



## Constitution of the Student Government Association

### Preamble

We the students of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, in order to provide an official representation of the student body, promote the welfare of the students, foster leadership, provide means for responsible and effective participation in all facets of campus life, promote academic excellence, develop the spirit of democracy and promote loyalty to the ideals of the university, do hereby adopt and establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

## ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

### 1.01 Membership

**1.01.01** The membership, structure, roles, and responsibilities of the SGA support and represent all UTRGV campuses and learning facilities.

**1.01.02** All currently enrolled students at the university who are not on scholastic or disciplinary probation and meet the eligibility requirements of the elected or appointed position shall be eligible to participate in SGA. All currently enrolled students at the university shall be non-voting members.

**1.01.03** Students must meet the following requirements in order to hold an elected or appointed position:

- a. Undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours at the time of application and during their term of office unless within five (5) credit hours of graduation during the last semester of their current term.
- b. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least three (3) credit hours at the time of application and during their term of office unless within three (3) credit hours during the last semester of their current term.
- c. Must meet the minimum grade point average (GPA) standards for each position as outlined in the Constitution.
- d. Must meet all course completion requirements for each position as outlined in the Constitution.

**1.01.04** No member shall be denied full and equal opportunities in SGA based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, citizenship, political affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

**1.01.5** Members shall act in accordance with the rules as established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws, the Handbook of Operating Procedures, The University of Texas System Regents Rules and Regulations, and the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

**1.01.06** The term of office shall be one (1) year and begin at noon on the first Monday in May, with exception of the Judicial Branch. If appointed after the first Monday in May, the member shall complete the current term of office.

## **1.02 Structure**

**1.02.01** The representative structure for the students of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, hereinafter referred to as UTRGV shall be known as the Student Government Association or SGA.

**1.02.02** The representative structure of SGA at UTRGV shall be composed of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

**1.02.03** The Executive Branch shall consist of the Executive Officers and the Executive Cabinet members.

**1.02.04** The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Officers of the Senate and the Senators.

**1.02.05** The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Supreme Court.

**1.02.06** Students in leadership positions from each of the three (3) branches shall form an Advisory Council.

**1.02.07** A student holding an elected or appointed office shall not serve on more than one branch.

## **ARTICLE 2: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **2.01 Executive Officers**

#### **2.01.01 Membership and Selection**

- a. The Executive Officers shall consist of the President and two (2) Vice Presidents to assist the President and fulfill the roles and responsibilities as stated in the governing documents.
- b. The Executive Officers shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast as stipulated in the Election Guidelines.

## **2.01.02 Eligibility Requirements**

- a. Undergraduate and graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at time of application or appointment.
- b. Undergraduates must maintain good academic standing throughout their SGA term.
- c. Graduate students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- d. At the time of assuming office, undergraduates must have completed at least two (2) fall or spring semesters at the university and have completed or transferred a total of thirty (30) or more credit hours.
- e. At the time of assuming office, graduate students must have completed at least one (1) fall or spring semester or two (2) consecutive summer sessions at the university.

## **2.01.03 Role and Authority**

- a. The President shall:
  1. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of SGA.
  2. Represent the student body and SGA in meetings with other student governments, university administration, agencies of government, the UT System Board of Regents, UT System executive officers, the general public, and other activities affecting the interests of the student body and/or SGA.
  3. Meet regularly with the University President, Provost, Student Success staff and faculty.
  4. Present a “State of the Student Body Address” to the student body on or before October 1. Additional forums may be scheduled at the discretion of the President.
  5. Appoint members of the Executive Cabinet, members of the Supreme Court, and fill vacancies of the Senate, subject to a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) approval of the Senators present and voting.
  6. Preside over meetings of the Advisory Council which includes the Vice Presidents, Chief of Staff, Chair of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, and the Chief Justice.
  7. Have the authority to call meetings of the Advisory Council as stipulated in the Bylaws.
  8. Negotiate and formulate the organization budget through university administrative channels. The president shall submit the proposed budget to the Senate for consideration and approval prior to submission to the Dean of Students.
  9. Prepare, authorize, and submit all required reports to the Office of the Dean of Students.
  10. Submit to the Senate during the first regular meeting a presentation of goals of the Executive Branch.
  11. Attend meetings of the Senate as requested.

