

Constitution of the Student Government Association: Freshman Council

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro Tennessee

Preamble

We, the students of Middle Tennessee State University, in order to promote the welfare of each freshman 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.

Article I

Definition of Existence

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the **Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University**.

Section 2: The purpose of the Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University is to provide a formal process for incoming freshman input into the governance of the institution, to control all matters which are delegated to the Freshman Council by the administration of Middle Tennessee State University, to work cooperatively in the administration in all matters affecting the welfare of the freshman body, and to promote the best possible understanding between faculty, administration, and freshman students. In all endeavors, the Freshman Council shall strive to represent the best interests of the freshman body as a whole and to reflect favorably upon Middle Tennessee State University.

Section 3: Any person that is considered to be a freshman 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 Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University shall be divided into two distinct branches; those powers which are legislative shall be given to the council, those which are executive to the President, Vice President and remaining chairman of the respected committees of Student Life, Special Events, and Internal Affairs.

Article II

Statement of Governing Principle

In all matters, members of the Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University shall conduct themselves deserving of the high level of trust that the freshman body places in their leadership. Furthermore, members should strive at all times to promote the following principles:

Section 1: Honesty. All members of the Freshman Council shall uphold the most stringent level of honesty with their colleagues, the administration of Middle Tennessee State University, whose welfare they are pledged.

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Section 2: Recognition of basic human rights. All people are deserving of equal treatment and equal service. Neither the freshman council, 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 Freshman Council are representatives of the freshman body, and shall therefore pledge not to commit to infractions of rules prohibiting academic misconduct. All members of the Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University will strive to achieve and maintain the highest standards of academic achievement.

Article III

The Executive Branch

Section 1: Generally

- A. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Freshman Council, for the development of policy and the implementation of legislation. It shall be composed of the President, the Executive Vice President, the Chairman of Student Life, the Chairman of Special Events, and the Chairman of Internal Affairs.
- B. The members of the Executive Branch shall annually review the operations and responsibilities of the Executive Branch and its committees.

Section 2: Terms of Office

- A. The Executive Board is comprised of the President, the Executive Vice President, The Chairman of Student Life, the Chairman of Special Events, and the Chairman of Internal Affairs.
- B. The Executive Board shall be elected by members of each committee respectively and a unanimous, confidential vote.
- C. No member of the Executive Board shall be eligible to serve concurrently in any office within the Freshman Council.

Section 3: Election of Officers

A. All persons who meet the standard set forth in Article 1 Section and have been properly appointed by the Executive Vice President of the Student Government to a current seat within the Freshman Council shall be entitled to vote in any election of an Executive Officer or Committee Chairman that is conducted within the Freshman Council, provided that no student shall retain voting rights and eligibility upon the loss of their respective seat. The right to revoke voting eligibility of any member of the Freshman Council shall be placed upon the joint consensus of the current SGA Vice President, the acting Executive Board, and the Committee of Internal Affairs.

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- B. Voting in elections regarding the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be carried out by secret ballot. Executive elections shall involve all Freshman Council members present at the time of the vote. In order to dispel any doubt in the results of said elections, the tallying of the votes shall be done by a third party who is independent of the entity of Freshman Council, namely the current Executive Vice President of the Student Government Association and other members of SGA.
- C. The elections of the Chairman of Student Life, the Chairman of Special Events, and the Chairman of Internal Affairs shall be performed within their respective committees by a unanimous, confident vote performed by all present members of said committees. A third party shall be required to oversee and mediate each individual election within all committees to ensure that integrity is preserved.

Section 4: Duties of Freshman Council President

- A. The President of the Freshman Council shall oversee the Freshman Council and serve as the middle party between the other members of the Freshman Council and the EVP. The President is responsible for communicating with the members of Freshman Council and the EVP to inform them about Freshman Council meetings, Senate meetings, Executive Council meetings, events, etc. The President shall call all Freshman Council meetings to order and adjourn all Freshman Council meetings. The President shall ensure that the Freshman Council meets the needs of the Freshman Class.

Section 5: Duties of Freshman Council Vice President

- A. The Vice President of the Freshman Council shall take over responsibilities of the President if the President cannot fulfill his/her responsibilities for any reason. The Vice president will be in charge of overseeing the aspects of Freshman Council events and is responsible for assisting the President in any of the Freshman Council related projects.

Section 6: Duties of Freshman Council Secretary

- A. The Secretary of the Freshman Council shall record the minutes of each meeting, keep a file of them, and shall be in charge of recording of roll. The Secretary must also be in charge with the keeping of Council Hours required by each Freshman Council member and is the EVP right hand that assists the EVP with his or her duties.

Section 7: Duties of Executive Vice President of SGA

- A. The Executive Vice President shall be in charge of keeping up with attendance, the Freshman Council budget, Council Hours, etc. The EVP must host one

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Freshman Council retreat and one weekly meeting with the Freshman Council Executive Board and has the power to preside over Freshman Council weekly meetings if necessary; Council Hours can be given at the EVP's discretion.

