

Constitution of the Student Government Association

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

We, the students of Middle Tennessee State University, in order to promote the welfare of each student attending this institution, to train ourselves in the general principles of democratic government, and to prepare ourselves to assume the privileges and responsibilities of citizens in the State of Tennessee and of the United States of America, and in order to strive for the expansion and protection of student rights on the Middle Tennessee State University campus, do ordain and establish this Student Government Association Constitution.

ARTICLE I

Definition of Existence

Section 1: Name.

A. The name of the organization shall be the **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY** (hereinafter referred to as the SGA).

Section 2: Purpose.

A. The purpose of the SGA is to provide a formal process for student input into the governance of the institution, to control all matters which are delegated to the SGA by the administration of Middle Tennessee State University (the University), to work cooperatively in the administration in all matters affecting the welfare of the student body, and to promote the best possible understanding between faculty, administration, and students. In all its endeavors, the SGA shall strive to represent the best interest of the student body as a whole and to reflect favorably upon the University.

Section 3: Student Definition.

A. Any person that is considered to be a student by the university during any given semester shall be entitled to all the rights and benefits under this Constitution.

Section 4: Separation of Powers.

A. The powers of the SGA shall be divided into three (3) distinct branches; those powers which are legislative shall be given to the SGA Senate, those which are executive to the President and Vice President of the SGA, and those which are judicial to the Student Judicial Board.

ARTICLE II

Statement of Governing Principles

Section 1: Commitment.

- A. In all matters, members of the SGA shall conduct themselves in a manner deserving of the high level of trust that the student body places in their leadership. Furthermore, members should strive at all times to promote the following principles:
- B. Honesty. All members of the SGA shall uphold the most stringent level of honesty with their colleagues, the administration of MTSU, the general public, and above all, the students at the University, whose welfare they are pledged.
- C. Recognition of Basic Human Rights. All people are deserving of equal treatment and equal service. Neither the SGA, nor any representative thereof, shall violate these rights on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, and/or expression.
- D. Academic Integrity. The members of the SGA are representatives of the students and shall therefore pledge not to commit infractions of rules prohibiting academic misconduct. All members of the SGA will strive to achieve and maintain the highest standards of academic achievement.

Section 2: Requirements for All SGA Members.

- A. All elected and appointed officials of the Student Government Association shall take and subscribe to the following affirmation: “I do solemnly affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Middle Tennessee State University, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of which I am about to enter.”
- B. All members of the Student Government Association, whether elected or appointed, shall be required, as a condition of office, to sign a waiver allowing the release of that portion of their academic record relevant to determining that they meet minimum standards. Grades will be released only to the SGA administrative advisor, their designee and/or the Election Commissioner. It shall be the responsibility of the Student Government Association administrative advisor to monitor these records each grading period.
- C. Any member of the SGA, elected or appointed, must be in “good standing” both academically and behaviorally to be eligible to hold any position within SGA. A student is deemed not in good standing, and ineligible to hold any SGA position, if any of the following conditions exist up to 12 months prior to election packet application submission deadline or appointment to an SGA office: the student is currently on academic probation with the institution, the student is currently on disciplinary probation with the institution, or the student is under a trespass warning from either the campus police or the Office of Student Conduct. If any current member of SGA receives any of the previously mentioned behavioral judicial actions, they shall be required to resign their position.
- D. The office of the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs will assure that the judicial records of all SGA members are checked at the start of the semester and in the seventh week of the semester.

ARTICLE III

Voting

Section 1: Voter Eligibility.

- A. All persons who meet the standard set forth in Article 1 Section 3 shall be entitled to vote in any election that is conducted by the SGA under the provisions of the Constitution, provided that no student shall be eligible to vote who has been disqualified for other reasons. A certified statement from the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or designee shall finally determine any question as to voting eligibility.

Section 2: Voting Method.

- A. Voting at all elections or referenda shall be by secret ballot and in conformity with other methods as may be prescribed by the SGA Electoral Act.
- B. Balloting shall take place via PipelineMT as determined by the Election Commission and defined in the SGA Electoral Act.

ARTICLE IV

The Executive Branch

Section 1: Generally.

