
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

BLINN COLLEGE OF BRAZOS COUNTY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

We the students of the Blinn College of Brazos County, in order to promote effective student government, to foster cooperation between groups and individuals associated with the college, to be of the greatest possible service to our college and community, and to afford added opportunities for our educational development, do form ourselves into the Student Government Association and adopt for our guidance this constitution.

ARTICLE I

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Blinn College of Brazos County.

ARTICLE II

RULES OF ORDER.

The Student Government Association will abide by the rules of order established in Robert's Rules of Order, 10th edition, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE III

COMPOSITION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

The Student Government Association shall be composed of three different branches of government. They shall be as follows:

A. Student Senate.

1. Is the legislative branch of the Student Government Association.
2. Proposals introduced to the Student Senate are submitted to committee and returned to the Senate to be voted on.

A. Proposals must receive a majority vote to pass the Student Senate.

B. In case of a tie, the President of the Student Government Association shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

3. Membership

A. One delegate or alternate from each club and honorary society on the Brazos County campus.

B. Delegates elected at large from the student population. These voting delegates to be elected from within the Association; shall be called Student Senators. The number of those elected shall be based on a percentage of the Blinn Brazos County population agreed upon by the Executive Board.

1. These delegates will be divided into two groups, with 60% shall be elected to represent the freshman body and 40% of the senators shall be elected to represent the sophomore body.

C. All members of the Student Senate shall have one vote in the Senate.

D. Any student may attend the sessions of the Student Senate.

4. Qualifications.

A. To become or remain a participating member of the Student Senate, a student must be maintaining a grade point average (GPA) of 2.00.

B. Representatives and Senators must be enrolled at Blinn College-Brazos County during the course of their service.

C. No representative to the Student Senate will be allowed to represent two or more clubs unless granted permission to do so by the Student Government Association Executive Council.

B. Student Executive Council

1. Shall be the executive branch of the Student Government Association.

2. Officers

A. The officers of the Student Government Association shall be: President, Executive Vice President, Vice-President of On Campus Activities, Vice-President of Off Campus Activities, Vice-President of Publicity, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Historian, Treasurer and Sergeant-At-Arms.

B. Each officer will perform the functions necessary to their position as stipulated in the Blinn College Student Government Association Bylaws.

C. Each officer will have one vote on the Executive Council.

D. The President will vote only in case of a tie.

3. Advisors The advisor(s) of the Student Government Association shall be considered *ex-officio* of every committee. Advisors must be approved by the Blinn College Board of Trustees.

C. Judicial Council

1. Shall be the judicial branch of the Student Government Association

2. Members

A. The Judicial Council will be presided over by the SGA Parliamentarian, unless charges involve this individual, in which case the advisor shall appoint a chair.

B. The Executive Vice-President of the Student Government Association and the Vice-Presidents will serve as members of the Judicial Council

C. The Student Government Advisor will serve as *ex officio* of this Council and will hold the power of clemency.

3. Sessions

A. The Judicial Council will not meet unless a complaint is lodged in writing and delivered to the SGA Advisor.

B. Once the complaint has been addressed, the Council disbands.

4. Powers

A. The Judicial Council will have the power to hear and decide issues relating to the Student Government Association at the Brazos County Campus.

B. They shall have the power to declare unconstitutional acts of the Student Senate or the Executive Council prior to submission to the Director of Student Services.

C. They shall have the power to judge themselves as well as the members of the Student Senate and the Executive Council, including the president.

D. They may not address issues pertaining to Blinn College faculty or staff.

E. They will have the power to control and certify SGA elections.

F. Prior to an SGA election, they shall meet to approve and/or modify the election guidelines.

ARTICLE IV.

ELECTION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A. All executive officers shall serve for a term of one year, beginning on the last Tuesday in April of the year of their election and ending on the last Tuesday in April of the following year. Changes in the dates of this term may be made if approved by the Vice President, Dean of Student Services and Director of Activities of the Brazos County Campus.

B. Any officer not elected in the spring election shall be elected or appointed from within the Association by the third meeting of the fall semester and serve the unexpired term.

