call the Student Senate into special session.
- K. The Student Body President shall sign or veto all legislation passed by the Student Senate, excluding matters not subject to veto as provided by this Constitution.
- i. A veto shall be sent back to the Student Senate at the following Student Senate meeting, with or without recommendations and may be overridden by the Student Senate by a two-thirds nay vote.
- L. The Student Body President must either sign or veto legislation five days following the legislation's passage. In the event that the Student Body President does not sign or veto the legislation within the required time, it will thereby be enacted.
- M. The Student Body President shall keep the Student Senate regularly apprised of all pertinent information involving the Office of the Student Body President.
- N. The Student Body President shall post a minimum of twelve office hours, which they shall be required to hold each five-day school week.
- O. The Student Body President shall be subject to the Executive Branch Bylaws.

## SECTION V — THE EXTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT

### Par. 1. Qualifications

- A. Shall be considered a Student Body Officer within Baylor Student Government and meet all qualifications necessary to hold office as a Student Body Officer.
- B. Shall achieve a minimum classification as a junior upon the commencement of their term as Student Body External Vice President.
- C. Shall have completed a term within the Legislative Branch or have held an office within the Executive Branch for two semesters immediately prior to the commencement of their term as Student Body External Vice President.
- D. Shall not have been removed from office in any Baylor student organization.
- E. Shall not hold membership within any other branch of Student Government or hold a leadership position, as defined by the University Administration, within any other Baylor University student organization, at the commencement of their term and for the duration of their term.

### Par. 2. Duties and Powers

- A. The External Vice President shall enforce this Constitution.
- B. The External Vice President shall coordinate Student Government relations with all Baylor University Student Body organizations, Baylor University alumni, the greater Waco community, and other universities.
- C. The External Vice President shall be empowered to appoint the following positions:



- i Directors and members within the following Executive Branch Cabinet Offices with approval of the Student Senate.
      - a. Office of the External Vice President Chief of Staff
      - b. Student Body Office of Community Relations
      - c. Student Government Office of Student Organization Engagement
      - d. Student Government Office of Extra-University Relations
    - ii An ex-officio liaison from Student Senate to the External Vice President Cabinet.
  - D. The External Vice President shall keep Senate regularly apprised of all pertinent information concerning the Office of the External Vice President.
  - E. The External Vice President shall post a minimum of twelve office hours, which he or she shall be required to hold each five-day school week.
  - F. The External Vice President shall be subject to the Executive Branch Bylaws.

## SECTION VI — CLASS OFFICERS

### Par. 1. Class Officers

- A. The freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes shall elect a class president, a class vice president, and a class secretary/treasurer.
- B. Class Officers shall act as the representatives of their class and shall create initiatives and programs designed to promote spirit and unity within the members of the class.
- C. Class Officers shall oversee special projects at the request of the Student Body President.
- D. Class Officers shall serve in the cabinet of the President of the Student Body within the Office of Student Government Policy and other cabinet offices deemed necessary by the Student Body President.
- E. Class Officers shall be able to appoint members to Student Senate.

### Par. 2. Permanent Class President

- A. The senior class shall elect a Permanent President and Secretary/Treasurer. The Permanent Class President and Permanent Class Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for facilitating communication between their class and the administration post-graduation.
- B. The Permanent Class President and Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for fulfilling any project assigned to them after graduation by the administration in regards to their graduating class.

## SECTION VII —TERMS OF OFFICE

### Par. 1. The Student Body President-Elect

- A. Following the spring election cycle the newly elected Student Body President-Elect shall begin their term of office as Student Body President-Elect at the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.
- B. The Student Body President-Elect shall assume office as Student Body President at noon of the first day of the new Baylor University fiscal year.
- C. The Student Body President-Elect shall carry out all duties and responsibilities of their office necessary for the following Baylor University fiscal year.
- D. The incumbent Student Body President from the previous year shall hold their offices until the beginning of the new Baylor University fiscal year.

