

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SENATE OF COLLEGE COUNCILS

Updated: September 3rd, 2020

## ARTICLE I: Purpose

1. The Senate of College Councils (hereafter Senate) is one of three Legislative Student Organizations (LSOs) at The University of Texas at Austin. Senate serves as the official voice of students in academic affairs. Senate was recognized as a student association by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System on July 27, 1973.
2. Senate serves as a forum for communication between the College Councils and facilitates operations. The College Councils serve as the official voices of students in their respective colleges and schools by (1) working to improve the academic experience of students, (2) create programming to promote academic excellence, and (3) fostering interaction between students and faculty.
3. In addition, Senate does but is not limited to (1) working to improve academic services for students across the university, (2) appointing students to various university-wide committees, (3) providing funding to registered student organizations, and (4) implementing programming initiatives that enrich academic life at the university. Senate recognizes that academics are inherently affected by the intersectionality of identities.

## ARTICLE II: University Compliance

1. This organization is a recognized student organization at The University of Texas of Austin and shall comply with all campus policies as set forth in the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities.

## ARTICLE III: Prohibition of Hazing

1. State law and Sec. 14-103(3) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities define hazing as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution.

#### ARTICLE IV: Membership Structure

1. In accordance with Sec. 6-202(a)(2) and Sec. 6-302 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, this organization restricts membership to students, faculty members, and staff members of the University.
2. In accordance with Sec. 6-202(a)(3) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, this organization may not deny membership on the basis of race, color, religions, national origin, gender, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, except that a registered student organization created primarily for religious purposes may restrict the right to vote or hold office to persons who subscribe to the registered organization's statement of faith; and a registered student organization may restrict membership based on the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
3. Senate is organized into Internal and External Senate. Internal Senate refers to the Senate Leadership Team, General Members, and New Members. External Senate refers to all members of the College Councils.
4. The General Assembly is composed of: (1) the Senate Leadership Team, (2) General Members, (3) New Members, (4) the College Council delegations, (5) the President of Student Government, and (6) the President of the Graduate Student Assembly.

#### ARTICLE V: General Assemblies and Voting Procedures

1. The General Assembly is the biweekly meeting of officially recognized UT College Councils to hear and vote on legislation pertinent to university policy and processes. All meeting times can be found online on the Senate website.
2. The General Assembly may pass (1) resolutions and (2) bills. A piece of legislation must be on the agenda before the General Assembly can vote on it. The President and the Policy Director share the authority to put legislation on the agenda. Any UT Student is able to submit legislation to be voted on by the Senate General Assembly.

3. Each College Council receives one vote in the General Assembly. College Councils may abstain from voting. For a Council to cast a vote, at least one of its three delegates must be present at the meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted.
4. Legislation cannot be passed unless a quorum is achieved. A majority of the active College Councils must have at least one delegate present at the meeting in order for a quorum to be achieved. College Council attendance is determined by roll call at the beginning of each meeting.
5. Unless fast-tracked, the General Assembly may not vote on a piece of legislation at the same meeting at which it is introduced. Legislation may be fast-tracked by a majority vote of the College Councils present.
6. Unless otherwise determined by the governing documents of each College Council, the vote cast by the President, Financial Director, and the Senate Representative of a College Council must reflect the vote decision of the College Council.
7. For a resolution to pass, a simple majority of the College Councils present must vote in favor of the resolution, provided that a quorum is achieved. For a bill to pass, a two-thirds majority of the College Councils present must vote in favor of the bill, provided that a quorum is achieved. The President breaks any ties.

#### ARTICLE VI: The Senate Budget

1. Senate receives an annual budget from the Student Services Budget Committee (SSBC), which is housed in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. The Financial Director is responsible for allocating the Senate Budget.
2. The Senate budget is divided into (1) the internal operating budget, (2) the Councils' budget, and (3) the appropriations budget.
3. The internal operating budget may be spent by (1) the Executive Board, and (2) the internal standing committees. The Councils' budget is allocated to the College Councils. The appropriations budget is distributed to registered student organizations.
4. Use of the Senate budget is subject to the rules and limitations contained in the Internal Spending Rules and Regulations of the Senate of College Councils.

## ARTICLE VII: Governing Documents

1. Senate may adopt official governing documents, which are equal in authority to the Constitution of the Senate of College Councils.
2. The official governing documents of Senate are: (1) the Internal Spending Rules and Regulations of the Senate of College Councils, (2) the Election Code of the Senate of College Councils, and (3) the Bylaws of the Senate of College Councils.

