

# University of Toledo Student Government Constitution

## **Article I: Names, Affiliations, and Mission**

### **Section 1: Name**

This organization shall formally be known as The University of Toledo Student Government (UTSG), and informally known as Student Government (SG).

### **Section 2: Structure**

The University of Toledo Student Government shall consist of three (3) main branches; the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch.

### **Section 3: Mission**

We, The University of Toledo Student Government, recognize each individual student's right to the best possible education, proper representation, and proactive advocacy. With these ideals at heart, the UT Student Government shall strive to achieve these goals for students on all campuses, as well as striving to create a student centered university, enhance and promote diversity, and maintain open and easily accessible communications with students at all times. Student Government will further work to promote student involvement in the surrounding community and the City of Toledo through charitable outreach, community involvement, and democratic engagement.

### **Section 4: Purpose**

The purpose of The University of Toledo Student Government shall be to uphold those values listed in our mission statement. Activities and programs sponsored by this organization shall keep with the organizations stated objectives.

### **Section 5: Discrimination Policy**

The University of Toledo Student Government does not categorically deny membership to any individual based on race, creed, ethnic identity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, color, veterans' status, age, or presence of a disability as defined by law.

## **Article II: Legislative Branch**

### **Section 1: Legislative Powers and Responsibilities**

*Clause 1:* All legislative power for The University of Toledo Student Government shall be vested in the Student Senate.

*Clause 2:* The Student Senate shall oversee all actions undertaken at The University of Toledo or pertaining to The University of Toledo.

*Clause 3:* The Student Senate shall establish all rules and procedures for Student Government.

*Clause 4:* A simple majority of the voting members must be present to constitute a quorum.

## **Section 2: Student Senate Membership**

*Clause 1:* The University of Toledo Student Government shall be open to all University of Toledo students through direct election of The University of Toledo Student Body, or appointment by the Student Body President and approval by the Student Senate.

*Clause 2:* All members of Student Senate shall maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must not be found guilty of a violation according to The University of Toledo Code of Conduct during the individuals' term.

*Clause 3:* Student Senate shall consist of fifty (50) seats.

*Clause 3.1:* Fifty (50) seats shall be distributed among the colleges in proportion to the number of students enrolled in each college of The University of Toledo.

*Clause 3.1.1:* The Student Judicial Council shall formulate the number of proportioned seats by February of each academic year.

*Clause 3.1.2:* College seats shall be elected each year from the various colleges within The University of Toledo.

*Clause 3.1.3:* Elected Senators shall hold the seat for two (2) sessions.

*Clause 4:* If for any reason a Student Senate seat is vacant, a student may apply for an At-Large by following the rules set forth in the Standing Rules of that session.

*Clause 4.1:* Students applying to become Senators-at-Large must meet all requirements for general membership.

*Clause 4.2:* A Senator-at-Large must be approved by a majority vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.

*Clause 4.3:* A Senator-at-Large must be approved by the Senate a minimum of six weeks before the end of the session.

*Clause 4.4:* A Senator-at-Large shall not be confirmed by Senate prior to the second meeting of each new Senate session, with the exception that any student made ineligible to run for Senate due to membership in Election Board or Presidential or Vice-Presidential candidacy be eligible for immediate approval.

*Clause 4.5:* A Senator-at-Large shall hold their position until the end of the session.

*Clause 5:* Voting members shall be defined as members who are currently enrolled UT Students.

## **Article III: Executive Branch**

### **Section 1: Executive Powers and Responsibilities**

*Clause 1:* The Office of Student Body President shall hold all executive power within The University of Toledo Student Government.

*Clause 2:* The Student Body President shall serve as the chief spokesperson of The University of Toledo Student Government.

## **Section 2: Executive Branch Members**

*Clause 1:* All members of the executive branch shall maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must not be found guilty of a violation according to The University of Toledo Code of Conduct during the individuals' term.

*Clause 2:* The Student Body President and Vice-President shall be elected on a single ticket by The University of Toledo Student Body.

*Clause 3:* The Student Body President and Vice-President shall serve for one (1) session of The University of Toledo Student Government.

*Clause 4:* Should the Presidency become vacant for any reason, the Vice-President shall assume the role of President.

*Clause 5:* Should the Vice-President position become vacant, the President shall nominate a Vice-President, who shall then have to be approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.

*Clause 6:* Should vacancies occur in the offices of President and Vice-President, the Chair of Student Senate shall convene the full active membership of Senate at the earliest possible time, or no more than 10 business days of the academic calendar, for the purpose of electing a new President.

*Clause 6.1:* The new President must be approved by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of Student Senate, as well as a majority vote of the Student Judicial Council.

*Clause 6.2:* The President, upon assuming office, shall appoint a Vice-President.

*Clause 7:* The Chair shall assume the office of Student Body President during any vacancy until a new President is appointed.

*Clause 7.1:* Should the Chair be unable to fulfill this role, the position shall be filled by the following succession; Chief of Staff, Vice-Chair of Senate, and Legislative Secretary of Senate.

