



The University of Houston Student Government Association Constitution

Proposed Amendments - December 13th, 2024 (61st Administration)

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Preamble

We, the students of the University of Houston, in order to provide an official and representative organization to receive student questions and suggestions, investigate student problems and take appropriate action, provide the official voice through which the students' opinion may be expressed, encourage the development of responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision making processes of the university community, foster an awareness of the students' role in the academic community, enhance the quality and scope of education at the University of Houston, and provide means for responsible and effective participation in the organization of student affairs, do establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association at the University of Houston



Article I: Foundations

Section A: Name

Clause 1: This Constitution establishes, under the laws of the United States of America and the State of Texas, a unitary democratic republic that will be known as the Student Government Association of the University of Houston, hereinafter “the Student Government Association.

Section B: Representation

Clause 1: All currently enrolled students at the University of Houston are represented by elected or appointed Student Government Association Representatives.

Section C: Branches

Clause 1: The Student Government Association will consist of four (4) separate branches of government: the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and Justice Branch.

Section D: Bylaws

Clause 1: There will be a document entitled the ‘Bylaws,’ which will refine, outline, and build on the structures, procedures, roles, and rules outlined in this Constitution. The Bylaws are subordinate to the Constitution; thus in any occasion in which an element of the Bylaws contradicts the Constitution, the Constitution will precede the Bylaws.

Section E: Election Code

Clause 1: There will be a document entitled the ‘Election Code,’ which will refine, outline, and build on the structures, procedures, roles, and rules outlined in this Constitution with regard to elections managed by the Student Government Association. The Election Code is subordinate to the Constitution and Bylaws; thus in any occasion in which an element of the Election Code contradicts the Constitution or Bylaws, those documents will supersede the Election Code.



Section F: Officials

- Clause 1: A student is considered a Student Government Association “official” if they have been elected or appointed to any “office” (position) outlined in this Constitution, the Bylaws, or in any legal decree.
- Clause 2: All Student Government Association officials are accountable to the laws of the Student Government Association and may not, under any circumstances, violate them.
- Clause 3: No official may hold more than one position within the Student Government Association simultaneously unless otherwise stated in this Constitution.
- Clause 4: To protect the separation of powers of each branch of government, no officials in one branch of government will be accountable to a person holding office in a separate branch of government, except as explicitly outlined in this Constitution, the Bylaws, the Election Code, or any legal decree.

Section G: Support Staff

- Clause 1: A student is considered a “Support Staff” if the position is not directly outlined in this Constitution or the Bylaws.
- Clause 2: Students selected for a supporting role will adhere to the outlined description of tasks set by the Student Government official in which they are supporting.
- Clause 3: Actions committed by support staff fall under the responsibility of the official who selected them.

Section H: Powers

- Clause 1: All powers in the Student Government Association are outlined explicitly in this Constitution, Bylaws, or the Election Code. If a branch has not been clearly provided a specific power in one of these documents, it does not have said power, regardless of context. No powers are implied, and no entity, branch, or actor in Student Government will grant a power to themselves or another that is not outlined in this Constitution.

Article II: Bill of Rights



Section A: General Rights

Clause 1: As a component of the University of Houston, a public educational institution of the State of Texas, the Student Government Association will take no action abridging the rights, immunities, or privileges granted to students under the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Texas, federal law, or state law.

Section B: Right to Non-Discrimination

Clause 1: The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, sex (including gender and pregnancy), genetic information, religion, age (over 40), national origin, ethnicity, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity or status, gender expression, or any other legally protected status except in which such distinction is required by law. This statement reflects compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and all other federal and state regulations.

Section C: Right to Vote

Clause 1: No student will be deprived of the right to vote in an election of the Student Government Association, nor will any student be deprived of the right to vote on any measure put before the student body by the Student Government Association, for reasons other than ones explicitly outlined in this document.

Clause 2: Additionally, no vote cast by a student in a Student Government Election, unless the vote is definitively proven to be cast fraudulently, will be thrown out from the final determination of election results. Nor will any student be expected to vote more than once in order for their vote to be counted in the final determination of results. Secondary voting rounds and run-off elections are strictly prohibited.

Section D: Right to Transparency

Clause 1: There will be a publicly available Student Government website, which will display no less than the following information, with none of it being no more than seven (7) calendar days out of date:

- (1) The most up-to-date version of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code
- (2) The list of elected and appointed officials currently in office and their university email or official email - if they have one.



- (3) The list of university-wide committees, their committee members, and their university emails.
- (4) The record of all official meetings of the Senate and the actions taken in these meetings.
- (5) The record of all bills, resolutions, amendments, code revisions, and bylaw reforms that have been fully passed and are now law.
- (6) The record of all official meetings of the Supreme Court and the actions taken in these meetings.
- (7) The record of all briefs submitted to the Supreme Court.
- (8) The record of all majority and minority opinions submitted by the Supreme Court.

Clause 2: No member of the student body or press will be denied access to any record of activities done by officials within the Student Government Association, including legislation and meeting voting records.

Section E: Right to Seek Office

Clause 1: A student will be eligible to pursue or hold office in the Student Government Association if and only if:

- (1) They are in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University of Houston.
- (2) They have not at any time served sanctions for offenses of either a violent or sexual nature. These include, but are not limited to, sanctions regarding physical assault, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.
- (3) They have not, at any time, been successfully impeached and removed from any office within the Student Government Association.

Clause 2: Officials who have lost eligibility to hold office will be notified, in writing- that they have been removed from office immediately upon losing eligibility either by their head of branch, their student government advisor, or the Attorney General. Upon notification being sent out, the office of the now ineligible individual will be vacant, effective immediately.

Article III: Legislative Branch



Section A: Purpose

Clause 1: The Legislative Branch is responsible for crafting, deliberating on, and enacting the laws of the Student Government Association.

Section B: Composition

Clause 1: The Legislative Branch will include the Student Senate, hereinafter “the Senate.”

Clause 2: The Senate will include various committees made up of members of the Senate, including not less than a committee dedicated to crafting and amending Student Government laws hereinafter entitled “the Committee on Internal Affairs.”

