



## **Student Government Association Constitution**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the students of Austin Peay State University (APSU), in order to promote a democratic student government in which no student shall be denied equal rights for the reason of race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or any political belief that does not advocate the radical overthrow of the U.S. Constitution; in order to promote character and initiative through the responsibilities of an effective organization; and to promote cooperation in solving problems of general interest to the student body, faculty, staff and administration, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

### **Article I**

#### **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION of the student body of APSU and shall be referred thereafter in this Constitution as SGA.

### **Article II**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the SGA of APSU is to be the voice of all students by connecting students to other students, faculty, staff, and administration in order to improve the quality of student life and strengthen the APSU community. As the voice of the students, we listen to and help articulate the ideas and issues of the students of APSU.

### **Article III**

#### **Membership**

##### **Section 1.**

The SGA shall consist of three branches of government: Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

**Section 2.**

All registered students, adhering to the guidelines of this section, of APSU shall be considered members of SGA and shall elect representatives from the student body to the Legislative and Executive Branches in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, its associated By-Laws and Standing Rules.

**Section 3.**

Membership in a branch of SGA shall be open to any APSU student meeting the qualifications outlined in this Constitution, its associated By-Laws and Standing Rules.

**Section 4.**

To be considered a member of SGA, a student must pay the SGA Fee.

**Section 5**

The Student Representative on the Board of Trustees shall not hold any office in the Student Government Association.

**Article IV**  
**Executive Branch**

**Section 1.**

The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, Vice President and Executive Secretary.

**Section 2.**

The Executive Branch shall be elected by the student body according to the processes outlined in the Electoral Act.

**Section 3.**

The qualifications to hold office in the Executive Branch shall be as follows:

- A. Must be classified as a full-time student in good standing with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 as computed and recorded by the Office of the Registrar.
- B. Must have documented collegiate leadership experience.
- C. Must not concurrently hold office in another branch of SGA.
- D. Must have served in any branch of SGA at APSU for two full Clarksville campus semesters before assuming office. Exceptions may be granted for Senators and Justices appointed during

the academic year. The Internal Affairs board will be the body responsible for determining if an exception is granted.

**Section 4.**

The officers of the Executive Branch shall serve a term of one calendar year beginning on the day following the Spring Commencement Ceremony.

**Article V**  
**Legislative Branch**

**Section 1.**

The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Senate, and shall be presided over by the Vice President, who shall only have voting rights in the event that their vote will create an affirmative or denying decision related to the current issue being voted on.

**Section 2.**

The Senate shall be comprised of Senators representing each academic college and each classification in accordance with the SGA Constitution. Senators seeking office in the spring shall be elected according to the number of hours they will have earned at the conclusion of the current spring semester. Freshmen Senators elected in the fall will be elected based on the number of semesters of post-high school undergraduate education. Any new student with fewer than two semesters of post-high school education shall be eligible to serve as a Freshman Senator throughout their first academic year at Austin Peay State University. Graduate Senators elected in the fall will be elected based on their status as Graduate students at the beginning of the fall semester in which they are to be elected.

**Section 3.**

Senate seats shall be apportioned according to the Electoral Act, and Senators shall be elected by the student body according to the Electoral Act.

**Section 4.**

Meetings of the Senate shall conform to the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, provided these Rules do not conflict with the SGA Constitution, its By-Laws and Standing Rules, wherein the aforementioned documents shall supersede these Rules.

## **Section 5.**

The qualifications to hold office in the Legislative Branch shall be as follows:

- A. Must be classified as a full-time student in good standing with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 as computed and recorded by the Office of the Registrar at the time of elections. Freshman Senators must have graduated high school with a GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, Graduate Senators with no graduate credit earned must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. If the candidate is elected, they must still have 2.75 cumulative grade point average upon assuming office. Additionally, Senators must maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average during their tenure in office.
- B. Must not concurrently hold office in another branch of SGA.
- C. Senators must be a constituent of the academic college or classification that they are seeking as outlined in Article V, Section 2 of the SGA Constitution.

## **Section 6.**

Senators elected in the spring shall serve a term beginning one (1) day following Spring Commencement and ending after the conclusion of next year's Spring Commencement. Senators elected in the fall shall serve a term beginning on the day that senatorial election results are ratified. Their term shall end following the conclusion of the subsequent Spring Commencement. All Senators will be officially sworn in by the Chief Justice at the first regularly held meeting of the Senate after their election.

# **Article VI**

## **Judicial Branch**

### **Section 1.**

The Student Tribunal shall serve as the Judicial Branch, and shall be presided over by the Chief Justice.

