

# **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:** The name of the organization shall be the **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**.

**Section 2:** The purpose of the Student Government Association of Middle Tennessee State University is to provide a formal process for student input into the governance of the institution, to control all matters which are delegated to the Student Government Association by the administration of Middle Tennessee State 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 Student Government Association shall strive to represent the best interest of the student body as a whole and to reflect favorably upon Middle Tennessee State University.

**Section 3:** 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:** The powers of the Student Government Association of Middle Tennessee State University shall be divided into three distinct branches; those powers which are legislative shall be given to the Student Government Association Senate, those which are executive to the President and Vice Presidents of the Student Government Association, and those which are judicial to the Student Judicial Board.

## **ARTICLE II**

## **Statement of Governing Principles**

In all matters, members of the Student Government Association 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:

**Section 1: Honesty.** All members of the Student Government Association shall uphold the most stringent level of honesty with their colleagues, the administration of MTSU, the general public, and above all, the students at Middle Tennessee State University, whose welfare they are pledged.

**Section 2: Recognition of basic human rights.** All people are deserving of equal treatment and equal service. Neither the Student Government Association, nor any representative thereof, shall violate these rights on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.

**Section 3: Academic Integrity.** The members of the Student Government Association 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.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Voting**

**Section 1:** 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 Student Government Association 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 Associate Vice President/Dean of Students or designee shall finally determine any question as to voting eligibility.

**Section 2:** 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.

**Section 3:** 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 Student Government Association, for the development of policy and the implementation of legislation. It shall be composed of the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Marketing, and the Vice President of Campus Relations.
- B. The members of the Executive Branch shall annually review the operations and responsibilities of the Executive Branch and its committees.
- C. Eligibility for executive branch officers:
  - 1. Be a full or part-time student;
  - 2. Have accumulated a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours from any accredited institution, or be a graduate student at the time of the candidacy;
  - 3. Have been enrolled at least (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 the candidacy and maintain such average throughout the term of office.
  - 5. Has served for at least 20 weeks as a Senate member (as defined by the university semester calendar) for the positions of President and Executive Vice President and eight weeks (as defined by the university calendar) for the positions of Vice President of Marketing and Vice President of Campus Relations and is in standing with the MTSU Student Government Association
- D. In the event an executive officer fails to maintain the qualifications of his/her position, he/she shall be removed from office immediately.

### **Section 2: Terms of Office**

- A. The Executive Board is comprised of the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Marketing, and the Vice President of Campus Relations.
- B. The Executive Board 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.
- C. No member of the Executive Board shall be eligible to serve concurrently in any other office within the Student Government Association.

### **Section 3: President**

- A. During the transition period between the certification of the election by the Vice President of Campus Relations and the first Monday of May the President-elect shall 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 his/her Cabinet.
- B. Duties and Responsibilities of the President:
  - 1. The President shall see that all responsibilities delegated to the Student Government Association are faithfully performed.
  - 2. The President shall be the official representative of the student body.

3. The President shall be empowered to appoint all officials, assistants, and committees within the Student Government Association necessary to discharge his/her duties with the approval of the Student Senate except as otherwise noted.
4. The President shall be required to attend at least four Senate meetings per semester.
5. The President shall convene all meetings of the Administrative Cabinet.
6. The President shall be required to deliver a report concerning legislative updates and/or on the affairs of the SGA at Senate meetings that he/she attends.
7. The President shall appoint replacements for any Senate seat that may be vacant. Such appointments require Senate approval by a simple majority vote.
8. The President shall have the power of line item veto over bills passed by the Senate. His/her veto may be overridden by two-thirds vote of the Senate.
9. Shall designate the head delegate for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature. Shall coordinate the selection process of delegates, in addition to any other logistical organization.

**Section 4: Administrative Cabinet**

- A. The President may appoint, with the approval of the Senate, an Administrative Cabinet as he or she shall deem necessary to execute his or her office.
- B. The Administrative Cabinet consists of the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Marketing, and the Vice President of Campus Relations. Cabinet positions may also include:
  1. Attorney General
    - a. Policies and Procedures for the Attorney General are as follows:
      1. No citation appeal shall be heard by the Attorney General or the Student Judicial Board if the appeal is not submitted within fifteen (15) calendar days of the given citation date. Exceptions of extenuating circumstances conflicting with this time limit will be taken into consideration and determined by the Attorney General and/or the Student Judicial Board on a case-by-case basis.
      2. Citations shall only be voided if the reason for appeal falls under one of three categories:
        - A. An emergency situation occurred hindering proper parking and resulting in a citation.
        - B. An erroneous citation was given to the student.
        - C. A student receives a “No Campus Permit” violation and was parked in the appropriate lot according to the student’s MTSU issued decal.
      3. A student can have up to three (3) citations voided for an alleged violation of “No Campus Permit” and parked in a lot denoted for students (Green) per semester by the Parking Services Office. If the citation is taken to the Parking Services Office within seven (7) days of receiving the citation, the citation will be taken off of the student’s account and an appeal is not necessary. However, if the student is unable to take the citation(s) to Parking Services within the seven (7) day time frame, an appeal to the Attorney General within fifteen (15) calendar days of the citation issuance will be necessary in order for the citation(s) to be taken off of the student’s account. Parking Services will void three (3) “No Campus Permit” citations (as long as the citations were given in a “Green” lot and

