

## **PREAMBLE**

We the students of Texas A&M International University, in order to provide an officially recognized student representative body, to provide the official voice of the student body of the University, to provide the official voice through which student opinion is expressed, promote the rights of each student of the University, promote student participation in the overall policy and decision-making processes of the University, promote awareness of the students' role in the academic community, enhance the quality and scope of education at the University, ask for and receive questions and suggestions from the University Community, provide means for responsible and effective participation in all facets of campus life, promote the general welfare of the student body, identify and represent student interests, do hereby adopt and establish this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE I: THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

**SECTION 1** This organization shall be known as the Student Government Association.

**SECTION 2** The governing structure of the Student Government Association of Texas A&M International University shall consist of the following three (3) branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

**SECTION 3** In order to provide for an effective system of checks and balance no student may serve in more than one (1) branch nor be the incumbent of more than one (1) elected or appointed position within the Student Government Association at the same time, with the exception of membership in standing, ad hoc or temporary committees.

**SECTION 4** All full-time and part-time students enrolled and attending Texas A&M International University are members of the Student Government Association.

**SECTION 5** The Student Government Association shall be considered and referred to as the official advisory body of the students to the University administration, faculty, and staff. In addition, it serves as a voice to the Board of Regents, and the Texas Legislature in all matters affecting the Student Body.

**SECTION 6** It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Advisor to: be a non-voting member of the Student Government Association; aid and advise officers and legislative bodies of the Student Government Association; aid in providing beneficial relations between administrators and students; and has final approval on all actions taken by the Student Government Association.

## **ARTICLE II: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**SECTION 1** The Executive Branch of the Student Government Association shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All executive and administrative duties of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Executive Branch officers.

1. The President and Vice President shall be students enrolled at Texas A&M International University and have completed no less than one long semester or two summer sessions at the time of filing.
2. The Secretary shall be appointed, subject to Senate approval by simple majority of those present and voting at a Regular Senate Meeting, by the President of the Student Government Association.
3. The Treasurer shall be appointed, subject to Senate approval by simple majority of those present and voting at a Regular Senate Meeting, by the President of the Student Government Association.
4. All members of the Executive Branch must be registered for at least six (6) semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office.
5. All members of the Executive Branch must have and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.4 throughout his or her term of office.
6. Elected members of the Executive Branch shall be sworn in and take office during finals in the spring semester. A term of office for all membership of the Executive Branch shall commence upon being sworn into office and shall expire upon the swearing in of new membership.
7. A member of the Executive Branch may not be on disciplinary probation while serving his or her term of office, must uphold the policies and procedures of Texas A&M International University, and must be in good standing with the Texas A&M International University as defined in the student handbook.

**SECTION 2** The President and Vice President shall be elected in the General Elections by a majority of the votes cast.

**SECTION 3** The chief executive officer shall be the Student Government Association President. The President is vested with the following authority and responsibilities:

1. In matters of the Constitution and By-Laws, the President shall ensure that all provisions of this Constitution, and the Bylaws are faithfully executed and adhered to.

2. To be the official Student Government Association spokesperson and to represent the Student Government Association at all meetings, functions, and activities involving the participation of the Student Government Association and affecting the interests of the Student Government Association.
3. To sign and execute all legislation passed by the Student Senate or to veto such legislation within six (6) academic calendar days after passage of the legislation in question. Any legislation not signed or vetoed within six (6) academic calendar days after passage shall be considered enacted.
4. Execute all enacted legislation of the Student Senate, and to report the status of all enacted legislation to the Director of Student Activities, and at the next meeting of the Executive Branch.
5. To submit to the Student Senate and the Student Government Association Advisor during the second regular meeting of the Fall Semester a presentation of goals of the Executive Branch to be known as the Executive Goals. Submission of the proposed goals of the Executive Branch must be made within four (4) academic calendar days to the members of the Student Senate in writing before it can be presented to the Student Senate.
6. To ensure student representation by placing into nomination appointments to vacancies existing in the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch and University committees within thirty (30) academic calendar days after such vacancy or vacancies occur. All vacancies remaining after the thirty (30) academic calendar day time limit for appointments and nominations shall then be vested upon the Student Government Association Senate.
7. To place into nomination an appointment to a vacancy existing in the office of the Vice President within thirty (30) academic calendar days after a vacancy occurs. A vacancy remaining after the thirty (30) academic calendar day time limit for appointments and nominations shall then be vested upon the Student Government Association Senate.
8. To appoint and remove, subject to Senate approval by simple majority of those present and voting, the Treasurer, the Secretary and student representatives of standing and ad hoc University committees having student membership that is appointed by the Student Government Association President.
9. To submit and present to the Student Senate, on a monthly basis during the Fall and Spring semesters, information concerning the state of the Student Government Association and recommend for consideration such measures as he or she deems necessary. Submission of information concerning the state of the Student Government Association and any measures for consideration must be made within four (4) academic calendar days to the members of the Student Senate in writing.