Clause 3: The Legislative Branch will consist of at least the following positions:

- (1) Speaker of the Senate - hereinafter “The Speaker”
- (2) Legislative Chief of Staff - hereinafter “The LCOS”
- (3) Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate - hereinafter “The Speaker Pro-Tempore”
- (4) Senators

Clause 4: The number of Senators will be determined by a method of apportionment.

Clause 5: The Legislative Branch will also consist of any positions created and formally empowered by the Bylaws in accordance with the guidelines of powers in this Constitution.

Clause 6: Every official within the Legislative Branch will have the ability to create and fill supporting-role positions for their office to assist them in the fulfillment of their individual duties. Officials will be punishable for any and all violations of the laws of the Student Government Association done by their staff.

Section C: Powers of the Speaker

Clause 1: The Speaker will be considered the head of the Legislative Branch.

Clause 2: The Speaker will:

- (1) Serve as the ordinary presiding officer for Senate meetings.
- (2) Appoint, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate present and voting the chairpersons of each Senate Committee.
- (3) Nominate eligible students to be appointed to positions as outlined in this Constitution.



- (4) Retain their position as either a College or At-Large Senator and all the duties and rights that come with it.
- (5) Call special sessions of the Senate, when necessary.
- (6) Coordinate, including dismissal, all Chairpersons and composition of each Senate Committee

Section D: Selection of the Speaker

Clause 1: The Speaker will be appointed utilizing the following procedure:

- (1) Senators will nominate themselves for consideration to become Speaker. No non-Senator will be eligible for appointment to the Speakership, and only Senators who have nominated themselves for Speaker will be considered.
- (2) In the case that only one eligible student has been nominated, the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate membership.
- (3) In the case that multiple eligible students have been nominated for the Speakership, the Senate will vote on all nominees for Speaker. The nominee that receives the most votes/approvals will become Speaker, effective immediately.

Clause 2: The Speaker will serve a term commencing when they are appointed at the first Senate meeting in April unless otherwise designated and terminating at the call to order of the first Senate meeting of the following April. The Vice President will serve as presiding officer at the first Senate meeting until the Speaker is appointed.

Clause 3: The Speaker may be recalled should two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total membership of the Senate vote for a recall resolution. This will remove the current Speaker from office, effective immediately, and instantly start a new appointment process for the Speakership, in which all Senators, including the former Speaker, will have the opportunity to self-nominate. During this process, the Speaker Pro-Tempore or most-Senior Senator will serve as presiding officer. Should the eligible presiding officers be vacant, unclear, or themselves self-nominated for the Speakership, the President or Vice-President may serve as presiding officer during the appointment process. No new or unfinished business will be considered until a new Speaker is appointed, lest the Summer Senate is in session. When the Summer Senate is in session, the Speakership may remain vacant and other business attended to with the next in line official serving as presiding officer as until a Speaker is appointed.

Section E: Powers of the Legislative Chief of Staff



Clause 1: The Legislative Chief of Staff will:

- (1) Be responsible for the coordination of the overall Legislative Branch under the supervision of the Speaker.
- (2) Be responsible for keeping a record of the Senate meeting minutes.
- (3) Record votes on all Legislation.
- (4) The LCOS will represent the Speaker in cases where the Speaker is unavailable.

Section F: Selection of the Legislative Chief of Staff

Clause 1: The LCOS will be unilaterally appointed by the Speaker.

Section G: Powers of the Speaker Pro-Tempore

Clause 1: The Speaker Pro-Tempore will:

- (1) Serve as the presiding officer for Senate meetings when the Speaker is unavailable.
- (2) Retain their position as either a College or At-Large Senator and all the duties and rights that come with it.

Section H: Selection of the Speaker Pro-Tempore

Clause 1: The Speaker Pro-Tempore will be appointed utilizing the following procedure:

- (1) The Speaker will nominate a sitting Senator for consideration to become Speaker Pro-Tempore.
- (2) The advice and consent of a majority of the Senate membership.

Clause 2: The Speaker Pro-Tempore will serve a term commencing when they are appointed and terminating at the call to order of the first Senate meeting of the following April.

Clause 3: The Speaker Pro-Tempore may be recalled should two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total membership of the Senate vote for a recall resolution. This will remove the current Speaker Pro-Tempore from their position, effective immediately, and leave their office vacant until such a time that the Speaker opts to nominate a Senator for Speaker Pro-Tempore. The Speaker retains the right to nominate any Senator for Speaker Pro-Tempore, including one that has just been recalled.



Section I: Powers of the Senators

Clause 1: Senators will:

- (1) Attend and participate in all Senate meetings.
- (2) Draft, comment on, and amend legislation.
- (3) Provide advice and consent regarding the appointment of officials.
- (4) Nominate eligible students to be appointe to senate seats as outlined in this Constitution.
- (5) Work to address problems presented to them by their constituency.

Section J: Selection of the Senators

Clause 1: Senators will be elected utilizing an Open-List Mixed-Member Proportional Representation System.

Under this system, Senators will be elected through two methods:

- (1) Each College will be entitled to one (1) and only one (1) Senator.
 - (a) All degree-granting Colleges created or re-designated by an Act of the Board of Regents will be guaranteed representation in the Senate.
 - (b) Eligible students will only be able to run for the College seat in the College in which they are currently enrolled. If a student is not currently enrolled in a College, they cannot run for that College's Senate seat.
 - (c) Eligible students in pre-graduate or pre-professional programs, even if they have not yet begun graduate or professional coursework, will be eligible to run for graduate and professional College seats. Eligible students in this circumstance need only confirm with their academic advisor that their career track includes a stated professional or graduate program in the future prior to filing to run for office.
 - (d) Students will only be able to vote in the College Senator election of the College they are currently enrolled in. A student enrolled in one (1) College will not be permitted to vote for a candidate running for the College Senate seat of a different College.
- (2) In addition, there will be a number of At-Large Senate seats. These seats will be distributed so as to ensure that each party receives a share of Senate seats proportional to the share of the vote they receive, such that for every 2.5% of the vote each party receives, they receive one (1)



Senate seat.