### **Section 2.**

Voting membership in the Student Tribunal shall consist of one (1) Chief Justice, one (1) Associate Chief Justice, and five (5) Justices.

### **Section 3.**

The Student Tribunal shall interpret and enforce the SGA Constitution, its By-Laws and Standing Rules.

**Section 4.**

The Student Tribunal shall be selected by a Senate approved committee.

**Section 5.**

The qualifications to hold office as Chief Justice or Associate Chief Justice shall be as follows:

- A. Must be classified as a full-time student in good standing with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 as computed and recorded by the Office of the Registrar.
- B. Must have documented collegiate leadership experience.
- C. Must not concurrently hold office in another branch of SGA.
- D. Must have at least two (2) full semesters of experience serving in any branch of SGA before assuming office. Exception may be made for Senators and Justices appointed during the semester.

**Section 6.**

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice shall serve a term of one (1) year beginning on the day following the Spring Commencement Ceremony and ending following the subsequent Spring Commencement.

**Section 7.**

The qualifications to hold office as Justice shall be as follows:

- A. Must be classified as a full-time student in good standing with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 as computed and recorded by the Office of the Registrar.
- B. Must not concurrently hold office in another branch of SGA

**Section 8.**

Justices shall serve a term of one (1) year beginning on the day following the Spring Commencement Ceremony and ending following the subsequent Spring Commencement.

**Article VII**  
**Elections & Referenda**

**Section 1.**

The SGA shall conduct all elections provided for in the SGA Constitution, its By-Laws and Standing Rules.

**Section 2.**

Elections and referenda of SGA shall conform to the Electoral Act, provided these procedures do not conflict with the SGA Constitution, By-Laws and/or Standing Rules.

**Article VIII**  
**Amendments**

**Section 1.**

Amendments to the SGA Constitution shall be made under the following provisions executed in sequence:

- A. Initiation of amendments shall be made by the Senate or by the Executive Branch. Amendments shall be submitted to the Senate at a regular meeting.
- B. Action on proposed amendments shall be delayed until at least the next regular meeting of the Senate, where two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators in attendance must approve the amendment.
- C. Ratification of amendments shall be sufficient upon approval of two (2/3) of the Senate and a subsequent two-thirds approval (2/3) of the Tribunal.

**Article IX**  
**Waiving**

**Section 1.**

No Article, Section, Subsection, or part of the SGA Constitution may be waived.

**Article XII**  
**Major Events**

**Section 1.** General:

Major Events are events sponsored by the Student Government Association that are defined under this article. Any other events sponsored by SGA that are not defined under this Article need not follow the procedures set forth in this article and therefore are not deemed Major Events.

SGA shall have the following Major Events:

- a. Mud Bowl
- b. G.H.O.S.T. (Greater Opportunities for Safe Trick-or-Treating)
- c. The Big Event

Mud Bowl shall be the responsibility of the SGA Chief-Justice.

G.H.O.S.T. (Greater Opportunities for Safe Trick-or-Treating) shall be the responsibility of the SGA Vice-President.

The Big Event shall be the responsibility of the SGA President.

**Section 2.** Procedures of Major Events:

Mandatory attendance of Major Events shall be enforced for all SGA members.

Failure to attend a Major Event will result in two (2) absences to be placed on the SGA member's record.

An absence shall be considered excused under extreme circumstances only. Validity of absences shall be determined in accordance with the Standing Rules.

The projected dates of Major Events shall be brought to the attention of SGA members at the earliest possibility.

The time-frame of which Major Events are to be staffed shall be brought to the attention of SGA members by the Executive Committee within no less than two (2) weeks of the Major Event.

The appropriate amount of time that an SGA member must work to "attend" an event shall be determined by the Executive Committee. This amount of time shall be brought to the attention of SGA members within no less than two (2) weeks of the Major Event.

**Section 3.** Additions to Major Events:

An event that will require mandatory attendance must be added to this article.

A new Major Event shall be added to this article during a regular Senate meeting by a senator or Executive Committee member.

New Major Events shall be voted on by the Senate and pass with a majority vote before being added to the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Self-Assessed Student Fees**

**Section 1.** Approval by Student Body

Any proposal to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate the SGA fee which affects the entire Student Body must be approved by a majority of the members of the Student Body voting in the Fall or Spring Primary Election.

**Section 2.** Procedure to Place Assessment on Ballot

Any such proposal may be sent to the Student Body only in either of the following ways:

- A. By approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting of the SGA Senate; or
- B. By petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Student Body presented to the SGA President.

**Section 3.** Regulatory Compliance

Any such proposal must comply with Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) B-060(VII) and Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-8-109(b).

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