C. If any office shall become vacant, a replacement shall be named by the Executive Council and approved by a majority vote.

D. Senators shall be elected in October for the full academic year.

SECTION 2. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

A. Student Government Association Executive Council reserves the right to remove elected members of the Student Government Association from office on the following basis:

1. Violation of Blinn College Ordinances and Bylaws.
2. Violation of the Blinn College Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Conduct unbecoming leaders of the student body.

B. An Executive Officer may be impeached by a simple majority of the entire Student Senate with the approval of the Judicial Council. The Student Government Executive Council cannot vote in this matter.

C. The Student Government Executive Council will vote to remove the officer from power with a 2/3 vote of the entire board. The impeached officer will not be allowed to vote in this matter.

D. The Executive Board may combine the powers of impeachment and removal by a 3/4 vote.

E. And all other actions in which the Vice-President of the Brazos Campus, Dean of Student Services, Director of Student Activities and Advisor(s) of Student Government Association believes removal is warranted.

F. Removal from office immediately strips the member of all representative powers, be it local, regional or at the state level.

ARTICLE V

FUNCTION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Student Government Association shall be the student's governing body of campus organization, and will recommend to the directors of the Brazos County Campus the creation, suspension, or abolition of any campus organization, excluding honorary academic societies. These directors will then forward their recommendations to the Vice-President for Student Services. Upon the recommendation of the Vice-President for Student Services, the Blinn College Executive Council will grant final approval or disapproval for student organizations.

ARTICLE VI.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.

Faculty and/or administrative advisors of college organizations will in all instances be *ex-officio* treasurers of their respective organizations. Neither college organization, nor any member thereof, will contract, cause to be contracted, or agree to the purchase of any item without the knowledge and consent of the Student Government Association Advisor. Organizations will so arrange their fiscal and banking affairs that no check issued by the organization or any of its officers or members is valid unless countersigned by the organization advisors.

ARTICLE VII.

DELEGATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

Copies of this Constitution and Bylaws will be passed out to the delegates of the Student Government Association at the first or second meeting of each academic year. Copies will also be provided for delegates who join the Association later in the year. The Constitution is also available online at the Blinn College Student Government Association website.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENT PROCESS

SECTION 1. NULLIFICATION.

Adoption of this Constitution and Bylaws shall constitute nullification of any and all previous Constitutions and Amendments thereto and the Bylaws belonging to the Student Government. If adopted during the course of a semester any new rules contained herein will not go into effect until the beginning of the next semester.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by the Executive Council or by petition of at least twenty percent of students at Blinn College of Brazos County. A two-week waiting period shall exist between the proposal of an amendment and the vote on ratification of the amendment. Amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote in a special election of the Student Government Association. The amendment shall become effective upon ratification and approval of the College President.

ARTICLE IX.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

The Constitution and Bylaws of campus organizations shall contain nothing contrary to either the letter or spirit of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE X.

CLUB AND OFFICER DISCIPLINARY POLICIES.

SECTION 1. PROBATION AND SUSPENSION.

An elected officer on probation (academic or disciplinary) is automatically suspended as of the date of probation from participation in all functions of any campus organization. Upon being removed from probationary status, said officer may, with written permission of the Dean of Student Services, resume active participation in campus organizational life.

SECTION 2. SUSPENSION OF CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS.

A. Suspension is defined as prohibiting an organization from participating in or conducting any activities on campus. These activities shall include fund raising and any other activity determined by the Association.

B. Suspension will occur when an organization has tallied more than three absences by having no delegate present for at least one meeting per month. This suspension may be lifted by the Student Executive Council at the end of the semester. If an organization is still in suspension at the beginning of a semester, that organization may be recognized again by sending a delegate to all meetings within one month.

SECTION 3. SUSPENSION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

A member of the Student Government Association Executive Board may only miss two meetings per semester. Once the second meeting has been missed, they forfeit their position on the board. The removed officer may petition the Student Executive Council and SGA Advisor for re-instatement.

ARTICLE XI.

CREATION OF CLUBS

SECTION 1. PETITIONS TO ESTABLISH CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS.