### Par. 2. The Student Body External Vice President-Elect

- A. Following the spring election cycle the newly elected Student Body External Vice President-Elect shall begin their term of office as Student Body External Vice President-Elect at the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.
- B. The Student Body External Vice President-Elect shall assume office as Student Body External Vice President at noon of the first day of the new Baylor University fiscal year.
- C. The Student Body External Vice President-Elect shall carry out all duties and responsibilities of their office necessary for the following Baylor University fiscal year.
- D. The incumbent Student Body External Vice President from the previous year shall hold their offices until the beginning of the new Baylor University fiscal year.

### Par. 3. Class Officers

- A. Class Officers shall begin their term of office at the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.
- B. Class Officers shall serve until the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.

#### SECTION VIII — VACANCIES

##### Par. 1. Vacancies of the Student Body President

- A. A vacancy arising in the office of the Student Body President shall be filled by the Student Body Internal Vice President.

##### Par. 2. Vacancies of the Student Body External Vice President

- A. A vacancy arising in the office of Student Body External Vice President shall be filled with an appointment by the Student Body President and Internal Vice President with approval by a two-thirds vote of Senate. The person appointed must meet all qualifications enumerated in this Constitution.

##### Par. 3. Vacancies of Class Officers

- A. A vacancy in the office of a Class President shall be filled by the Class Vice President. A vacancy in the office of the Class Vice President shall be filled by the Class Secretary/Treasurer. A vacancy in the office of Class Secretary/Treasurer shall be appointed by the Class President, with two-thirds approval of the Student Senate.

##### Par. 4. Remaining Terms

- A. All replacements shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

#### SECTION IX — RESIGNATION

##### Par. 1. The Student Body President

- A. The resignation of the Student Body President shall be submitted to the Vice President for Student Life, whereby it shall be effective immediately upon receipt.

##### Par. 2. Executive Branch Members

- A. The resignation of all other Executive Branch members shall be submitted to the Student Body President whereby it shall be effective immediately upon receipt.

### ARTICLE IV JUDICIAL BRANCH

#### SECTION I — INVESTITURE OF JUDICIAL POWER

- A. Judicial power shall be vested in the Baylor University Student Court.

#### SECTION II — COMPOSITION

- A. The Judicial Branch shall be comprised of the members of the Student Court, the Electoral Commission, and inferior entities as judged necessary and expedient by Student Government and its advisors.

#### SECTION III — RULES OF COURT PROCEDURE

- A. The Student Court shall adopt Rules of Court Procedure which do not conflict with this Constitution. Rules of Court procedure deemed necessary and proper for the conduct of business may be adopted by a unanimous vote of all Student Court members and voted on by the Student Senate within two Student Senate meetings following their adoption by the Student Court.
- B. These Rules of Court Procedure shall provide additional qualifications and responsibilities of the Judicial Branch not in conflict with this Constitution.
- C. The Rules of Court Procedure will be ratified and take effect immediately after the Student Senate has held its vote, unless the Senate chooses not to ratify them with two-thirds nay vote.
- D. Members of the Judicial Branch shall abide by the Rules of Court Procedure.

## SECTION IV — THE STUDENT COURT

### Par. 1. Composition of The Student Court

- A. The Student Court shall be composed of seven Justices and two court clerks.
- B. The Justices and Court Clerks shall choose a Chief Justice from among the current Justices of the Court.
- C. The officers of the Student Court shall be the Chief Justice and the Court Clerks.
  - i. The Chief Justice shall appoint one of the associate justices to the office of Deputy Chief Justice.  
The Deputy Chief Justice shall act as Chief Justice in the absence of the Chief Justice.
- D. A Justice or Court Clerk shall serve a term of two academic years from their semester of appointment with these terms ending at the conclusion of each respective semester. A justice or court clerk shall serve no more than two terms.
- E. Members of the Student Court may be subject to impeachment and removal from office by the Student Senate as provided in this Constitution.
- F. To be eligible to be appointed and hold the position of Student Court Justice, one must meet the qualifications necessary to hold membership in Baylor University Student Government and have been in attendance at Baylor University for two complete semesters prior to appointment.
- G. To be eligible to be appointed and hold the position of Student Court Clerk, one must meet the qualifications necessary to hold membership in Baylor University Student Government, but may be appointed at any point in their attendance at Baylor University.
- H. A Student Court Justice or Court Clerk may not hold membership in any other branch of Student Government.