taken to the Parking Services Office within 7 days), and the Attorney General/Student Judicial Board will void an additional three (3) citations (as long as the citations were given in a “Green” lot and the appeal was submitted within 15 calendar days of the citation issuance) with a total of six (6) “No Campus Permit” citation (parked in Green) voids per semester.

4. Only citations issued to students shall be heard by the Attorney General and/or the Student Judicial Board. Appeals made by faculty, staff, or visitors shall be heard by the University Traffic Committee.

5. Once a decision on a citation appeal is made by the Attorney General or the Student Judicial Board, the decision is final and cannot be repeatedly appealed.

6. Students are not required to attend a hearing for their appeal to be processed. The same standards and decision-making requirements are applied with or without a hearing. If the hearing is waived, the decision is made solely by the Attorney General based off the information provided by the student in the online appeal.

7. Students may provide pictures or other documentation as evidence of an emergency or erroneous citation to further prove their case.

8. Students may pay their citations in order to remove the hold from their account before the appeal is made or before an appeal decision is made. Paying the citation is not an admittance of guilt, and if the student is found to not be responsible for the citation, the student’s account will be reimbursed the amount of the citation.

9. The Attorney General may refer any appeal to the Student Judicial Board for any reason, even if the student chose to waive their hearing. However, the student is not required to attend the hearing.

10. If a student chooses to have a hearing and fails to appear for that hearing, then the appeal is automatically denied.

11. The Attorney General and the Student Judicial Board retain the right to receive additional information about a case from the Parking Services Office.

12. The Attorney General and the Student Judicial Board retain the right to make exceptions to any of the above policies due to extenuating circumstances and exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

13. Additional parking rules and regulations can be found in the “Traffic and Parking Regulations” handbook provided by the Parking Services Office.

14. Student appeals are to be submitted online at [www.mtsu.edu/sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/sga) under “Court of Traffic Appeals.”

## 2. Homecoming Director

- a. Shall work with the Director of Leadership and Service and other necessary offices to coordinate MTSU Homecoming activities.
- b. At their discretion, shall appoint a homecoming committee to assist in performing the duties of the office.
- c. Coordinate marketing efforts with the Vice President of Marketing for all events and affiliated promotional material.

## 3. Philanthropic Coordinator

- a. Responsible for coordinating all philanthropic programs sponsored by the Student Government Association.

- b. Habitat for Humanity: Responsible for working closely with a representative from the office of Leadership and Service in order to coordinate with Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build efforts.
  - b. Responsible for coordinating “Make-A-Difference Week.”
  - c. Coordinate marketing efforts with the Vice President of Marketing to promote all events and/or activities.
- C. The President may appoint an Executive Assistant whose duties may include:
  - 1. Responsibility for assisting the President and Vice Presidents in communicating with the SGA or with outside organizations as delegated.
  - 2. Attendance at campus meetings on behalf of the SGA as delegated by the SGA President and/or Vice Presidents.
  - 3. Responsibility to transfer all notes and legislation passed for the academic year to the Albert Gore Research Center at the end of the President’s term.
- D. Additional cabinet positions may be created by the President as needed for an academic year with simple majority approval of the Senate.
- E. No member of the Administrative Cabinet shall be eligible to serve concurrently in any other office within the Student Government Association.
- F. Cabinet members shall be required to attend all meetings of the Administrative Cabinet unless otherwise excused by the President.

**Section 5: Executive Vice President**

- A. The Executive Vice President shall work closely with the outgoing Executive Vice President to ensure a smooth transition of power and consistency of service for the student body.
- B. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice President:
  - 1. Shall preside over the Student Senate.
  - 2. In the event of a tie in the Senate, he/she shall have the power to cast the deciding vote.
  - 3. Shall assume responsibility for such other duties as may be assigned, or by the President of the Student Government Association.
  - 4. Shall preside in the absence of the President at Student Government meetings or functions.
  - 6. Shall serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall report to the President any information regarding their activities.
  - 7. Shall serve as the director of Freshman Council in the selection process and throughout the year.