- A. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the proper administration of the SGA, for the development of policy and the implementation of legislation. It shall be composed of elected officials and appointed officials. The elected officials include the President and the Vice President. The appointed officials, selected by the SGA President, include the Attorney General, Election Commissioner, Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director, Events Director, and Communications Director, who must be confirmed by a simple majority of the Senate.
- B. The members of the Executive Branch shall annually review the operations and responsibilities of the Executive Branch and its committees.
- C. A candidate for an Executive Board office must:
 - 1. Be a full or part time student;
 - 2. Have accumulated a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours from any accredited institution, or be a graduate student at the time of the candidacy;
 - 3. Have been enrolled at least two (2) consecutive spring and fall semesters as a full or part-time student at Middle Tennessee State University, and;
 - 4. Have at least a 2.75 undergraduate or 3.0 graduate cumulative grade point average at the time of candidacy and maintain such average throughout the term of office; Term of office shall be defined as consecutive summer, fall, and spring semesters after being elected.
 - 5. Has served for at least twenty (20) weeks as a Senate member or an Executive Member appointed by the SGA President (as defined by Middle Tennessee State

University semester calendar).

- D. In the event an executive officer fails to maintain the qualifications of their position, they shall be removed from office immediately.

Section 2: Terms of Office.

- A. Transitional Term. The incoming elected Executive Branch shall serve a transitional term starting upon their certification by the Election Commission, and then serve a regular term commencing on the first Monday of May.
- B. Requirements of Office. No member of the Executive Branch shall be eligible to serve concurrently in any other office within the SGA.

Section 3: Policies and Procedures for the President. The President shall:

- A. Work closely with the outgoing President to ensure a smooth transition of power and consistency of service for the student body and may make appointments to their cabinet.
- B. See that all responsibilities delegated to the SGA are faithfully performed.
- C. Be the official representative of the student body.
- D. Be empowered to appoint all officials, assistants, and committees within the SGA necessary to discharge their duties with the approval of the Student Senate except as otherwise noted.
- E. Be required to attend at least four Senate meetings per semester.
- F. Convene all meetings of the Executive Branch.
- G. Be required to deliver a report concerning legislative updates and/or on the affairs of the SGA at Senate meetings that they attends.
- H. Appoint replacements for any Senate seat that may be vacant. Such appointments require Senate approval by a simple majority vote.
- I. Have the power of line item veto over bills passed by the Senate. Their veto may be overridden by two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- J. Designate the head delegate for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature. Shall coordinate the selection process of delegates, in addition to any other logistical organization.
- K. Appoint, with the approval of the Senate, an Attorney General, a Communications Director, an Election Commissioner, a Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director, an Events Director, a Chief of Staff and any other position as deemed necessary in the execution of their duties.

Section 4: Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President Shall:

- A. Work closely with the outgoing Vice President to ensure a smooth transition of power and consistency of service for the student body.
- B. Preside over the Student Senate.
- C. In the event of a tie in the Senate, they shall have the power to cast the deciding vote.
- D. Assume responsibility for such other duties as may be assigned, or by the President of the SGA.

- E. Preside in the absence of the President at Student meetings or functions.
- F. Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall report to the President any information regarding their activities.
- G. Serve as the director of Freshman Council in the selection process and throughout the year.

Section 5: Policies and Procedures for Communications Director. The Communications Director shall:

- A. Oversee all public relations for the SGA and will direct the marketing of Student Government Association programs.
- B. Help keep all students informed of important issues concerning them.
- C. Oversee regular updates of the SGA website to keep students informed and interested in SGA.
- D. Publicize all events sponsored by SGA. Coordinate advertising for events with officers as necessary.
- E. Create marketing materials for the SGA.
- F. Perform other duties assigned to them by the President of the SGA.
- G. Produce semesterly survey opportunities for the general student body.

Section 6: Policies and Procedures for the Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner shall:

- A. Preside over the Election Commission and oversee all SGA elections.
- B. Appoint members of the Election Commission and present nominees to the Senate for approval. Appointees must receive Senate approval by simple majority.
- C. Schedule all SGA Elections, referenda, Homecoming elections, and special elections.

Section 7: Policies and Procedures for the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall:

- A. Be the adviser to the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch of the SGA on the SGA Constitution and Laws.
- B. Act as the chair of the Court of Traffic Appeals (COTA) with responsibilities for selecting members and determining hearing dates.
- C. Should the Attorney General be the subject of an alleged violation of the SGA Constitution and/or By-Laws, the Senate Chair of Internal Affairs will follow the guidelines outlined in the By-Laws.

