

*We the students* of EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, in order to ensure the greatest participation by students in their immediate governance; to provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests; empowered by the spirit and values of our learning community, committed to our mutual respect for diversity, and understanding of our own value as agents of change, do hereby ordain and establish this

## Constitution of the Student Government Association of East Central University



### Article I. Name

Section 1. The formal name of this organization shall be “East Central University Student Government Association.”

In common uses, “ECU SGA” shall be the preferred short-form derivation thereof.

### Article II. Affiliation

Section 1. At all times, this organization shall be subject to the Constitution and Statutes of the OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, anything in this Constitution, or Laws made in the pursuance thereof, to the contrary notwithstanding.

## Article III. Membership

- Section 1. All students by virtue of their registration at EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, shall be considered members of the Student Body and shall be subject to this Constitutions, the Student Government Statutes, and to all University Rules and Regulations.
- Section 2. All students shall be entitled to vote in Student Government Association elections.
- Section 3. No administration official or faculty member of EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY may interfere in the process of selecting members of the organizations, nor shall any provision in this Constitution be construed to allow such.
- Section 4. The Student Government Association is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuance thereof, this organization seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The organization believes that diversity as a fundamental value among its members strengthens the organization, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches life.
- The Student Government Association expects all of its members to join together to ensure a climate of diversity where everyone values individual and group differences, respects the perspectives of others and communicates openly.
- The Student Government Association shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military statutes in any of its activities or operations.

## Article IV. The Legislative Branch

- Section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be bested in a Senate of the Student Government Association.
- Section 2. The membership of the Senate will be organized into three (3) groups. Four (4) Senators elected to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will compose the first group, henceforth known as the Executive Board of the Student Government Association. Four (4) Senators will compose the second group with one (1) chosen from each undergraduate classification.
- The final group will be determined by academic enrollment. Prior to an election, the President shall request the number of undergraduate students enrolled for the previous semester, organized by the academic department. Each undergraduate College or School with an Academic Dean will be eligible to receive representation.

The eligible program with the highest enrollment will be used to determine the number of seats available.

The number of students enrolled in the largest eligible program will be divided by three (3). Eligible programs with fewer than one third (1/3) the number of students as the largest program will receive one (1) Senator. Eligible programs with more than one third (1/3) but fewer than two thirds (2/3) the number of students as the largest program will receive two (2) Senators. Eligible programs with more than two thirds (2/3) the number of students as the largest program will receive three (3) Senators. One (1) Senator will be elected to represent the School of Graduate Studies.

Numbers used to determine seats must be official data from East Central University and must be the most recent data available.

Each Senators shall have one vote, except for the President of the Student Government Association, who shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie on a matter before the senate.

Section 3. The Senate shall have the power to:

1. Draft and act upon legislation of Senate committees or members;
2. Discuss and debate matters of concern to the EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY community and to issue statements of student opinions on those matters;
3. Hear and act upon constituency grievances;
4. Review and recommend status for campus organizations;
5. Review disciplinary problems of campus organizations and to invoke proper disciplinary actions or policies thereto related;
6. Approve or reject Presidential appointments of all policy oriented personnel and justices of the Judicial Branch, including the Chief Justice of the Honor Court
7. Amend any Bylaws to this Constitutions by a two-thirds vote of the Senate;
8. Aid and/or assist any campus organizations and/or programs;
9. Authorize the disbursement of Unallocated Budgetary Funds;
10. Require reports at least twice a year from all committees arising under the authority of the Student Government Association;
11. By process of law, establish or abolish executive committees to be administered under the direction of the SGA President;
12. By process of law, establish or abolish any SGA positions not specifically defined by this Constitution;
13. Override a veto of the SGA President by a two-thirds vote of those Senators present at the next official meeting after the veto;
14. Make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution of the Student Government Association.

Section 4. The Senate shall:

1. Hold open meeting at least twice every full month of classes during the Fall and Spring Semester, with the first such meeting being on the Tuesday evening of the second week of the respective semester, unless the Senate shall by law appoint a different day;
2. Establish those rules for itself that are necessary for its proper and orderly conduct of its business;
3. Direct and supervise all Student Government Association elections;
4. Establish all Senate committees not specifically defined by this Constitution.

Section 5. Every piece of legislation which shall have passed the Senate, and shall, before it becomes an official document of legislation and/or law, be presented to the SGA President; if he/she approves, he/she shall sign it, if he/she does not approve, he/she shall return it, with his/her objections, to the Senate, which shall proceed to reconsider it.

