

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT SENATE

May 19, 1948

ARTICLE I. PREAMBLE

We, the students of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, in order to form an effective government for determining and conducting matters of general student concern, establish the following constitution:

ARTICLE II. OBJECT

- SECTION I.** The object of the student government will be to act in an executive capacity for the student body.
- SECTION II.** To represent the student body both on and off the campus of the College.
- SECTION III.** To serve as a liaison organization between faculty, the student body, and other college when relating to student activities.

ARTICLE III. STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

- SECTION I.** (Will prepare own constitution)

ARTICLE IV. THE STUDENT SENATE

- SECTION I.** The representative body of the student government shall be the Student Senate.
- SECTION II.** Representation
- (a) Each dormitory shall elect one Student Senator as prescribed in Section IV, Article IV.
 - (b) Each college housing area shall elect one Student Senator. One student will be selected from each Battalion of Corps at Annex.
 - (c) There shall be elected two Student Senators from the Day Students.
 - (d) The vice-presidents of the classes shall be members of the Student Senate.
 - (e) There shall be a number of Student Senators elected at large to bring the membership to a total of forty-two (42) members.

SECTION III. Organization

- (a) The Student Senate shall have the following officers:
 - (1) President, whose duty it is
 - (i) To call meetings of the Student Senate
 - (ii) To duly inform all members of the Student Senate of the meetings and the agenda to be followed
 - (iii) To supervise and coordinate all activities of the Student Senate
 - (iv) To serve in the capacity as is delegated to him
 - (v) To preside over all meetings of the Student Senate

- (2) Secretary, whose duty it is
 - (i) To handle all correspondence of the Student Senate
 - (ii) To keep an accurate record of all regular Student Senate meetings, all regular committee meetings and all sub-committee meetings
 - (iii) To send to each Senator a copy of the previous meeting within ten days after the meeting
 - (3) Parliamentarian, whose duty it is
 - (i) To enforce the use of parliamentary procedure as stated in Robert's Rules of Order
 - (ii) To decide points of parliamentary procedure
 - (iii) To endeavor to educate the Senators in the rules of parliamentary procedure.
 - (4) Chairmen of standing committees. They shall be elected by the committees themselves. It shall be their duty to
 - (i) Preside over meetings of his committee
 - (ii) To report minutes of regular meetings of his committee to the Secretary of the Student Senate
 - (iii) To inform members and call meetings of his committee.
- (b) Election of Officers. The Student Senate shall have the power to elect its officers from its membership.
- (c) Standing Committees. There shall be the following standing committees.
- (1) Executive Committee. It shall consist of seven (7) members selected by the Student Senate from its own membership. It shall consider all matters of business brought before the student government and shall refer them to the appropriate agency. It shall prepare an agenda of business for the meetings of the Student Senate. It shall concern itself with all matters of student life which do not come under the jurisdiction of some other committee or agency.
 - (2) Welcoming Committee. The Welcoming Committee shall consist of five (5) students elected from the Student Senate from its members. The Committee shall be responsible for bringing about cooperative relations with other student bodies and outside groups. The director of Student Activities shall be a member of the Welcoming Committee.
 - (3) Election Committee. The Election Committee shall consist of five (5) members elected by the Student Senate from its membership. It shall operate the machinery for all student elections on the campus. It shall engineer all publicity pertinent to the actual elections, plan for the receiving of nominations, distributing and collecting of ballots and announce the results in writing to the Dean of Men.
 - (4) The Exchange Store Committee. The Exchange Store Committee shall consist of six (6) college staff members and six (6) Student Senators elected by the Student Senate from its membership. It shall study the operations of the Exchange Store and make recommendations for improvement of the service. It shall recommend a division of profits of

the store each year. It shall concern itself with equipment and supplies, service, prices, and schedules.

