

Trinity International University  
Student Government Association Constitution

PREAMBLE

This constitution is put forth by the students of Trinity International University in order to define a system of student government that shall enhance the experience of students attending the school, aid the administration in caring for those students, and affect positive change for both, reflecting the character of Christ in all that it does.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association (SGA).

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the SGA is to maintain and enhance the quality of student life at Trinity International University. In order to fulfill that purpose, SGA seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To glorify God and further the gospel of Jesus Christ;
2. To defend student rights according to the guidelines of the Trinity Student Handbook;
3. To represent the student body to the faculty, staff, and administration and facilitate communication between those groups.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERS

**Section 1.** Executive Officers.

1. All executive officers of SGA, elected or appointed to serve during the regular academic periods, are members of the SGA Board of Directors.
  - a. Executive officers
    - i. President
    - ii. Vice President
    - iii. Secretary
    - iv. Treasurer

**Section 2.** Directors.

1. All directors of SGA, appointed to serve during the regular academic periods, are members of the SGA Board of Directors.
  - a. Directors:
    - i. Academic Life Director
    - ii. Campus Life Director
    - iii. Media Director

- iv. Athletic Communications Director

### **Section 3. Class Representatives**

1. All class representatives of SGA, appointed to serve during the regular academic periods, are members of the SGA Board of Directors.
  - a. Class Representatives:
    - i. Senior Class Representative
    - ii. Junior Class Representative
    - iii. Sophomore Class Representative
    - iv. Freshman Class Representative

### **Section 4: Student Senate**

1. All members of the Senate, appointed to serve during the regular academic periods, are members of the SGA, though not the Board of Directors (unless otherwise specified).
2. The Senate shall consist of:
  - a. The Vice-President of SGA, who shall preside over all meetings of the Student Senate
  - b. The Secretary of SGA, who shall serve as Secretary of the Senate
  - c. The four Class Representatives on the SGA Board of Directors
  - d. Representatives from any group outlined in the SGA Bylaws

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1. President**

1. Shall attend and preside over all meetings of the SGA Board of Directors
2. Is responsible for supplying both vision and focus for the SGA
3. Shall appoint, with his or her Executive Officers, qualified individuals to the positions outlined under Article III, Section 2 of this document
4. Is responsible to attend, or delegate a representative to attend, all Faculty Assembly meetings
5. Is responsible to attend, or delegate a representative to attend, all Academic Council meetings
6. Is responsible to attend, or delegate a representative to attend, all Student Hearing Committee meetings
7. Is responsible to represent the student body in events such as convocation, commencement, orientation, and other formal events on or off campus.
8. May veto actions taken by the SGA Board of Directors
  - a. In the event of a veto action:
    - i. A written memo, stating the objections, shall be published and sent to all members of the Board of Directors
    - ii. The objections shall be read and recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors

9. May veto actions taken by the Student Senate
  - a. In the event of a veto action:
    - i. A written memo, stating the objections, shall be published and sent to all members of the Student Senate
    - ii. The objections shall be read and recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting of the Student Senate
10. Impeachment
  - a. The President may be impeached if he or she is accused of or found guilty of conduct unbecoming of one in his or her position or acting in opposition to the overall welfare of the student body
  - b. The President may be impeached in one of two ways:
    - i. A simple majority in the Student Senate and a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote on the SGA Board of Directors
    - ii. The recommendation of a TIU Faculty, Staff, or Administrator and a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote in the Student Senate

## **Section 2. Vice President**

1. Shall preside over the meetings of the Board of Directors in the absence of the President
2. Shall serve as President of the Student Senate
3. Shall be responsible to assist the President in carrying out any presidential duties the President is unable to perform
4. Shall perform any other duties assigned to him or her by the SGA Board of Directors
5. Shall attend all meetings of the SGA Board of Directors and the Student Senate
6. Is responsible to attend, or delegate a representative to attend, all Faculty Assembly meetings

## **Section 3. Secretary**

1. Shall attend all meetings of the SGA Board of Directors and the Student Senate
2. Shall record minutes of all SGA meetings
3. Shall monitor and report on submitted proposals at SGA meetings
4. Shall serve as correspondent on all SGA business, to include the maintenance of the SGA office, voicemail, mailbox, and email account
5. Shall submit a regular article to the Trinity Digest with a summary of minutes or other relevant SGA information
6. Shall schedule and reserve a space for weekly SGA meetings that accommodates all SGA Board of Director members
7. Shall organize and maintain the SGA archives
8. Shall record minutes of all Student Senate meetings
9. Is responsible to attend, or delegate a representative to attend, all Faculty Assembly meetings

