

The Constitution  
of  
The Student Association  
of  
Oklahoma Panhandle State University



Revised March 2013

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### Preamble

We, the students of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, in order to exercise the powers delegated to us by the University: to develop self-governance; to foster closer relationships among University Administration, faculty, and the student body; to advise Administration, faculty, and students when deemed appropriate; to uphold student rights; and to promote the highest ideals and best services for OPSU; do hereby establish and promulgate the following Constitution.

### Article I: Name

§101. The name of this organization shall be "The Student Association of Oklahoma Panhandle State University," hereafter referred to as "the Student Association."

### Article II: Membership

§201. All students paying "Student Government Fees" shall be members of the Student Association.

### Article III: Executive Branch

§301. There will be seven (7) Executive Officers for the Student Association: Association President, Association Vice-President, Association Secretary, Association Treasurer, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, Senate Correspondence Secretary, and Senate Parliamentarian.

§302. The officers listed in §301 shall serve as ex-officio voting members of the Executive Council of the Student Association, hereafter referred to as "the Executive Council," in which the executive power of the Student Association is vested.

§303. The offices listed in §301 shall be elected in accordance to guidelines set forth in the bylaws.

§304. The powers and duties of offices listed in §301 and the Executive Council shall be set forth in the bylaws.

§305. The following qualifications must be met to run for an Executive Office:

§305A. For the office of President, a Student Association member must

§A-1. Have completed a minimum of forty-five (45) semester hours prior to filing for office.

§A-2. Possess a minimum institutional GPA of 2.5.

§A-3. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.

§A-4. Have been a Student Association member for the two (2) semesters immediately prior to filing.

§A-5. Have served in the Student Senate for a minimum of (2) semesters.

§305B. For the office of Vice President, a Student Association member must

§B-1. Have completed a minimum of forty-five (45) semester hours prior to filing for office.

§B-2. Possess a minimum institutional GPA of 2.5.

§B-3. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.

§B-4. Have been a Student Association member for the two (2) semesters immediately prior to filing.

§B-5. Have served in the Student Senate for at least one (1) semester prior to filing.

§305C. For the office of Secretary, a Student Association member must:

§C-1. Have completed a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours prior to filing for office.

§C-2. Possess a minimum institutional GPA of 2.5 OR maintained a semester GPA of 3.0 or above for at least two (2) semesters prior to filing.

§C-3. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.

§C-4. Have been a Student Association member for the two (2) semesters immediately prior to filing.

§305D. For the office of Treasurer, a Student Association member must:

§D-1. Have completed a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours prior to filing for office.

§D-2. Possess a minimum institutional GPA of 2.5 OR maintained a semester GPA of 3.0 or above for at least two (2) semesters prior to filing.

§D-3. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.

§D-4. Have been a Student Association member for the two (2) semesters immediately prior to filing.

§305E. For the office of President Pro-Tempore, a Student Senate member must

§E-1. Have served in Student Senate for at least one (1) semester

§E-2. Meet the same qualifications as a Student Senator

§305F. For the office of Correspondence Secretary, a Student Senate member must meet the same qualifications as a Student Senator.

§305G. For the office of Parliamentarian, a Student Senate member must meet the same qualifications as a Student Senator.

§306. In order to fill vacant positions, if the above qualifications cannot be met, requirements may be waived by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

§307. Each Executive Officer must continue to meet the initial qualifications throughout his/her term of office. Failure to do so will require the President to declare that office vacant.

§307A. Excepting: When the President Pro-Tempore has assumed the office of Vice-President, he/she must only continue to meet the qualifications of President Pro-Tempore.

§307B. Excepting: When the qualifications for an office have been waived.

§308. Any Executive Office of the Student Association shall be declared vacant by the President when the officeholder:

- (1) ceases to be an Student Association member regularly enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours;
  - (2) is impeached and convicted of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of office;
  - (3) is placed on University disciplinary probation;
- AND/OR
- (4) is found to have failed to meet the initial qualifications for office unless falling under §307A or §307B.

#### Article IV: Legislative Branch

§401. The legislative power of the Student Association shall be vested in the Student Senate.

§402. The powers, duties and conduct of meetings of Student Senate shall be set forth in the by-laws.

§403. The Student Senate shall be composed of

§403A: One (1) representative from each academic department of Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

§403B: Two (2) representatives from each housing area, as defined in the by-laws.

§403C: Two (2) representatives from each class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior).

§403D: One (1) representative from each chartered Student Association organization.

§404. The following qualifications must be met to serve on Student Senate:

§404A. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.

§404B. Possess a minimum institutional GPA of 2.0, excepting first semester freshman and first semester transfer students.

§404C. If representing an academic department, be officially listed as a major or minor in that particular academic department.

§404D. If representing a housing area, be occupying a residence in that particular housing area.

§404E. If representing a class, be officially classified by the university registrar as being in the class represented based upon credit hours completed.