- (a) All students who are eligible to run for office will be permitted to run for an At-Large Senate seat.
- (b) There will always be exactly forty (40) Senator seats allocated between the parties at each election. The number of At-Large seats will be determined each year after the candidate deadline and will change based on the number of College seats that are set to be filled by an election. For every College seat that goes uncontested (has no eligible students run for it), the number of At-Large Senate seats will increase by one (1), such that the number of College Senators elected + the number of At-Large Senators elected at each election will add to forty (40). (For example, if there are seventeen (17) total College Senate seats, but only fifteen (15) of these College seats had eligible students run for them, then the total available At-Large seats will be forty (40) minus fifteen (15), which is equal to twenty five (25) total At-Large Senate seats for the year).

Clause 2: Senators will serve a one (1) year term commencing with the call to order of the first Senate meeting in April and terminating at the call to order of the first Senate meeting of the following April or at such time as a duly elected Senator involved in a disputed election is eligible to serve.

Section K: Senatorial Vacancies

Clause 1: A College Senate seat will be considered vacant if, at any point in time, there is no one filling it. There are many ways a Senate seat could become vacant; the following are some of the most common ways:

- (1) A College Senate seat could become vacant if no eligible student ran for the seat in the annual Student Government Elections.
- (2) Any College Senate seat, either College or At-Large, could become vacant if its occupant has resigned or has been legally removed from office.

Clause 2: To be eligible for appointment to a specific Senate seat, a student must fulfill the same eligibility requirements required to run for that seat.

Clause 3: In the event that a Senate seat becomes vacant, the President, Vice President, and Speaker within the Student Government Association will be able to nominate (in writing) an eligible student for consideration to be appointed to that seat.



Clause 4: If a Senate seat remains vacant for a period greater than twenty-eight (28) calendar days, each individual Senator will have the ability to nominate (in writing) to the Speaker an eligible student for consideration to be appointed to that seat.

Clause 5: A nominee will need to receive the following in order to be appointed to the vacant Senate seat:

- (1) In the case that only one eligible student has been nominated, the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate present and voting.
- (2) In the case that multiple eligible students have been nominated for the same Senate seat, the Senate will vote on all nominees for Senator. The nominee that receives the most votes/approvals will become a Senator, effective immediately.

Section L: Summer Senate

Clause 1: The Summer Senate will consist of all Senators able to attend during the Summer Semester. A Summer Senator does not need to be enrolled in classes; however, they must be able to attend meetings and carry on their usual duties and responsibilities on a regular basis.

Clause 2: Senators able to serve will so indicate to the Speaker (in writing), and the Speaker may install them prior to that week's meeting.

Clause 3: The Summer Senate will have the power to pass legislation and/or take other actions as necessary.

Section M: Line of Succession

Clause 1: Should, for any reason, the Speakership be vacated, the following will serve as the line of succession for the Presiding Officer:

- (1) Speaker Pro Tempore
- (2) Vice-President
- (3) President
- (4) Most Senior sitting Senator

Section N: General Senate Rules

Clause 1: The Senate will always have a presiding officer when conducting official business. The presiding officer of the Senate will only vote on matters in which their vote makes a difference in the outcome of the vote, including in instances when the President or Vice-President presides over the Senate.



Clause 2: In instances in which there is only a single nominee for a position presented to the Senate, Senators will vote either ‘Yes,’ signifying their approval of the nominee, or ‘No,’ signifying their disapproval of the nominee. There are no other eligible ways to vote in such a circumstance.

Section O: Legislative Powers

Clause 1: The Senate will have general legislative powers, including the following:

- (1) To support the drafting, modification, and passing of the Student Government Annual Budget and amendments to it.
- (2) To draft, modify, and pass Resolutions that express the will or promote the interests of the student body.
- (3) To draft, modify, and pass changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code.
- (4) To approve nominees to positions, committees, commissions, or boards, as specified by this Constitution or in the Bylaws.
- (5) To prescribe the time, place, and manner of holding popular referenda.

Section P: Types of Legislation

Clause 1: There will be three (3) different varieties of legislation. These will consist of the following:

- (1) Student Government Association Resolutions - Any piece of legislation that exists to express a message or document an intention. This includes any piece of legislation relating to the initiation of appointment procedures, recalling recallable officials, beginning impeachment, and all other legislation of a similar character.
- (2) Student Government Association Bills - Any piece of legislation that changes the law and involves exclusively action by the Student Government Association. This includes any piece of legislation relating to modification of the Student Government Association Budget, Election Code, Bylaws, Constitution, and all other legislation of a similar character.
- (3) University Bills - Any piece of legislation that changes the law and involves action by the Administration of the University of Houston. This includes any piece of legislation that impacts the Student Service Fee, or that instructs the University (or portions of it) to take any form of action in a fashion that, if successfully fully passed, would be binding rather than simply a suggestion or documentation of University actions already taken.



Clause 2: Student Government Association Resolutions, unless otherwise designated in this Constitution, will use the following process:

- (1) An introduction and first read of the Resolution will take place in front of the Senate.
- (2) The Bill will be read once more and will be voted on by the full Senate. If it receives a sufficient vote of the Senate, it will be considered fully passed.
 - (a) What constitutes a sufficient vote will differ based on what the Resolution pertains to. Resolutions that do not have any other vote standard specified anywhere in this Constitution, will default to requiring a simple majority of the Senate present and voting to pass.

Clause 3: Student Government Association Bills, unless otherwise designated in this Constitution, will use the following process:

- (1) An introduction and first read of the Bill will take place in front of the Senate.
- (2) The bill must receive a majority vote of the Senate present and voting to be sent back to the relevant Senate Committee as determined by the Senate in the motion process.
- (3) The bill must receive a majority vote of the Senate Committee members present and voting of the relevant Senate Committee to be sent back to the Senate for a final vote.
- (4) The Bill will be read once more and will be voted on by the full Senate. If it receives a sufficient vote of the Senate, it will be sent by the Speaker to the President of the Student Government Association within five (5) calendar days.
 - (a) What constitutes a sufficient vote will differ based on what the Bill pertains to. Bills will require a two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate present and voting to modify the Bylaws or Election Code. Bills that do not affect the Bylaws or Election Code and do not have any other vote standard specified anywhere in this Constitution will default to requiring a simple majority of the Senate present and voting to pass.
- (5) If the President approves the legislation, they will sign it, and it will be considered fully passed and will become law.
- (6) If the President disapproves of the legislation, they will return it to the Senate, along with their written objections. The Senate will then proceed to reconsider the legislation. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate present and voting agree to pass the legislation, it will be considered fully passed and will become law.
- (7) If no action is taken by the President of the Student Government Association within seven (7)



calendar days, automatically the legislation will be considered fully passed and it will become law without their signature.

