



# The Student Senate

## Texas A&M University

S.B. 64-53

The Student Senate  
64th Session  
Texas A&M University

**Introduced By:** Cody T. Vasut, Off-Campus  
Paul Boehm, Rules and Regulations Chair

**Action Taken**

PASSED  
November 30, 2011

**Certified By:**

*Tanner Wilson*  
Tanner Wilson  
Speaker of the Senate

**Duly Approved:**

*Jeff Pickering '12*  
Jeff Pickering 12-7-11  
Student Body President

### The S.G.A.C. Improvement Act *Special Designation: Act of the Senate*

*"An act updating the enforcement, presentation, and contents of the S.G.A.C."*

- Whereas(1):** The Student Government Association Code has been published for the past three (3) sessions of the Student Senate, with added features that are beneficial to the Student Body and ought to be required in further additions; and,
- Whereas(2):** Additional discretion should be provided to the Rules and Regulations Chair in providing an understandable and professional Code to the Student Body; and,
- Whereas(3):** A cause of action in the Judicial Court, including a special limited statute of limitations, is necessary to ensure the Rules and Regulations Chair and other members of the Student Government Association properly perform their duties.

**Therefore  
Let it be**

**Enacted(1):** That I S.G.A.C. § 001 is amended to read as follows:

#### TITLE I – ADMINISTRATIVE GENERAL

#### CHAPTER 001 -- THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CODE

#### ARTICLE I. NAME AND SHORT TITLE

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Speaker of the Senate

SECTION III. This Title and Chapter is a Statute of the Senate, codified separately for organizational purposes.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

SECTION I. The purpose of this code shall be to codify all the statutes enacted by the Student Senate, the rules and procedures enacted in the Branch By-Laws, the Student Government Constitution, and other rules and procedures enacted under authority of the preceding governing documents of the Student Government Association [~~excluding standard operating procedures,~~] for common reference by the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, and the student body as called for by Article III Section III of the Student Government Association Constitution.

~~[SECTION II.]~~ This code shall not be construed as a governing document in and of itself, except for such definitions for the interpretation of its contents or other provisions for its organization and display as the Senate may enact from time to time.]

### ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

SECTION I. The S.G.A.C shall be organized into titles, which shall further be divided into sub-titles as needed, chapters, articles, sections, sub-sections, numbers, [and] roman numerals, letters, and such further common divisions as the Rules and Regulations Chair of the Student Senate may deem necessary to codify any statute, Branch By-Law, other rule or procedure, or the Student Government Association Constitution into a common format.

SECTION II. The titles for the S.G.A.C shall divide differing governing documents in order of decreasing precedence in the following manner:

- (a) Title I shall be called "Administrative General" and shall include all statutory provisions for the organization, dissemination, and display of this code, as well as definitions for its interpretation (excluding the Constitution), unless otherwise provided for in the various governing documents.
- (b) Title II shall be called "The Constitution of the Texas A&M University Student Government Association" and shall include the most recent copy of the SGA Constitution as ratified or amended.
- (c) Title III shall be called "The By-Laws of the Branches and Councils of Government" and shall include the most recent copies of the Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Student Senate, and Governance Council By-Laws as ratified or amended and divided into separate chapters by entity.
- (d) Title IV shall be called "The By-Laws and Regulations of the [~~Commissions and Committees~~] Other Entities of Government" and shall include the most recent copies of the by-laws and regulations established pursuant to the statutes of those commissions, [and] committees, other executive offices, and other judicial offices as may currently be a part of the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, or Judicial Branch of Government [~~as established therein as ratified or amended and~~] divided into separate sub-titles by Branch of Government and separate chapters by entity.
- (e) Title V shall be called "The Statutes of the Senate" and shall include the statutes as may be



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The S.G.A.C. Improvement Act  
*Special Designation: Act of the Senate*

*"An act updating the enforcement, presentation, and contents of the S.G.A.C."*

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SECTION I. The S.G.A.C shall be organized into titles, which shall further be divided into sub-titles as needed, chapters, articles, sections, sub-sections, numbers, [~~and~~] roman numerals, letters, and such further common divisions as the Rules and Regulations Chair of the Student Senate may deem necessary to codify any statute, Branch By-Law, other rule or procedure, or the Student Government Association Constitution into a common format.

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enacted or amended from time to time by the Student Senate.