§405. Any Student Senate seat shall be declared vacant by the Student Senate's presiding officer when the Senator

- (1) is impeached and convicted of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of office;
  - (2) is placed on University disciplinary probation;
- OR
- (3) ceases to meet the qualifications to serve on Student Senate.

§406. There shall be the following Standing Committees of the Student Association:

- §406A. Funds Request Committee;
- §406B. Event Planning Committee;
- §406C. Organization Oversight Committee;
- §406D. Elections Committee;
- §406E. Homecoming Committee;
- §406F. Campus Improvement Committee.

Article V: Judicial Branch

§501. The judicial powers of the Student Association are vested in the Student Association Supreme Court, hereafter referred to as "the Court".

§502. There shall be five (5) Student Association members appointed Justices of the Court by the Association President and approved by a majority of the Student Senate.

§503. The Justices shall select from amongst themselves, in a manner of their choosing, a Chief Justice.

§504. The following shall be the qualifications to be appointed to the Court:

- §504A. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.
- §504B. Possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75.
- §504C. Have been a Student Association member for a minimum of two (2) semesters.
- §504D. Not be a current member of Student Senate.

§505. A Court seat shall be declared vacant by the President when a Justice

- (1) is placed under University disciplinary probation;
- OR
- (2) ceases to meet the qualifications to serve on the Court.

§506. The powers and duties of the Court shall be as follows:

- §506A. To interpret this Constitution and its bylaws as provided in §508.
- §506B. To adjudicate impeachment proceedings as provided in §509.
- §506C. To adjudicate appeals as provided for in the by-laws.

§507. The powers and duties of the Chief Justice shall include

- §507A. Deliver the opinion of the Court in writing to the Executive Council and Student Senate.
- §507B. Administer the Oath of Office to the Association President.
- §507C. When necessary, declare the vacancy of the office of Association President.
- §507D. To preside at meetings of the Court.
- §507E. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.

§508. The Supreme Court shall render decisions based on the following:

(1) Upon written request of the Association President and Association Secretary;

(2) Upon a majority vote of the Student Senate;

OR

(3) Upon submission of a written petition containing signatures from 10% of the Student Association membership.

§508A. Such interpretations, as in §508(1)-(3) may be requested prior to action being taken by the Executive Council, the Student Senate, bodies within the Student Senate, or as acts of judicial review following action being taken.

§509. The Court shall adjudicate impeachment proceedings based on the following:

(1) Upon a 2/3rd vote of the Student Senate as convened to impeach an Officer of the Student Association or a Student Senator;

OR

(2) Upon submission of a written petition to impeach an Officer of the Student Association containing the signatures of 20% of the Student Association membership.

§509A. The President Pro-Tempore, or a designee as approved according to the by-laws, shall serve as the representative of the Student Senate in impeachment proceedings.

§509B. Shall provide adequate time for an Officer so charged to respond to or rebut allegations.

§510. Except as specified elsewhere in the Constitution and by-laws, decisions of the Court are not subject to appeal.

§511. The Court shall exercise discretionary power in its procedures and proceedings (scheduling, time limitations, meeting location, etc.), given that it shall provide for adequate presentation of all sides in an issue brought before it.

§512. Justices are subject to removal by a 3/4th vote of the entire Student Senate.

§513. The conduct of meetings of the Court shall be set forth in the by-laws.

#### Article VI: Amendments and Revisions

§601. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by 2/3rd vote of the Student Senate as convened or by submission of a written petition containing signatures from 20% of the Student Association membership with proposed amendment contained within submitted documentation.

§602. A majority of votes cast by Student Association members shall be necessary for adoption of Constitutional amendments, provided notification of the election and proposed amendment(s) is made a minimum of two (2) weeks in

advance in all campus media. Amendments so adopted shall take effect immediately.

§603. Revision to this Constitution and its bylaws may be proposed by a 3/4th vote of the entire Student Senate.

§604. Following a successful motion to revise the Constitution and its bylaws, a standing committee, to be referred to as the Constitutional Revisions Committee, shall be formed composed of the Association President, the Association Vice President, the Student Association Advisors, and two (2) Student Association members.

§605. The Constitutional Revisions Committee will provide input on suggested changes and shall choose between one (1) and four (4) committee members -- referred to as Editors-- to revise the Constitution and its bylaws. At least one (1) Editor must be from the Student Association.

§606. The Editor(s) will present to the Constitutional Revisions Committee the proposed changes to the Constitution and its bylaws and the Committee shall take a majority vote to pass the revisions or send it back to the Editor(s) for further revision.

§607. Revisions passed by the Constitutional Revisions Committee shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

§608. Upon adoption by Student Senate, the Constitutional Revisions shall be submitted to the University President for approval.

§609. Rejection by the University President shall be accompanied by a written justification for his or her disapproval.

§610. Student Senate reserves the right to resubmit disapproved Constitutional Revisions to the University President

§611. Constitutional Revisions approved by the University President shall be adopted in an election by a majority of Student Association members voting, provided that

§611A. Notification of this election is made a minimum of two (2) weeks in advance in all campus media.

§611B. Elections shall occur within four (4) weeks of approval by the University President.