Clause 4: Student Government Association Bills will be effective immediately unless specified otherwise in the bill, with one (1) exception. If a Student Government bill is fully passed after the candidate filing deadline for the annual student government election, and this bill in any way changes the Election Code, the bill will only go into effect at the first Senate meeting of the newly elected Senate and will not be retroactively applied to anything that occurred before this first meeting.

Clause 5: University Bills, unless otherwise designated in this Constitution or in the Bylaws, will require the same steps as Student Government Bills do, with one (1) extra step. Once they have successfully completed all the steps required for a Student Government Bill to be considered fully passed, they will be presented by the President of the Student Government Association to the President of the Student Government Association within five (5) calendar days to the President of the University.

- (1) An introduction and first read of the Bill will take place in front of the Senate.
- (2) The bill must receive a majority vote of the Senate present and voting to be sent back to the relevant Senate Committee as determined by the Senate in the motion process.
- (3) The bill must receive a majority vote of the Senate Committee members present and voting of the relevant Senate Committee to be sent back to the Senate for a final vote.
- (4) The Bill will be read once more and will be voted on by the full Senate. If it receives a sufficient vote of the Senate, it will be sent by the Speaker to the President of the Student Government Association within five (5) calendar days.
 - (a) What constitutes a sufficient vote will differ based on what the Bill pertains to. Bills that do not have any other vote standard specified anywhere in this Constitution, will default to requiring a simple majority of the Senate present and voting to pass.
- (5) If the President of the Student Government Association approves the legislation, they will sign it, and it will be sent by the President of the Student Government Association to the President of the University within five (5) calendar days.
- (6) If the President of the Student Government Association disapproves of the legislation, they will return it to the Senate, along with their written objections. The Senate will then proceed to reconsider the legislation. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate present and voting agree to pass the legislation, it will be sent by the President of the Student Government Association to the President of the University within five (5) calendar days.



- (7) If no action is taken by the President of the Student Government Association within seven (7) calendar days, it will be sent by the President of the Student Government Association to the President of the University within five (5) calendar days.

Section Q: Meetings

- Clause 1: The Senate will convene at least biweekly while classes are in session. These meetings will take place on Wednesday unless otherwise determined by the Speaker.
- Clause 2: The Senate will keep the following and make them available to the public within seven (7) calendar days from the time of first collection:
- (1) Audio and visual meeting recordings
 - (2) Written meeting minutes or audio transcripts
 - (3) Meeting voting records
 - (4) Meeting agendas
- Clause 3: Any member of the student body of the University of Houston will be permitted to give at least one (1) minute of public comment at Senate meetings, so long as they have provided advanced notice (in writing) a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting.

Article IV: Executive Branch

Section A: Purpose

- Clause 1: The Executive Branch will be responsible for the administration of the Student Government Association and for enforcing the laws established by the legislative branch.

Section B: Composition

- Clause 1: The Executive Branch will consist of at least the following positions:
- (1) President
 - (2) Vice President
 - (3) Chief of Staff
- Clause 2: The Executive Branch will also consist of any positions created and formally empowered by the



Bylaws.

Clause 3: Every official within the Executive Branch will have the ability to create and fill support staff positions for their office to assist them in the fulfillment of their duties. Officials will be punishable for any and all violations of the laws of the Student Government Association done by their staff.

Section C: Powers of the President

Clause 1: The President will be considered the head of the Executive Branch.

Clause 2: The President will:

- (1) Be the official representative of the student body of the University of Houston.
- (2) Participate in discussions at Senate meetings with the same speaking privileges as Senate members.
- (3) Provide the Senate with information concerning the state of the Campus and recommend for their consideration such measures as they deem necessary and expedient.
- (4) Call emergency meetings of the Senate when they deem such meetings advisable.
- (5) Appoint, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate present and voting, compensated/salary cabinet members of the offices within the Executive Branch.
- (6) Nominate eligible students to be appointed to positions as outlined in this Constitution.
- (7) Assign tasks or duties to other members of the Executive Branch as they see fit.

Section D: Selection of the President

Clause 1: The President will be elected by the entire student body in a single-winner election.

Clause 2: The President will serve a one (1) year term commencing on the first day of April and terminating on the first day of the following April or at such time as a duly elected President involved in a disputed election is eligible to serve.

Clause 3: No student will be permitted to serve as President for greater than two (2) terms, regardless of whether they were elected to the Presidency or arrived there through the line of succession. There shall be no counting of partial terms or fractions of terms. If a student completes any portion of a term as President, that entire term will still be counted against their lifetime limit of two (2), even if the period of time they spent in the office of the Presidency was very short.

Section E: Powers of the Vice President



Clause 1: The Vice President will:

- (1) Nominate eligible students to be appointed to positions as outlined in this Constitution.
- (2) Assign tasks or duties to other members of the Executive Branch as they see fit.

Section F: Selection of the Vice President

Clause 1: The Vice President will be elected along with the President on a joint ticket at the same time and at the same location on the ballot.

Clause 2: The Vice President will serve a one (1) year term commencing on the first day of April and terminating on the first day of the following April or at such time as a duly elected Vice President involved in a disputed election is eligible to serve.

Clause 3: Should the office of the Vice President be vacant due to the Vice President resigning or otherwise being legally removed from office, the President will be able to appoint any eligible student to the office of Vice President with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate present and voting.

Section G: Powers of the Chief of Staff

Clause 1: The Chief of Staff will:

- (1) Be responsible for the coordination of the overall Executive Branch under the supervision of the President.
- (2) The Chief of Staff will represent the President and Vice President in cases where the President and Vice President are unavailable.

Section H: Selection of the Chief of Staff

Clause 1: The Chief of Staff will be appointed by the President, with the majority advice and consent of the Senate present and voting.

Section I: Line of Succession

Clause 1: Should, for any reason, the Office of the President be vacated, the following will serve as the official line of succession for the Presidency, with the specified positions automatically moving up to the President position until the expiration of the specified term, in order:



- (1) Vice President
- (2) The Speaker
- (3) Speaker Pro Tempore

Clause 2: Should the next lowest office be vacant when the Office of the President becomes vacant, the following next lowest office will take its place (for example, if the Presidency becomes vacant, and there is no Vice President at the time, or should both the Presidency and Vice Presidency become vacant simultaneously, the Speaker will automatically become the new President).