10. To require written submission of all actions taken by the Judicial Branch.
11. To call meetings and preside over the President's Advisory Cabinet no fewer than three times each long semester.
12. To deal with non-policy matters not defined by this Constitution and By-Laws in a manner consistent with this Constitution and its Bylaws until the Student Senate establishes policy on such non-policy matters.
13. Serve as the Student Body's representative on the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board.
14. Serve as a member of the University Appeals Court.
15. To call meetings of the President's Advisory Cabinet and Executive Staff meetings and preside over said meetings.

**SECTION 4** The Student Body Vice President is vested with the following authority and responsibilities:

1. Serve as President in the absence or incapacity of the President.
2. To assume the duties of the President when so directed by the President.
3. To succeed as President if the office becomes vacant.
4. To call regular meetings, prepare an agenda, and preside over the Student Senate.
5. To vote in the Student Senate only to break a tie.
6. Serve as a member of the President's Advisory Cabinet.
7. Assist the President in such executive matters as the President sees fit so as to ensure the fulfilling of the executive and administrative functions of the Student Government Association.
8. To appoint the members of the Student Senate Standing Committees, ad-hoc committees and temporary committees. When appointing membership of Student Senate Standing Committees, ad-hoc committees and temporary committees, the Vice President shall appoint a temporary chair for the committee until such committee meets and elects a chair.
9. To ensure that the Student Senate Standing Committees, ad-hoc committees and temporary committees responsibilities are faithfully executed.

**SECTION 5** The Treasurer shall be an appointed officer of the Executive Branch and is vested with the following authority and responsibilities:

1. Prepare and present the Treasurer's report at meetings of the President's Advisory Cabinet.
2. Oversee the disbursement of all Student Government Association funds.
3. Keep current records of all income, transfers, and expenditures of the Student Government Association.
4. Serve as chair of the Budget Committee.
5. Serve as a member of the President's Advisory Cabinet.

**SECTION 6** The Secretary shall be an appointed officer of the Executive Branch and vested with the following powers and responsibilities:

1. Record the minutes of all meetings of the Student Government Association and available at the next meeting for approval.
2. Keep minutes of Student Senate meetings and proceedings current and available in the Student Government Association office.
3. Forward a copy of approved minutes to the Director of Student Activities.

**SECTION 7** In accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws, there shall be a President's Advisory Cabinet to act in an advisory capacity on all matters affecting student welfare to the President of the Student Government Association.

**SECTION 8** No executive officer, judicial officer, or appointed officer shall be permitted to serve as a voting member of the Student Senate except in cases of a tie where the Vice-President shall cast the deciding vote.

**SECTION 9** All decisions of the University Court shall be enacted by the Executive Branch immediately upon notification.

**SECTION 10** Vacancies in the Executive Branch shall occur in the following circumstances:

1. Resignation during term of office.
2. Removal from office due to failing to meet the qualifications for office as outlined in ARTICLE II SECTION 1 of this constitution.
3. Through impeachment as outlined in this Constitution and By-Laws.

4. A vacancy in the office of the Vice President shall occur if he/she accumulates three (3) unexcused absences from Regular Student Senate meetings in one (1) semester, six (6) unexcused absences in one year, or 4 excused absences in any semester. The vacancy shall be filled by the President placing into nomination an appointment within thirty (30) academic calendar days after a vacancy occurs. A vacancy remaining after the thirty (30) academic calendar day time limit for appointments and nominations shall then be vested upon the Student Government Association Senate. The nominee for Vice-President shall not function as the official Student Government Association Vice-President until he or she has been approved by the Student Senate and administered the oath office. He or she shall then complete that term of office in accordance with Article II Section 1 of this Constitution.
5. A vacancy in the office of the Secretary, Treasurer, and/or Sergeant at Arms, see Article III Section 4, shall occur if he/she accumulates three (3) unexcused absences from regular Student Senate meetings in one (1) semester, six (6) unexcused absences in one year, or 4 excused absences in any semester.
6. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by line of succession consisting of 1. Vice-President 2. Senate member appointed by the Director of Student Activities. The new President shall not be recognized officially until he or she has been taken the oath office.