## **Article IV: Judicial Branch**

### **Section 1: Judicial Powers and Responsibilities**

*Clause 1:* Student Judicial Council shall have final jurisdiction and authority over all formal complaints regarding controversies arising under the Student Government Constitution and other related governing documents.

*Clause 2:* The Student Judicial Council shall serve as advisors to students seeking representation before the Student Judicial Board. Advisors are responsible for informing students of their rights, the

judicial process, and representing them to the best of their ability. Advisors shall be trained through the Dean of Students Office, along with the Student Judicial Board.

## **Section 2: Judicial Branch Members**

*Clause 1:* All members of the Student Judicial Board shall maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must not be found guilty of a violation according to The University of Toledo Code of Conduct during the individuals' term.

*Clause 2:* The Student Judicial Council shall consist of nine (9) Student Justices appointed by the Student Body President, and shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.

*Clause 3:* Student Justices shall serve for two (2) sessions of The University of Toledo Student Government.

## **Article V: Student Government Committees**

### **Section 1: Committees of Student Senate**

*Clause 1:* Student Senate standing committees shall meet weekly during the academic year to review legislation and serve as the primary observer in their assigned areas for The University of Toledo Student Government.

*Clause 2:* The Academic Affairs Committee shall deal with all academic issues and matters, such as grievances and standards, as well as relations between students and faculty.

*Clause 3:* The Administrative Affairs Committee shall deal with relations between students and The University of Toledo administration, and issues pertaining to local, state, and federal governments.

*Clause 4:* The Finance and Operations Committee shall deal with expenditures of The University of Toledo Student Government and any legislation directly related to the function of Student Government.

*Clause 5:* The Housing and Residence Life Committee shall deal with on-campus and off-campus resident issues.

*Clause 6:* The Student Services, Information, and Public Safety Committee shall deal with services administered to The Student Body by The University of Toledo, The University of Toledo informational systems, and the safety of the students or visitors of The University of Toledo.

### **Section 2: Committees of the Student Body President**

*Clause 1:* The Student Body President shall appoint a cabinet to aid in carrying out executive responsibilities, but is not required to unless mandated by legislation.

## **Article VI: Student Government Officers**

### **Section 1: Student Senate Officers**

*Clause 1:* Officers of Student Senate shall be elected during the first meeting of the new session by a simple majority vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.

*Clause 1.1:* The Chair of Student Senate shall be a member of the incoming Student Senate. The outgoing Chair shall preside over the election of the new Chair.

*Clause 1.2:* Should any position be vacated during the academic year, special elections shall be held and shall require a simple majority vote of the total active membership of Student Senate to be confirmed.

*Clause 2:* The Chair of Senate shall:

- 1.) Conduct the general session of Senate;
- 2.) Serve as the official representative of Student Senate when needed;
- 3.) Refer legislation to the appropriate committee after its first reading in Senate;
- 4.) Assign Senators to committee's while accommodating the interests of the Senators where possible;
- 5.) Implement orientation programs for new Senators;
- 6.) Attend to all logistic and scheduling needs for Senate meetings;
- 7.) Schedule guest speakers as necessary;
- 8.) Step down temporarily if they wish to speak in debate;
- 9.) And shall only vote in case of a tie.

*Clause 3:* The Vice-Chair of Senate shall:

- 1.) Assume the duties of the Chair should they be unable to attend;
- 2.) Have the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms as stated in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised;
- 3.) Maintain and enforce attendance policies;
- 4.) And serve as the recruitment and retention officer for Student Senate.

*Clause 4:* Standing Committee Chairs of Student Senate Committees shall:

- 1.) Preside over Committee meetings and attend to all logistical needs;
- 2.) Ensure referred legislation shall be properly addressed, and shall report to the Legislative Secretary on the status of said legislation;
- 3.) And submit a written report for each meeting.

*Clause 5:* The Legislative Secretary shall:

- 1.) Prepare the agenda and make it available to Senators by the beginning of the meeting at the location of that meeting. Copies of new legislation shall be provided to Senators prior to the meeting.

- 2.) Update the Constitution and Bylaws to include any approved amendments;
- 3.) Update the Student Government website to include all legislation, minutes, and other information deemed necessary weekly;
- 4.) Be responsible for preparing final copies of legislation to be signed by the necessary officers, and to place these into the Senate archives.
- 5.) Be responsible for maintaining the Senate archives;
- 6.) And help orient new Senators.

*Clause 6:* The Recording Secretary shall:

- 1.) Call roll when necessary;
- 2.) Record the results of all votes;
- 3.) Compile records of attendance at both committee and general meetings;
- 4.) Act as Parliamentarian of Student Senate;
- 5.) And help orient new Senators.

*Clause 7:* College Caucus Leaders shall:

- 1.) Be elected by those within their caucus by the second meeting of each new session;
- 2.) Be the official spokesperson of the college from which they are elected;
- 3.) Give a monthly report to Senate;
- 4.) Be enrolled in the college which they represent.