Section 8: Duties and Responsibilities of the Events Director. The Events Director shall:

- A. Coordinate activities such as, but not exclusive to, spirit initiatives, giveaways, tablings, and any other traditional programming activities or events.
- B. Coordinate all philanthropic programs sponsored by the SGA.
- C. Work closely with a representative from the Office of Leadership and Service to coordinate community service and engagement initiatives.

- D. Work alongside the Communications Director to coordinate marketing efforts for all events and/or activities.

Section 9: Duties and Responsibilities of the Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director.
The Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director shall:

- A. Work with university entities to coordinate MTSU Homecoming activities.
- B. Fulfill the duties of Assistant Events Director post completion of their homecoming duties.
- C. At their discretion, shall appoint a Homecoming committee to assist in performing the duties of the office.
- D. Coordinate marketing efforts with the Communications Director for all events and affiliated promotional material.

Section 10: Duties and Responsibilities of the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff shall:

- A. Assist the President and Vice President in communicating with SGA or with outside organizations as delegated.
- B. Attend campus meetings on behalf of the SGA as delegated by the President.
- C. Transfer all notes and legislation, and all SGA related material to the University archivist at the end of a congressional year.
- D. Be responsible for assisting the President with coordinating and organizing all SGA Ad Hoc committees, University Standing committees, and any other committees as deemed necessary.
- E. Assist the President with following up on feedback on legislation sent to university departments/officials for official response.
- F. Responsible for all general SGA training and any other professional training necessary.
- G. Responsible for the preservations of artifacts and coordinate efforts to maintain institutional memory.
- H. Manage and disseminate all survey data collected by the Communications Director.

Section 11: Succession of Office.

- A. In the event that the office of the President of the SGA shall be vacated, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President and all the duties and responsibilities thereof.
- B. In the event that the office of Vice President shall be vacated, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate shall immediately fill the position of Vice President. The President shall, at that time, appoint a new senator to fill the vacancy in the senate, as set forth in Article 5, Section 2.
- C. In the event that the Vice President position becomes vacant after spring elections and up until the first day of fall classes, a campus-wide election to fill the vacancy must take place no sooner or later than three weeks into the fall semester.

- D. If the Vice President position becomes vacant any other time during the year, the President shall have the authority to appoint a new Vice President with the appointment being approved by the SGA Senate.

ARTICLE V

The Legislative Branch

Section 1: Legislative Power.

- A. The legislative power shall be vested in the SGA, which shall consist of a Senate.

Section 2: Composition of the Senate.

- A. The Vice President shall be the presiding officer of the Senate. In the event the Vice President is unable to preside, the Senate Pro Tempore will assume this responsibility.
- B. For every 500 students enrolled in the university, one (1) Senate seat shall be allocated. In addition to Senator-at-Large seats, two (2) Graduate Seats and two (2) Veteran Seats will be added for students at Middle Tennessee State University who are Graduate Students and Veterans.
 - For example, there are 12,500 Students, each Senator will represent 500, therefore, there will be 25 Seats in Senate, 4 Seats will be added, 2 for Graduate and 2 for Veterans, in total there would be 29 seats in total.
- C. Freshmen will have a voice in the SGA Senate in the form of two seats. One shall be occupied by the Freshman Council Delegate and the other by the Freshman Council President.
- D. In the event a Senate seat is vacated, the President can appoint a replacement upon approval of the Senate. Qualifications of the candidates shall be determined in accordance with the rules set forth in the Electoral Act.
- E. Any elected senator who shall have three (3) unexcused absences from meetings of the Senate in one semester or two (2) consecutive unexcused absences shall appear before the Internal Affairs committee to show just cause why they should not be impeached. After hearing the Senator's case, the Internal Affairs committee shall vote on whether to send the matter to the Senate for impeachment. If approved, a hearing will be held before the full Senate following the procedures set forth in Article X.
- F. Veterans will have a voice in the form of two (2) permanent elected Senators. The Senators shall be a current or former member of the United States Military.
- G. Graduate Students will have a voice in the form of two (2) permanent elected Senators. The Senators shall be current Graduate students at Middle Tennessee State University.
- H. During Senate Elections during the spring semester, the Voting Ballot will state each Candidate's: Name, Classification, Major, as well as the College they belong to.

