

CONSTITUTION  
*Of The*  
Student Government Association  
*Of*  
Abilene Christian University

**Preamble**

We, the undergraduate student body of Abilene Christian University, in order to provide an atmosphere for students to grow spiritually, academically, and socially, to promote the interests of the student body to the administration of the University, and to engage, equip, and empower the student body, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

**Chapter I: Student Government Association**

*Article 1: Name*

1. This organization shall be the Student Government Association, hereafter called the SGA.

*Article 2: Definitions*

1. The definition of a full-time student shall be set forth in the Catalog of the University.
2. The definition of a part-time student shall be set forth in the Catalog of the University.
3. The “student body” shall refer to all students represented by the SGA.
4. The “voting Senate members” shall consist of all voting members regardless of attendance.

*Article 3: Membership*

1. The SGA shall only represent students of Abilene Christian University, hereafter called ACU.
2. The SGA shall only represent undergraduate students.
3. Those classified as full-time students shall be represented by the SGA.
4. Those classified as part-time students only in their last semester shall be represented by the SGA.
5. All students represented by the SGA are subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

*Article 4: Responsibilities*

1. The SGA shall request that the administration account for rules affecting the student body.
2. Requests to the administration may be initiated by the Senate or directly by the President.

## **Chapter II: President's Cabinet**

### *Article 5: President's Cabinet Name*

1. The executive branch of the SGA shall be the President's Cabinet, hereafter called the Cabinet.

### *Article 6: President's Cabinet Membership*

1. The Cabinet shall include a President.
2. The Cabinet shall include a Vice President.
3. The Cabinet shall include a Treasurer.
4. The Cabinet shall include a Chief of Staff.
5. The Cabinet shall include a Chief Financial Officer.
6. The Cabinet shall include a Press Secretary.
7. The Cabinet shall include a Marketing Director.
8. The Cabinet shall include a Director of Engagement and Recruitment
9. Terms, powers and responsibilities of each Cabinet member shall be established in the Bylaws.

### *Article 7: President's Cabinet Organization*

1. The Cabinet shall consist of Executive and Administrative offices.
2. The Cabinet shall consist of elected and appointed positions.
3. Administrative Officers shall not be appointed until all Executive Officers are established.

### *Article 8: President's Cabinet Executive Officers*

1. The President shall be an Executive Officer.
2. The Vice President shall be an Executive Officer.
3. The Treasurer shall be an Executive Officer.
4. The Chief of Staff shall be an Executive Officer.

### *Article 9: President's Cabinet Administrative Officers*

1. The Chief Financial Officer shall be an Administrative Officer.
2. The Press Secretary shall be an Administrative Officer.
3. The Marketing Director shall be an Administrative Officer.
4. The Director of Engagement and Recruitment shall be an Administrative Officer.

### *Article 10: President's Cabinet Elected Positions*

1. The President shall be elected by the student body.

2. The Vice President shall be elected by the student body.

*Article 11: President's Cabinet Appointed Executive Positions*

1. The President shall appoint the Treasurer.
2. The President shall appoint the Chief of Staff.
3. Executive Officer appointments shall be made in consultation with the Vice President.

*Article 12: President's Cabinet Appointed Administrative Positions*

1. The President shall appoint the Chief Financial Officer.
2. The President shall appoint the Press Secretary.
3. The President shall appoint the Marketing Director.
4. The President shall appoint the Director of Engagement and Recruitment.
5. Administrative Officer appointments shall be made in consultation with the Executive Officers.

**Chapter III:**

*Article 13: Senate Name*

1. The legislative branch of the SGA shall be the Senate.

*Article 14: Senate Powers*

1. The Senate shall have the power to bring forth legislation to enhance the life of the student body.
2. The Senate shall have the power to make recommendations to the faculty and administration.
3. The Senate shall have the power to appoint additional non-voting members.
4. The Senate shall have the power to remove members of the SGA for misconduct.

*Article 15: Senate Responsibilities*

1. The Senate shall represent the interests of the student body.
2. The Senate shall appropriate the Senate funds designated by the Cabinet.
3. The Senate shall facilitate the elections required by this Constitution or called by the President.
4. The Senate shall confirm nominations by a two-thirds majority of voting Senate members.

*Article 16: Senate Class Representatives*

1. The Senate shall have representatives for the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Classes.
2. Each Class shall have a President.
3. Each Class shall have a Vice President.
4. Each Class shall have a Multicultural Representative.

5. Each Class shall have no more than ten general Senators.
6. All Class representatives shall have standard voting rights in the Senate.
7. All Class representatives shall have standard procedural rights in the Senate.
8. Terms, powers and responsibilities of each representative shall be established in the Bylaws.

*Article 17: Senate Members from the President's Cabinet*

1. All members of the Cabinet shall be members of the Senate.
2. All members of the Cabinet shall have no voting rights in the Senate.
3. All members of the Cabinet shall have special procedural rights in the Senate.

*Article 18: President's Cabinet Procedural Rights*

1. The Vice President shall be the parliamentarian.
2. Cabinet members may not bring legislation to the floor unless it concerns SGA finances.
3. Excepting the preceding stipulations, Cabinet members shall have standard procedural rights.

**Chapter IV: Judicial Board**

*Article 19: Judicial Board Name*

1. The judicial branch of the SGA shall be the Judicial Board, hereafter called the Board.

*Article 20: Judicial Board Powers*

1. The Board shall have the power to interpret all Authoritative Documents.
2. The Board shall have the power to reject all legislation it deems illegal.
3. The Board shall have the power to prohibit all executive action it deems illegal.