### **ARTICLE III: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**SECTION 1** The Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association shall be the Student Senate.

**SECTION 2** The Student Senate shall be vested with the following authority and responsibilities:

1. The Student Senate shall perform all duties and responsibilities as outlined by this Constitution and Bylaws. During the fall and spring semesters the Student Senate shall meet at least eight (8) times during each long semester.
2. All meetings of the Student Senate are open to every member of the Student Body. Notice of all meetings and minutes of each week's previous minutes will be posted at a minimum on the Student Government Association bulletin board outside of their office in the Student Center.

3. Regular meetings of the Student Senate shall be called by the Vice President of the Student Government Association. All Regular Meetings must be announced four (4) academic calendar days in advance. The Vice President shall serve as presiding officer of the Student Senate. In due case that the Vice President is not present at a Regular meeting of the Student Senate, the members of the Student Senate shall elect a temporary chair to preside at Senate meetings in his or her absence.
4. Special meetings of the Student Senate may be called by a written request of a simple majority of the Student Senate members; the President or Vice-President of the Student Government Association; or the Advisor for the Student Government Association. There must be (24) hours advance notice in order to conduct official business and a majority of the Student Government Association must be present.
5. In order to conduct official business of the Student Senate, no official business shall be conducted at any meeting when a quorum of Student Senate members is not present. Meetings lacking quorum may be called to order, the roll called and be recessed or adjourned. Student Senate meetings beginning with a quorum, but later losing a quorum, is a valid meeting until the absence of a quorum is recognized. Once it has been recognized that a quorum has been lost, the only motions in order are to call the roll and to recess or adjourn. A quorum shall consist of one (1) more than one-half (1/2) of the actual number of the Student Senators.
5. Student Senators shall have one (1) vote and only one (1) vote on any measure under consideration by the Student Senate and no proxy votes shall be allowed.
6. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as parliamentary authority of all meetings of the Student Senate, unless the rules of order are suspended by a majority vote of Student Senators present and voting.
7. Review and /or amend the proposed budget of the Student Government Association presented by the Executive Branch. Approval of the proposed budget shall be by majority of Student Senators present and voting. All appropriation of funds must be within the total amount budgeted and shall not exceed the total amount budgeted to the Student Government Association. Final approval of budget must be submitted to the Student Government Association Advisor.
8. Call a general referendum of the Student Body in order to render a decision regarding proposed legislation.
9. Maintain the right to override a Presidential veto, as deemed necessary, by three fourths (3/4) vote of the Student Senators present and voting.

10. Maintain the right to approve or reject nominees for appointments made by the President.
11. Place into nomination appointments to vacancies existing in the Legislative and/or Judicial Branches, University committees, and to the offices of Vice President, should the President fail to meet the Presidential appointment deadline outlined in ARTICLE III of this constitution. All nominations must be announced in writing to members of the Student Senate within four (4) academic calendar days for consideration and review before it can be presented to the Student Senate.
12. Refer legislation to an ad-hoc committee if necessary. Initiate and conduct research necessary to provide an effective and well informed student representative body; this research may include information of all aspects of the University community.
13. Consider and initiate amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws and approve amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws with a three fourths (3/4) vote of the actual number of Student Senators. All amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws must be referred to the Student Government Association Constitutional Review Committee before the Student Senate can consider an amendment for a vote.
14. Faithfully maintain the right to impeach any Senator, Sergeant at Arms-- see Article III Section 4, the Chief Justice, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-President or the President of the Student Government Association. Impeachment shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the total number of Student Senators. After any member of the Student Government Association has been impeached a vacancy shall occur.

### **SECTION 3** Membership of the Student Government Association Senate

1. A Student Senate Member shall be a student enrolled at Texas A&M International University for no less than one (1) long semester or two consecutive summer sessions.
2. All Student Senate Members must have and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.4 throughout his or her term of office.
3. All undergraduate Student Senate Members must be registered for at least six (6) semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office, and all graduate Student Senate Members must be registered for at least three (3) semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office.