12. Review all passed Senate legislation with the option of signing it, withholding signature of approval, or vetoing the resolution in whole or in part.
13. Reserve the right to appoint any member of the student body to serve on university or institutional committees.
14. Reserve the right to create and appoint any member of the Senate or student body to serve on an executive ad-hoc committee.
15. Have the discretion to appoint Presidential Executive Aids from the student body to aid in the performance of executive duties.
16. Recommend the delegates and alternate to serve on The University of Texas System Student Advisory Council to the Dean of Students.
17. Request interpretation of the Constitution or the Bylaws by the Supreme Court.
18. Require written submission of all actions taken by the Supreme Court on any Constitution or Bylaws provisions, or any statutory enactment that is in question.
19. Represent the SGA before the Supreme Court when a complaint by a student is issued regarding a violation of the Constitution or Bylaws. The President may assign a designee from the Senate or Executive Branch to serve as the representative.
20. Assist with the transition of the president-elect of SGA.

**b. The Vice Presidents shall:**

1. Coordinate the actions and efforts of SGA at their respective location.
2. Assist the president in fulfilling the executive and administrative functions of SGA at their respective location.
3. Assume the duties of the President when so directed by the President.
4. Attend all meetings of the Senate.
5. Work collaboratively with the Chair of the Senate to set the agenda of the official and unofficial meetings of the Senate.
6. Have the authority to call meetings with the Legislative Branch members from their respective location.
7. Coordinate the standing committees and ad-hoc committees of the Senate from their respective location.
8. Serve as a member of the Advisory Council and attend all meetings.
9. Have the discretion to appoint Executive Aids from the student body to aid in the performance of executive duties.
10. Assist with the transition of the Vice-President-Elect of SGA.

**2.01.04 Vacancies of the Executive Officers**

- a. In the event of a Presidential vacancy, the Senate shall elect one of the current Vice Presidents to fill the position by simple majority of the Senate members present and voting. If both Vice Presidents decline the Presidency, the Chair of the Senate shall assume the Presidency. If the Chair of the Senate declines the Presidency, the Chair of the Senate shall call for the election of a current Senate member.

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- b. In the event of a Vice Presidential vacancy, the President shall appoint a new Vice President, subject to approval by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Senate members present and voting.

## **2.02 Executive Cabinet:**

### **2.02.01 Membership and Selection**

- a. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the Vice President from each location, Chief of Staff, the Secretary of Administration, the Secretary of Campus Life Committees and Councils, the Secretary of Communications, the Secretary of Finance, and the Secretary of Graduate Affairs.
- b. All members shall be appointed by the President and approved by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Senate members present and voting.

### **2.02.02 Eligibility Requirements**

- a. Undergraduate students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA cumulative at the time of application and appointment, and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA per semester.
- b. Graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA cumulative at the time of application and appointment, and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA per semester.
- c. At the time of assuming office, the Executive Cabinet members must have completed at least one (1) fall or spring semester or two (2) consecutive summer sessions at the university.
- d. The Secretary of Graduate Affairs must be enrolled in a graduate program.

### **2.02.03 Role and Authority**

- a. The Chief of Staff shall:
  1. Perform duties as directed by the Executive Officers.
  2. Monitor and facilitate all operations of the Executive Cabinet.
  3. Have the authority to call meetings of the Executive Cabinet as stipulated in the Bylaws.
  4. Train members of the Executive Cabinet to perform duties.
  5. Serve as a member of the Advisory Council and attend all meetings.
- b. The Secretary of Administration shall:
  1. Be responsible for all administrative and clerical duties necessary to maintain the operations of SGA.
  2. Maintain and create a record of all SGA activities during the term.
  3. Distribute all legislation approved by the President to the appropriate individuals and entities.
  4. Keep and update the official historical archives (electronic and print versions) for the SGA.
  5. Submit a copy of the archives of the term to each member of the Advisory Council and to the Secretary of Communication.