### Par. 2. Student Court Quorum

- A. Five justices and one clerk shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Affirmation of at least three justices shall be required to accept any action before the Student Court.

## SECTION V — STUDENT COURT JURISDICTION

### Par. 1. Jurisdiction

- A. The Student Court shall only rule upon charges presented in the form of a written complaint. Issues arising from testimonies or other sources of information are not subject to the Court's jurisdiction.
- B. The Student Court shall be the court of final review for all matters arising from interpretation of this Constitution, and all matters accepted by the Student Court within its jurisdiction.
- C. The Student Court shall have discretionary review over all actions submitted to the Student Court within its jurisdiction.

### Par. 2. Original jurisdiction of the Student Court

- A. Original jurisdiction of the Student Court shall include:
  - i. Interpretation of the Constitution.
  - ii. Interpretation of all legislation signed by the Student Body President.
  - iii. Disputes and controversies involving:
    - a. Student(s) against a student organization(s).
    - b. A student organization(s) against a student(s).
    - c. A student organization(s) against a student organization(s), which the Student Court does not hold appellate jurisdiction over.
    - d. Student(s) against a student(s), at the discretion of the Vice President for Student Life not involving subject matter that falls under the jurisdiction of the Baylor Honor Council.
  - iv. Charges of violations of this Constitution, or violations of other legislation passed by Senate and signed into law.
  - v. Cases that are referred to the Student Court by the Vice President for Student Life (or staff appointed by the Vice President for Student Life) regarding indiscretions on the part of a student or organization.

Par. 3. Appellate jurisdiction of the Student Court

- A. Appellate jurisdiction of the Student Court shall include substantive or procedural controversies arising over:
  - i. All commissions and boards created by this Constitution or as created by Student Government.
  - ii. Actions recommended to the Court for appellate review by the Vice President of Student Life (or staff appointed by the Vice President for Student Life).
  - iii. Decisions of the following judicial bodies:
    - a. Interfraternity Council;
    - b. Panhellenic Council;
    - c. National Pan-Hellenic Council;
    - d. Multicultural Greek Council;
    - e. Electoral Commission;
    - f. Traffic decisions delivered by Baylor Parking Services;
    - g. Judicial hearings conducted within Baylor Student Organizations;
    - h. Other student courts and student organizations recognized by Baylor administration.

Par. 4. Authority

- A. The Student Court shall have the power to request the presence of relevant parties and students with the approval of the Student Court Faculty Advisor.
- B. The Student Court shall have the power to rule on any procedural decisions that are necessary to carry out its duties within the limits of its jurisdiction.
- C. The Student Court shall have the ability to issue advisory opinions and writs of mandamus to judicial bodies under its appellate jurisdiction.
- D. A student's failure to comply with the contents of the decisions, orders, and subpoenas issued by the Student Court will result in such students being referred to the Student Conduct Administration.

SECTION VI — PROCEDURES

Par. 1. Procedure of Complaint and Notification

- A. Any action before the Student Court shall commence by written complaint submitted to the Student Court.
- B. The Student Court shall determine if a hearing is warranted and authorized within five class days of receiving the complaint.

Par. 2. Student's Rights Afforded by Policy

- A. Right to a notice in writing of all charges.
- B. Right to appear in person at Student Court hearing. The Student Court shall not consider an absence of the Defendant an admission of responsibility.
- C. Right to present arguments on their own behalf.
- D. Right upon request to receive a list of all witnesses who will appear.
- E. Right to request witnesses and present witnesses on one's behalf. All witnesses must have first-hand knowledge of the incidents relating to the case. Character witnesses are specifically prohibited from attending any portion of the hearing.
- F. Right to appoint other students as a representative.
- G. Right to respond on one's own behalf, Students shall not be compelled to be a witness against themselves.
- H. Right to have access to all information and all evidence.
- I. Right to present written briefs.
- J. Right to receive a written copy of the decision as rendered by the Student Court.
- K. Right to appeal of sanctions.