Clause 3: Should the Presidency, Vice Presidency, Speakership, and Pro Tempore be vacant at the same time, a majority of Senators will (in writing) appoint a new individual to serve as President for the remainder of their term.

Article V: Judicial Branch

Section A: Purpose

Clause 1: The Judicial Branch will be responsible for interpreting the law and hearing cases regarding the Student Government Association.

Section B: Composition

Clause 1: The Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association will consist exclusively of a supreme judicial body known as the Student Government Association Supreme Court, hereinafter “the Supreme Court.”

Clause 2: The Supreme Court will consist of at least the following positions:

- (1) Chief Justice
- (2) Senior Associate Justice
- (3) Associate Justices

Clause 3: There will be one (1) Chief Justice, one (1) Senior Associate Justice, (5) Associate Justices. Together, they will make up the voting members of the Student Government Association Supreme Court.

Clause 4: The Senior Associate Justice, in the case the Chief Justice is unavailable or recused themselves from a case, would be the first in line to oversee a case.



Clause 5: There will be no courts other than the Supreme Court or justices other than the Chief Justice, Senior Associate Justice, and Associate Justices

Clause 6: Every official within the Judicial Branch will have the ability to create and fill support staff level positions for their office to assist them in the fulfillment of their duties. Officials will be punishable for any and all violations of the laws of the Student Government Association done by their staff.

Section C: Powers of the Chief Justice

Clause 1: The Chief Justice will be considered the head of the Judicial Branch.

Clause 2: The Chief Justice will:

- (1) Take on the planning and organizing of all meetings of the Supreme Court, including:
 - (a) Administrative meetings
 - (b) Pre-trial hearings
 - (c) Trial hearings
 - (d) Deliberations
- (2) Ensure that all necessary records are properly kept, organized, stored, and uploaded within seven (7) calendar days.
- (3) Release all rulings and decisions of the court to the public within seven (7) calendar days.
- (4) Participate in discussion, questioning, and court procedures in both open and closed settings.
- (5) Nominate eligible students to be appointed to positions as outlined in this Constitution.
- (6) Vote during hearings, trials, and meetings to express their views on court procedure.

Section D: Selection of the Chief Justice

Clause 1: In the event that the Chief Justice position becomes vacant, a majority of the Associate Justices will have the ability to nominate (in writing) the Senior Associate Justice or an Associate Justice for appointment to the position of Chief Justice, with the Senior Associate Justice presuming the authority of Chief Justice in the interim.

Clause 2: If the Chief Justice position remains vacant for a period greater than twenty-eight (28) calendar days, the President will have the ability to nominate (in writing) a current Associate Justice for appointment to the position of Chief Justice.

Clause 3: A nominee will need to receive the following in order to be appointed to the position of Chief Justice:



- (1) The advice and consent of a majority of members of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs.
- (2) Finally, the advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3rd) of the Senate present and voting.

Clause 4: The Chief Justice will be subject to the same term limit and automatic removal criteria that they were subject to as an Associate Justice (for example, if the newly appointed Chief Justice had spent two (2) years on the court from the time of their initial appointment, and the limit on an Associate Justices cumulative time on the court is three (3) years, the Chief Justice will only be eligible to serve one (1) more year on the court).

Section E: Powers of the Senior Associate Justice

Clause 1: The Senior Associate Justice will:

- (1) Be responsible for the coordination of the overall Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Chief Justice.
- (2) The Senior Associate Justice will represent the Chief Justice in cases where the Chief Justice is unavailable.

Section F: Selection of the Senior Associate Justice

Clause 1: The Senior Associate Justice will be appointed by the Chief Justice, with the majority advice and consent of the Court present and voting.

Section G: Powers of the Associate Justices

Clause 1: The Associate Justices will:

- (1) Attend all hearings, trials, and meetings organized by the Chief Justice.
- (2) Comply with duties as established by the Chief Justice.
- (3) Participate in discussion, questioning, and court procedures in both open and closed settings.
- (4) Nominate eligible students to be appointed to Supreme Court positions as outlined in this Constitution.
- (5) Vote during hearings, trials, and meetings to express their view/influence on court rulings and procedures.

Section H: Selection of the Associate Justices



- Clause 1: In the event that one of the Associate Justice positions becomes vacant, the Chief Justice will have the ability to nominate (in writing) an eligible student for appointment to the position of Associate Justice.
- Clause 2: If one of the Associate Justice positions remains vacant for a period greater than fourteen (14) calendar days, a majority of Associate Justices will have the ability to nominate (in writing) an eligible student for appointment to the position of Associate Justice.
- Clause 3: If one of the Associate Justice positions remains vacant for a period greater than twenty-eight (28) calendar days, the Attorney General will have the ability to nominate (in writing) an eligible student for appointment to the position of Associate Justice.
- Clause 4: A nominee will need to receive the following in order to be appointed to the position of Associate Justice:
- (1) The advice and consent of the President
 - (2) The advice and consent of a majority of members of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs.
 - (3) The advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate present and voting.
- Clause 5: All new Associate Justices, upon time of appointment, will be permitted to hold office for a time no longer than three (3) years cumulatively.

Section I: Jurisdiction

- Clause 1: All Student Government Association cases and appeals from the Activities Funding Board (AFB) will go directly to the Supreme Court with exception to violations of Student Code of Conduct that must be referred to the Dean of Students office for adjudication.

Section J: Rulings

- Clause 1: All rulings of the Supreme Court will be final with no appeal.
- Clause 2: The Supreme Court will be bound by past precedent and will not be able to change the legal interpretation of text within the Constitution established by previous cases unless the specific text in question has been in some way changed through the process of constitutional amendment.
- Clause 3: A quorum of the Supreme Court is required before any official trial or hearing takes place. A majority of the membership of the court constitutes a quorum. Should there be only two (2) members of the Supreme Court at the time of the trial/hearing, both will be required to be present before any trial or hearing takes place. Should only one (1) justice be on the court, only one (1) justice will be required to



be present before a trial or hearing takes place.