*Article 21: Judicial Board Responsibilities*

1. The Board shall review legislation for compliance with all Authoritative Documents.
2. The Board shall participate on the Behavioral Review Board of ACU.

*Article 22: Judicial Board Membership*

1. The Board shall consist of two Associate Justices and one Chief Justice.
2. Terms, powers and responsibilities of each Justice shall be established in the Bylaws.

*Article 23: Judicial Board Justice Appointments*

1. The Justices shall be appointed by the President.

2. The Senate shall confirm Justices by a two-thirds majority of voting Senate members.
3. Appointments to the Board shall be irrevocable, except in cases of misconduct.

## **Chapter V: Membership Rules**

### *Article 24: Qualifications*

1. Qualifications for Cabinet members shall be established in the Bylaws.
2. Qualifications for Class representatives shall be established in the Bylaws.
3. Qualifications for Justices shall be established in the Bylaws.

### *Article 25: Elections*

1. Rules and procedures for Cabinet elections shall be established in the Bylaws.
2. Rules and procedures for Class representative elections shall be established in the Bylaws.

### *Article 26: Removals*

1. Members of the SGA who do not uphold the requirements of their offices may be removed.
2. All removals shall be approved by a three-fourths majority of voting Senate members.

### *Article 27: Resignations*

1. Resignations shall become official when the resignee completes a written Letter of Resignation.
2. If possible, resigning SGA members shall submit their Letters of Resignation to the President.
3. If the President resigns, they shall submit their Letter of Resignation to the Vice President.
4. Any student holding office who becomes ineligible for their office shall resign.

### *Article 28: Vacancies*

1. The Vice President shall succeed to the Office of the President in the event of a vacancy.
2. The President shall nominate successors for vacant Cabinet offices.
3. The Vice President shall nominate successors for vacant Class representative offices.
4. All nominations shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of voting Senate members.

## **Chapter VI: Finances**

### *Article 29: Student Activity Fee*

1. The SGA may collect dues from the student body with an annual Fee.
2. The Treasurer may submit a recommendation to adjust the size of the Fee to the Senate.
3. Proposals to adjust the Fee shall be submitted in the semester before they would take effect.

4. The Senate shall vote on proposals to adjust the Fee the week after they are submitted.
5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for enacting adjustments to the Fee.

*Article 30: Budgetary Restrictions*

1. No more than sixty percent of the SGA budget shall be distributed to ACU student organizations.

*Article 31: Endowment*

1. SGA shall retain an Endowment with ACU and ACIMCO, the university's investment service.
2. The Endowment shall be administered in accordance with the SGA Endowment Fund agreement, executed on March 3, 2021.
3. The Endowment shall be used for the benefit of the student body and student organizations.
4. Each year, a minimum of 3% of the total SGA operating budget shall be invested into the Endowment along with any annual surplus.
5. By a two-thirds majority vote of voting members, the Senate may vote to suspend the 3% annual investment or surplus contribution for the year in which they serve.
6. Further rules for the governance of, execution of, and investment into the Endowment shall be established in the Bylaws.

**Chapter VII: Authoritative Documents**

*Article 32: Authority*

1. The Constitution shall be the supreme authority for the Student Government Association of ACU.
2. The Bylaws shall be an authority for the SGA subordinate only to the Constitution.

*Article 33: Contradictions and Ambiguities*

1. For conflicts between the Bylaws and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.
2. For conflicts between the Bylaws and nonconstitutional documents, the Bylaws shall prevail.
3. For conflicts within a document, the meaning shall be determined by the Board.
4. Authoritative Documents shall be interpreted according to their original meanings.

*Article 34: Constitutional Amendments*

1. Constitutional amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of voting Senate members.
2. Constitutional amendments shall be implemented as modifications to the text.
3. Constitutional amendments shall be ratified by a majority of votes cast from the student body.
4. Constitutional amendments shall be active one week after ratification unless otherwise specified.
5. Specifications for when Constitutional changes become active may be placed in the amendment.

*Article 35: Bylaws Amendments*

1. Bylaws amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of voting Senate members.
2. Bylaws amendments shall be implemented as modifications to the text.
3. Bylaws amendments shall be active one week after ratification unless otherwise specified.
4. Specifications for when Bylaws changes become active may be placed in the amendment.

**Chapter VIII: Advisors**

*Article 36: Advisor Responsibilities*

1. Advisors shall serve as partners and advocates for the student body.
2. Advisors shall guide the SGA officers with their experience and wisdom.

*Article 37: Advisor Rights*

1. Advisors have the right to question or recommend action for any decision made by the SGA.

**Chapter IX: Continuation**

*Article 38: Officer Terms*

1. The terms of all current SGA officers shall survive the adoption of this Constitution.

*Article 39: Debts*

1. Any existing financial obligations and debts shall survive the adoption of this Constitution.

**Chapter X: Summer Clause**

*Article 40: Summer Operations*

1. Any essential financial obligations which the Senate would approve by votes during the semester will be executed by the newly elected Executive Cabinet in consultation with administration.
2. At the start of the first Senate meeting of the semester these actions, President shall report on these financial decisions to the Senate.

*Article 40: Summer Responsibilities*

1. The President-elect shall enact any legislation that needs to be enacted before the start of the regular school term, but was not yet enacted during the previous President's term.

2. During the summer, the President-elect shall conduct meetings with administration as suggested by the Vice President of Student Life.

**Declaration of Authority**

We, the student body of Abilene Christian University, hereby approve this Constitution as submitted on the 27th day of February and ratified on the 5th day of May 2023.