

Constitution of Temple Student Government

We, the Students of Temple University – Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education, in order to provide a representative government, foster understanding and involvement among all members of the university community, advocate in the best interests of a diverse student body, serve as a conscience of the university administration in the management of this institution, hold the university administration accountable for the quality of student life, act as the official voice of students in academic, institutional and campus affairs, do ordain and establish this Constitution of Temple Student Government

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Rights of Students

1. The name of this organization shall be Temple Student Government.
2. The purpose of Temple Student Government shall be to:
 - a. Represent the needs and interests of the student body and to be their voice to the university administration, faculty, and other members of the university community, as well as outside organizations at the local, state, and federal levels,
 - b. Initiate, develop, and maintain services that address student needs and ensure the efficiency of existing services,
 - c. Stimulate and facilitate communication and interaction between the members of the student body, the university community, and the surrounding community,
 - d. Deliver information to students on the state of the students and other issues or events pertinent to the student body,
 - e. Allocate funding for student organizational programming to promote and enhance the educational, recreational, social, and cultural life of the student body, and;
 - f. Adopt whatever additional responsibilities it deems necessary to fulfill its obligation to students.
 - g. Ensure Temple Student government demonstrates values within the TUnity statement acting as an example for all other organizations at Temple University to follow.
3. No portion of this Constitution or its subsidiary documents, either in whole or in part, shall be interpreted so as to deny students the rights granted unto them by the laws and regulations of the United States of America, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, City and County of Philadelphia, or Temple University – Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education.

Article II: The General Assembly

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a General Assembly.

Section 1: Membership

- A. The membership of the General Assembly shall be composed of students representing various constituencies, including but not limited to student organizations, the schools and colleges of the university, graduating classes and representatives-at-large.

- B. Each representative shall be entitled to one vote and no student who desires to take an active role in the General Assembly or in Temple Student Government shall be denied the right to membership in the General Assembly.
- C. The General Assembly moves to outline additional membership types and qualifications in the Bylaws.
- D. The General Assembly has the right to request that an organization replace its representative for impeachable offenses. Each organization may remove its representative according to its own Constitution and Bylaws, if that organization feels its concerns are not represented properly through that representative.

Section 2: Meetings

- A. The General Assembly shall hold public meetings every Monday during the academic year between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM, unless extreme circulations cause cancellation.
- B. The General Assembly shall keep a journal of its proceedings and shall make said journal available to the public.

Section 3: Powers and Responsibilities of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall have the Power and Responsibility to:

- A. Create Bylaws and make amendments to them by a 2/3 majority vote,
- B. Authorize the use of TSG funds by the TSG Officers,
- C. Pass Resolutions that express the opinions of the General Assembly on behalf of the student body subject to the joint veto power of the Student Body President and Vice Presidents,
- D. Create a forum for student concerns,
- E. Move to impeachment, censure investigations and decide cases of impeachment and censure,
- F. Determine its Rules of Procedure, and;
- G. Elect a Speaker and other necessary officers from within its membership to assist in the administration of the General Assembly.

Article III: Officers

The Executive Powers of Temple Student Government shall be vested in a President and two Vice Presidents who shall be elected annually by the student body during the month of April. These three officers shall focus their efforts on the tangible improvement of student life and long-term strategic planning of Temple Student Government.

Section 1: Qualifications

No student shall be elected or shall serve as President or Vice President without having:

- A. Successfully completed three (3) full-time semesters at Temple University – Main Campus,
- B. Maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher while in office,
- C. Registered for twelve (12) credit hours of “full-time” enrollment as defined by the University,

- D. Paid any and all debts to the university,
- E. A clean record with the Office of Student Conduct, including no pending cases, or sanctions that have not yet been completed.

Section 2: Student Body President

The duties of the Student Body President shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- A. Serving as the chief student advocate,
- B. Executing, implementing, and promoting the initiatives and decisions of Temple Student Government
- C. Acting as the face of Temple Student Government both internally and externally,
- D. Appointing the Chief of Staff at his/her discretion,
- E. Initiating ad hoc committees as needed, and;
- F. Retaining veto authority in conjunction with the Vice President of Services and External Affairs.

Section 3: Vice President of Services

The duties of the Vice President of Services shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- A. Advocating for services that meet demonstrated needs of students,
- B. Promoting awareness of Temple Student Government and Temple University services,
- C. Overseeing and improving existing services,
- D. Providing mechanisms for student feedback, and;
- E. Retaining veto authority in conjunction with the Student Body President and Vice President of External Affairs.

Section 4: Vice President of External Affairs

The duties of the Vice President of External Affairs shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- A. Maintaining communication throughout the university community with students, faculty, staff, administration, and the surrounding community,
- B. Overseeing the recruitment and retention efforts of Temple Student Government, and;
- C. Retaining veto authority in conjunction with the Student Body President and the Vice President of Services.

Section 5: Chief of Staff

The duties of the Chief of Staff shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- A. Advising the Student Body President,
- B. Organizing the daily operations of Temple Student Government,
- C. Assigning and organizing functions and responsibilities within Temple Student Government, and;
- D. Supporting the elected officers and their staff.

Section 6: Auditor General

The duties of the Auditor General shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- A. Acting as the internal monitor of the organization,
- B. Maintaining all attendance records for Temple Student Government,
- C. Maintaining, enforcing and interpreting the Temple Student Government Constitution and Bylaws,
- D. Appointing the Elections Commissioner and serving as the final authority during the
- E. elections process,
- Conducting all impeachment and censure investigations, and;
- F. Administering the oath of office to all members of Temple Student Government.