- (f) Title VI shall be called "The Agreements of the Student Body President" and shall include the agreements entered into from time to time by the Student Body President and ratified by the Student Senate.
- (g) The chapters of the titles of the S.G.A.C shall further divide the title or sub-title into distinguishable documents, categories, or enactments as may be enacted or amended from time to time by the Student Senate or the various entities of the Student Government Association.
- (h) The S.G.A.C shall be presented in standard, non-annotated form, including a cover and table of contents as may direct the reader by page number to individual chapters of this code, and all documents shall be modified to meet a common display standard, so long as no modifications are made to the content of those documents. The Rules and Regulations Chair shall also provide a recommended citation guide for citing the various statutes, rules or procedures, or the Student Government Association Constitution in documents in cases before the Judicial Court, in bills and resolutions of the Student Senate, orders amending rules or procedures in this Code, and in petitions of the student body enacting statutes, measures, or constitutional amendments. The Rules and Regulations Chair shall also certify the S.G.A.C. as accurate according to the provisions of this Chapter. The Rules and Regulations Chair may also provide other non-binding parts to the code as he or she may deem necessary and proper to aid the reader in understanding or navigating its contents.
- (i) Titles shall be denoted by upper case roman numeral, sub-titles by digits, chapters by three digits, articles by upper case roman numeral, sections by upper case roman numeral, sub-sections by lower case letter enclosed in parenthesis, numbers by digits enclosed in parenthesis, [and] roman numerals by lowercase roman numerals enclosed in parenthesis, letters by lowercase letter, and further common divisions by any use of the above characters at the discretion of the Rules and Regulations Chair to codify all statutes, rules or procedures, or the Student Government Association Constitution into a common format.
- (j) All amendments made to documents subject to the enactment of the Student Senate shall be denoted with reference to the Senate Bill from which such amendments were enacted below the specific [section, article, or] chapter amended. All other amendments shall denote the student body petition number, executive order number, judicial court order number, council order number, commissioner order number, committee chair order number, or such other order number amending the statute or rule or procedure below the specific chapter amended.
- (k) The chapters, sub-titles, and [the] titles of the S.G.A.C shall indicate the date of the last revision to that entity.

### ARTICLE IV. DEFINITIONS

#### SECTION I.

Unless otherwise provided for in the [documents] statutes contained within this code, the following words shall be assigned the ascribed meaning for all purposes.

- (a) Definitions from the Constitution
  - (1) All definitions of words contained within the Constitution apply with respect to the statutes.



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- (b) Gender and other descriptive wording
- (1) All references to masculine or feminine wording shall be defined to have equal meaning under the law.
  - (2) "Year" shall be defined as one calendar year, 365 days in length for a normal year, and 366 days in length should the time span across February 29<sup>th</sup> of a leap year.
- (c) People, Places, and Entities
- (1) ~~["Student" shall be defined to be any person enrolled in at least one (1) credit hour with Texas A&M University and in good standing with the university.]~~
  - (2) "Vice President," "Executive Director," "Secretary," or "Student Advocate" shall be defined for the purpose of the Executive Branch of Government as such persons the Student Body President shall appoint from time to time to [his] the executive cabinet and be confirmed by the Senate.
  - (3) "Texas A&M University" shall be defined as such institution of higher education as is established by the State of Texas located in the reasonable vicinity of College Station, TX.
  - (4) "Student Government Association Advisor" or "Advisor" shall be defined to be any person fulfilling the duties of primary or secondary advisor as recognized by the Department of Student Activities to the Student Government Association, Student Body President, Executive Branch of Government, Student Senate, or Judicial ~~[Court]~~ Branch of Government.

### ARTICLE V. DISSEMINATION AND DISPLAY

#### SECTION I.

~~[The S.G.A.C shall be maintained by the Rules and Regulations Chair of the Student Senate, or such equivalent officer, and updated to reflect all reported changes within one (1) calendar month.]~~ The Rules and Regulations Chair of the Student Senate is hereby vested the duty to enact the provisions of this Chapter, including codifying the S.G.A.C. in compliance with this Chapter. The Rules and Regulations Chair shall update this Code to reflect all reported changes within one (1) calendar month.

- (a) The Student Body President shall forward to the Rules and Regulations Chair all changes made to the Executive Branch By-Laws and the Governance Council By-Laws within ~~[ten]~~ fourteen ~~[[10]14]~~ [class] days of their amendment.
- (b) The Chief Justice shall forward to the Rules and Regulations Chair all changes made to the Judicial Branch By-Laws within ~~[ten]~~ fourteen ~~[[10]14]~~ [class] days of their amendment.
- (c) The chair, director, commissioner, or chief student leader of any SGA Committee shall forward to the Rules and Regulations Chair all changes made to that particular committee's by-laws that exist within ~~[twenty]~~ fourteen ~~[[20]14]~~ [class] days of their amendment.
  - (1) ~~[This same individual shall forward the most recent copy of that particular committee's by-laws that exist to the Rules and Regulations Chair for placement in the S.G.A.C within forty (40) class days of the enactment of this code by the Student Senate.]~~



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**SECTION II.** The most recent copy of the S.G.A.C shall be made available for reasonable review by the general public in electronic format online as well as in physical form in the Student Government Association Office.

**SECTION III.** A copy of the S.G.A.C shall be forwarded by the Rules and Regulations Chair to the Student Government Association Advisor, the Director of the Cody T. Vasut Archives of the Senate, the Student Body President, and the Chief Justice of the Judicial Court for reference as it is updated and in bound format within five (5) class days of the ending of a session of the Student Senate.

**SECTION IV.** All costs associated with the production and amending of this code shall be incurred by the Student Senate.

## ARTICLE VI. JUDICIAL REVIEW

**SECTION I.** CAUSE OF ACTION IN THE JUDICIAL COURT AND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS. Any student may sue in the Judicial Court to ensure that the Rules and Regulations Chair properly enacts the provisions of this Chapter, or to challenge the constitutionality of this Chapter or its compliance with any subsequently enacted statute of the Student Senate, but no cause of action arising from the failure of the Rules and Regulations Chair to enact a provision of this Chapter shall be entertained by the Judicial Court unless filed with the Judicial Court within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the reasonable discovery of the Rules and Regulations Chair's alleged error.