Par. 3. Judicial Hearing

- A. A Defendant shall be presumed not responsible for charges brought against them until proven otherwise.
- B. The burden of proof shall lie with the party presenting the charges.
- C. All Student Court decisions shall be made using a preponderance of the evidence standard.

- D. All Student Court hearings and deliberations shall be conducted in closed session.
- E. All testimony before Student Court is to be sworn testimony and is subject to the penalties of perjury and contempt of Court if deemed necessary by the Court and approved by the Student Court Faculty Advisor.
- F. All allegations of perjury or contempt will be referred to the Associate Dean for the Student Conduct Administration.

Par. 4. Decisions

- A. All Student Court decisions shall be approved by the Faculty Advisor and the Vice President for Student Life (or staff appointed by the Vice President for Student Life).
- B. Any justice may dissent from the decision of the Student Court.
- C. All decisions of the Student Court shall require an official judicial hearing and a majority vote of the justices present at said hearing.

Par. 5. Sanctions

- A. The Student Court may recommend sanctions within the written opinion to the Vice President of Student Life (or staff appointed by the Vice President for Student Life) for approval.
- B. Students failing to complete or abide by approved sanctions of the Student Court shall be referred to the Student Conduct Administration.

Par. 6. Appeal of Imposition of Sanctions

- A. A student against whom sanctions have been imposed may, if he or she feels that the sanctions are arbitrary or capricious, request the Vice President for Student Life to modify or suspend the sanctions.

Par. 7. Oath of A Student Justice

- A. All incoming justices shall take the following oath of office from the Chief Justice or Student Body President:  
"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and uphold all the duties incumbent upon me as Justice of the Baylor University Student Court under the code of ethics and the Baylor University Student Body Constitution, so help me God."

Par. 8. Code of Ethics

- A. All Student Court actions and hearings are confidential and no Justice may comment or discuss a pending action before the Student Court.
- B. A Student Court Justice shall not participate in Student Government political campaigns.
- C. A Student Court Justice shall recuse him or herself from any case that involves parties who may improperly influence him or her. The Student Court Faculty Advisor may dismiss a Justice from hearing a particular action if just cause is shown.

## SECTION VII — THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Par. 1 Composition

- A. The Electoral Commission shall be comprised of one Electoral Commissioner, four Commission Members, and other members deemed necessary and expedient by the Student Court.
  - i. The Electoral Commissioner shall appoint one of the Electoral Commission members to act as Assistant Electoral Commissioner, who shall act as Electoral Commissioner in the event the Electoral Commissioner cannot.
- B. The Electoral Commissioner shall be appointed by the Baylor University Student Court with confirmation by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
- C. Members of the Electoral Commission shall be selected by the Electoral Commissioner.
- D. All members of the Electoral Commission shall serve a term of one year, which shall include both the fall and spring election cycles.
- E. The members of the Electoral Commission must meet the qualifications necessary to hold membership within Student Government.
- F. The Electoral Commission shall abide by all portions of the Electoral Code.
- G. The Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Commission's members are subject to impeachment and removal by the Student Senate.

Par. 2. Jurisdiction

- A. The Electoral Commission has original jurisdiction over all actions resulting from matters of voting and elections conducted by the Student Body.
- B. The Electoral Commission has the ability to issue decisions regarding all matters of voting and elections conducted by the Baylor University Student Body.
- C. The Electoral Commission has the ability to interpret the Electoral Code in order to make a decision in matters of voting and election by the Student Body.

Par. 3. Duties

- A. The Electoral Commission shall perform all procedures and duties contained within the Electoral Code.
- B. No member of the Electoral Commission may run for office at point in their term or hold another Student Government office at any point in their term.
- C. The Electoral Commissioner shall act as the Electoral Commission's representative in all matters before the Baylor University Student Court.
- D. Members of the Electoral Commission shall not aide in the campaigns of any student. Any member found to be offering aide or providing an unfair advantage to a candidate will be subject to impeachment by the Student Senate.
- E. The Electoral Commission shall manage and administer any campus-wide votes arising from constitutional amendments under Article VII.