Clause 4: Official rulings will only occur when a majority of justices present have voted for the ruling following the conclusion of an open, sanctioned trial and/or hearing.

Clause 5: Should there be one (1) or (2) justice on the court. No trials should not occur until there is at least three (3) justices on the court.

Article VI: Justice Branch

Section A: Purpose

Clause 1: The Justice Branch is responsible for overseeing the other branches and ensuring that all parties relating to the Student Government Association abide by its laws.

Section B: Composition

Clause 1: The Justice Branch will consist of at least the following positions:

- (1) Attorney General
- (2) Deputy Attorney General
- (3) Auditor

Clause 2: The Justice Branch will also consist of any positions created and formally empowered by the Bylaws.

Clause 3: Every official within the Justice Branch will have the ability to create and fill support staff level positions for their office to assist them in the fulfillment of their duties. Officials will be punishable for any and all violations of the laws of the Student Government Association done by their staff.

Section C: Powers of the Attorney General

Clause 1: The Attorney General will serve as the head of the Justice Branch.

Clause 2: The Attorney General will:

- (1) Challenge, in front of the Supreme Court, any legislation that they deem to be illegal.
- (2) Engage in the investigative procedures necessary for impeachment proceedings and in cases in which there have been violations of student government governing documents generally.
- (3) Upon identifying a violation of the Constitution or the Bylaws, the Attorney General may



suspend any official in the Student Government Association from their position for up to thirty (30) days. The Attorney General may not suspend the same official back-to-back. Rather, they must be prosecuted for impeachment.

- (a) Suspensions must be continuous. (For example, should the Attorney general deem a suspension of three (3) days necessary, the suspended individual will serve these three days back-to-back)
 - (b) No one, while serving a suspension from the student government, may receive monetary or in-kind compensation from the student government.
 - (c) All suspensions by the Attorney General will be appealable to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court strikes down three (3) suspensions of the Attorney General, that will be considered grounds for their impeachment.
 - (d) Suspensions of Supreme Court Justices must receive the advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate present and voting.
- (4) Upon identifying a violation of the Election Code, the Attorney General may suspend any candidate for an office in the Student Government Association from campaigning for a certain period of time as designated in the Election Code for the offense.
- (a) If the punishment for a violation of the Election Code is disqualification, the case must go directly to the Supreme Court. The Attorney General will only provide suspensions for lesser offenses and may not provide verdicts regarding cases in which disqualification is the penalty.
 - (b) All suspensions by the Attorney General will be appealable to the Supreme Court.
- (5) Nominate eligible students to be appointed to positions as outlined in this Constitution.
- (6) Request and be granted within five (5) calendar days any student government materials, filings, documentation, business records, or otherwise from any officer (that has said requested parcel) within the Student Government Association for any reason at any time.
- (7) Coordinate, including dismissal, the officials of the Justice Branch.
- (8) Remove officials from office that have lost their eligibility to serve in the Student Government Association.

Section D: Selection of the Attorney General



Clause 1: The Attorney General will be appointed utilizing the following procedure:

- (1) The sitting Attorney General will nominate an eligible student or themselves for the position.
- (2) The nominee for Attorney General must be considered with the advice and consent of the President.
- (3) The nominee for Attorney General must be approved by a majority of the present members of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs.
- (4) The nominee for Attorney General must receive the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate present and voting.

Clause 2: Should the sitting Attorney General fail to nominate an eligible student or themselves to the position of Attorney General for a period greater than fourteen (14) calendar days, the Chief Justice will have the ability to nominate (in writing) a student for appointment to the position of Attorney General. The Chief Justice will also be able to nominate an Attorney General automatically should, at the time of the Attorney General's term expiring, there be no confirmed appointment for Attorney General, and there also be no one else in the Justice Branch to serve as Acting-Attorney General.

Clause 3: Should both the Attorney General's office and the entire Supreme Court be vacant simultaneously, the President will have the ability to nominate an eligible student for Attorney General.

Clause 4: Should a new Attorney General nominee fail to complete the nomination process by October 1st, the current Attorney General will automatically leave office, with the next member of the Justice Branch in the Attorney General line of succession serving as acting Attorney General in the meantime, with the responsibility to nominate a new candidate for Attorney General, and the same powers at the Attorney General.

Clause 5: Should the appointment process for the next Attorney General term not be completed by February 1st following the acting Attorney General assuming office, the nominee for Attorney General needs only the written approval of a majority of sitting members of the Supreme Court before assuming office as Attorney General. The acting Attorney General may self-nominate for the position of Attorney General.

Clause 6: The Attorney General will serve from October 1st to September 31st of the following year, each calendar year.

Section E: Powers of the Deputy Attorney General



Clause 1: The Deputy Attorney General will:

- (1) Assist the Attorney General in all matters the Attorney General deems appropriate related to the organization.

Section F: Selection of the Deputy Attorney General

Clause 1: The Deputy Attorney General will be appointed through the following procedure:

- (1) The sitting Attorney General will nominate an eligible student for the position.
- (2) The nominee for Deputy Attorney General must receive the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members of the Senate present and voting.

Clause 2: The Deputy Attorney General will serve from the time of their first appointment to the following September 31st.

Section G: Powers of the Auditor

Clause 1: The Auditor will:

- (1) Regularly review transactions and receipts pertaining to the Student Government Association of the University of Houston, reporting all activity directly to the Attorney General.
- (2) Have the right to request and receive, within ten (10) calendar days, the itemized budget and/or all receipts from the Student Government Association.
- (3) Publish on the website every fourteen (14) calendar days an itemized budget report that includes the following:
 - (a) Expended funds by all branches and departments
 - (b) Amount of funds left in each branch
- (4) Publish online a monthly itemized budget report every twenty-eight (28) calendar days.

Clause 2: In the event that the position of Auditor is vacant, all the powers and responsibilities of the Auditor will be granted to both the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General until such a time that the position is no longer vacant.

Section H: Selection of the Auditor

Clause 1: The Auditor will be appointed through the following procedure:

- (1) The sitting Attorney General will nominate a person for the position.
- (2) The nominee for the Auditor will receive the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Senate



present and voting.