## **Section 4. Treasurer**

1. Shall keep a budget for the SGA and amend it as needed throughout the fiscal academic year, with the approval of the SGA Board of Directors
2. Shall process all deposits, payment, and reimbursements as authorized by the budget
3. Shall give a financial report at regular SGA meetings
4. Shall inform members of the guidelines regarding the management of the SGA funds
5. Shall coordinate with SGA funded organizations to maintain accountability
6. Shall attend all meetings of the SGA Board of Directors
7. Is responsible to attend, or delegate a representative to attend, all Faculty Assembly meetings

#### **Section 5. Academic Life Director**

1. Shall serve as the Chairman of the Academic Life Committee
2. Is responsible for the formation, management, and leadership of the Academic Life Committee
3. Shall represent student concerns on matters related to educational policies and the academic life of the college
4. Is responsible, with the assistance of the Academic Life Committee, for facilitating academic progressions and communication on campus
5. Shall communicate and facilitate with academic departments, neighboring colleges and other organizations to develop and promote academic activities on and off campus
6. Shall report periodically at the SGA meetings regarding activities, accomplishments, and goals
7. Shall assist the chair of the Presidents Prize Committee in selecting the *President's Prize for Excellence in Teaching*

#### **Section 6. Campus Life Director**

1. Shall serve as the Chairman of the Campus Life Committee
2. Is responsible for the formation, management, and leadership of the Campus Life Committee
3. Is responsible for the planning and administration of Late Night Waybright
4. Is responsible for communication with the Director of Dining Services, student groups, organizations, companies and any other entities contributing to Late Night Waybright
5. Shall report periodically at SGA meetings regarding activities, accomplishments, and goals

#### **Section 7. Media Director**

1. Shall serve as the Chairman of the Media Committee
2. Is responsible for the formation, management, and leadership of the Media Committee
3. Shall organize and oversee any type of media correspondence published by SGA
4. Shall assist the leaders of student groups in developing creative and effective forms of advertisement
5. Shall report periodically at SGA meetings regarding activities, accomplishments, and goals
6. Shall serve as student representative on the Fine Arts Committee

#### **Section 8 Athletic Communications Director**

1. Shall serve as the Chairman of the Spirit Team
2. Is responsible for the formation, management, and leadership of the Spirit Team which includes but is not limited to:
  - a. Scheduling and facilitating a weekly meeting
  - b. Promoting school spirit at athletic events and planning events to promote and encourage athletic teams
  - c. Shall maintain open lines of communication with SGA Executive board and athletic leadership
3. Shall serve as a resource for athletic clubs and organizations
  - a. Shall report weekly at the SGA meetings regarding activities, accomplishments, and goals of athletic clubs and organizations

## ARTICLE V: CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

### **Section 1. Senior Class Representative**

1. Shall attend the weekly SGA Board of Director meetings
2. Shall communicate with the senior class about current events
3. Shall address concerns brought up by members of the senior class at SGA Board of Director meetings and Student Senate meetings
4. Shall serve as a member of the Student Senate
  - a. Is responsible for communicating student opinion from the Senate to concerned parties in the senior class
5. Shall coordinate the TIU senior gift to the school in conjunction with the Advancement Office
  - i. This gift can be anything, as long as it commemorates and represents the senior class and has long lasting value to future students
  - ii. The senior gift must be called "The (class year) Honorary Bautch Senior Gift"

### **Section 2. Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman Class Representative**

1. Shall attend the weekly SGA Board of Director meetings
2. Communicate with their respective class about current events
3. Shall address concerns brought up by members of their respective class at SGA Board of Director meetings and Student Senate meetings
4. Shall serve as a member of the Student Senate
  - a. Is responsible for communicating student opinion from the Senate to concerned parties in their respective class
5. Is responsible to create one event, partnership, or initiative that shall enhance student life

## ARTICLE VI: STUDENT SENATE

1. The purpose of the Student Senate is to provide uniform representation of the student body, and provide an outlet for student concerns and ideas to be heard
2. The role of the Student Senate is to discuss all issues raised and composed in the Student Opinion