## **Section 2: Officers of the Executive Branch**

*Clause 1:* The Student Body President and Vice-President shall serve as the officers for the Executive Branch of The University of Toledo Student Government.

*Clause 2:* The Student Body President shall:

- 1.) Hold the primary power of appointment within Student Government unless otherwise stated in the Bylaws;
- 2.) Have the power to veto legislation;
  - a. A Presidential veto can be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.
- 3.) Be responsible for the efficient management of the Student Government office;
- 4.) Serve as the chief spokesperson for Student Government and the Student Body;
- 5.) Faithfully execute this Constitution and all enacted legislation.

*Clause 3:* The Student Body Vice-President shall:

- 1.) Assist the President in carrying out the powers and duties of the Executive Branch;

- 2.) Assume the office of President should that office become vacant.

*Clause 4:* The Student Body Vice-President shall advise and aid in the completion of the Student Body President's duties.

*Clause 5:* The Student Body President and Vice-President shall be responsible for the formation of a Cabinet which will assist them in the completion of the duties and programs.

*Clause 5.1:* The Student Body President and Vice-President shall create Acts for each position within their Cabinet, which shall then be submitted to Student Senate for approval.

*Clause 5.2:* The Student Body President and Vice-President shall nominate individuals to fill these positions, who shall then appear before Student Senate for approval.

### **Section 3: Officers of the Judicial Branch**

*Clause 1:* The Chief Justice shall officiate all business related to operating the Student Judicial Council.

*Clause 1.1:* The Chief Justice is charged with swearing in every member of Student Government. The Chair of Student Senate shall swear in the Chief Justice.

*Clause 1.2:* The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the Student Body President and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.

### **Section 4: Officer Eligibility**

*Clause 1:* Only currently registered UT students may hold office. Officers shall not be on academic or disciplinary probation.

## **Article VII: Student Government Advisor**

### **Section 1: Dean of Students**

*Clause 1:* The Dean of Students shall be the advisor for Student Government.

*Clause 2:* An alternative advisor may be selected at any time from The University of Toledo's faculty or administration by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all approved members of Student Government.

## **Article VIII: Referendums**

### **Section 1: Student Government referendums**

*Clause 1:* Student Government shall be bound by referendum votes of the Student Body which are taken in any official Student Government election.

*Clause 2:* Student Government may initiate a referendum for the Student Government election through a bill, and by two-thirds (2/3) approval of Student Senate.

### **Section 2: Student Body referendums**

*Clause 1:* Students may initiate a referendum for the Student Government election through a petition obtaining no less than 200 student signatures.

*Clause 1.1:* Petitions must consist of a student signature and matching rocket id number.

*Clause 1.2:* Petition signatures are subject to confirmation by the Office of Student Activities.

## **Article IX: Impeachment and Removal**

### **Section 1: Impeachment**

*Clause 1:* Student Government members may only be impeached through an impeachment hearing.

*Clause 1.1:* An impeachment hearing shall be carried out through the Student Senate as a whole and presided over by the Student Judicial Council.

*Clause 1.2:* An impeachment must obtain a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of Student Senate.

*Clause 1.3:* The impeachment shall then be sent to the Student Body President for approval.

*Clause 1.3.1:* If the Student Body President should veto the impeachment, It shall then be sent back to Student Senate where it must obtain a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative of all active membership.

*Clause 2:* The Chief Justice shall handle all logistical issues pertaining to the impeachment hearing.

*Clause 3:* Student organizations may remove their representative at any time through procedures as established within their own organization.

## **Article X: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Legislative Branch Amendments**

*Clause 1:* Any Senator may propose amendments to this Constitution. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the total active membership of Student Senate shall be required to adopt the amendment.

### **Section 2: Executive Branch Amendments**

*Clause 1:* The Student Body President and Vice-President may propose amendments to the Student Government Constitution

*Clause 1.1:* To be submitted for consideration, the amendment must obtain sponsorship from at least one Student Senator.

*Clause 1.2:* The amendment must obtain at least a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the total active membership of Student Senate to be adopted.

### **Section 3: Student Body Amendments**



*Clause 1:* The Student Body shall be able to propose amendments to the Student Government Constitution through referendum

*Clause 1.1:* Amendments may be added through referendum following normal referendum procedures.

*Clause 1.2:* To become effective, the referendum amendment must receive a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all students who vote in the election.

#### **Section 4: Amendments**

*Clause 1:* It is further understood that if this organization desires at any time in the future to change in any way the provision of this charter, that before such action is taken, the organization will submit for approval to the Student Activities Committee and the Office of Dean of Students every detail of the desired changes to be made.

#### **Article XI: Ratification**

**Section 1:** The Constitution shall be considered ratified upon the completion of three (3) readings in Student Senate, and after obtaining a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the total active membership of Student Senate, and approval by the Student Body President and the Dean of Students office.