Section I: Line of Succession

Clause 1: Should, for any reason, the Attorney General's position be vacated within the specified term, the following will serve as the official line of succession for the Attorney General:

- (1) Deputy Attorney General
- (2) Auditor

Clause 2: Should the Deputy Attorney General be vacant, the Auditor will automatically move up to the Attorney General position in the event of a vacancy until the expiration of the specified term.

Article VII: Election Commission

Section A: Purpose

Clause 1: The Election Commission will organize, administer, and oversee elections.

Clause 2: The Election Commission will be entirely separate from all four (4) branches of government. It shall not be construed as its own branch, as it need only be assembled for a portion of the year and need not exist at all times.

Section B: Composition

Clause 1: The Election Commission will consist of at least the following positions:

- (1) Election Commissioner
- (2) Deputy Election Commissioner

Clause 2: The Election Commission will also consist of any positions created and formally empowered by the Bylaws.

Clause 3: Every official within the Election Commission will have the ability to create and fill support staff positions for their office to assist them in the fulfillment of their duties. Officials will be punishable for any and all violations of the laws of the Student Government Association done by their staff.



Section C: Powers of the Election Commissioner

Clause 1: The Election Commissioner will:

- (1) Ensure the fair and accurate tabulation of election results.
- (2) Advertise elections to the student body.
- (3) Ensure only eligible students are able to become candidates.
- (4) Inform candidates of their rights and responsibilities.
- (5) Ensure candidates file their campaign finance reports.
- (6) Confirm the accuracy of campaign finance reports.

Section D: Selection of the Election Commissioner

Clause 1: The Election Commissioner will be appointed through the following procedure:

- (1) The sitting Attorney General will nominate an eligible student for the position.
- (2) The nominee for Election Commissioner must receive the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members of the Senate present and voting.

Clause 2: The Election Commissioner will serve from the time of their first appointment to the following March 31st.

Section E: Powers of the Deputy Election Commissioner

Clause 1: The Deputy Election Commissioner will:

- (1) Assist the Election Commissioner in all matters the Election Commissioner deems appropriate.

Section F: Selection of the Deputy Election Commissioner

Clause 1: The Deputy Election Commissioner will be appointed through the following procedure:

- (1) The sitting Election Commissioner will nominate an eligible student for the position.
- (2) The nominee for Deputy Election Commissioner must receive the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members of the Senate present and voting.

Clause 2: The Deputy Election Commissioner will serve from the time of their first appointment to the following March 31st.



Section G: Elections

- Clause 1: Elections for student-elected positions will be held in the Spring semester of each academic year while classes are in session, between the days of Monday and Thursday.
- Clause 2: Voting will be open for a minimum of forty-eight (48) continuous hours, with exact dates and times established in the Election Code.
- Clause 3: All student-elected positions, that is the Presidential ticket and Senate seats, the Student Government Association will utilize Approval Voting. Approval Voting ensures that a voter is able to vote for any/all candidates they ‘approve’ of, meaning they may vote for all or none of the available candidates. It is strictly prohibited to use First-Past-the-Post Voting in any Student Government Association election, without exception.

Section H: Ballots

- Clause 1: Students at the University of Houston, during the regular annual student government elections, will be presented a ballot that contains not less than:
- (1) The list of candidates running for President and Vice President.
 - (2) The list of candidates running to be their College Senator.
 - (3) The list of candidates they may vote for to be allocated to At-Large Senate seats.
- Clause 2: The only things listed on each of the ballots for positions in the Student Government will be the candidates’ names and the candidate’s party affiliation, if applicable. The only thing listed on the party ballot will be the names of each party. “Prefer not to Vote,” “Abstain,” “Uncommitted,” or any equivalent will never be listed on any ballot during Student Government Association elections. Should students not wish to participate in a specific election on the ballot, they can simply skip that portion of the ballot.
- Clause 3: Students, when voting for President and Vice President, will place a checkmark, or equivalent, next to none, all, or some number of each candidate’s name to signify their approval of said candidates. Should the student not prefer an individual candidate, they will signify so by failing to give a checkmark, or equivalent, next to the candidate’s name. Students who do not list their preference next to a candidate will be counted as not approving of said candidate(s).



Clause 4: Students, when voting for College Senator, will place a checkmark, or equivalent, next to none, all, or some number of each candidate's name to signify their approval of said candidates. Should the student not prefer an individual candidate, they will signify so by failing to give a checkmark, or equivalent, next to the candidate's name. Students who do not list their preference next to a candidate's name will be counted as not approving of said candidate(s).

Clause 5: Accordingly, students will then place a checkmark, or equivalent, next to none, all, or some number of each At-Large candidate's name to signify their approval of said candidates. Should the student not prefer an individual candidate, they will signify so by failing to give a checkmark, or equivalent, next to each candidate's name. Students who do not list their preference next to a candidate will be counted as not approving of said candidate.

Section I: Tabulation

Clause 1: The winner of the presidential election will be the presidential ticket that garners the greatest number of votes/approvals, even if the amount of votes/approvals they garner does not exceed 50% of all ballots cast.

Clause 2: The College Senator and At-Large Senate seats election results will be tabulated in the same way as the election for the President and Vice President, such that the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes/approvals wins.

Article VIII: Student Representatives

Section A: Overview

Clause 1: There are an array of student representative positions within the institutions of the University of Houston. The purpose of these positions is to allow students to participate directly in the decision-making processes that affect their student life.

Section B: University Committees

Clause 1: University Committees are the primary recommending/advisory agency for the specified university administrator(s) to which policy recommendations and feedback are delivered.



- Clause 2: There will be a variety of University Committees. Each University Committee has a specific charge, meets on a regular, ongoing basis over a period of a year or more, and has as its appointing officer an administrator of the Student Government. University Committees are advisory to their appointing officer.
- Clause 3: Should a University Committee position be vacant, the Vice President will have the power to nominate members to fill such vacancies with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate present and voting. Should there be multiple nominees to the same position, the candidate with the greatest number of votes/approvals in the appointing Senate meeting will receive the appointment.
- Clause 4: Should a University Committee position be vacant for greater than twenty-eight (28) days after the Fall semester begins, The President and the Speaker will each have the individual power to nominate members to fill such vacancies with the advice and consent of a majority of Senate present and voting. Should there be multiple nominees to the same position, the candidate with the greatest number of votes/approvals in the appointing Senate meeting will receive the appointment.
- Clause 5: All University Committee appointees are subject to removal on the grounds of nonfeasance or malfeasance. The Senate will have the power to remove appointees through a vote of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Senate present and voting. The Vice President will have the power to request, in writing to the Speaker, the removal of an appointee, requiring a vote of majority of the Senate present and voting. All removals are subject to appeal by the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association.
- Clause 6: No student will be eligible to hold a position on greater than four (4) University Committees simultaneously.

