

CONSTITUTION

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Lamar State College-Port Arthur, in order to provide an officially recognized and representative student organization to identify and represent student interests; to promote responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision-making processes of the College; to enhance the quality and scope of education and student life at the College; to provide the official voice through which student opinion may be expressed; to investigate student problems and take appropriate action; to facilitate communication between and among all College and civic arenas and the student body; and to advance the general welfare of the student body do hereby adopt and establish this constitution.

Article I. Name

Section I. This organization shall be officially known as the Student Government Association of Lamar State College-Port Arthur, hereinafter referred to as SGA.

Article II. Purposes

Section I. The purpose of this organization shall be as outlined in the Preamble of this Constitution.

Article III. Organization

Section I. The SGA shall represent all duly registered students of Lamar State College-Port Arthur

Section II. The SGA shall exercise its authority through the Constitution as hereinafter provided.

Section III. The governing structure of the SGA shall consist of three distinct branches: Executive, Judicial, and Legislative. The Legislative branch shall be known as the Student Senate.

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Article IV. Qualifications of Members

- Section I. To become a candidate, to hold office or to represent the SGA, a student must comply with the Lamar State College-Port Arthur Policy for Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities and with the eligibility requirements of the office.
- Section II. To become a candidate, to hold office, or to represent the SGA, a student must be of good moral character as demonstrated by their standing in the community and on campus.
- Section III. To become a candidate, to hold the elected office of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Senator-At-Large, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of filing for office. A full-time student is one enrolled for a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours at Lamar State College-Port Arthur.
- Section IV. To be a Senator appointed by a department or a recognized campus organization, the student must have completed at least twelve (12) semester hours, must be enrolled, and continue to be enrolled throughout his/her appointed term, for a minimum of six (6) semester hours.
- Section V. To become a candidate, to hold office, or to represent the SGA, a student must have and maintain throughout his/her term in office a 2.5 or better grade point average.

Article V. Executive Branch

- Section I. All executive powers shall be vested in the Executive Branch of the SGA.
- Section II. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, the Vice President, Secretary, the Executive Committee, and the Executive Cabinet.
- Section III. The chief executive officer shall be the President, who shall be elected by the student body during the annual general election as specified in the By-laws.
- Section IV. Qualifications for the office of President:

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1. Must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours of academic credits at Lamar State College-Port Arthur at the time of filing for office.
2. Must have been enrolled in Lamar State College-Port Arthur at least one long semester immediately prior to filing. (Summer I and Summer II shall constitute one long semester.)
3. Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. (12 semester hours)
4. Must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 or better.

Section V. The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Call special meetings of the Student Senate and all SGA committees.
2. Appoint such committees as are necessary for carrying out appropriate SGA/student body business.
3. Make appointments necessary and in accord with the By-laws for the fulfillment of the responsibilities and duties of the Executive and Judicial branches.
4. Approve or disapprove all resolutions within one week of their passage.
5. Act as an ex-officio member of all SGA committees.
6. Serve as chairman of the Executive Cabinet.
7. Serve as the official representative of the student body at local and statewide leadership meetings and conferences.
8. Perform any and all duties properly incumbent of the Chief Executive of the SGA.
9. Perform any and all duties listed in the By-laws.
10. Appoint the Election Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Programming Committee.

Section VI. In the event of the inability of the President to fulfill the duties of the office, or upon removal or resignation from office, the Vice President shall serve as acting President and shall assume the office of the President upon a vote of confidence by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership present at the next regular meeting. Should the Vice President fail to obtain this vote of confidence, the SGA shall elect one of their

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membership to the office of President.

Section VII. Qualifications of the Vice President:

1. To hold the office of Vice President, a student must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours of academic credits at Lamar State College-Port Arthur at the time of filing for office.
2. Must have been enrolled in Lamar State College-Port Arthur at least one long semester immediately prior to filing for office. (Summer I and Summer II shall constitute one long semester.)
3. Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. (12 semester hours)
4. Must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 or better.