3. The Student Senate must meet every semester.
  - a. As President of the Senate, Student Senate meetings shall be scheduled by the SGA Vice President no less than one month in advance
4. The Senate shall be composed of members across the student body in a manner that provides for the most reasonable uniform representation
5. Members from the SGA Board of Directors who shall also serve in the Student Senate include:
  - a. The SGA Vice President
  - b. The SGA Secretary
  - c. All Class Representatives
  - d. The SGA President may not have a vote in meetings of the Student Senate and may not serve as the representative for any other student group
    - i. The SGA President may be invited to speak at Student Senate meetings
6. Issues raised in Senate meetings shall be added to the Senate Opinion by a simple majority
  - a. The SGA Board of Directors shall be responsible for following up on each issue in the Student Opinion, but are not bound to ascribe to any potential solutions therein
  - b. The SGA Secretary shall be responsible for drafting the Student Opinion
  - c. Timely updates on the progress of the Student Opinion follow-up shall be provided by the SGA Board of Directors
7. The Student Senate may propose amendments to the Bylaws or Constitution in accordance with amendment procedures outlined in each respective document

## ARTICLE VII: VACANCIES

### **Section 1:** President and Vice President

1. If the office of President becomes vacant, the line of succession is: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Class Representative, Junior Class Representative, Sophomore Class Representative, Freshman Class Representative
2. If the office of Vice President becomes vacant, the President shall appoint a qualified replacement, either from within or outside the current SGA, to fill the vacancy
3. Appointments shall take effect immediately

### **Section 2:** Secretary and Treasurer

1. If the office of the Secretary or Treasurer becomes vacant, the President shall appoint a qualified replacement, either from within or outside the current SGA, to fill the vacancy
2. Appointments shall take effect immediately

### **Section 3:** Directors

1. If the office of an appointed Director becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement, either from within or outside the current SGA, to fill the vacancy
2. Appointments shall take effect immediately

### **Section 4:** Class Representatives

1. If a Class Representative position becomes vacant at any time, the SGA shall hold an election to fill the spot

## ARTICLE VIII: ELECTION TO OFFICE

### **Section 1:** Eligibility Requirements

1. Students on SGA shall be full time students in good standing, not on any form of probation, and shall maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher
2. Elected officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the total ballots cast by the participating student body

### **Section 2:** Election Procedure

1. The President and Vice President shall be voted on together as a single party, one vote counting toward both candidates
2. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be voted on individually and shall be elected independently from the presidential candidates
3. Those seeking to run for Executive Officers shall complete a petition of candidacy with supporting signatures of no fewer than 50 current students at least five days prior to the election
4. Those seeking to run for Class Representative shall complete a petition of candidacy with supporting signatures of no fewer than 25 current students at least five days prior to the election
5. Spring elections shall be held for the Executive Officers and Class Representatives at a time mutually agreed upon between the acting SGA President and the Dean of Students during the fall semester
6. Petition of candidacies may be accepted at least a month prior to election at which point campaigning, too, can begin
7. It is the responsibility of SGA to arrange for two formal election events:
  - a. SGA shall plan and administer an event for students to meet the candidate(s) (e.g. a debate, open house, etc.)
  - b. SGA shall make all arrangements surrounding election day
8. Election day shall allow for at least 12 hours of voting by whatever means the current SGA Board of Directors sees fit
9. Newly elected officers shall begin their term of office at the adjournment of the last regular meeting of the SGA Board of Directors

## ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. A proposed amendment to the constitution may originate in either the Student Senate or from the SGA Board of Directors
2. The Student Senate may propose an amendment to the constitution to the SGA Board of Directors at any time with a simple two-thirds vote.
  - a. The Vice-President is responsible for presenting the proposed amendment to the Board of Directors
  - b. A proposed amendment from the Student Senate shall be published to the student body for approval after a 2/3 majority vote from the Board of Directors.

- c. If the Board of Directors does not pass the amendment with a simple majority, the Student Senate may override the Board of Directors with a two-thirds majority and a petition from the student body with 100 non-Senate member signatures, at which point the amendment would be published to the student body for ratification
3. The SGA Board of Directors may propose an amendment to the constitution at any time with a two-thirds majority vote
4. The SGA Board of Directors must publish proposed amendments it approves (or amendments that are approved through an override by the Student Senate) a minimum of one week prior to being voted on by the student body
  - a. The proposed amendment shall be ratified when approved by a two-thirds majority of the participating student body
5. If an amendment, proposed in either the SGA Board of Directors or the Student Senate is vetoed by the President, it can only be overridden by a simple majority in the Board of Directors and a 2/3 majority in the Senate