- c. The Secretary of Campus Life Committees and Councils shall:
  - 1. Recruit and recommend individuals to university committees for appointment by the President.
  - 2. Gather reports from the students serving on university committees and report to the President on their activities.
  - 3. Facilitate the implementation of SGA initiatives in the community and university.
  - 4. Ensure student representation is well distributed among the university committees and work with the Office of the Dean of Students, or another appropriate entity, to recommend the number of student representatives on the committees.
- d. The Secretary of Communications shall:
  - 1. Monitor and develop public relations with the student body, faculty, university administration, UT System universities, the city, local community, and local business partners.
  - 2. Act as the official spokesperson of the SGA.
  - 3. Work closely with campus media to keep them informed about the actions of SGA.
  - 4. Assist all members with publicity and advertising.
  - 5. Manage content for the website and social media.
- e. The Secretary of Finance shall:
  - 1. Maintain accurate records of the financial transactions of SGA.
  - 2. Meet at least once per month with the Advisor(s).
  - 3. Prepare end of semester financial reports and submit a copy to the President, the Vice Presidents, and the Chief of Staff.
  - 4. Provide a weekly report to the Chief of Staff on the financial status of SGA.
- f. The Secretary of Graduate Affairs shall:
  - 1. Serve as the main communication liaison between graduate students, SGA, faculty, and staff.
  - 2. Provide a medium for all graduate students to voice their ideas and concerns to SGA.
  - 3. Foster an environment that promotes the participation of graduate students in the activities of SGA.
  - 4. Work with administration to ensure an environment that allows graduate students to reach their maximum academic potential.
  - 5. Promote graduate school programs and encourage the student body to explore programs offered at the university.
- g. The First Year Internship Director shall:
  - 1. Direct the First Year Internship program as stipulated in the guidelines found in the Bylaws.

2. Have the discretion to appoint an Assistant Director to aid in the performance of duties.

#### **2.02.04 Vacancies**

- a. Executive Cabinet vacancies may occur by resignation or removal by the President.

### **ARTICLE III: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

#### **3.01 The Senate**

##### **3.01.01 Membership and Selection**

- a. The Senate shall consist of elected or appointed members known as Senators.
- b. The Senate membership shall include:
  1. Academic Senators: Four (4) undergraduate students per academic college shall be elected by the undergraduate students enrolled in their respective academic college.
  2. Graduate Senators: Four (4) graduate students representing the Graduate College shall be elected by graduate students.
  3. Senators-At-Large: Eight (8) undergraduate or graduate students shall be elected by students enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours at their respective location. Four (4) senators will represent each location.
  4. In any situation where The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley establishes a campus where the student population requires representation based upon the recommendation of the Dean of Students or approval of a petition of the students by from that location – the SGA Advisory Council shall prompt the Chair of the Senate to create two (2) Senator At-Large positions, followed by their location to represent that student population.
- c. Senators shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast as stipulated in the Election Guidelines.
- d. A nominee for Senate appointment shall not function as an official member until approved by the Senate and administered the Oath of Office.

##### **3.01.02 Eligibility Requirements**

- a. Undergraduate students must maintain good academic standing as defined by the University at the time of application, and appointment, and maintain good academic standing throughout their SGA term.
- b. Graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA cumulative at the time of application and appointment, and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- c. At the time of assuming office, the Senate member must have completed at least one (1) fall or spring semester or two (2) consecutive summer sessions at the university.
- d. If applicable, must be enrolled in the academic college they represent at the time of application and while holding office.

### **3.01.03 Role and Authority**

- a. The Senators shall:
  - 1. Faithfully execute all authorities, duties, and responsibilities as outlined by SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
  - 2. Research and evaluate legislation, programs, reports and available information so as to provide the Executive Officers with well-developed proposals.
  - 3. Sponsor legislation that must be approved by a majority vote of the Senators present and voting.
  - 4. Pass legislation pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the SGA.
  - 5. Represent and communicate the opinion and needs of the student body to administration, faculty, staff, and other appropriate entities through legislative action.
  - 6. Address student issues and concerns to the SGA.
  - 7. Have the authority to override a presidential veto by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate members present and voting.
  - 8. Approve or reject nominees for appointment made by the President with a simple majority vote of those present and voting.
  - 9. Nominate and elect, with a simple majority vote of those present and voting, a Chair of the Senate to serve as the presiding officer at Senate meetings for the duration of the term.
  - 10. In absence of the Chair of the Senate elect a temporary chair to preside, with a simple majority vote of those present and voting.
  - 11. Nominate and elect, with a simple majority vote of those present and voting, a Secretary to take official minutes of Senate meetings.
  - 12. Have the authority to create standing committees as stipulated in the Bylaws.
  - 13. Host town hall meetings as stipulated in the Bylaws.
  - 14. Request interpretation of the Constitution or the Bylaws by the Supreme Court.

### **3.01.04 Vacancies**

- a. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President, subject to a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) approval of the Senators present and voting.

