

CONSTITUTION
of the
Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities
Student Council

Revised: August 9, 2021

ARTICLE I
THE CABINET

The cabinet is a body composed of four members: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Junior Representative. The President and Vice-President must be second-year students while the Secretary and Treasurer positions are both first and second-year students. The Junior Representative position is only available to first-year students. The cabinet shall request a faculty/staff advisor each year from Academy administrators. All cabinet positions shall serve for one year unless removed as described below by Article Four. The duties of the positions are as follows:

A. The President

1. To serve as a figurehead to represent the Texas Academy at all necessary functions;
2. To preside over the weekly meetings and to keep the student body updated on decisions and activities;
3. To deliver a copy of successful senate and cabinet proposals to the Director, communicating their necessity and purpose;
4. To communicate to the governing body the acceptance or reasons for rejection of proposals;
5. To ensure that all accepted proposals are carried out. The President is allowed to submit proposals to the senate; however, the President will have no vote nor apply any given political powers to pass a proposal.

B. The Vice-President

1. To serve as the senate chair and to fulfil the duties stated in Article Two;
2. To serve as an advisor to the President.

C. The Secretary

1. To produce accurate minutes for all Student Council meetings;
2. To take attendance at Academy functions and required events;
3. To serve as an advisor to the President.

D. The Treasurer

1. To work directly with the senate to allocate funds and plan fundraisers;
2. To maintain and provide an accurate record of funds and expenditures;
3. To aid in the establishment and lead the fundraising committees for Student Council;
4. To serve as an advisor to the President.

E. Junior Representative

1. To designate a spot in the cabinet to represent the Junior class;
2. To guide first years in becoming familiar and accommodated with the program;
3. To serve as an advisor to the President.

ARTICLE II

THE SENATE

The Senate is a body composed of six senators; three first-year representatives elected by first-year students, and three second-year representatives elected by second-year students. The Senate will choose a staff advisor from among Academy staff. Each senate position will be for a term of one year unless removed under Article Four. All senators will be in equal standing and will conduct meetings according to Robert's Rules (modified is acceptable). All proposals must pass the Senate with a majority vote. The senate duties are as follows:

1. To prepare paperwork for proposals to the administration;
2. To assist committees for special events; and
3. To represent the student body and its concerns.

The Vice-President shall serve as the senate chair and shall be responsible for the following senate duties:

1. To mediate discussion;
2. The Vice-President is allowed to submit proposals to the senate, but the Vice-President will have no vote; and
3. Should the need for a tie-breaking vote within the senate arise, it shall be delegated to the Vice-President.

ARTICLE III.
THE ELECTIONS

Students are eligible to run for the Texas Academy Student Council provided they:

- (1) have a 3.0 semester GPA (or satisfactory progress reports for the first semester candidates),
- (2) have not committed any major behavior violations as determined by the Director, and
- (3) are verifiably active in a current service project.

Students running for office must submit their intention to run for office one week before the candidates of that office will be announced. The Presidential elections will be held within the last 30 calendar days of the academic year with the Vice-Presidential election occurring one week after the election of President. Cabinet (Secretary and Treasurer) elections will be held within the first 30 calendar days of the subsequent academic year, with senate elections held the following week.

- Note: Once elected, the President is unable to apply for a Peer Mentorship position.

At least one week before Election Day, candidates will submit speeches of 1-3 minutes to be approved by the administration. Speeches may not contain derogatory or other improper content such as the slander of other candidates, inappropriate language, etc. Candidates will deliver speeches immediately prior to the elections. Ballots will be collected by the Administrative Associate Senior (or an administrator appointed by the Director) and counted in the presence of 2 Texas Academy students.

In the event that a student does not arrive before speeches have begun, the student forfeits the right to run or vote in that election. Mitigating circumstances may warrant a late speech or vote, with permission of the Texas Academy Director. In the event of a tie, the candidates who earn the most votes will continue the procedure in run-off elections(s) to be held as soon as possible, decided by the Director. If a candidate does not win in one election, he/she may run for a position in the election held the following week. Senate elections will follow the same procedure as above.

No one may hold more than one Student Council position at any given time except the Vice-President who may become Acting President during a mid-year election due to a vacated post.

ARTICLE IV.

RESIGNATION AND VACATED POSITIONS

Any officer who fails to maintain the established standards of election or is found responsible of being derelict in his/her duties (missing meetings, failure to cooperate, discourteous behavior) or of committing Level III or IV violations shall be referred for review. Any Texas Academy administrator may request or require a resignation when deemed necessary. Any position which is vacated for any reason will be filled within two community meetings by the aforementioned election process. Should the President vacate his/her position, the Vice-President shall assume his/her duties for the interim.

ARTICLE V.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the senate or by a cabinet member. Then the amendment must pass the Senate by a majority vote. It must then be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the student body, upon which time it shall be reviewed by the Director. The Director will communicate the acceptance or rejection of the amendment to the President who will then communicate the same to the student body.

ARTICLE VI.

THE FINAL AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS ACADEMY

The Director of the Texas Academy retains the final rights to abrogate any proposal or amendment which the student council has successfully passed.