- I. I. The limit of how many Senators a student can vote for will be left to the discretion of the Election Commissioner, Student Body President, and SGA Faculty Advisor.

Section 3: Restrictions of Freshman Delegates.

- A. Both Freshman Council Delegates shall fully participate in the meetings of the Senate. Both shall have the equal voting power of a Senator in all matters before the Senate and Senate committees. The Freshman Council will have the power to write and present legislation through the Delegates that they elect. Legislation passed by Freshman Council is to be presented to the Senate by either Delegate at the following Senate caucus meeting for consideration. Neither Delegate will be able to present any legislation other than that which is passed by the Freshman Council. The Delegates' votes are bound in favor of any legislation first passed through the Freshman Council. Votes on any other legislation or issues shall be left to the discretion of the Delegates. The Freshman Council Delegate will be elected in the same manner as other Freshman Council executives. The election of the Freshman Council Delegate shall take place directly following the election of the Freshman Council President. Neither Delegate may hold concurrent positions within Freshman Council in accordance with Article III, Section 2, Subsection C of the Freshman Council Constitution. The Delegates shall be required to follow the Senate attendance policy stated in Article V, Section 2, Subsection F of the SGA Senate Constitution and shall be subject to removal from the Senate as stated in Article X of the Senate Constitution. Before the Delegate and the President are allowed to vote in Senate, they must go through the same orientation with the Vice President that all SGA Senators are required to go through. No person shall be able to fulfill the responsibilities of either Delegate in the case of an absence. Freshman Council members will aid in the events and philanthropic activities sponsored by the SGA and be under the direction of the Vice President. The Council shall meet a minimum of bimonthly throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Section 4: Qualifications.

- A. Members of the Senate shall have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative grade point average at the deadline for turning in election packets, or at the time of their selection or appointment to Senate and shall maintain said average throughout their term in office. Cumulative grade point average shall consist of only grades earned at the University. The only exception to this rule shall be in the case of first semester transfer students and first semester graduate students, in which case the individual's transfer credits will be counted in determining their cumulative grade point average.
- B. In the event a senator fails to maintain the qualifications of office, they shall be removed from office immediately.

Section 5: Session.

- A. The Senate shall meet at least bimonthly, beginning at the earliest convenience after the executive transition period, and continuing until May 1. The Senate shall not be required to be in session during the period between the last day of classes of the spring semester

and the first day of classes of the fall semester. Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the President of the SGA, the Vice President, or by a majority of the members of the Senate.

Section 6: Organization and Procedure.

- A. The Senate shall establish its own by-laws and shall be the judge of its own rules and procedure.

Section 7: Limitations.

- A. No member of the Senate can serve in any other position elected by the student body or appointed by a member of the Executive Branch within the SGA; however, all are eligible for recommendation to positions exterior to the SGA and interior in the form of committees.

Section 8: Transaction of Business.

- A. A simple majority of all members of the Senate shall constitute the necessary quorum to do business. The Senate shall prescribe the methods of voting in all legislative matters, but roll call with the yea's and nay's entered in the journal shall be taken on any questions when at least one fifth of the members present shall call for a roll call.

Section 9: Bills and Resolutions.

- A. Any procedure to be considered by the legislature to affect the internal operation of the SGA must be presented in the form of a bill.
- B. Any attempt to affect the operations of any entity exterior to the SGA must be presented in the form of a resolution.
- C. A bill or resolution may be passed in the following manner:
 - 1. If a majority of the Senate approves a bill or resolution, it shall be sent to the President of the SGA for their signature. All legislation shall require a majority vote of the Senate for passage.
 - 2. All bills and resolutions shall be submitted to the President of the SGA for their signature by the Vice President immediately following Senate approval. The President may veto any bill within five (5) class days after it has been presented to them in person. If the SGA President fails to take actions within five (5) class days, the bill is automatically forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs. If the President of the SGA vetoes a bill, then they shall return the bill to the Senate for their reconsideration. Any veto of the President of the SGA may be overridden by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Senate on that part that was vetoed. In the event that the veto of the President of the SGA is overridden by the Senate, or in the event that the President fails to return a vetoed bill to the Senate

in the aforementioned time period, then said bill shall be forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs for approval.

3. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall retain a final veto power over bills or any part thereof. This item veto power shall be exercised within ten (10) class days after the bill has been presented to them in person for their signature. After ten (10) class days, any bill that is not vetoed shall be adopted by the SGA. Any veto of the Vice President for Student Affairs may be overridden by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Senate on the part that was vetoed. In the event that the veto of the Vice President for Student Affairs is overridden by the Senate, the said legislation will be forwarded to the President of the University and shall become law upon their approval.
4. Resolutions are not subject to veto by the SGA President or the Vice President for Student Affairs.

ARTICLE VI

The Judicial Branch

Section 1: Judicial Power.

- A. The judicial powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Student Judicial Board (SJB), and within other boards as the SGA may establish. The SJB will operate under the supervision of the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee.

Section 2: Composition.

- A. The SJB shall consist of nine members selected from eligible members of the student body. Members shall be selected for one-year terms and are eligible to serve additional terms with reapplication and approval as proscribed herein. In the event that the Attorney General cannot preside over the hearing, the SGA President will serve in their absence followed by the succession of officers outlined in the SGA Constitution.

Section 3: Qualifications and Selection Procedures.

- A. Application. Procedures to select the SJB members will be initiated and supervised by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee and the President of the SGA, as set forth in Part B of this section. Recruitment shall be campus-wide, and the pool of candidates should reflect the diversity of the University community. The selection process includes an application and interview. The Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee will serve as a non-voting advisor to the SJB.
- B. Selection Procedure. Applications for membership will be submitted to the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee. Interviews for the SJB will be conducted by a selection committee who shall be appointed by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee and the President of the SGA. The composition of the selection committee shall represent the diversity of the campus community.

- C. Qualifications. Applicants meeting the following minimum qualifications may be invited to participate in the interview portion of the selection process:
1. Currently enrolled as a full-time student at MTSU.
 2. Cumulative GPA of not less than 2.5, which will be maintained throughout the duration of a student's participation.
 3. A minimum of 12 credit hours completed at MTSU.

Section 4: Jurisdiction.

- A. The SJB may be convened to hear cases involving alleged violations of university rules committed by students. This board may also be convened to hear alleged violations that occur in the context of an event sponsored by or related to a student association or organization during University sponsored or recognized activities. In these instances, a recommendation of sanctions will be made to the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.
- B. The board shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide all matters relative to the interpretations of the SGA constitution and any other policies passed by the Senate. In the event of the creation of any other court or board within the SGA, the SJB shall hear appeals from any other established boards or courts. A quorum, defined as simple majority, is required to conduct a hearing.
- C. The SJB will hear cases regarding student parking citations on set Traffic Court dates.

Section 5: Vacancies.

- A. Vacancies that cannot be filled by alternate board members will be filled by a process developed by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee in consultation with the President of the SGA.

Section 6: Appeals.

- A. Matters in which SJB exercised original jurisdiction may be appealed to the Vice President for Student Affairs consistent with the procedures outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct*. The policies and procedures enacted by the SJB shall be consistent with those contained within the *Student Code of Conduct*.

ARTICLE VII

Direct Legislation

Section 1. Presentation of Petition.

- A. Any student upon presentation of a petition signed by fifty (50) or more currently enrolled students at the University shall be allowed to introduce to the Senate the specific legislation called for in the aforementioned petition. One petition shall allow the introduction of only one piece of legislation. It shall be the responsibility of the petitioning student to present at the time of introduction fifty (50) copies of said student's

legislation. The signed petition must be presented to the Vice President at least five (5) class days prior to the presentation of the petition to the Senate. Failure to present the petition to the Vice President will delay consideration by the Senate.

ARTICLE VIII

Financial Responsibility

Section 1: Budget submission.

- A. By the end of the first four (4) weeks of the fall semester, the President of the SGA shall submit to the Senate for approval a budget setting forth a general outline of proposed expenditures and anticipated income from all sources for the coming school year (fall, spring, and summer semesters). At the time of submitting the budget to the Senate, the President shall introduce a general appropriation bill to authorize all the proposed expenditures set forth in the budget. Failure to submit the budget to the Senate by the President of the SGA or any misuse of the budget by the President or any other member of the SGA constitutes grounds for impeachment.