If after such reconsideration two-thirds of the Senate agrees to pass the piece of legislation, it shall become an official document of legislation and/or law.

If any piece of legislation shall not be returned by the SGA President within four (4) school days after it shall have been presented to him/her, the same shall be an official document of legislation and/or law, in like manner as if he/ she had signed it.

Section 6. In the event that a vacancy occurs in any Constitutionally defined Senate Position the SGA President shall have the power to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a student to fill said vacancy

Section 7. The President and all other SGA officers, including Senators, Executrices, and the Justices of the Honor Court shall be liable and subject to impeachment.

The grounds for impeachment shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following: willful neglect of duty; corruption in office; violation of the SGA Constitution, By-Laws, or enacted legislation; or misconduct committed while in office.

The Senate, when sitting for the purpose of impeachment or removal, shall be divided as follows, eleven (11) Senators shall be elected by a majority vote of the body assembled to compose the Body of Impeachments, and shall have the sole power of impeachment; eleven (11) Senators shall be elected by a majority vote of the body assembled to compose the Body of Trials, and shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for these purposes, all Senators shall be on oath or affirmation.

The SGA President shall preside over the Body of Impeachments, with the exception of his or her impeachment; the Chief Justice of the Honor Court shall preside over the Body of Trials, with the exception of his or her impeachment when the most senior Justice shall preside.

The articles of impeachment shall be approved by the Body of Impeachment after receiving a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present. The SGA President will sign and attest to the articles of impeachment upon their passage. The decision to remove the impeached officer shall be approved by the Body of Trials after receiving a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present. The Chief Justice shall sign and attest to the order to remove upon its passage.

The Senate, when sitting for the purpose of impeachment or removal, shall have the sole and exclusive power to interpret the Constitution as it pertains to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7, specified herein. The Honor Court shall be further prohibited from issuing any writs of ruling pertaining to the procedures for impeachment and removal or to the validity of particular impeachment and removal decisions.

The Senate shall pass such By-Laws as are necessary for carrying into effect the procedures for impeachment and removal, and other provisions of this section.

## Article V. The Executive Branch

Section 1. The supreme executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in a President of the Student Government Association, who shall make all policies and procedures not otherwise provided for the Constitution.

The President shall hold office during the term of one year, and together with the Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary for the same term, shall comprise the Executive Board of the Student Government Association, and all be elected as enumerated in Article VII.

No person except a full-time student, as defined by ECU policy who shall have successfully completed one full term as a Senator, shall be eligible to be elected to the Office of SGA President or SGA Vice President.

In case of removal of the President from office, or of his/her death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President. The Senate may, by law, provide, for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed or a President shall be elected.

Section 2. The SGA President shall have the power to:

1. Nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint the SGA executive branch members, Justices of the Honor Court, and all other officers of the SGA whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, specifying their duties and term of office; the Senate may, by law, vest the

appointment of such inferior officers, as they thing proper, in the President alone;

2. To remove from office any appointee within the executive branch, by filing a written document with the Honor Court outlining the reasoning for the removal from office, and by gaining the advice of the Senate;
3. Call an assembly of the students after gaining the consent of the Senate, and to preside over any assemblies of all EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY students;
4. To preside over meeting of the Executive Board;
5. To call special sessions of the Senate
6. To give, with concurrence of the Executive Board, SGA endorsement to any special event or project planned by any student organization.

Section 3. The President shall give to the Senate, at the first meeting of the semester, information of the State of the Campus, and recommend to their consideration such members as he/she shall judge necessary and expedient, and shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Section 4. The President, or his/her designee thereof, shall have the power to officially present the members of the SGA in both University and Extra- University matters.

Section 5. The Vice President shall preside over the Council of Presidents, and be responsible for all duties and responsibilities as assigned by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining all Student Government Association financial records, and be responsible for all duties and responsibilities as assigned by the President.

Section 7. The Secretary shall be responsible for all duties and responsibilities as assigned by the President.

## Article VI. The Judicial Branch

Section 1. The judicial power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in one Honor Court and such inferior courts as the Senate may from time to time establish.

The Justices of the Honor Court and inferior courts shall hold office until such Justices graduate or retire from the court. The office of a Justice who is an undergraduate student terminates upon receiving a Bachelor's degree from ECU. The office of a justice who is a graduate student terminates upon receiving a Master's or similar graduate degree from ECU. Former justices must repeat the appointment and confirmation process in order to serve a second term

Section 2. Judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution and the laws of the SGA or laws which shall be made under its

authority; to all cases of Judicial Review; to all cases affecting SGA officers; and to controversies to which the SGA shall be a party; and to controversies between two or more student organizations.