Par. 4. Budget

- A. The Electoral Commission shall receive a budget of \$400, to be sourced from the Student Government Allocation Fund and renewed at the beginning of every academic year, to spend at its discretion on any electoral purposes.
- B. The Electoral Commission budget shall be renewed no later than fourteen (14) days after the swearing in of the new Electoral Commissioner.
- C. Any portion of the Electoral Commission budget that is not used by the Electoral Commission shall be returned to the Student Government Allocation Fund at the conclusion of the years' final election.
- D. Should the budgetary amount require adjustment, any increase in the years' budget must be approved by both the Student Senate and the Student Body President.

SECTION VIII — RESIGNATION

Par. 1. Student Court Justices

- A. The resignation of a Student Court Justice shall be in writing and submitted to the Student Body President, whereby it shall be effective immediately upon receipt and acknowledgment.

Par. 2. Judicial Branch Members

- A. The resignation of all other Judicial Branch members shall be in writing and submitted to the Chief Justice, whereby it shall be effective immediately upon receipt.

ARTICLE V  
ELECTIONS

SECTION I — THE ELECTORAL CODE

Par. 1. Establishment

- A. The Electoral Code shall govern all elections held by the Baylor University Student Government.
- B. The Electoral Code shall establish the method for appropriation of members of the Baylor University Student Senate.
- C. The Electoral Code shall be created and amended through legislation by the Baylor University Student Senate and take effect immediately following approval by the Student Body President.

SECTION II — DATES

Par. 1. General Election Cycles

A. There shall be two general elections held during each academic year.

Par. 2. Spring General Election

A. There shall be an election held the Thursday and immediate following Friday, three weeks before the last day of classes in the semester before the following legislative session.

Par. 3. Fall General Election

A. There shall be an election held prior to the sixth Friday of the fall semester, to be known as the Fall General Election.

Par. 4. Special Elections

A. If necessary, the Student Senate shall have the ability to hold a special election for additional Student Government positions.

B. If necessary, the Student Senate may make provisions for the election of additional Student Government positions at either of the general election cycles.

C. A special election shall require a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

### SECTION III — CONSTITUENCY

Par. 1. Classification Requirements

A. All persons elected to positions within Student Government shall be a member of the constituency which they were elected to represent.

B. All student government member classifications with respect to academic class shall be based upon the candidate's number of completed fall and spring semesters within Baylor University.

C. If the candidate is a transfer student from another college or university, initial classification shall be determined by the individual's number of transferred hours accepted by Baylor University and they shall meet all qualifications for participation as determined by Baylor University administration.

### SECTION IV — STUDENT BODY VOTING

Par. 1. Voting in the Election of Student Body Officers

A. Student Body Officer positions shall be determined by a majority of votes, or by a plurality plus a margin of votes cast in each respective race.

B. If there are three or more candidates for a Student Body Officer position at least a twelve percent margin of votes shall be necessary for a Student Body Officer to be declared the winner.

C. If no candidate achieves a majority of votes or a plurality plus a twelve percent margin of votes cast, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes, within three class days of the final day of that general election cycle.

D. The winner of a runoff election or an election between two candidates, which shall be determined by a majority of votes cast.

Par. 2. Voting in the Election of Class Officer Positions

A. Other elected Baylor University Student Government positions shall be determined by a plurality of the votes cast in each respective race.

B. The Baylor University Student Government candidate receiving the plurality of the votes cast in the general election cycle shall be declared the winner.

C. In the event of an exact tie, a runoff election shall be held within three class days of the final day of the general election cycle.

D. The winner of a runoff election shall be determined by a majority of votes cast.

### SECTION VI — INAUGURATION

Par. 1. Inauguration of Student Body Officers

- A. Student Body Officers shall be sworn into office at the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.
- B. The Student Court Chief Justice shall administer the oath of office to the Student Body Officers.
- C. The oath of the Student Body Officers shall be as follows:  
 "I solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of Student Body (President/ Internal Vice President/ External Vice President), and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the Constitution of the Baylor University Student Body, so help me God."