Section VIII. Duties of the Vice President:

1. Assist the President with assigned responsibilities.
2. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate committee.
3. Serve as President of the Student Senate.
4. Serve as chairman of the Election Commission except when running for an elected office, in which case the President of the SGA will appoint a new chairman.
5. Perform any and all duties incumbent of the Vice President of the SGA.
6. Perform any and all duties as listed in the By-laws.
7. Attend local and statewide leadership meetings and conferences.

Section IX. Qualifications of the Secretary:

1. Must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours of academic credits at Lamar State College-Port Arthur at the time of filing for office
2. Must have been enrolled in Lamar State College-Port Arthur at least one long semester immediately prior to filing. (Summer I and Summer II shall constitute one long semester.)
3. Must be currently enrolled as a full-time at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. (12 semester hours)

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4. Must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 or better.

Section X. Duties of the Secretary:

1. Keep a record of attendance at the meetings of the Student Senate and the Executive Cabinet.
2. Keep accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Student Senate and Executive Cabinet, record and present the reports of these meetings.
3. Provide each Senator of the Student Senate, the President of the College, the Dean of Student Services, the Director of Student Activities and other pertinent College faculty, staff, and administration with a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting by the next regular meeting of the Student Senate.
4. Maintain an accurate, permanent file of all minutes and resolutions of Student Senate meetings.
5. Perform any and all duties properly incumbent to the Secretary of the SGA.
6. Perform any and all duties listed in the By-laws.
7. Attend local and statewide leadership meetings and conferences as deemed necessary.

Section XI. The Executive Committee shall consist of the SGA President, the SGA Vice President, and the SGA Secretary.

Section XII. The Executive Cabinet shall be the major student advisory council to the SGA President. It shall meet at least once per long semester to discuss concerns pertinent to the student body and to offer advice to the President as he initiates programs on behalf of the student body.

The Executive Cabinet shall include the following members, as well as those included in the By-laws:

1. SGA Vice President.
2. SGA Secretary.
3. The five (5) elected Senators At Large.
4. Three (3) people appointed by the SGA President.

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Section XIII. Under the auspices of the SGA, committees shall be formed in order to organize and implement events of pertinent interest to the student body. The chairmen and members of these committees shall be appointed by the Vice President of the SGA.

Article VI. Judicial Branch

Section I. All judicial power shall be vested in the Judicial Branch of the SGA of Lamar State College-Port Arthur.

Section II. The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Student Supreme Court and the Student Traffic Court.

Section III. The Student Supreme Court shall be composed of nine to twelve (9-12) students appointed by the President with the approval of the Student Senate, in accordance with the By-laws. The Student Supreme Court may have original jurisdiction in cases and controversies arising under this constitution concerning questions of fact and law in student theft cases, and in cases of disciplinary action which may be delegated to it by the chief Student Services personnel officer of the College.

Section IV. The Student Traffic Court shall be composed of nine (9) students appointed by the President with the approval of the Student Senate, in accordance with the By-laws. The Student Traffic Court shall have original jurisdiction over appeals of traffic and parking citations.

Section V. Each court of the Judicial Branch shall operate under the procedures established for each specific court that do not violate in any manner the clauses in the SGA Constitution or By-laws, as well as, Lamar State College-Port Arthur Policies/Handbook or local, state, or federal laws.