Section 7: The Cabinet

There shall be a cabinet that advises the officers and assists in the execution of TSG business, following application and interviews made available to the student body as a whole.

Section 8: Executive Staff

The officers retain the prerogative to appoint executive staff members. The titles, duties and responsibilities of these officers shall be delineated within the Bylaws.

Section 9: Succession

In the case of Presidential incapacitation or impeachment the order of succession shall be:

- A. Vice President of Services
- B. Vice President of External Affairs
- C. Chief of Staff

Article IV: Elections

- A. Temple Student Government shall hold annual student body elections between March and April. These elections will be organized by an elections commission, who shall be appointed by the Auditor General.
- B. The process and procedure of elections will be further delineated in the Bylaws. At a minimum, there shall be annual elections for Student Body President, Vice President of Services and Vice President of External Affairs.

Article V: Impeachment and Censure

All cases of impeachment or censure against a member of TSG shall begin with an authorization of investigation by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall by majority vote to authorize, in the event the Auditor General requests to investigate, or direct the Auditor General to investigate a member for violating this Constitution or the Bylaws or for flagrant abuse of his/her office.

Section 1: Impeachment

- A. The Auditor General shall investigate all accusations of violating this Constitution or the Bylaws or for flagrant abuse of his/her office whether with the authorization or direction of the General Assembly.
- B. If the Auditor General finds probable cause for impeachment, he/she shall recommend to the General Assembly Articles of Impeachment, which shall specifically detail any transgressions and why an impeachment is necessary.

- C. The General Assembly shall debate the merits of the Articles of Impeachment and vote on each Article of Impeachment.
- D. In order to convict in Cases of Impeachment, each Article of Impeachment shall require a 2/3 majority vote of current membership of the General Assembly.
- E. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any subsequent office within Temple Student Government.

Section 2: Censure

- A. The Auditor General shall investigate all accusations of impropriety, negligence, or dereliction of duty whether with the authorization or direction of the General Assembly
- B. If the Auditor General finds probable cause for censure, he shall recommend to the General Assembly a Recommendation of Censure, which shall specifically detail the transgression in question and why censure is necessary.
- C. The General Assembly shall then debate the merits of the Recommendation of Censure and vote on the Recommendation of Censure.
- D. In order to formally Censure a member, the Recommendation of Censure shall require a 2/3 majority vote of current membership of the General Assembly

Article V: Bylaws

- A. There shall be Bylaws that govern the proceedings and operations of Temple Student Government and will contain detailed descriptions of all departments, officers, and processes of Temple Student Government.
- B. The General Assembly shall have the sole authority to amend the Bylaws with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of current membership.
- C. The General Assembly may, from time to time, create governing documents subsidiary to this Constitution and to the Bylaws.
- D. The Constitution shall take precedence over the Bylaws.

Article VI: Amendments & Referenda Section 1: Amendments

- A. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be presented in writing to the General Assembly. A favorable response by two-thirds of current membership of the General Assembly shall be required for ratification.
- B. The General Assembly shall have the sole authority to amend the Bylaws with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of current membership.
- C. All amendments to this Constitution shall be added to the end of this document under the heading "Amendments," and shall be numbered according to the date of ratification.

Section 2: Referenda

- A. Proposed referenda shall be presented in writing to the General Assembly only after the following requirements are met:
 - a. All proposed referenda must be petitioned to the student body and receive signatures from 1% of full time students.

- i. This process will be completed through Owl Connect. The referendum organizer will be responsible for creating and obtaining the required signatures.
 - ii. The petition has two weeks to get 1% of the student body to sign it.
 - b. After the referendum petition has the required 1% of student body signatures, it must be submitted to the Temple Student Government Auditor General at least 2 General Assembly meetings before the General Assembly in which the referendum is to be brought.
 - c. TSG and referendum organizer should take two weeks to discuss the final version of the question.
- B. Once the aforementioned criteria have been met, the referendum will be brought before the General Assembly and a vote shall be held.
 - a. Members of the General Assembly can vote yes, no, or abstain from voting.
 - i. General Assembly members who abstain from voting will not be counted as part of the current membership of the General Assembly.
 - b. During the General Assembly meeting in which the referendum is brought both the referendum organizer and the TSG administration will have a chance to speak to the General Assembly about the referendum.
 - c. After TSG and the referendum organizer have spoken, discussions will be opened up to the General Assembly membership.
 - d. Once all questions have concluded a vote will take place.
 - i. The Speaker of the General Assembly and Secretary of the General Assembly will both individually conduct a count of the votes.
 - e. The Speaker of the General Assembly will then announce the outcome of vote.
- C. An unfavorable response by a majority of the current membership of the General Assembly shall void the referendum and bar it from being brought before the General Assembly again for the duration of the current academic year.
- D. A favorable response by a majority of current membership of the General Assembly shall be required to present the referendum to the student body.
- E. If the vote is favorably for the referendum TSG will poll the student body.
 - a. Temple Student Government will post the referendum to Owl Connect and compel the student body to vote yes or no to the question
 - i. Voting will be open for two days
- F. If 10% of the student body votes in the referendum, a majority of that 10% needs to vote favorably for the referendum to be adopted.

Article VII: Ratification

This Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the General Assembly. Upon ratification, all previous Constitutions, bylaws, and other governing documents shall be rendered null and void, and all Assemblies, Officers, and Committees organized under the same name shall be dissolved.