**Section 6: Vice President of Marketing**

- A. The Vice President of Marketing shall be in charge of public relations for the Student Government Association, and will direct the marketing of Student Government programs.
- B. Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice President of Marketing:
  - 1. Help keep all students informed of important issues concerning them.

2. Work closely with the Office of Leadership and Service to serve as the liaison between student organizations, the Senate, and President of the Student Government Association.
3. Responsible for assisting the President with coordinating and organizing all Student Government Association Ad Hoc committees, and University Standing committee assignments.
4. Oversee regular updates of the SGA website to keep students informed and interested in SGA.
5. Publicize all events sponsored by SGA. Coordinate advertising for events with officers, senators or committee chairs.
6. Create marketing materials for the SGA. Sponsored marketing activities may be included, as well, such as, but not exclusive to, Meet and Greets and promotional weeks.
7. Perform other duties assigned to him/her by the President of the Student Government Association.
8. Work closely with the Executive Vice President and President to provide a strong voice for all students.
9. May appoint a Legislative Liaison from within the Senate to serve on the Public Relations Committee to advocate Senate progress to the student body.

**Section 7: Vice President of Campus Relations.**

- A. The Vice President of Campus Relations shall preside over the Election Commission and oversee all Student Government Association elections.
- B. Election Duties and Responsibilities:
  1. Appoint members of the Election Commission and present nominees to the Senate for approval. Appointees must receive Senate approval by simple majority.
  2. Schedule all SGA Elections, referendum, Homecoming elections, and special elections.
- C. Programming events pertaining to the SGA shall be coordinated by the Vice President of Campus Relations. These events may be the annual banquet, athletic spirit trips, and others as deemed appropriate.

**Section 8: Succession of office**

- A. In the event that the office of the President of the Student Government Association shall be vacated, the Executive Vice President shall assume the duties of the President and all the duties and responsibilities thereof.
- B. Should the President and the Executive Vice President both be prevented from continuing in office, the Vice President of Marketing shall succeed to the office of President, and shall assume all the duties and responsibilities thereof.
- C. In the event that the office of Executive Vice President and Vice President of Marketing shall be vacated, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate shall immediately fill the position of 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.
- D. If the Executive Vice President or Vice President of Marketing position becomes vacant, the Election Commission shall then call for a new election. The election shall be held within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the vacancy. In the event there are less than

twenty-one (21) calendar days remaining in the semester or in the term of the Vice President, the election will be held during the next regularly scheduled election.

- E. The President may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until such time as the election can be held. This appointment would require simple majority approval by the Senate.

**Section 9:** Oath of office

All elected 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, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ to the best of my ability.”

**Section 10:** Release of grades.

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, his/her designee and/or the Vice President of Campus Relations. It shall be the responsibility of the Student Government Association administrative advisor to monitor these records each grading period.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **The Legislative Branch**

**Section 1:** Legislative Power.

The legislative power shall be vested in the Student Government Association, which shall consist of a Senate.

**Section 2:** Composition of the Senate.

- A. The Executive Vice President shall be the presiding officer of the Senate. In the event the Executive Vice President is unable to preside, the Senate Pro Tempe will assume this responsibility.
- B. For each college, one (1) Senate seat shall be allocated for every five hundred (500) students enrolled in the college. If a college has between five hundred and one (501) and one thousand (1000) students majoring in it, it shall be appointed two (2) Senate seats, and so forth. Senators elected by college shall be elected during the spring semester.
- C. Freshmen will have a voice on Senate in the form of a Freshman Council. The Freshman Council shall elect their own body of officers and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Senate. The council will have the power to write and present legislation through the Chairman and Vice-Chairman that they elect. Legislation passed by the Freshman Council will be presented at the next Senate meeting for consideration. The council will also aid in the events and philanthropic activities sponsored by the SGA and be under the direction of the Executive Vice President. The Council shall meet a minimum of bimonthly throughout the fall and spring semesters.

- D. There shall be seven (7) At-Large Senate seats allocated. These At-Large seats shall be open to all students, who otherwise meet the standards set forth in Article V, Section 3.
- E. In the event a Senate seat is vacated, the President can appoint a replacement upon approval of the Senate. Qualifications of candidates shall be determined in accordance with the rules set forth in the Electoral Act.
- F. 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 Senate Judiciary committee to show just cause why he/she should not be impeached. After hearing the Senators case, the Judiciary 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 IX.
- G. Veterans will have a voice in the form of a permanent elected Senator. The Senator shall be a current or former member of the United States Military

**Section 3: 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 Middle Tennessee State 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, he/she shall be removed from office immediately.

**Section 4: Session.**

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 Student Government Association, the Executive Vice President, or by a majority of the members of the Senate.