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Article VII. Legislative Branch

- Section I. All legislative powers shall be vested in the Student Senate of the SGA. The Student Senate shall be the official group which shall identify student opinion and formulate recommendations for student policy.
- Section II. The Student Senate shall include the following officers:
1. President of the Student Senate who shall be the SGA Vice President.
 2. Secretary who shall be the SGA Secretary.
 3. Other pro-temp officers as duly elected by the Student Senate in accordance with the By-laws.
- Section III. The membership of the Student Senate shall consist of the following elected and appointed students:
1. Five (5) senators elected at-large in the general election.
 2. One (1) member appointed from each officially registered student organization as defined by the Office of Student Organizations.
- Section IV. Student Senate committees shall be established to effectively and efficiently facilitate student body business. All business should emerge from a committee, if possible, before being considered by the Student Senate.
- Section V. A quorum must exist at all Student Senate meetings and special meetings in order to conduct any new or old business. A quorum shall be defined as a simple majority (half plus one) of the Senate membership, excluding the President of the Senate and the Secretary.
- Section VI. Meetings of the Student Senate shall be held twice a month during the long semesters in accordance with the By-laws.
- Section VII. Special meetings of the Student Senate shall be called by a quorum of the Senate, by request of the SGA President or by petition of 25 members of the student body. Announcement of special meetings must be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. A reasonable effort will be made by the SGA to contact and inform each senator. A statement of purpose must accompany any request for a special meeting.
- Section VIII. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the reference for any points of order not specifically addressed in the Constitution and By-laws.

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Article VIII. Finances

- Section I. A proposed annual budget and the final working budget for the academic year shall be presented by the SGA President to the Student Fee Advisory Committee and shall be approved by a majority vote.
- Section II. Expenditures other than those approved in the budget shall be subject to approval of the SGA officers in accordance with the By-laws and authorized by the Student Fee Advisory Committee.
- Section III. All money received, for whatever purposes, will be deposited in the Student Account of Lamar State College-Port Arthur or the Lamar State College-Port Arthur Finance Office.
- Section IV. All disbursements will be made upon requisition to the Student Accounting Office and/or the Lamar State College-Port Arthur Finance Office.

Article IX. By-laws

- Section I. The SGA By-laws shall be those rules clarifying, edifying, and governing the implementation and operation of the SGA Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches and their memberships, as well as any SGA committee and its respective membership. These By-laws may not rescind, negate, or conflict with any part of the Constitution or its amendments, or any policy or procedure set by the TSU System or local, state, and national governments.
- Section II. By-laws must be introduced and voted upon for approval by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of a quorum of the voting membership of the Student Senate.

Article X. Constitutional Amendments

- Section I. Amendments to this constitution shall require an affirmation of two-thirds (2/3) of a quorum of the voting membership of the Student Senate present at a regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting, be signed by the SGA President, and endorsed by the President of the university after the approval of a majority of students participating in a Constitutional referendum. All approved amendments will be incorporated into the body of the Constitution in the appropriate place. Any proposed amendment,

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together with the parts of the Constitution affected, shall be posted around campus in highly visible student traffic areas at least one week prior to the election for that amendment.

- Section II. A proposed Constitution initiated by either of the above procedures will be ratified upon receiving a majority of the ballots cast at the next general election, or at a special election called by the Student Senate.

Article XI. Proposed Constitutions

- Section I. A proposed Constitution must originate in the Student Senate and be recommended by two-thirds (2/3) of its total voting membership and published at least two (2) weeks before it shall be submitted to the members of the SGA. A new Constitution may also be proposed if it originates with a constitutional commission, consisting of no less than eight (8) members. Such a commission must be established by the Student Senate on petition of a number of students equal to thirty (30) percent or greater than the total number of ballots cast in the last general election.

- Section II. A proposed Constitution initiated by either of the above procedures will be ratified upon receiving a majority of the ballots cast at the next general election, or at a special election called by the Student Senate.

Article XII. Ratification

- Section I. All previous SGA Constitutions are null and void.
- Section II. All SGA policies now in effect and not in conflict with any provision of the Constitution and By-laws are hereby declared to be binding and valid as statutory enactments.
- Section III. All officials elected under the requirements of the previous Constitution, which this Constitution supersedes, shall remain in their corresponding offices and exercise their duties and responsibilities as set forth in this Constitution and By-laws until their terms of office expire.

Revised May 8, 2015