Section 2: Executive Branch Scholarship Memorandum.

- A. The President of the SGA must submit a “Memorandum” detailing the scholarship allocations and hour requirements of the SGA Executive Board for the next academic year six (6) weeks before campaigning begins for spring elections. The SGA Senate must approve the Memorandum before it can be sent to the Vice President of Student Affairs for final approval and implementation.

Section 3: Compliance with University Procedures.

- A. No money shall be expended except in accordance with the procedures established by the University.

Section 4: Compliance with University Business Office.

- A. The University Business Office shall have the authority to prescribe any additional procedural measures for the handling of SGA funds.

ARTICLE IX

Removal of an SGA Executive Board Member from Office

Section 1: Any Executive Board member may be removed from office by means of impeachment by the SGA Senate.

Section 2: Any Senator may create Articles of Impeachment, though the articles they create can only be presented by a member of the Internal Affairs committee.

Section 3: The Internal Affairs committee shall have the sole power to draw up Articles of Impeachment. The committee will review and vote on the proposed Articles of Impeachment and if passed by a 2/3 majority of the committee the Articles of Impeachment will be presented to the full Senate.

Section 4: An impeachable offense will be classified as any act of the Executive Board member in questions' failure to faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities of their respective office listed in the SGA Constitution.

Section 5: Impeachment proceedings to remove an Executive Board member from office shall be handled as follows:

- A. A member of the Internal Affairs Committee will create Articles of Impeachment in the form of a bill and submit the bill to their committee.
- B. The member shall then file a formal complaint to the SGA Attorney General and the Attorney General shall submit a letter to the SGA Advisor asking for permission to investigate the Executive Board member(s) named in the formal complaint.
- C. Should the Attorney General be approved to investigate, they will have the authority to access any documents, testimonies, or other mentions of evidence that they require to further their investigation.
- D. When the investigation is completed, the Attorney General will turn all evidence gathered from the investigation to the Internal Affairs Committee.
- E. The Internal Affairs Committee will receive all of the evidence gathered by the Attorney General and conduct a meeting to determine if the offense is feasible enough to impeach the member in question.
- F. During a meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee, quorum must be met and the Internal Affairs Committee will amend, debate, and vote on the submitted Articles of Impeachment. The vote shall require a 2/3 majority in favor of the Articles of Impeachment to pass and send the legislation to the full Senate for consideration and removal of the Executive Board member in question.
- G. Should the Articles of Impeachment bill pass through committee, it will be brought before the full Senate which will hold a hearing with the only business being the Articles of Impeachment and the member(s) in question.
- H. During the Impeachment Hearing, the Attorney General shall present the case against the accused using the grievances listed in the Articles of Impeachment bill and any form of incriminating evidence uncovered by the Attorney General in their investigation. After the Executive Board member(s) in question and the Attorney General have presented their cases, if they are present, the Executive Board member(s) with charges filed against them may present their case to the full Senate. After the Executive Board member(s) in question and the Attorney General have presented their cases, the Senate will vote on the Articles of Impeachment.
- I. If a 2/3 majority of Senators vote in favor of impeachment, the Executive Board member(s) in question will be removed from their elected/appointed office(s) effective immediately.

- J. Should the Articles of Impeachment be brought against the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Internal Affairs committee will take over all investigative matters as well as presenting the case against the accused.

Section 6: Any official who has been removed from office pursuant to Article IX shall not be permitted to hold any office or serve in any other capacity within the Student Government Association for the remainder of their attendance at Middle Tennessee State University.

ARTICLE X

Removal of an SGA Senator from Office

Section 1: Removal of Appointed Officials.

- A. Any Senator may be removed from their position by their appointee. If the removal involves a position that had previously been approved by the Senate, a 2/3 majority vote of Senators present is required for Removal. This Section applies only to executive appointments.

Section 2: Removal of Elected Officials.

- A. Any Senator for the SGA shall be removed from their office by means of impeachment.