4. Student Senators (with the exception of Senators-at-Large, and Graduate Senator(s)) must be enrolled in the college that they represent at the time of filing and while holding office.
5. Each undergraduate college and school shall have two (2) Senators for each five hundred (500) undergraduate students enrolled, rounding up to the nearest one hundred (100), with a maximum of (7) senators, to be elected by the students enrolled in each undergraduate college. General elections of the student body shall occur on the second week of April.
6. Elected members of the Student Senate shall be sworn in and take office during finals in the spring semester. A term of office for all membership of the Student Senate shall commence upon being sworn into office and shall expire upon the swearing in of new membership.
7. Graduate students shall have one Senator for each five hundred (500) students enrolled in graduate school, to be elected by the students enrolled in graduate school only.
8. Senators-at-Large shall have one senator for every one thousand five hundred (1,500) undergraduate and graduate students enrolled with a maximum of seven (7) senators, to be elected by the students of Texas A&M International University.
9. If any additional colleges are added at a later date their Senator(s) will be one (1) for each five hundred (500) students enrolled with a maximum of seven (7) senators.
10. Enrollment figures from the preceding fall semester shall be used to determine the total number of Senators each college shall have for the following year.
11. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be nominated by a voting member of the Student Senate and must be approved by a majority of the Student Senators present and voting at a Regular Student Senate Meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall serve as a non-voting member of the Student Senate if not already an elected Senator.
12. Vacancies to the Student Senate occurring during a term of office shall be filled by the Student Government Association President through Presidential appointment, and requiring an approval of three quarters (3/4) the Student Senate.
13. Appointments approved by the Student Senate must be sworn into office before he or she can officially function and be recognized as an official Senator or member of the Student Senate of the Student Government Association.

14. Once the student has been appointed, approved by the Student Senate to fill a vacancy in the Student Senate, and sworn into office, the student shall complete that term of office until the next general elections of the Student Government Association.
15. A member of the Student Senate may not be on disciplinary probation while serving his or her term of office and must be in good standing with the Texas A&M International University as defined in the student handbook.

**SECTION 4** Student Senators are vested with the following authority and responsibilities:

1. Execute all authorities, duties, and responsibilities as outlined by the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws.
2. Sponsor all legislation and take appropriate action, as deemed necessary, for executing the authority vested in the Student Senate. Legislation must be sponsored by a Student Senator and must be approved by a majority of the Student Senators present and voting.
3. Must serve as a member of at least one (1) but no more than two (2) of the Student Senate Standing Committees. Membership of the Student Senate Standing Committees is to be determined and appointed by the Student Government Association Vice President as outlined in Article III of this Constitution and in the Bylaws of this Constitution.
4. Meet at least twice (2) during each long semester with constituents at previously publicized times and places in order to provide a venue for student input and opinion regarding any aspects of the University community.
5. Publicize all meetings, forums, events and functions sponsored by the Student Government Association.

**SECTION 5** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be vested with the following authority and responsibilities:

1. Serve as a non-voting member of the Student Senate if not an elected Student Senate member.
2. Shall take roll call of Student Senate Members at meetings of the Student Senate.
3. Announce during meetings of the Student Senate the results of all votes taken by the Student Senate on proposed business or enactments of the Student Senate.

4. Track and record attendance of all members of Student Government Association and send written notifications to members in violation of the attendance policy of the Student Government Association. All notifications must be in form of written communications and must be sent out within three (3) academic calendar days of the violation.
5. Make recommendation to the Student Senate for the removal of any Student Senate member in violation of the Student Senate Attendance Policy.
6. Serve as parliamentarian of the Student Senate.
7. Serve as a member of the University Appeals Court.
8. Serve as a member of the President's Advisory Cabinet.

**SECTION 5** Vacancies to the Legislative Branch and Student Senate will occur in the following circumstances:

1. Resignation during term of office.
2. Removal from office due to Student Senate Member failing to meet the qualifications for membership to the Student Government Association Senate as outlined in ARTICLE II SECTION V of this constitution.
3. Impeachment of a Student Senate Member by the Student Senate or by decision of the Judicial Branch.
4. A student impeached from office by the Student Senate may appeal their removal to the Student Government Association Advisor within seven (7) class days of removal from office.
5. Removal for absences:
  - a. Removal from office for three (3) unexcused absences from regular Student Senate meetings and meetings of the Student Senate Standing Committees in one (1) semester, six (6) unexcused absences in one year, or 4 excused absences in any semester. A Notice of Excessive Absences shall be mailed to any Student Senate Member who accumulates a total of three (3) absences of any kind from Student Senate Meetings and/or Student Senate Standing Committee meetings with this absence policy attached so as to make notice of incurred absences, and a copy sent to the Student Government Association Advisor.