Section C: Governor Appointments

- Clause 1: Each year, one (1) eligible student is selected to sit with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as a non-voting student representative, and one (1) eligible student is selected to sit with the University of Houston Board of Regents as “Student Regent.”
- Clause 2: The Student Government will solicit applicants for the position of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Student Representative and Student Regent.
- Clause 3: The President of the Student Government will select no more than five (5) applicants as the Student Government’s recommendations each for Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)



representative and no more than five (5) applications for Student Regent and forward these applicants to the Chancellor.

Article IX: Impeachment Process

Section A: Overview

Clause 1: There will be a process of impeachment to be used as a mechanism to hold officials accountable within the Student Government Association who have violated the laws of the Student Government Association Constitution, Bylaws, or Election Code.

Clause 2: The impeachment process will have three (3) phases:

- (1) Nomination
- (2) Conviction
- (3) Removal

Clause 3: The impeachment process will only be considered complete if all three phases of impeachment have been gone through successfully. Only officials who have been nominated for impeachment, convicted, and removed from office will be referred to as “impeached.”

Clause 4: Persons impeached will never again hold any office in the Student Government Association

Clause 5: Persons in violation of Student Government attendance requirements or that have otherwise lost eligibility necessary to remain in office are not required to go through the impeachment process but may be subject to immediate dismissal by the head of the branch. Dismissals may be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Section B: Procedure

Clause 1: Anyone holding office in the Student Government Association may be nominated for impeachment if one of the following occurs:

- (1) The President nominates them with the majority advice and consent of the membership of the Senate.
- (2) Two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total membership of the Senate vote to nominate them for impeachment.



(3) The Attorney General nominates them.

Clause 2: All persons nominated for impeachment will stand trial in front of the Supreme Court, with one (1) exception. Should a justice of the Supreme Court be nominated for impeachment, they will temporarily resign their position, pending the conclusion of the impeachment process. Should multiple justices be nominated for impeachment simultaneously, they will collectively and simultaneously resign from their positions until the conclusion of the impeachment process for each justice. No justice nominated for impeachment will serve on the court until the conclusion of the impeachment process, including the impeachment trial.

Clause 3: The one (1) and only exception to the trial requirement for impeachment will be in the case that all members of the Supreme Court are nominated for impeachment simultaneously. In this case, the Attorney General will have the authority to find the members of the court guilty or not guilty on an individual or collective basis upon reviewing and scrutinizing the facts of the impeachment case.

Clause 4: If a person is found guilty of an impeachment charge or charges, these charges will be forwarded to the Senate, which may remove the individual from office with a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the total membership of the Senate. Should justices be nominated for impeachment and found guilty of the impeachment charges simultaneously, the Senate may vote to remove each person individually or collectively.

Clause 5: In the case, in which the Attorney General personally nominates the entirety of the court for impeachment simultaneously, the charges will be immediately forwarded to the Senate for final deliberation and vote. In this case, the impeachment will require a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the membership of the Senate to remove the justices from office. The Senate may vote to remove each person individually or all of them collectively.

Article X: Amendment Process

Section A: Overview

Clause 1: There will be a process for amending this Constitution so as to make it adaptable to the future needs and preferences of the student body.

Section B: Procedure



Clause 1: In order to initiate the Constitutional amendment process, a proposed Constitutional amendment will need to be approved by at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total membership of the Senate.

Clause 2: After being approved by the Senate, the amendment will become a part of the Constitution if it is successfully ratified by a majority of the students voting in the annual Spring SGA Elections.

Section C: Timing

Clause 1: Legislation attempting to amend the Constitution must specify the date(s) the referendum will take place.

Clause 2: Constitutional referendum will take place only during the election season during the Spring semester while classes are in session.

Clause 3: A Constitutional referendum must be promoted by the Director of Public Relations at minimum five (5) business days prior to its voting. Should the Director of Public Relations be vacant, any member of the Executive will oversee its promotion.

Section D: Validity

Clause 1: Constitutional amendments are only “invalid” or “unconstitutional” if they make future amendments to the Constitution impossible either by eliminating the process entirely or by eliminating a necessary entity for amending the Constitution (such as the Senate). Any constitutional amendment that does not make future amendments impossible is not eligible to be struck down or overturned by the Supreme Court under any circumstances for any reason.

Clause 2: If there is what appears to be a contradiction in this Constitution and there is some interpretation of the law that makes it such that the contradiction is no longer present, that interpretation which nullifies the contradiction will be selected. If there ever is a contradiction in this Constitution, which is clear and undeniable, the text that clause that appeared first to the Constitution shall be law, and the clause that appears later shall be ignored in cases in which it produces contradictions.

Article XI: University Policy

Section A: Anti-Hazing



Clause 1: Students and Student Organizations are prohibited from initiating, participating in, or being witness to hazing activity. Hazing is antithetical to the University's commitment to a positive educational environment. Participation in hazing activities is against the law. Violation of the University's hazing policy, whether on or off-campus, may subject participants, including students and organizations, to arrest, prosecution, and/or disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion of students and the revocation of an organization's registration and/or recognition at the University. Consent to or acquiescence in a hazing activity is not a defense. The University strictly prohibits any party from participating in hazing activities, regardless of the existence of consent. Hazing activities do not contribute to the positive development or welfare of students. The University of Houston recognizes the act of hazing as illegal, irresponsible, intolerable, and inconsistent with the principles of higher education and basic human development. For more information on the University's Hazing Policy, please visit the Student Life Policies section of the University of Houston Student Handbook.

Section B: Non-Discrimination

Clause 1: The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, sex (including gender and pregnancy), genetic information, religion, age (over 40), national origin, ethnicity, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity or status, gender expression, or any other legally protected status except in which such distinction is required by law. This statement reflects compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and all other federal and state regulations.