Par. 2. Inauguration of Student Senators

- A. Student Senators shall be sworn in to office at the first Student Senate meeting following their election or appointment.
- B. The newly sworn in Internal Vice President shall administer the oath of office to all new student senators.
- C. The oath of a Student Senator shall be as follows:  
 "I solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of Student Senate Senator, and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the Constitution of the Baylor University Student Body, so help me God."

Par. 3. Inauguration of Class Officers

- A. Class Officers shall be sworn in to office at the first Student Senate meeting of the new legislative session.
- B. The newly sworn in Student Body President shall administer the oath of office to the Class Officers.
- C. The oath of a Class Officer shall be as follows:  
 "I solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of Class Officer, I will act as an advocate on behalf of my Baylor University Class and Baylor Student Body; and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the Constitution of the Baylor University Student Body, so help me God."

ARTICLE VI  
STUDENT BODY

SECTION I — STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Students shall have the right to contact their student representatives to voice concerns over matters they find relevant.
- B. Students shall have the right to appeal a decision of an organization's judicial process against them to the Baylor Student Court.
- C. Students shall have the right to not be hazed, as defined by the Baylor University Administration.
- D. Students shall have the right to express personal opinions, publically and privately, which do not conflict with standards of conduct established by the Baylor University Administration.
- E. Student shall make clear that they speak only for themselves in their public expressions or demonstrations.

ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS

SECTION I — AMENDMENTS ARISING FROM THE STUDENT SENATE

- A. Any proposed amendment passed by a three-fourths majority in the Student Senate and signed by the Student Body President shall be voted on by the Baylor University Student Body during the spring Student Government elections established in this Constitution.
- B. An amendment may allow for a campus-wide vote to be held for the proposed amendment before the spring Baylor University Student Government election, unless the spring elections are scheduled within thirty days of the bill's passage.
- C. A proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the proposed amendment has been approved by two-thirds of the votes cast for that amendment by the Baylor University Student Body.
- D. Information and instructions for campus-wide votes shall be sent to the full Baylor University Student Body via email. Information emails shall include no more than one statement each of up to 500 words from one individual or organization in favor of an amendment and one individual or organization opposing an



amendment. These parties shall be chosen by the Electoral Commission with review by the Student Court, if necessary, under Article IV, Section V, Par. 3. Voting shall only occur on class days and must be open for a minimum of 24 hours.

## SECTION II — AMENDMENTS ARISING FROM THE BAYLOR STUDENT BODY

- A. The Student Body may propose amendments to this Constitution by submitting a petition, containing signatures of ten percent of the total number of students within the Baylor Student Body.
- B. Upon validation of the petition by the Electoral Commission, a constitutional amendment may allow for a campus-wide vote to be held for the proposed amendment before the spring Student Government election, unless the spring elections are scheduled within thirty days of the petition's validation.
- C. A proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the proposed amendment has been approved by two-thirds of the votes cast for that amendment by the Baylor University Student Body.
- D. Information and instructions for campus-wide votes shall be sent to the full Baylor University Student Body via email. Information emails shall include no more than one statement each of up to 500 words from one individual/organization in favor of an amendment and one individual/organization opposing an amendment. These parties shall be chosen by the Electoral Commission with review by the Student Court, if necessary, under Article IV, Section V, Par. 3. Voting shall only occur on class days and must be open for a minimum of 24 hours.

## ARTICLE VIII RATIFICATION

### SECTION I — CONSTITUTIONAL RATIFICATION

- A. Having been approved by two-thirds of the votes cast by the Student Body, this Constitution and all legislation properly enacted hereunder, shall become effective immediately and shall supersede all official documents of the Baylor University Student Government and all Baylor University student organizations.
- B. If the Baylor University administration revokes any provision of this document, the residual provisions shall remain in full force until expressly revoked.