- b. Student Senate Members who are removed from office on the basis of absences may appeal their removal to the Student Government Association Senate. It shall require approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the Student Senate members present and voting.

**SECTION 7** Student Senate Standing Committees:

1. Club Development Committee
  2. Budget Committee
  3. Public Relations
  4. Constitutional Review Committee
  5. Student Traditions Committee
- *Membership, chairmanship and the duties, responsibilities, and procedures of the Student Senate Standing Committees are outlined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.*

**ARTICLE IV: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**SECTION 1** The judicial power of the Student Government shall be vested in the Judicial Branch. The Judicial branch shall be composed of the University Court and the University Appeals Court. In cases arising under Section II of this Article, the University Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction, subject to legal review by the Executive Director of Student Life.

**SECTION 2** Authority and Responsibility of the University Court

1. To hear and to rule upon all cases referred to it by the Executive Director of Student Life in accordance with the grievance procedures as outlined in the Texas A&M International University Student Handbook.
2. To hear and rule on cases involving constitutionality of statutory enactments, this Constitution, and it's Bylaws when so requested in writing by a Texas A&M University student or group of students.
3. Hear and rule on all original cases from plaintiffs on complaints against the Student Government Association and /or its officers.
4. To hear and rule on all violations of the Code of Ethics as described in the Student Government Association By-Laws and any other disciplinary cases related to conduct as may be reported regarding members of the Student Government Association.

**SECTION 3** Membership of the University Court

1. One (1) Justice, who will be elected from each of the Colleges.
2. Two (2) Justices elected at-large who shall not be considered as representatives of any particular College.
3. One (1) Chief Justice appointed by the Student Senate approved by a three fourths (3/4) of the total number of Student Senators at a General Meeting of the Student Senate.
4. One (1) Justice appointed by the Vice President of Student Affairs.
5. All members of the University Court will serve for a term of one year concurrent with the Student Body President.
6. Elected and appointed members of the University Court shall be sworn in and take office during finals in the spring semester. A term of office for all membership of the Executive Branch shall commence upon being sworn into office and shall expire upon the swearing in of new membership.
7. Any student, whether undergraduate or graduate may serve as a Justice of the Court. All members of the University Court must be registered for at least six (6) semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office.
8. All members of the University Court must have and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 throughout his or her term of office.
9. A member of the University Court may not be on disciplinary probation while serving his or her term of office and must be in good standing with the Texas A&M International University as defined in the student handbook.
10. The officers of the Executive branch, Legislative branch, and any appointed positions in the Executive or Legislative Branches shall not be permitted to serve on the University Court.

**SECTION 4** Vacancies in the University Court shall occur in the following circumstances:

1. Removal from office due to failing to meet the qualifications for office as outlined in ARTICLE IV SECTION III of this constitution.
2. Removal from office for three (3) unexcused absences from meetings of the University Court or five (5) absences for any reason from meetings of the University Court during term of office.

3. Breach of confidentiality regarding matters under consideration by the University Court. Student will also be referred to the Executive Director of Student Life.

**SECTION 5** The University Appeals Court shall serve as an appellate court to the University Court.

**SECTION 6** Authorities and Responsibilities of The University Appeals Court

1. To hear and to rule upon all cases referred to it by the University Court or by the Vice President of Student Affairs, and only in cases where an appeal is formally requested in writing by either party previously standing before the University Court.

**SECTION 7** Membership of the University Appeals Court

1. Elected Appellate Justice of the University Appeals Court, elected during General Elections by majority of votes cast.
2. One (1) Justice appointed by the Vice President of Student Affairs.
3. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall serve as a member of the University Appeals Court.
4. The Student Body President shall serve as a member of the University Appeals Court.
5. All members of the University Court will serve for a term of one year concurrent with the Student Body President.
6. Elected and appointed members of the University Appeals Court shall be sworn in and take office during finals in the spring semester. A term of office for all membership of the Executive Branch shall commence upon being sworn into office and shall expire upon the swearing in of new membership.
7. Any student may serve as a Justice of the Court. All undergraduate members of the University Appeals Court must be registered for at least six (6) semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office. All graduate members of the University Appeals Court must be registered for at least three (3) semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office.
8. All members of the University Appeals Court must have and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.4 throughout his or her term of office.
9. A member of the University Appeals Court may not be on disciplinary probation while serving his or her term of office and must be in good standing with the Texas A&M International University as defined in the student handbook.