In order to avoid useless or excessive duplication of efforts and objectives, excessive burdening of the Association membership and diluted efficiency, or organizational life incompatible with the aims and objectives of Blinn College, a minimum of seven (7) persons must be eligible to create, or petition to create a new campus organization. The minimum membership requirement may be waived by special petition to the Executive Council if extenuating circumstances exist or if a national honor society approved by the administration and concurred with by the Student Government Association, may wish to establish a chapter.

SECTION 2. WHO MAY PETITION.

Any individual who carries the status of a full time Blinn student on the Brazos County campus and whom is in good academic standing may petition the college for the creation of a society. Said petition shall not include members of the faculty, students of other educational institutions, private or public, or members of the community who are not students of the college.

BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF BLINN COLLEGE OF BRAZOS COUNTY.

SECTION 1. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS.

All elected and appointed officers must complete a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours per semester and maintain a permanent grade point average of 2.50. The President of the Student Government Association must carry a 3.0 GPA and a complete a minimum 12 semester hours on the Blinn Campus. First semester freshmen are exempt from the grade point average for the semester only. Failure to meet this guideline shall result in disqualification from office.

SECTION 2. PENALTY.

Immediate removal from office.

SECTION 3. REPLACEMENT OF VACATED OFFICE OR MEMBERSHIP.

The Executive Council will appoint, in all cases, ad interim, a person to fill the vacancy should it occur either in the Fall or Spring semester.

SECTION 4. TIME OF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE.

Regular meetings of the Association will be set at the first meeting of each semester. The president of the Association may call additional or emergency meetings as required. Attendance at all meetings is required, except in the event of illness or excused absence on College or Association business. The Executive Council shall be the sole and final judge determining the validity of absence. Two unexcused absences automatically suspend an officer, while three unexcused absences will automatically suspend the delegate and the organization of active membership in the Association. Absences are cumulative for one semester only. It is most important that candidates for offices and delegates from organizations understand these provisions and arrange their classes and/or work accordingly. Special sessions may be called within the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order.

SECTION 5. VOTE AND QUORUM.

Any motion, resolution, question or approval shall carry on a simple majority vote except as may be herein otherwise specified. A quorum for the Student Senate shall be one more than half of the total Association membership, excluding officers, having active status. Quorum for Executive Board meetings shall be one more than half of the total Executive Board positions, regardless if a position is vacant.

SECTION 6. DUTIES OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS.

President-Shall preside at all meetings and present the agenda recommendations to the Association; shall notify the person or persons or organization(s) concerned of the action taken by the Association; shall appoint and

dissolve committees and the chair thereof; shall act as the official representative of the student body on the Administrative Council of Blinn College; perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Constitution. This position is selected by a college wide election for the next academic year in the Spring semester.

Executive Vice President-The Executive Vice-President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees appointed by the President, in which capacity the Executive Vice-President is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the duties and work of such committees with the Executive Council directly. In this capacity the Executive Vice President will keep the Association informed of the work of Association committees with statements as required, unless the committee reports directly to the full Association. This position is chosen by the President of the Student Government Association.

Vice-President of On Campus Activities-The Vice-President of On Campus Activities will serve as chair of the Campus Issues Committee. Serving in this capacity they will have the power to create and suspend sub-committees within their sphere of authority and can assign issues to said committees as needed. This position is selected by a college wide election for the next academic year in the Spring semester. This committee will oversee the Student Lecture Series.

Vice-President of Off Campus Activities-The Vice-President of Off Campus Activities shall be responsible for the coordination of off campus activities among campus societies and organizations. They will have in their power the ability to create and disband sub- committees within their sphere of authority. This position is selected by a college wide election for the next academic year in the Spring semester.

Vice-President of Publicity-The Vice-President of Publicity shall be responsible for the publicity of all activities and events of the Student Government Association. This office is also charged with the planning and creation of Blinn Brazos County's entries to the Texas Junior College Student Government Association's competitions at the annual conference. This position is selected by a college wide election for the next academic year in the Spring semester.

Secretary-The Secretary will maintain a record of all meetings and proceedings and handle all the organization's correspondence. This position is selected by a college wide election for the next academic year in the Spring semester.