**Section 5: Organization and Procedure.**

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

**Section 6: Limitations.**

No member of the Senate can serve in any other position elected by the student body or appointed as an Administrative Cabinet member by a member of the Executive Branch within the Student Government Association; however, all are eligible for recommendation to positions exterior to the Student Government Association and interior in the form of committees.

**Section 7: Transaction of Business.**

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 8: Bills and Resolutions.**

- A. Any procedure to be considered by the legislature to affect the internal operation of the Student Government Association must be presented in the form of a bill.
- B. Any attempt to affect the operations of any entity exterior to the Student Government Association 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 Student Government Association for his/her 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 Student Government Association for his/her signature by the Executive Vice President immediately following Senate approval. The President may veto any bill within five (5) class days after it has been presented to him/her in person. If the Student Government Association 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 Student Government Association vetoes a bill, then he/she shall return the bill to the Senate for their reconsideration. Any veto of the President of the Student Government Association 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 Student Government Association 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 fifteen (15) class days after the bill has been presented to him/her in person for his/her signature. After fifteen (15) class days, any bill that is not vetoed shall be adopted by the Student Government Association. Any veto of the Vice-President of 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 of Student Affairs is overridden by the Senate, the said legislation will be forwarded to the President of the University and shall become law upon his/her approval.
  4. Resolutions are not subject to veto by the Student Government Association President or the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Direct Legislation**

Any student upon presentation of a petition signed by fifty (50) or more currently enrolled students at Middle Tennessee State 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 Executive 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 Executive Vice President will delay consideration by the Senate.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **The Judicial Branch**

**Section 1:** The judicial powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Judicial Board (SJB), and within other boards as the Student Government Association may establish. The Student Judicial Board will operate under the supervision of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee.

**Section 2:** The Student Judicial Board 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 Student Government Association President will serve in his/her absence followed by the succession of officers outlines in the Student Government Association Constitution.

**Section 3:** Qualifications and Selection Procedures.

- A. Application. Procedures to select the Student Judicial Board members will be initiated and supervised by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee and the President of the Student Government Association, 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 Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee will serve as a non-voting advisor to the SJB.
- B. Selection Procedure. Applications for membership will be submitted to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. Interviews for the SJB will be conducted by a selection committee who shall be appointed by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee and the President of the Student Government Association. 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. Be on "Good Standing" with the University, i.e. members are not permitted to be on academic or disciplinary probation.
  4. 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 Associate Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Student Life.
- B. The board shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide all matters relative to the interpretations of the Student Government Association constitution and any other policies passed by the Senate. In the event of the creation of any other court or board within the Student Government Association, the Student Judicial Board shall hear appeals from any other established boards or courts. A quorum, defined as simple majority, is required to conduct a hearing.
- C. The Student Judicial Board will hear cases regarding student parking citations on set Traffic Court dates.

**Section 5: Vacancies.** Vacancies that cannot be filled by alternate board members will be filled by a process developed by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee in consultation with the President of the Student Government Association.

**Section 6: Appeals.** 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 Student Judicial Board shall be consistent with those contained within the *Student Code of Conduct*.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Financial Responsibility**

**Section 1:** By the end of the first four weeks of the fall semester, the President of the Student Government Association 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 Student Government Association or any misuse of the budget by the President or any other member of the Student Government Association constitutes grounds for impeachment.

**Section 2:** The President of the Student Government Association must submit a “Memorandum” detailing the scholarship allocations and hour requirements of the SGA Executive Board for the next academic year six 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:** No money shall be expended except in accordance with the procedures established by Middle Tennessee State University.

**Section 4:** The University Business Office shall have the authority to prescribe any additional procedural measures for the handling of Student Government Association funds.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Removal from Office**

**Section 1:** 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. Any Senator for the Student Government Association shall be removed from his or her 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 3 Unexcused Absences or 2 consecutive absences in a semester (fall or spring), Failure to acquire 12 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. 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 him or her shall, if he or she be present, have the opportunity to make his or her case to the Senate why he or she 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:** 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:** The Senate shall have sole power of impeachment, and removing Senators from office.

**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.

**Section 7:** Procedures for resignation of an elected or appointed official shall be handled as follows:

- A. If a Senator chooses to resign from his or her office, he or she must submit a letter of resignation to the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Vice 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 Executive 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 Student Government Association beginning the next academic year, provided they meet requirements of office outlined in the Student Government Association 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, he or she will have the same restrictions as if he or she were impeached following the procedures set forth in Article IX of the Student Government Association Constitution.
- D. If an executive board member chooses to resign, he or she shall submit a letter of resignation to the office of the Student Government Association (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 Student Government Association beginning the next academic year, provided they meet requirements of office outlined in the Student Government Association 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 X**

### **Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Student Government Association 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 Middle Tennessee State 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 XI**

### **Enactment**

This Constitution shall go into effect May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

*Revised 1/18/2017*