- (5) The Hospital Committee. The Hospital Committee shall consist of five (5) college staff members and five (5) student Senators elected by the Student Senate from its membership. It will study the needs of improving and maintaining proper medical service to all students. It shall acquaint itself with the plan of operation of the hospital, duties of the staff, the available equipment and methods of examination and treatment. It shall publish from time to time reports covering the complete operation of the hospital, in order to keep all students informed as to the services provided.
 - (6) Mess Committee. The Mess Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Student Senate elected by the Student Senate from its membership. The director of Subsistence and the Director of the Student Union Building shall be members of the Mess Committee. It shall keep abreast of all mess problems with the view of maintaining or improving the service, the quality, the quantity of food and the regulation of prices.
 - (7) Publicity Committee. The Publicity Committee shall consist of two (2) members elected by the Student Senate from its membership. The Director of Student Publications shall be a member of the Publicity Committee. It shall be the duty of this Committee to report to the student body the actions taken by the Student Senate relative to student government.
 - (8) The Social Committee. The Social Committee shall consist of five (5) members elected by the Student Senate from its membership. The Assistant Director of Student Activities shall be a member of the Social Committee. It shall be the duty of this Committee to coordinate, plan and execute the social calendar.
- (d) Representatives to the Student Life Committee. There shall be four (4) members elected to the Student Life Committee by the Student Senate from its membership. These representatives will serve as a liaison between the Student Senate and the Student Life Committee and report to the Student Senate all matters considered by the Student Life Committee and the decisions thereof. At no time will these representatives be obligated to reflect the attitude of the Student Senate in their ballot.

SECTION IV. Qualifications for the elected members of the Student Senate.

- (a) The student must be at least a classified Sophomore, except in the case of segregated freshmen.
- (b) The student must have a grade point ratio of not less than 1.00.
- (c) The student must have attended the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for two previous regular semesters, except in the case of segregated freshmen.
- (d) The student must live in the dormitory or area that he represents, whichever the case may be, for his tenure of office.

SECTION V. Tenure of Office. The tenure of office for Student Senators shall be from October seventh of one year through October sixth of the following year. In case of a vacancy a special election will be conducted to fill that vacated position. In case of vacancies, other than the Executive Committee and the representatives to the Student Life Committee, the newly elected member will serve on the committee in the place of the former member. Where the vacated post is a chairmanship, a new chairman will be elected. In case of vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee and among the representatives of the Student Life Committee, members will be elected by the Student Senate from its membership. The vacancy created in a committee by this election will be filled by the newly elected member to the Senate.

SECTION VI. Removal from the office of Student Senator.

- (a) A petition for the removal of a Student Senator shall become effective upon its presentation to the Student Senate stating the reasons for removal and accompanied by the signatures of sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 2/3%) of the men he represents.
- (b) The Student Senate shall have the authority to remove any member by the following procedure: A motion for the removal of a Student Senator must be introduced as regular business at a meeting of the Student Senate. All reasons for such action must be made known to the Senate. The member must be permitted the opportunity to defend himself. The motion must be seconded and carried by a two-thirds majority of those Senators present. The vote will be made by secret ballot.
- (c) Any Student Senator failing to attend three regular meetings of the Student Senate during the two regular semesters without justified excuse shall be automatically disqualified from membership to the Student Senate for the remainder of his term. An election will be held in that area for the election of a new representative.

SECTION VII. Powers and Functions of the Student Senate.

- (a) The Student Senate shall be an administrative and legislative body. It shall have jurisdiction over all matters of student life delegated to it by the governing bodies of the College.
- (b) The Student Senate shall have the power to investigate and recommend to the governing bodies of the College on matters of academic, social, health, and housing importance through appropriate channels.
- (c) The Student Senate shall have the power to consider all other measures which shall be delegated to it by the governing bodies of the college. It may also consider any other measures to implement its own powers.

SECTION VIII. Initiative and referendum.

- (a) A referendum may be demanded on any measure passed by the Student Senate by a petition signed by three hundred (300) students. Such petition shall be

presented to the Student Senate in its next regular session and shall be submitted to general student vote not more than fifteen days after presentation.

- (b) Measures may be initiated by any student. Such measures shall be presented to the Executive Committee to be considered for the agenda.

SECTION IX. Meetings.

- (a) Regular monthly meetings shall be held on the days designated by the majority of the members of the Student Senate at the beginning of each semester.
- (b) Special meetings may be called by the majority of the Executive Committee.
- (c) A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Student Senate.
- (d) All regular meetings of the Student Senate shall be open to visitors.

SECTION X. By-laws. The Student Senate shall have the power to make its own by-laws, by the expression of the will of a majority.

SECTION XI. Summer Session. The Student Senate will continue to function throughout the summer. All Senators attending the summer session shall comprise a summer government organized as they shall deem expedient to carry on the business during the summer sessions only if president doesn't plan to attend summer session, he will appoint interim president for summer session at last meeting of spring semester.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

SECTION I. Amendments to this constitution shall require a favorable vote of three fourths of the members of the body concerned and all amendments must be ratified by the Academic Council.

ARTICLE VI. RATIFICATION

SECTION I. This Constitution shall go into effect upon a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present at a special meeting of the Student Senate, a favorable vote of the Student Life Committee, and a favorable vote of the Academic Council.