## ARTICLE VIII: University Advisor

1. In accordance with Sec. 6-101(14) and Sec. 6-101(15) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, this organization may have a University Advisor who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age, is not enrolled as a student at the University, and serves as either:
  - a. A part-time or full-time employee of the University.
  - b. A representative of a national organization that is associated with the registered student organization.
2. The official University Advisors of the Senate of College Councils are: (1) the Senior Administrative Associate, and (2) the Legislative Student Organization Financial Advisor.
3. The Senior Administrative Associate works primarily with the Administrative Director to manage room reservations and schedule administrative meetings.
4. The Legislative Student Organization Financial Advisor works with the Financial Director and Council Financial Directors to manage the Senate budget, as described in Article 16. They also lead the required semesterly Spending Workshops as described within the Spending Rules and Regulations.

## ARTICLE IX: Amending the Constitution

1. Amendments to the Constitution shall become effective upon approval by the Chief Student Affairs Officer and the President as stated in Regents Rule 50203. The following approval process must be followed:
  - a. Proposal and approval by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the College Councils outlined in accordance with Article V of the Senate of College Councils Constitution.

- b. Submit a finalized copy of the copy of the updated Senate of College Councils Constitution with proposed changes noted, a copy of the current Senate of College Councils Constitution, notes from any committees involved, and minutes from the Senate of College Councils General Assembly meeting in which the vote for approval was taken for review to the Senior Administrative Associate, and;
  - c. Approval by the Chief Student Affairs Officer and the President.
2. All amendments or changes to this Constitution must be reflected in an updated constitution that must be submitted to Student Activities in the Office of the Dean of Students at 2609 University Ave., Suite 2.112 within 14 days of its approval.

Approved by the Board of Regents: July 27, 1973

Amended: June 1, 1979; February 15, 1985; March 19, 1987; March 9, 1995; March 21, 1996; February 10, 2000; November 16, 2000; April 17, 2003 (S.B. 102, S.B. 103, S.B. 104, S.B. 105, S.B. 106, S.B. 110, S.B. 111, S.B. 116); May 1, 2003 (S.B. 107, S.B. 108); September 25, 2003 (S.B. 101, S.B. 102); March 25, 2004 (S.B. 102); December 2, 2004; October 20, 2005 (S.B. 202); March 9, 2006 (S.B. 204, S.B. 205); October 5, 2006 (S.B. 301); December 7, 2006 (S.B. 302); March 8, 2007 (S.B. 304); February 28, 2008 (S.B. 405); April 3, 2008 (S.B. 406); December 4, 2008 (S.B. 503); April 2, 2009 (S.B. 506); April 30, 2009 (S.B. 511); April 1, 2010 (S.B. 603, S.B. 604, S.B. 607); April 15, 2010 (S.B. 602); September 16, 2010 (S.B. 1001); March 10, 2011 (S.B. 1004); March 24, 2011 (S.B. 1005); May 5, 2011 (S.B. 1101); September 15, 2011 (S.B. 1102); January 26, 2012 (S.B. 1104); April 5, 2012 (S.B. 1106); April 19, 2012 (S.B. 1109); May 3, 2012 (S.B. 1202); September 20, 2012 (S.B. 1303); March 21, 2013 (S.B. 1205); April 18, 2013 (S.B. 1207); September 26, 2013 (S.B. 1302); February 6, 2014 (S.B. 1303); March 20, 2014 (S.B. 1304); May 1, 2014 (S.B. 1306); December 4, 2014 (S.B. 1403, S.B. 1404); February 26, 2015 (S.B. 1406); March 12, 2015 (S.B. 1407); April 9, 2015 (S.B. 1409); September 24, 2015 (S.B. 1501); March 24, 2016 (S.B. 1503); November 17, 2016 (S.B. 1605); February 9, 2017 (S.B. 1606); February 23, 2017 (S.B. 1607); April 6, 2017 (S.B. 1608); April 20, 2017 (S.B. 1702); September 21, 2017 (S.B. 1703); February 8, 2018 (S.B. 1705); March 8, 2018 (S.B. 1704); April 11, 2019 (S.B. 1803, J.B. 1801); May 29, 2019 (Structural Authority); September 26, 2019 (S.B. 1902); October 10, 2019 (S.B. 1903); October 24, 2019 (S.B. 1904); November 21, 2019 (S.B. 1905); February 21, 2020 (S.B. 1907, S.B. 1908, S.B. 1909); April 29, 2020 (Dean of Students); September 3, 2020 (S.B. 2002); and October 15, 2020 (S.B. 2004)