## **3.02 Officers of the Senate**

### **3.02.01 Membership and Selection**

- a. The Officers of the Senate shall consist of the Chair of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary.
- b. The President shall preside over the first general meeting of the session, and the nomination and election of the Chair of the Senate shall be the first order of business. The Senate shall nominate and elect the Chair of the Senate by simple majority vote of the Senate.

### **3.02.02 Eligibility Requirements**

- a. Must be a duly elected or appointed member of the Senate.

### **3.02.03 Role and Authority**

- a. The Chair of the Senate shall:
  - 1. Preside over meetings of the Senate, except during the election of the position.
  - 2. Retain all rights and privileges of a Senator with the exception of voting.
  - 3. Have the authority to vote as allowed in Robert's Rules of Order.
  - 4. Have the authority to convene the Senate and create the meeting agenda in collaboration with the Vice Presidents.
  - 5. Appoint, with a simple majority vote of the Senate, a Sergeant at Arms to advise on matters of parliamentary procedure.
  - 6. Appoint, with a simple majority vote of the Senate, a Secretary to take the official minutes of each meeting.
  - 7. Have the authority to assign members of the Senate to the standing committees
  - 8. Meet regularly with the President and Vice Presidents.
  - 9. Serve as a member of the Advisory Council.
- b. The Sergeant at Arms shall:
  - 1. Be knowledgeable and well-versed in Robert's Rules of Order.
  - 2. Advise the Chair of the Senate, the Standing Committee Chairs, and members of the Senate on matters of parliamentary procedure.
  - 3. Keep a permanent record of the Senate roll attendance at all mandatory meetings and events.
  - 4. Retain all rights and responsibilities as a Senator.
- c. The Secretary shall:
  - 1. Work with the Chair of the Senate to set the agenda and take the official minutes of Senate meetings.
  - 2. Keep a record of all filed legislation as stipulated in the Bylaws.
  - 3. Receive all bills, resolutions and appointment applications, and assign them numbers.
  - 4. Retain all rights and responsibilities as a Senator.

### **3.02.04 Vacancies**

- a. In the event of permanent vacancy of the Chair of the Senate, the President shall chair the next scheduled Senate meeting and immediately call for the election of a new Chair of the Senate.

## **ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL BRANCH**

## **4.01 The Supreme Court**

### **4.01.01 Membership and Selection**

- a. The Supreme Court shall consist of five (5) members; four (4) Associate Justices, and one (1) Chief Justice.
- b. The Chief Justice and all Associate Justices shall be nominated for appointment by the President with approval of two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Senate present and voting.
- c. The term for student members of the Judicial Branch shall be from the time of appointment until completion of degree for which they are enrolled at the time of appointment. Justices must enroll in consecutive long semesters while serving on the Student Supreme Court.
- d. A nominee for Supreme Court appointment shall not function as an official member until approved by the Senate and administered the Oath of Office.

### **4.01.02 Eligibility Requirements**

- a. Undergraduate students must maintain good academic standing as defined by the University at the time of application, and appointment, and maintain good academic standing throughout their SGA term.
- b. Graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA cumulative at the time of application and appointment, and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- c. At the time of assuming position, the Supreme Court members must have completed at least one (1) fall or spring semester or two (2) consecutive summer sessions at the university.

### **4.01.03 Role and Authority**

- a. The Chief Justice shall:
  1. Serve as the chief administrator of the Supreme Court.
  2. Preside over meetings and hearings of the Supreme Court.
  3. Be responsible for ensuring that the Supreme Court conducts business according to the provisions of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and additional procedures adopted by the Supreme Court.
  4. Be responsible for keeping a complete record of all judicial actions, copies of which must be filed regularly with the Office of the Dean of Students.
  5. Have the authority to request testimony from witnesses.
  6. Initiate the removal process and impeachment process, as designated in the bylaws.
  7. Student Court
    - a. Shall recommend the creation of student court systems to the Dean of Students.
- b. The Supreme Court shall:

1. Have original jurisdiction to hear and rule on cases involving the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and the constitutionality of statutory enactments when so requested in writing by a student.
2. Hear and rule on appeals from plaintiffs on complaints against the SGA and/or its officers.
3. Hear and rule on appeals from plaintiffs regarding an election decision of the Office of the Dean of Students.
4. Render, upon request, a written interpretation of any part of the SGA Constitution or the Bylaws.

