



Constitution of the Student Government Association of
Houston Baptist University
Updated: 3.31.15

We, the student body of Houston Baptist University, by and with the consent of the faculty and administration, in order to govern ourselves more wisely; to promote greater understanding and cooperation with the faculty and administration; to foster the recognition of privileges and responsibilities of the students of the University community; to provide opportunity for responsible individual and collective action; to foster high ideals of conduct and academic standing; and to establish worthy traditions, establish the Student Body and the Student Government Association. All currently enrolled students of Houston Baptist University shall be members of the Student Body, and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges outlined therein. The Student Government Association members shall come from the Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes, and from all colleges and schools of the University organized under their respective dean.

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ARTICLE I - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION I - VESTING OF POWER

The Executive powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the President, Vice-President, Vice-President of Records, Director of Finance, and Director of Public Relations. These shall be known as the Executive Officers, and shall together comprise the Executive Branch.

SECTION II - QUALIFICATIONS

The President shall:

- A. Be taking a minimum load of hours for full time standing as required by the University;
- B. Have attained junior status by the end of the semester for which he/she is elected;
- C. Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for his/her work at Houston Baptist University;
- D. Have attended Houston Baptist University for two semesters preceding his/her election;
- E. Have had prior experience in the Student Government Association of Houston Baptist University for at least two (2) consecutive academic semesters and shall not include any time served over a summer term.



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- F. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Houston Baptist University Preamble
- G. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Student Government Association Covenant Agreement (“Covenant Agreement”)
- H. Be a residential student of Houston Baptist University, living in one of the residential dormitories or apartments on the Houston Baptist University campus.

The Vice-President shall:

- A. Be taking a minimum load of hours for full time standing as required by the University;
- B. Have attained sophomore status by the end of the semester for which he/she is elected;
- C. Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for his/her work at Houston Baptist University;
- D. Have attended Houston Baptist University for two semesters preceding his/her election;
- E. Have had prior experience in the Student Government Association of Houston Baptist University for at least one (1) academic semesters and shall not include any time served over a summer term.
- F. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Houston Baptist University Preamble
- G. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Covenant Agreement

The Vice-President of Records shall:

- A. Be taking a minimum load of hours for full time standing as required by the University;
- B. Have attained sophomore status by the end of the semester for which he/she is elected;
- C. Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 for his/her work at Houston Baptist University;
- D. Have attended Houston Baptist University for two semesters preceding his/her election;
- E. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Houston Baptist University Preamble
- F. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Covenant Agreement

The Directors of Public Relations and Finance shall:

- A. Be taking a minimum load of hours for full time standing as required by the University;
- B. Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for their work at Houston Baptist University.



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- C. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Houston Baptist University Preamble
- D. Be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Covenant Agreement

Any elected or appointed student who has been impeached and/or has resigned because of habitual negligence, violation of duty, or any act that would bring discredit to the Student Government Association or Houston Baptist University shall not be qualified to run for any seat for any subsequent term.

SECTION III - DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch shall:

- A. Foster mutual understanding between the administration and students;
- B. Coordinate campus-wide activities (along with the Legislative Branch; see Article II Section IV) that promote involvement among the Student Body, Student Organizations, and/or Houston Baptist University faculty and staff;
- C. Preside over any impeachment proceedings of the Student Government Association (in the event that an Executive Officer is under impeachment, the remaining Executive Officers will preside).

The President shall:

- A. Uphold the Constitution of the Student Government Association and see that legislative acts of the Legislative Branch are executed;
- B. Call and conduct meetings of the Executive Branch of the Student Government Association
- C. Assist in the preparation of the annual budget of the Student Government Association;
- D. Be the official representative of the Student Government Association unless otherwise specified;
- E. Call and conduct general meetings of Student Government Association.

The Vice-President shall:

- A. Serve as the speaker of the Legislative Branch, and shall have voting power in that body upon the occurrence of a tie vote within that body;
- B. Assist the President in his/her duties;
- C. Preside in the President's absence and perform the duties of the President as expressed above;
- D. Organize and execute all official Student Government Association functions.