Section 3. The Honor Court shall have original jurisdiction only in cases affecting SGA officers and those in which SGA shall be a party.

The Honor Court shall have appellate jurisdiction in cases of Judicial Review and other aforementioned cases, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Senate shall make.

Individual Justices must disqualify themselves from hearing or ruling upon any case or petition of which they are a party.

Section 4. The Honor Court shall have the power to submit a budgetary request to the Executive Board for consideration, and shall have the power to nominate, and by with the consent of the Senate, to appoint such judicial officers as it deems necessary.

Section 5. All ECU Students, and student organizations recognized or registered with the Office of Campus Involvement, shall be subject to this Constitution and the legislation of the Student Government Association which shall be made in pursuance thereof.

Justices of the Honor Court, and judges in student organizations recognized or registered with the Office of Campus Involvement, shall be bound hereby to all parts of this Constitution, the constitutions and legislation of other student organization to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 6. The Honor Court shall have an advisor who serves as an ex-officio member and does not vote. The advisor shall be appointed by the President of EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY.

## Article VII. Elections

Section 1. The times, places, and manner of holding elections for senators shall be prescribed herein, and in such additional regulations as the Senate shall make; the Senate may, at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations

All members of the Student Body are entitled to vote in the general, runoff, and special elections of the Student Government Association; the SGA membership qualification shall be that the students but be registered in the resident instruction at ECU's Ada campus.

Elections shall be under the direction of an Election Committee, the membership and duties of which shall be defined by the Senate.

Section 2. Elections for all Senators and Executive Board members shall be held during the spring semester for the terms of office beginning the following academic year.

## Article VIII. Office of Campus Involvement

Section 1. At the beginning of each fall semester, the SGA shall report a list of names of its officers and advisors to the Office of Campus Involvement; shall promptly report any changes to said list of names to said department.

It shall be the understanding of the Office of Campus Involvement and the Executive Board of the Student Government association that any failure to submit such materials aforementioned, either through continued negligence or willful omission, may result in the suspension of official recognition of the SGA until such time as materials aforementioned are properly submitted.

## Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall apply to and govern the procedures of all meetings of the Student Government Association and any subdivisions thereof.

## Article X. Rules & Bylaws

Section 1. The Student Government Association may, from time to time, establish rules and procedures, which shall be necessary for the administration of the organization and the execution of its purposes; such rules shall be incorporated herein.

## Article XI. Advisor

Section 1. The Student Government Association shall have an advisor who serves as an ex-officio member and does not vote. The advisor shall be appointed by the President of East Central University.

## Article XII. Amendments

Section 1. The Senate, when two-thirds of the members deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution; or



Based on its submission, a petition to the Senate signed by at least one-hundred (100) students enrolled at ECU's Ada campus shall propose amendments to this Constitution; or

The Senate, when three-fourths of the members deem it necessary, shall call a convention that shall propose amendments; or

Based on its submission, a petition to the Senate signed by at least one-hundred (100) students enrolled at ECU's Ada campus shall call a convention that shall propose amendments.

Which, in any aforementioned case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by a majority of those students voting either in a general election at which such amendments shall be on the ballot, or in a special election for the sole purpose of amending this Constitution.

- Section 2. Typographical, grammatical, and formatting errors in this Constitution shall be amended through amendments to the SGA By-Laws or legislation passed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, and shall be considered ratified and valid to all intents and purposes upon enactment of the legislation.

#### Article XIV. Transfer of Function and Presidents Council

- Section 1. This Constitution shall go into effect upon approval by a majority of those students voting in an all-purpose election.
- Section 2. All legislation passed prior to the adoption of this Constitution and not in conflict with any of its provisions shall continue in effect, unless rescinded by the Senate.
- Section 3. This Constitution specifically enable the establishment of Joint Councils for the purposes of resolving differences and pursuing common interests. Such Councils shall include, but shall not be limited to a Presidents Council, composed of the elected and appointed Presidents, and/or their respective designees, of all recognized student organizations.

A Student-Administration Council shall be formed to resolve problems within the SGA that cannot be properly solved within the framework of the SGA Constitutions, By-Laws, Honor Court rulings, and enacted legislation.