#### **4.01.04 Vacancies**

- a. Vacancies in the Supreme Court shall be filled in the same manner as they were originally filed. Additionally, the Chief Justice may initiate a nomination to fill a vacancy in the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice's nomination shall be confirmed upon a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) approval of the Senate.

#### **4.01.05 Hearings of the Judicial Branch**

- a. All official records shall be kept at the Office of the Dean of Students.
- b. Notice of hearings shall be posted at the SGA office as stipulated in the Bylaws.
- c. The defendant is considered innocent until found responsible by the Supreme Court, based on a preponderance of evidence.
- d. The Supreme Court shall administer appropriate findings to members of the Executive Branch, and members of the Legislative Branch for matters concerning the SGA Constitution.
- e. The Supreme Court shall refer any perceived violations of University rules to the Dean of Students.

### **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

#### **5.01 Legislative Branch**

##### **5.01.01 The Senate**

- a. Quorum is established when one (1) more than one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the membership of the Senate are present.
- b. Official business of the Senate shall only be conducted at any meetings when quorum is established.
- c. The Senate shall follow the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order during meetings unless otherwise specifically stated in the Constitution or Bylaws.
- d. The Chair of the Senate may call the Senate into a special meeting when the need arises to conduct business prior to a regularly scheduled meeting.

#### **5.02 Judicial Branch**

##### **5.02.01 The Supreme Court**

- a. Quorum is established when four (4) student members and at least one (1) Faculty or Staff Associate Justice are present.
- b. No official business shall be conducted at any hearing or meeting when a quorum is not present.

## **ARTICLE VI: VOTING**

### **6.01 Legislative Branch**

#### **6.01.01 The Senate**

- a. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote.
- b. Any Senator may reserve the right to vote by proxy as stipulated in the Bylaws. The proxy vote must have been delivered and received prior to start of the Senate meeting to the Chair of the Senate.

### **6.02 Judicial Branch**

#### **6.02.01 The Supreme Court**

- a. Each member of the Supreme Court shall have one (1) vote and no proxy or absentee votes shall be allowed.
- b. The manner in which a vote is cast shall be duly noted in the official records.
- c. All decisions and authority of Supreme Court shall be vested in a majority vote of the Justices present and voting.

## **ARTICLE VII: REMOVAL AND IMPEACHMENT**

### **7.01 Removal from Office**

#### **7.01.01 Removal from office shall occur under the following circumstances:**

- a. The Student Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over the removal and impeachment processes unless otherwise noted.
- b. The Sergeant at Arms recommends to the Chief Justice the removal of a Senator due to unexcused absences.
- c. Failure to meet eligibility requirements set forth by the Constitution and Bylaws as determined by the Advisors. Upon notification of ineligibility, the position shall become vacant.
- d. Violating provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws.

#### **7.01.02 Jurisdiction**

- a. The Student Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over the removal process unless otherwise noted.

#### **7.01.03 Removal of the Chair of the Senate and Senate Officers**

- a. A motion of no-confidence in the Chair of the Senate or Senate Officers shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate to bring the matter to debate.

- b. Removal of the Chair of the Senate or Senate Officers shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate.
- c. Removal of any Senate member shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate.

## **7.02 Impeachment**

- a. Impeachment is an accusation of wrong doing.
- b. Articles of Impeachment are written allegations against a member of the SGA that are submitted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- c. Any student shall have the right to initiate impeachment proceedings against any SGA member if they fail to meet the duties as prescribed in the Constitution or Bylaws, or if the member engages in behavior that is detrimental to the SGA, the university or its students.
- d. Articles of impeachment do not immediately result in the removal of a member, but provide due process for the accused which involves an investigation, examination of the evidence, and debate and vote on individual articles of impeachment.
- e. The course of action can include removal, dismissal of the allegations, or censure the individual and allow him or her to remain in office.
- f. Procedures shall be in accordance with the Bylaws.

# **ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS**

## **8.01 Elections Committee**

### **8.01.01 Membership and Selection**

- a. The Elections Committee shall consist of the Administrative Advisors, one (1) student from Brownsville, and one (1) student from Edinburg.

### **8.01.02 Eligibility Requirements**

- a. Students must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours at their respective location.
- b. Students may not run for SGA position while appointed to committee.