Section 3: Procedures to remove a Senator shall be handled as follows:

- A. The Internal Affairs Committee shall have the sole power to draw up Articles of Impeachment, which shall be presented to the Senate and requires a 2/3 majority vote should the Internal Affairs Committee deem the offense impeachable.
- B. The following are impeachable offenses: more than three (3) unexcused absences or two (2) consecutive absences in a semester (fall or spring), failure to acquire required or more SGA approved hours, and failure to maintain required minimum grade point average.
- C. In extreme circumstances, Internal Affairs may draw up articles of impeachment if a Senator has on multiple occasions exhibited behavior not in compliance with the statement of governing principles for members of Student Government as outlined in Article II.
- D. At the time of an impeachment, the Internal Affairs Committee Chair shall consult the Attorney General to address the exact process of an impeachment. The Attorney General will be required to attend impeachments hearings of the Internal Affairs Committee in order to answer questions the committee may have. The Internal Affairs Committee shall have a meeting to determine if the offense meets the criterion of an impeachable offense, and shall, upon a 2/3 majority vote in favor of impeachment, present an article of impeachment in the form of a bill to the Senate body.
- E. The Senator who has Articles of Impeachment drawn up against them shall, if they are present, have the opportunity to make their case to the Senate why they should not be impeached. Following the Senator, the Chair of Internal Affairs shall present reasons for the Senator's impeachment. Once the Senator and Chair of Internal Affairs have

presented their cases to the Senate, the Senate shall vote. Should the Senator not be present, the Chair of Internal affairs shall present the reasons for the Senator's Impeachment, and then the Senate shall vote on the Article(s) of impeachment.

- F. A vote of 2/3 majority in favor of an Article of Impeachment shall result in the removal from office.

Section 4: Articles of Impeachment.

- A. The Internal Affairs Committee shall have the sole power to draw up Articles of Impeachment with a 2/3 vote of committee members present. The chairman of Internal Affairs shall preside over all impeachment procedures. The Internal Affairs Committee shall be the sole acting party in drawing up Articles of Impeachment and submitting them to the Senate.

Section 5: Impeachment Power.

- A. The Senate shall have sole power of impeachment and removing Senators from office.

Section 6: Barring from Office.

- A. Any official who has been removed from office pursuant to Article IX or Article X shall not be permitted to hold any office or serve in any other capacity within the SGA for the remainder of their attendance at the University.

Section 7: Procedures for Resignation.

- A. If a Senator chooses to resign from their office, they must submit a letter of resignation to the SGAVice President and the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs before acquiring three (3) unexcused absences or two (2) consecutive unexcused absences.
- B. If a Senator resigns, the SGA Vice President and the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs shall consider if the reasons for resignation are excusable, unforeseeable, or understandably personal. If the reasons for resignation are deemed to be such, the resigning official shall be permitted to run for and hold any office or serve in any capacity in the SGA beginning the next academic year, provided they meet requirements of office outlined in the SGA Constitution and Electoral Act.
- C. If the Senator fails to submit a letter of resignation before having three (3) unexcused absences or two (2) consecutive unexcused absences, they will have the same restrictions as if they were impeached following the procedures set forth in Article X of the SGA Constitution.
- D. If an executive board member chooses to resign, they shall submit a letter of resignation to the office of the SGA (SGA) President and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.
- E. If an executive board member resigns, the SGA President and the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs shall consider if the reasons for resignation are excusable, unforeseeable, or understandably personal. If the reasons for resignation are deemed to be such, the resigning official shall be permitted to hold any office or serve in any capacity

in the SGA beginning the next academic year, provided they meet requirements of office outlined in the SGA Constitution and Electoral Act.

- F. A Senator or Executive Board member may only utilize the procedure outlined in this section once in the duration of their academic career at MTSU.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

Section 1: Proposal and Approval.

- A. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the SGA Senate at any two regular meetings, or by petition of the student body signed by at least five hundred (500) students. Any amendment proposed by petition shall be brought to immediate vote of the student body. Amendments proposed in the Senate shall be approved only by a two-thirds vote at two regular meetings. Upon approval by Senate, the proposed amendment shall be presented to the students of the University in a referendum that shall be publicized for at least two weeks in advance. If said amendment is approved by a two-thirds vote of the students voting, the amendment shall then become a part of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XII

Enactment

This Constitution shall go into effect May 1st, 2008.

Revised on 06/26/2023