**SECTION 8** Vacancies in the University Appeals Court shall occur in the following circumstances:

1. Removal from office due to failing to meet the qualifications for office as outlined in ARTICLE IV SECTION VII of this constitution.
2. Removal from office for three (3) unexcused absences from meetings of the University Appeals Court or five (5) absences for any reason from meetings of the University Appeals Court during term of office.
3. Breach of confidentiality regarding matters under consideration by the University Appeals Court. Student will also be referred to the Executive Director of Student Life.

**SECTION 9** Rules and Procedures on Rulings of the University Court and University Appeals Court

1. Issues shall be voted on upon hearing all evidence presented.
2. Majority vote shall be recorded as the official decision of the University Court and University Appeals Court.
3. The Student Government Association Secretary or his/her designate shall attend all sessions and be responsible for recording all decisions made by the University Court and University Appeals Court.
4. Records of decisions must be submitted by the Student Government Association Secretary or his/her designate to the University Court and University Appeals Court for verification and approval before becoming official.
5. Records of all decisions made by the University Court and University Appeals Court will be kept in the Office of Student Activities.
6. Judgments of the University Court and the University Appeals Court shall be expressed in writing and filed in the records of the Court.
7. Final judgments shall be sent immediately to the Executive Branch and the Office of Student Activities for appropriate action.

### **ARTICLE V: STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1** The Student Fee Advisory Committee shall be charged with advising the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System and the Administration of Texas A&M International University on the type, amount, and expenditure of compulsory fees for student services in accordance with Section 54.503 of the State of Texas Higher Education Code and with the Bylaws to this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1** All students, as defined by the Texas A&M International University Student Handbook, shall be eligible to vote in any election provided for in this Constitution.

**SECTION 2** In order to be eligible for election or appointment to any office under this Constitution, a student must meet all requirements of officers specified under this Constitution and By-Laws.

**SECTION 3** All officers elected under this Constitution must receive a simple majority of votes cast during the student elections; votes may be cast by means of paper ballot or electronic voting.

**SECTION 4** In order to provide fair and just elections, elections of the Student Government Association shall be held and governed by the rules and guidelines set by the Office of Student Activities.

**SECTION 5** Procedures for Recalls:

1. In order to recall an election there must be a submission of a petition to the Office of Student Activities signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the constituents of the office concerned. All recall elections are subject to provisions set forth by the Office of Student Activities.

## **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1** Amendments to this Constitution and to the By-Laws of the Student Government Association may be proposed by any member of the Student Senate.

**SECTION 2** Following a period of at least seven (7) calendar days from the date of proposal, amendments must be approved by a three fourths (3/4) vote of the actual number of Student Senators. All amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws must be referred to the Student Government Association Constitutional Review Committee in order to make sure that the proposed amendments do not conflict with any other portion of this Constitution and Bylaws before the Student Senate can consider an amendment for a vote.

**SECTION 3** The privilege of initiative is hereby secured to the Student Body. If a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Student Body requesting an election for consideration of a constitutional amendment is presented to the President, an election for the ratification of such an amendment must be held between fourteen (14) and thirty (30) calendar days following the presentation of the petition to the President.

### **ARTICLE VIII: AUXILIARY DOCUMENTS**

**SECTION 1** There shall be a set of Bylaws to this Constitution. Amendments to the Bylaws of this Constitution shall require a three fourths (3/4) vote of the actual number of Student Senators. All amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws must be referred to the Student Government Association Constitutional Review Committee in order to make sure that the proposed amendments do not conflict with any other portion of this Constitution and Bylaws before the Student Senate can consider an amendment for a vote.

**SECTION 2** No measure may be enacted in an auxiliary document, which would be in conflict with any provision of this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE IX: AREA OF APPLICATION**

**SECTION 1** This Constitution and Bylaws, official actions, and rules derived there from shall be the supreme source of student authority and responsibility of Texas A&M International University at Laredo, Texas. However, nothing herein shall be construed to deny or disparage fundamental rights retained by the students.

**SECTION 2** Nothing in this Constitution shall be deemed to supersede the power and authority of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System, the laws of the State of Texas, or the laws of the United States.

### **ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION**

**SECTION 1** This Constitution and Bylaws has been ratified by the students of Texas A&M International University through a voting process. The signatures below verify this vote was fair.

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Student Body President

Date

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Director of Student Activities

Date

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Executive Director of Student Life

Date

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Vice President of Student Services

Date