Article IV

Appointment

Section 1: Composition of the Freshman Council

- A. The Executive Vice President shall be the presiding officer of the Freshman Council until the election of a Freshman Council President.
 - a. The Executive Vice President may continue presiding over the Freshman Council if they are willing, and with the consent of the Freshman Council President.
- B. The Freshman Council shall be composed of a minimum of 25 members and a maximum of 40 members.
- C. The Freshman Council will be appointed in the Fall semester of the academic year.
 - a. In the case that a current member is no longer affiliated with Freshman Council there will be provisions made for a replacement.
- D. The Executive Vice President shall have final authority on the appointment of all Freshman Council members. The Executive Vice President may bring in advisors from the SGA Executive Branch and/or the SGA Senate to assist in the appointment of Freshman Council members.

Section 2: Eligibility

- A. Any student that is classified by MTSU as a freshman, who is taking 12 or more credit hours, shall be eligible to be appointed to the Freshman Council.
- B. Members of the Freshman Council shall have and maintain a 2.50 cumulative grade point average in the Spring Semester following their appointment to retain their membership in the Freshman Council
- C. The Executive Vice President may override the GPA requirement under special, case-by-case, circumstances.

Section 3: Release of Grades

All members of the Freshman Council 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 academic 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.

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Section 4: Session

The Freshman Council shall meet at least weekly, beginning at the earliest convenience after the Executive Vice President has finished determining the membership of the Freshman Council, and continuing until May 1. The Freshman Council shall be required to attend a Joint Meeting with Senate monthly.

Section 5: Oath of Office

All elected members of the Freshman Council shall take and subscribe to the following affirmation: "I do solemnly affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the Freshman Council to the best of my ability."

Article V

The Legislative Branch

Section 1: Transaction of Business

A simple majority of all members of the Freshman Council shall constitute the necessary quorum to do business. The Freshman Council shall prescribe the methods of voting in all legislative matters, but roll calls with the yays and nays entered in the journal shall be taken on any questions when at least one fifth of the members shall call for a roll call.

Section 2: Bills and Resolutions

- A. Any procedure to be considered by the legislature to affect the internal operation of the Freshman Council of the Student Government Association and/or SGA as a whole 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 or Freshman Council must be presented in the form of a resolution.
- C. A bill or resolution may be passed in the following manner:
 - a. If a majority of the Freshman Council approves a bill or resolution, it shall be reviewed by Executive Vice President of the Student Government Association and then sent to the SGA Senate, sponsored by the Freshman Council member who authored the legislation in question or the Executive Vice President of the Student Government Association, for final debate and approval. All Freshman Council legislation must be approved by majority vote in both a caucus and formal meeting of the Senate to be; without receiving a majority vote in both Senate meetings, the proposed piece of Freshman Council legislation will fail and no longer be considered for later enactment.

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- b. Remaining requirements and stipulations for the passage of Freshman Council legislation shall follow the procedures set forth in Article V Section 8 Subsection C sub-sections 2-4 of the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Middle Tennessee State University.

Article VI

Removal from Office

Section 1: Removal of Freshman Council members.

Any member may be removed from their position by the Executive Vice President. If the removal involves a position that had previously been approved by the Executive Vice President, a simple majority vote of the Freshman Council is required for removal by means of impeachment and conviction of malfeasance in office.

Section 2: Procedures to remove a Freshman Council member shall be handled as follows:

- A. If a particular member has not upheld his or her duties as a member of the Freshman Council, The Executive Vice President shall have final authority in the situation to remove the person from office.
- B. The Freshman Council shall have solo power of impeachment, and possible removal from office. The Vice President of the Freshman Council shall preside over the hearing. Should charges be brought against the Vice President of the Freshman Council, the Freshman Council President shall preside over the hearing and vice versa.
- C. A bill shall be submitted to the floor of the Freshman Council by any member outlining reasons for impeachment. With a simple majority approval of the resolution, the President of the Freshman Council shall appoint a committee of 7 members for the purposes of general investigation. If the committee determines that their findings support the Articles of Impeachment. If this resolution passes by a simple majority, then the Vice President will preside over the final impeachment hearing.
- D. Freshman Council members are also able to turn in a written statement or verbal agreement of resignation to the Executive Vice President.
- E. Any member who has been removed from office pursuant to Article VI, section 1 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 this institution.

Section 3: Sever From Executive Vice President

- A. In the event that the Executive Vice President is no longer able to uphold his or her duties to the Freshman Council or if the EVP is impeached in the Senate, The

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EVP shall be removed as overseer of the Freshman Council by a vote of No Confidence.

Article VII

Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Freshman Council of Middle Tennessee State University at any two regular meetings, or by the petition of the freshman body signed by at least 50 freshmen. Any amendments proposed by petition shall be brought to immediate vote of the student body. Amendments proposed on the Freshman Council floor shall be approved only by two-thirds vote at two regular meetings.

Article VIII

Enactment

This Constitution shall go into effect September 1, 2014