The Vice-President of Records shall:

- A. Keep records of the proceedings of the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch, which shall be open for inspection;



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- B. Place these records into a permanent and public file at the end of the year and keep a current record of all statutes;
- C. Submit all room and setup request to the Events Office when necessary;
- D. Ensure that all Student Government Proceedings be made available to the Student Body;
- E. Have the sole responsibility to call to a vote an injunction of any member who has strayed from their duty; the time limit of said injunction will be at the discretion of the executive officers. If the injunction is brought against another executive officer, then the remaining members of the Executive Branch (excluding the member in question) shall decide the time limit of said injunction. If further attempts fail, it is the responsibility of the Student Government Association to pursue impeachment articles, as outlined in Article V, Section I of the By-Laws.

The Director of Finance shall:

- A. Be responsible for all funds of the Student Government Association;
- B. Publish a financial report at each Legislative Student Government Association meeting;
- C. Place all orders for Student Government Association, with approval from the President.
- D. Keep the Student Government Association accountable to the Christian vision and the Ten Pillars of the University as outlined in the Houston Baptist University By-Laws and Covenant Agreement.

The Director of Public Relations shall:

- A. Be responsible for the publication and advertising of all Student Government Association activities;
- B. Ensure a good working relationship between the faculty and administration and the students;
- C. Serve as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee;
- D. Ensure all members are in proper dress code for Student Government Association meetings.

SECTION IV - POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The President shall:

- A. Have the power to call a meeting of the Executive Branch and/or the General Body of the Student Government Association;
- B. Have the power to veto any bill passed by the Legislative Branch;
- C. Appoint student members to the faculty committees from a selected pool of students recommended by the Executive Branch of the Student Government Association.

The Vice-President shall:

- A. Vote in the case of a tie in the Legislative Branch;



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- B. Have the power to call special meeting of the Legislative Branch;
- C. Appoint Ad Hoc or special committees.

The Executive Branch shall:

- A. Be reckoned as a distinct and separate voting body in any vote concerning the override of a Presidential veto, in which unanimous consent (excluding the President) from the Executive Branch must be given, along with the two-thirds majority vote in the legislature as outlined in Article II Section VI, in order for the vote to be considered as sufficient for overriding the Presidential veto.
- B. Be reckoned as a distinct and separate Legislative voting body as defined by Article II Section IV, V with all powers entitled therein if, and only if, the Legislature grants the transferal of Legislative power due to a prolonged period of recess or adjournment of the Legislative branch as outlined in Article II Section V. This special body of the Executive shall be convened under the name "Executive Legislative Committee". A motion before the Executive Legislative Committee will be considered passed if, on only if, it is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive branch. The Executive Legislative Committee and the powers granted therein will be dissolved upon the first re-adjournment satisfying quorum of the Legislative Branch.

ARTICLE II - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION I - VESTING OF POWER

The Legislative powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested solely in the Legislative Branch excepting the case of a tie as outlined in Section IV or the transferal of power by vote during times of extended adjournment as outlined in Section V.

SECTION II - APPORTIONMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Legislative Branch shall be comprised of one representative from each School or College, two (2) senators from each classification, constituting eight (8) senators in all, one Residential Representative, one Commuter Representative, and one Athletic Representative.

Therefore, to constitute the Senate, the Freshmen class will provide two (2) Senators, the Sophomore class will provide two (2) Senators, the Junior class will provide two (2) Senators, and the Senior class will provide two (2) Senators.



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Representatives and Senators must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and shall have the number of hours of academic courses required for full standing as members of the college, school, or class they represent. Furthermore, all senators and representatives must be in accordance and have signed in written agreement with the Covenant Agreement. Any elected or appointed student who has been impeached because of habitual negligence or violation of duty or has resigned as outlined in Article V, Section I of the By-Laws shall not be qualified to run for a Legislative seat for any subsequent term.

