

# **CONSTITUTION**

## of the Students' Association of Abilene Christian University

### **Preamble**

This Constitution is adopted by the students of Abilene Christian University in order to

- provide an atmosphere so that each student can have an opportunity to grow spiritually, academically, and socially;
- promote the interests of the student body to the administration of the University;
- and
- serve the students by leadership through service.

### **Definitions**

- The "entire Student Congress" shall mean all of those positions in the Student Congress that are currently occupied.
- When not otherwise specified, the "Student Congress" shall mean all those members of the Student Congress present but at least a quorum as defined in the By-Laws.
- The definition of a full-time student shall be that set forth in the Catalog of the University.

### **Article I. Name and Membership**

I.1. The name of this organization shall be the Students' Association of Abilene Christian University.

I.2. Each full-time undergraduate student of Abilene Christian University shall be a member of this organization and shall be subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

### **Article II. Student Congress**

II.1. The governing and policy-making body of the Students' Association shall be the Student Congress.

II.2. The powers and responsibilities of the Student Congress shall be

- a. to represent the interests of the student body;
- b. to bring forth proposals to enhance the life of the student body;

- c. to make recommendations to the faculty and administration;
- d. to initiate, regulate, and coordinate all Students' Association activities that are carried on in the best interests of the student body;
- e. to appropriate and oversee the use of Students' Association funds;
- f. to provide for the regulation and conduct of elections required by this Constitution and of elections called by the President of the Students' Association;
- g. to confirm, by a two-thirds vote of the entire Student Congress, those nominations which require approval; and
- h. to appoint additional non-voting members.

II.3. The voting members of the Student Congress shall be

- a. five Class Senators elected from and by each of the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Classes;
- b. Residential Representatives
  - 1. one Residential Representative elected from and by each University-controlled housing facility, with one additional Representative from each housing facility with more than 250 residents;
  - 2. two Off Campus representatives elected from and by students not residing in a university controlled housing facility.
- c. one Academic Representative elected from and by each academic building at the University for each 250 students or fraction thereof whose majors are housed in that building.

II.4. The officers enumerated in Article III shall be non-voting members of the Student Congress.

### **Article III. Executive and Administrative Offices**

III.1. The Executive Cabinet of the Students' Association shall consist of

- a. the President
- b. the Vice-President,
- c. the Treasurer, and
- d. the Secretary.

III.2. All Executive Officers except for the Secretary shall be elected from and by the full membership of the Students' Association.

III.3. The Secretary shall be nominated by the other Executive Officers, for approval by the Student Congress.

III.4. The Administrative Office of the Students' Association shall consist of

- a. the Chief Development Officer,
- b. the Chief Communications Officer, and
- c. the Chief Financial Officer.

III.5. The Administrative Officers shall be nominated by the Executive Officers, for approval by the Student Congress.

III.6. The President's Cabinet shall consist of the Executive and Administrative Officers.

III.7. The powers and responsibilities of the Executive and Administrative Officers shall be specified in the By-Laws.

## **Article IV. Qualifications for Office**

IV.1. Only members of the Students' Association in good standing with the University shall be eligible to hold any of its offices.

IV.2. No student with a cumulative grade-point average of less than 2.00 shall be eligible to hold any office. Students with no grade-point average are eligible subject to other requirements of eligibility.

IV.3. No student may run for or hold more than one office simultaneously.

IV.4. No student may be elected to an office, except the office of the Vice President or the Treasurer, who has already been elected to a different office during the same academic year. A student holding an elected position may be considered for appointment to another office upon resignation.

IV.5. To be eligible for any office of the Executive Cabinet, a student must

- a. have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.50, and
- b. have been a member of the Students' Association for at least two consecutive years.

IV.6. To be eligible to run for the office of the President, a student must have attained at least senior standing before the fall semester following election.

IV.7. To be eligible for the office of the Vice-President, the Treasurer, or the Secretary, a student must have attained at least junior standing before the fall semester following election.

IV.8. To be eligible for the office of Class Senator, a student must be a member of the respective academic class. The candidate must choose which classification to adopt in the case of differing classifications by enrollment years and credit hours.

IV.9. To be eligible for the office of Residential Representative, a student must be a resident of the respective housing facility.

IV.10. To be eligible for the office of Academic Representative, a student must

- a. have declared a major whose offices are housed in the respective building; and
- b. for elected candidates only, either
  1. have attained at least junior standing OR
  2. have attained at least sophomore standing and have been qualified under subsection a. for at least two consecutive years.
- c. In the case of a vacancy in the position of Academic Representative, a candidate may be considered for appointment regardless of classification.

IV.11. Any student holding any office who becomes ineligible for that office shall resign.

## **Article V. Selection, Resignation, and Impeachment**

V.1. The procedures for election of students for office shall be specified in the By-Laws.

V.2. Any student holding an office of the Students' Association who fails to meet requirements of office as specified in the By-Laws is subject to removal from office upon the approval of three-fourths of the entire Student Congress.

V.3. Resignations must be submitted in writing to the President and accepted by a majority of the Student Congress. The resignation of the Vice-President or a Representative or a Senator shall become effective only after the selection of a successor.

V.4. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed to that office.

V.5. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the Vice-President or the Treasurer, a successor shall be chosen by a general election.

V.6. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, a successor shall be chosen in accordance with Article III.

V.7. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Senator or Representative, the President shall nominate a candidate to be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the entire Student Congress.

## **Article VI. Student Rights**

VI.1. To ensure a clear understanding of individual students' rights, the Students' Association has the right and responsibility to request from the administration a thorough explanation of and justification for any rule affecting the students.

VI.2. This request may be made by the President or by a majority of the Student Congress.

## **Article VII. Student Activity Fee**

VII.1. The Student Congress shall have the power to recommend adjustments to the Student Activity Fee to the Board of Trustees.

VII.2. The Treasurer shall submit a recommendation concerning the Student Activity Fee to the Student Congress, to be approved by a majority vote of the Student Congress, as needed.

VII.3. The Student Congress shall consider the recommendation at the following regular meeting

VII.4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting the decision of the Student Congress to the Board of Trustees.

VII.5. Recommendations submitted under this article must be announced publicly to the Students' Association at least five school days before any action is taken.

## **Article VIII. Amendments**

VIII.1. Amendments to this Constitution

- a. must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the entire Student Congress and by a majority of the votes cast by the entire Students' Association;
- b. must be announced publicly to the student body at least ten school days before the ratifying election is held, or, if a break intervenes between the approval by the Student Congress and the election, at least fourteen calendar days, five of which must be school days;

- c. shall be effective ten business days after their ratification unless otherwise specified in the text of the amendment; and
- d. shall be listed in an addendum to this Constitution and not as modifications to its text.

#### VIII.2. Amendments to the By-Laws

- a. must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the entire Student Congress;
- b. shall be effective ten school days after their approval unless otherwise specified in the text of the amendment, but not in any case sooner than seven calendar days; and
- c. shall be listed in an addendum to the By-Laws and not as modifications to their text.

### **Article IX. Continuation**

IX.1. The terms of all students holding office shall survive the adoption of this Constitution.

IX.2. Any existing financial arrangements or obligations of the Students' Association shall survive the adoption of this Constitution.

### **Declaration of Authority**

We, the Student Congress of the Students' Association, hereby approve this Constitution as submitted on this February 22, 2006.