Parliamentarian-Shall assist the president and other officers and committees in matters of parliamentary procedure. The Student Government Association Executive Council appoints this position.

Sergeant-at-Arms-Shall be responsible for the taking of the roll, and the introduction of all new guests and members. The Student Government Association Executive Council appoints this position.

Treasurer- Shall be responsible for keeping an accurate account of the SGA Treasury. This position is selected by a college wide election for the next academic year in the Spring semester.

Historian-Shall be responsible with compiling pictures and videos for use in the scrapbook and video. The Student Government Association Executive Council appoints this position.

SECTION 7. COMMITTEES.

There shall be two types of committees: standing and special. The numbers of both types will be kept to a minimum. Unless otherwise specified, special committees are abolished upon completion of the function for which they were created. Committee chairs are given the authority to create sub-committees within their committees to examine and act on assigned issues.

A. Resolutions Committee (Added by amendment October 13, 2009)

1. A committee composed of at least five members to review resolutions submitted to the Parliamentarian and the Secretary of the Association within thirty days prior to the meeting and report on them to the General Assembly.
2. This committee shall have the authority to amend any resolution and then report on it in its amended form.
3. Only resolutions, which have been submitted to the Parliamentarian and the Secretary of the Association within thirty days prior to the meeting and which include the name of the author and the names of two additional members supporting said resolution will be considered.
4. Unless specified in the body of the resolution, resolutions passed by the Blinn College Brazos Campus General Assembly are binding and will constitute the official position of the Association.
5. All resolutions will be numbered when received to reflect that it is a Student Resolution (S.R.), the year it was submitted (09), the semester (F for Fall or S for Spring) and the submission number for the current year (1,2,3, etc.) . Furthermore, all resolutions will be formatted to include the following: Heading (Student Government Association Blinn College-Brazos County), Bill Number (S.R. Year Semester Submission Number), Introduced BY (author), Supported By (two members), Date Introduced (at General Assembly), and Title.

SECTION 8. CATEGORIES OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Social-Those formed primarily for the entertainment of members and guests and the advancement of campus life socially.

Service-Those formed primarily to render services or activities useful and compatible with the objectives of the College.

Professional-Those formed primarily to pursue or promote interest in a career or vocation that are consistent with the aims and purposes of a public institution.

Honorary-Those formed primarily to reflect academic achievement and scholarship, and to recognize these concerns as vital to sound campus life.

SECTION 9: TRAVEL

A. Types

There are three types of trips that the Student Government Association may be able to take during the academic year. These are:

(a)Regional

Twice an academic year the SGA will attend Regional conventions. (2) These dates are announced on the TJCSGA website (www.tjcsga.org).

(b)State

(1) The Texas Junior College Student Government Association is held in April or March.

(2) The dates for this convention are announced on the TJCSGA website (www.tjcsga.org)

(c) Leadership

Blinn College provides the opportunity for SGA members to attend Leadership Conferences when available.

B. Selection of Members for Travel

For each conference, several different variables are considered for selecting members to travel, such variables are, but not limited to, price of convention, level of SGA membership, involvement of SGA activities, current GPA above a 2.25 for Student Senators and Representatives, 2.50 for Executive Board and 3.0 for SGA President, and must be taking a minimum of 12 hours of college credit per semester. This is per Blinn College Board policy and is not subject to SGA amendment. A point system has also been enacted that allows for selection of individuals based on the quality and amount of the participation in SGA.

C. Student Expenses

(1) When applicable, students attending a convention involving flight must pay the difference between a non-refundable and refundable ticket in order to attend. Should a student pay this fee and then choose not to attend, they will forfeit this deposit.

(2) When possible, Blinn College will provide funds for meals to students attending conferences.

SECTION 10: NON-CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

If Blinn College Brazos County is elected to serve on a regional or state board, the Executive Council will appoint an individual to fill this position. The president may not serve on regional or state executive councils.

SECTION 11: SUCCESSION

No Student Government President may serve more than one term in office.

SECTION 12: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Student Government Association President shall not serve as president of any other organization on the Blinn College Brazos County campus during their administration.