



ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Global American Learning

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

BY-LAWS

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- A. Revision of the By-Laws

I. COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Student Government of St. Thomas University (hereafter referred to as “the Student Government.”)

B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Government, a university-wide student government association, represents the student body. The organization promotes students' common welfare by sponsoring programs and services and acting as the student body's voice.

The goals of student government are to be achieved by appropriate means, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Provide effective liaison between the student body and the administration, faculty, and staff of the University;
- ensuring representation of STU students on the Academic Senate, Self-Assessment Committee, and Academic Standards Committee;
- identify and sponsor appropriate social, cultural, and academic activities that benefit the student body;
- support virtual campus organizations and activities.

All Student Government members should attend Student Government meetings whenever possible.

C. MEMBERS

The Student Government consists of a minimum of five (5) to a maximum of seven (7) members. It is composed of students elected annually in January. It comprises students who obtain the majority of votes in the annual elections.

Members serve one-year terms and may be re-elected for additional terms.

Each year the Student Government elects the following representatives from among its members:

1. Two student representatives for the Self-Evaluation Committee
2. Two student representatives for the Academic Standards Committee
3. two student representatives to attend meetings of the Academic Senate in an advisory capacity.

The bodies mentioned above are validly constituted even without student representatives.

D. ELECTION

Each year, during the second week of January, the Dean will announce the day scheduled for elections. The following week, interested students should submit their candidacy in writing to the Office of the Rector to verify formal requirements. Candidates must not have been found guilty of academic dishonesty or violations of STU's code of conduct and must be in good standing with their tuition payments. The following week, students can apply with other STU students, organize meetings and present their programs and proposals through group chats and forums. All these activities must be approved by the STU President and contained without distracting academic activities or harassing fellow students.

The first meeting of the Student Government must be scheduled three academic days after the election.

E. EXPULSION

Any elected member of the Student Government is subject to expulsion if:

- they are found guilty of academic dishonesty or violations of the STU Code of Conduct;
- they are found to have been consistently or grossly negligent in the performance of their duties;
- their actions or behavior negatively affect STU, the student government, and the student body.

According to STU's procedures, a representative found guilty of academic dishonesty or violations of STU's code of conduct will automatically lose their status as a member of the Student Government.

Before the Student Government can expel a member for any of the above reasons, it must first:

- give the student formal written notice of its intention;
- inform the student of the allegations or complaints against them in an officially closed meeting of the Student Government;
- allow the student to defend themselves and discuss the charges.

A motion to expel a member can only be approved by a 75% vote of the Student Government. The member being considered may not vote in the proceedings.

F. VACANCIES DURING THE TERM OF OFFICE

Vacancies in the Student Government during the term of office shall be filled by appointing the first student from among the candidates on the slate who was not elected.

The student so appointed must meet the membership requirements.

G. THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Student Government members shall appoint the Student Government President by choosing from among the members of the Government. The President so appointed must be approved by a majority of the Student Government members present and shall serve for one (1) year.

The Student Government President shall:

- convene the meetings of the Student Government;
- presides over Student Government meetings unless they relinquish the chairmanship for a specific purpose;
- sets the agenda for each Student Government meeting;
- promotes the purpose of the Student Government as defined in the University Bylaws, Catalog, and Handbooks;
- appoints the Secretary of the Student Government by choosing from among the members of the Student Government.

H. THE SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Student Government shall serve a term of one (1) year. The Student Government President may remove them early for severe and proven reasons.

The Secretary shall take minutes of all Student Government meetings and be the custodian of Student Government records. They shall be responsible for distributing copies of approved minutes to interested persons.

II. MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

A. MEETING DAYS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Student Government shall meet at least once every two months during the year. The Student Government will organize and approve the meeting schedule during its first meeting at the beginning of each year.

The Student Government President may call extraordinary meetings of the Student Government. The convening of a special meeting is subject to the submission of a petition, certified by the Student Government Secretary, containing the signatures of at least two-thirds of the members of the Student Government; in such case, the meeting must be scheduled within three academic days of the certification of the petition.

In the case of special meetings, Student Government members will be notified by e-mail by the Student Government President one week before the meeting.

The President may cancel or reschedule a regularly scheduled meeting in an emergency.

B. AGENDA

Agenda items must be sent to Student Government members via e-mail at least one week before each meeting.

The Student Government President is responsible for the agenda.

Discussion at Student Government meetings will be limited to the items on the agenda. Any exceptions will require the explicit approval of the Student Government at the meeting.

C. MEMBER ABSENCES

Each member must notify the Student Government President of the reasons for not attending Student Government meetings to be excused.

Suppose a member is absent unexcused for three (3) regularly scheduled Student Government meetings in a year. In that case, the Student Government will replace the member by electing the first from the list of those not elected.

D. PROCEDURAL RULES ON DEBATE

Discussion of a motion or agenda item must be relevant to the motion or article. The Student Government President shall determine whether the debate deviated from the motion or agenda item under consideration.

E. VOTES

All voting on motions shall be by a show of hands unless the Student Government President requests a secret ballot. Such votes are taken by paper ballot.

In the case of a hand ballot, the President will designate a person to count. In the case of a secret ballot, the Secretary will take the poll and report the results to the Student Government President. Members may not vote in absentia.

F. QUORUM

Each meeting of the Student Government is official if a simple majority of the voting members are present. A majority vote applies to this committee. In case of a tie, the President's vote prevails. Abstentions are not counted.

G. MINUTES

The Secretary of the Student Government shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Student Government.

Any motion made and passed at the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes. The decision of each motion shall be made clear by the vote recorded in the minutes, along with a summary of the discussion.

The minutes will be corrected and approved by the Student Government President. A copy of the approved minutes will be forwarded to the President of the University.

III. REVISION OF THE BY-LAWS**A. REVISION OF THE BY-LAWS**

The President of the Student Government may propose changes to these By-Laws to the University President; the Board of Trustees will finally act upon all revisions proposals.