### **8.01.03 Role and Authority**

- a. The Elections Committee shall:
  1. Develop and implement the Election Guidelines with approval by the Dean of Students.
  2. Coordinate the candidate application process, the election timeline, the ballot content and the polling locations.
  3. Enforce campaigning rules and regulations.

# **ARTICLE IX: ADVISORS**

## **9.01 Advisors**

### **9.01.01 Designation of Advisor**

- a. The SGA shall be administered under the direction of the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students or his or her designee(s), shall serve as the Advisor(s) to the SGA.

### **9.01.02 Role and Authority**

- a. The Advisors shall:
  1. Advice and counsel the organization to meet goals and objectives.
  2. Attend Senate meetings.
  3. Assist in program and/or project development.
  4. Serve as a resource to the organization regarding university policy and regulations.
  5. Serve as the official account manager for SGA budget and advise the organization regarding financial matters.
  6. Ensure that adequate accounting procedures be established and followed.
  7. Coordinate the elections of the SGA.
  8. Remove any member of the SGA from office for not maintaining the qualifications for their respective position. Reasons for dismissal may include the following: scholastic or disciplinary probation, expulsion, suspension, and not meeting member eligibility requirements.

## **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION**

### **10.01 Amendments**

**10.01.01** Amendments to the Constitution may be sponsored by a Senate member or by petition of amendment signed by an equivalent of one-third (1/3) of the total number of students voting in the last General Election.

**10.01.02** Constitutional amendments proposed by the Senate must be passed by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the actual number of Senators in order to be placed on the ballot for consideration in a duly authorized election or referendum.

**10.01.03** If an amendment is introduced by the students, the petition of amendment shall contain the required signatures and shall be submitted to the Chief Justice so that it may be presented to the Supreme Court. Upon a validation and certification of required signatures, the proposed amendment shall be placed before the students.

**10.01.04** Amendments shall be adopted as a part of this Constitution when ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of the students voting in a duly authorized election. The change shall become effective when transmitted to and approved by the Dean of Students and the UTRGV President.

**10.01.05** Amendments to the Bylaws must be sponsored by a Senate member and approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the actual number of Senators.

## **10.02 Bylaw Proposal and Ratification**

**10.02.01** The SGA shall establish Bylaws as necessary.

**10.02.02** Any voting member of the Senate may present an Amendment to the Bylaws at a Senate meeting. The Amendment must be submitted to the Executive Cabinet (1) week prior to its presentation to the Senate. Following the motion to amend the Bylaws, the motion is immediately tabled without discussion or persuasion until the following meeting.

**10.02.03** At the meeting following a motion to amend the Bylaws, the proposed bill shall be open for discussion, at which time members shall have the opportunity to voice their opinion.

**10.02.04** The bill shall then come to a vote, and will require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate to be ratified.

**10.02.05** An amendment shall not become effective until transmitted to and approved by the Dean of Students and the UTRGV President.

## **10.03 Ratification of the Constitution and Amendments**

**10.03.01** This Constitution and its amendments shall be the official governing documents of the Student Government Association of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Upon ratification by an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the students voting in a constitutional referendum, and when approved by the Dean of Students and the UTRGV President.

**10.03.02** All officials elected or appointed under the requirements of the previous Constitution, which this Constitution supersedes, shall remain in their corresponding offices and exercise their corresponding duties and responsibilities as set forth within this Constitution until their term of office expires.

**10.03.03** The Dean of Students shall have the power, when in his or her judgment the interest of the institution shall require it, to amend or repeal any provision in the Constitution or Bylaws of the Student Government Association, but such action shall not be effective until approved by the SGA President and UTRGV President.

## **ARTICLE XII: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **12.01 Complaints**

a. Members shall forward all received complaints regarding violations of the Constitution to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; ensure that copies are

forwarded to each member of the Supreme Court to which the complaint has been referred, as well as to the Dean of Students, plaintiff(s), and defendant(s).

## **12.02 The Oath of Office**

The Oath of Office, shall be administered by the Chief Justice, and shall be given to all members of the SGA upon being confirmed into their position.

*"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of my office and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Student Government Association."*

*Constitution approved on March 20, 2015 by currently enrolled students from UT Brownsville and UT Pan American.*

*Amended by LS06.SB-04 Constitutional Amendment (Eligibility Requirements) and passed by vote of the student body on March 31, 2021. Reviewed and approved by Ms. Rebecca K. Gadson, Dean of Students and Dr. Guy Bailey, University President on April 12, 2021.*