Any current member of the Student Body in good standing with Houston Baptist University who meets the above requirements as dictated by the office for which he or she is running shall be considered sufficiently qualified for the position within the Legislative Branch of Student Government. Furthermore, no other requirement of act or claim than those stated above shall be acknowledged as qualification for full admission of any student in Student Government Association.

SECTION III - TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for seat holders shall extend from the date of induction into office until the following elections in the spring. All Student Government Association members are eligible for re-election, unless impeached and removed, as outlined in Article V of the by-laws or having resigned from office.

SECTION IV - DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Branch shall:

- A. Coordinate campus-wide activities (along with the Executive Branch; see Article I Section III) that promote involvement among the Student Body, Student Organizations, and Houston Baptist University faculty and staff;
- B. Take legislative action as deemed necessary and proper to ensure the well being of the Student Body and any other Student Organizations on the Houston Baptist University campus.

SECTION V - POWERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Branch shall:

- A. Have the power to override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds majority vote along with unanimous consent of the Executive Branch as outlined in Article I, Section IV;
- B. Have the power of appointment to fill vacancies in the Executive or Legislative, Branch as outlined in Article III, Section V of the By-Laws;
- C. Have the power of impeachment, as outlined in Article V of the By-Laws.



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D. Have the power, by a vote of simple majority, to vest the power of the Legislature to the Executive Branch if, and only if, they do so in the meeting directly preceding a prolonged period of recess or adjournment in which the timely gathering of a quorum of the Legislative Branch is deemed unreasonable. Upon the first re-adjournment satisfying quorum of the Legislative Branch after such time, the power of the Legislature will be automatically transferred back to the Legislative branch without need of motion or majority vote.

Par 1. Prolonged recess shall be defined as any intra-term period which shall extend equal to, or longer than, three (3) weeks in which the Legislative branch does not meet in quorum

Par 2. Prolonged adjournment shall be defined as any inter-period term which shall extend equal to, or longer than, six (6) weeks in which the Legislative branch does not meet in quorum

SECTION VI - LEGISLATION

Every resolution that is passed by the Legislative Branch, before it becomes a bill, must be presented to the President of the Student Government Association for his/her signature of approval. If the resolution is vetoed, it is returned, with the objections, to the Legislative Branch for consideration. If, after such consideration, two-thirds (2/3) of the Legislative Branch along with a unanimous majority of the Executive Branch (excluding the President) as outlined in Article I Section IV shall agree to pass the resolution, the President's veto is overridden. Upon the passing of the resolution, the bill shall be presented to the Director of Student Life for final approval.

SECTION VII - ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURE

The Legislative Branch shall set forth the mode of proceedings and organization necessary to perform the responsibilities set forth in this Constitution.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES AND STRUCTURE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Government Association shall:

- A. Be divided into the following standing committees: The Public Relations Committee, Campus Involvement Committee, Constitutional Committee, External Affairs Committee and Elections Committee.
- B. Have the power to pass legislation with a majority vote in the Legislative Branch.



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ARTICLE IV - ADVISORS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Each year, the Student Government Association shall invite a University faculty or staff member to serve as an advisor with the Director of Student Life.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

The Elections Committee of Student Government Association shall supervise and administer all elections pertaining to the Student Government Association as outlined in the By-Laws.

All Executive and Legislative members, excluding the Directors of Public Relations and Finance, will be elected by the Student Body. The Directors of Public Relations and Finance will be appointed through a process established by the President and Vice-Presidents of Student Government Association.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

Every standing member of the Student Government Association along with the Student Body shall have authority for proposing amendments to this Constitution. Any student or Student Government member may submit in writing to the Student Government Association a proposed amendment that must be approved by a simple majority of the Student Government Association legislature. If passed, the proposed amendment shall be made available to all Student Body members for a period of ten (10) days. The proposed amendment must then be approved by a two-thirds ($2/3$) vote of the entire Student Government Association body.

Revised: 3.31.15