



Texas Lutheran University

Student Government Association

Legislative Committee

Committee Members:

Senator Mr. Logan Randall – Chair

Senator Mr. Masen Aleman – Member

Senator Ms. Ainsley Lake - Member

Student Government Association:

Mr. Justin Friedman – *President*

Ms. Mayra Arroyo – *Vice President*

Ms. Elle Anderson – *Secretary*

Mr. Justin Perry – *Treasurer*

Dir. Tiffany Espinoza – *Faculty Advisor*

Proposal For Amendments to the Texas Lutheran University Student Government Association Constitution

Madam Vice President,

As the Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Texas Lutheran University Student Government Association (SGA) I formally submit before you a proposal for amendments to the constitution of the Student Government Association. Under Article IX. Section One. of the SGA constitution I request that the following amendments be presented to the senate seeking a vote of two-thirds for successful proposal. Under Article IX. Section Two. I request that should an amendment(s) be successfully proposed by a senate vote of two-thirds you direct the senate to seek adoption of the amendment(s) to the constitution by receiving a majority of legal senate votes cast. Under Article IX. Section Three. of the constitution I request that should an amendment(s) receive a majority of legal senate votes for adoption that it be submitted to the Election Committee for certification and subsequent approval by University Administration. Following these actions should they be successful the amendments shall be implemented effective immediately.

The Legislative Committee has taken up these matters and has dutifully reviewed each of these proposed amendments. The Committee is confident in this proposal and believes it to be a positive, constructive, beneficial, and meaningful request for changes to the SGA constitution. Furthermore, the Committee requests the unilateral support of the SGA Executive Board regarding this draft. The Legislative members immensely appreciate this Body and respectfully submit this proposal.

Proposed Amendment I | Article II. Object

Active Legislation – “Subject only to the statutory regulations of the TLU Board of Regents and the TLU President, the SGA represents undergraduate students in voicing their concerns, promoting student interests, managing student fees and properties, and advocating for student social, academic, and spiritual life at Texas Lutheran University.”

Proposed Amendment – Subject only to the statutory regulations of the TLU Board of Regents, The Texas Lutheran University (TLU) President, TLU Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, and the TLU Dean of Students. The Student Government Association (SGA) represents undergraduate and graduate students in voicing their concerns, promoting student interests, managing student fees and properties, and advocating for student social, academic, and spiritual life at Texas Lutheran University.

Logic –

1. Expanding Student Representation:

The primary goal is to make SGA an inclusive voice for all students at the university. By changing the constituency from only undergraduate students to undergraduate and graduate students, the amendment ensures that all members of the student body are officially represented. This allows the SGA to address the concerns and promote the interests of the entire Texas Lutheran University (TLU) student population, regardless of their degree level. This change in representation should also represent a directive to encourage more university prioritization of graduate programs, etc.

2. Integrating and Clarifying Institutional Oversight:

The amendment also expands the list of administrative authorities to which the SGA is subject. The active legislation only cites the TLU Board of Regents and the TLU President. The proposal adds the TLU Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and the TLU Dean of Students.

Proposed Amendment II | Article III. Membership Section 1. Composition

Active Legislation – “The SGA shall consist of the Student Body President, a staff advisor, two faculty advisors, and a legislative body of at-large Representatives consisting of no more than one senator for every 90 TLU FTE (full time enrolled) undergraduate students, rounding up. The actual number of senators shall be determined annually by March 1 using full-time undergraduate enrollment data from the start of the fall and spring semesters.”

Proposed Amendment – The Student Government Association (SGA) shall consist of the Student Body President, a staff advisor, one faculty advisor, and a senate body of at-large representatives consisting of no more than 17 senators.

Logic –

1. Creating a Fixed and Predictable Senate

The proposed amendment replaces the current ratio with a fixed maximum limit of 17 senators. Moving to a fixed maximum of 17 senators stabilizes the SGA's size and makes it predictable. Assuming an average total student population of 1300 students with a full senate of 17 senators, this would equate to approximately one senator for every 75 students. A total of 17 senators also eliminates the possibility of voting ties. Crucially, this fixed number is also set to be a size consistent and appropriate for the university's needs, ensuring the Senate is large enough to represent diverse student interests but streamlined enough for efficient and effective governance. This eliminates the burden of annual recalculations and supports clearer decision-making and easier quorum attainment.

2. Reducing Faculty Load:

The active legislation requires the SGA to have two faculty advisors, and the proposed amendment reduces this requirement to one faculty advisor. This change aims to simplify the advisory structure; while retaining necessary faculty guidance, it eases the burden on faculty members who volunteer their time and is more realistic about the needs of SGA. One faculty advisory sufficiently meets the needs of SGA and thus the requirement of two is unnecessary.

Proposed Amendment IV | Article III. Membership Section 2. Senators D. Removal and Resignation 1. C.

Active Legislation – “Failing to attend four (4) SGA related functions broken down in this way. Senators are allowed up to 2 unexcused absences, 1 excused absence, and 1 mental health day in a semester. If you cannot make it to an event, please alert the Secretary via email, and include the SGA Vice President and SGA President.”

Proposed Amendment – Senators are allowed four total absences from SGA related functions per academic semester. Senators are allowed three excused absences and one unexcused absence per academic semester. An excused absence is determined by the senator notifying the Secretary, Vice President, and President via email or another communication method of the absence. An unexcused absence is one in which a senator is absent from an SGA related function and does not make any prior notifications to the executive board.

Logic – The proposed amendment retains the total of four allowed absences but simplifies the categories to three excused absences and one unexcused absence while clearly defining each type of absence. The goal is to streamline the attendance policy to be clearer, more consistent, and focused on proactive communication. The previous policy used complex categories, and the new policy simplifies the structure into two main types, excused and unexcused, and shifts the balance to allow three excused absences per semester. This change emphasizes that a Senator's primary accountability is prior notification to the Executive Board. This standardization makes the policy easier to understand and enforce while retaining the professional expectation that Senators inform the SGA leadership when they cannot attend their official duties.

Proposed Amendment V | Article III. Membership Section 2. Senators D. Removal and Resignation 2. Resignation

Active Legislation – “A senator may resign by submitting a request in writing to the SGA Secretary.”

Proposed Amendment – A senator may resign by submitting a request in writing to the SGA Secretary. The executive board will notify the resigning senator of their resignation acceptance or denial within two business days of receiving the request. Should a resignation request be accepted the SGA Secretary will notify the senate body in a timely manner. If a senator who has previously resigned from their position seeks reelection, they must receive authorization to sit on the senate or executive board through a majority senate vote.

Logic – The proposed amendment introduces an Executive Board review period for the resignation and establishes a new requirement for re-election. This update introduces necessary formality and accountability into the process of leaving and returning to the Senate. Requiring the Executive Board to accept or deny a resignation within two business days ensures official oversight and prevents ambiguity regarding the vacancy. The most significant change is the requirement that any senator who previously resigned must receive majority Senate authorization to be re-elected. This acts as a critical safeguard for the body's integrity and commitment level. It ensures that individuals who have previously failed to fulfill their term are vetted by their peers, deterring casual or frivolous resignations. Failure to notify the executive board of resignation will result in an improper resignation and the senate may place sanctions should the senator seek reelection.

Proposed Amendment VI | Article IV. Officers Section 6. Removal and Resignation B. Resignation

Active Legislation – “An officer may resign by submitting a request in writing to the SGA Staff Advisor.”

Proposed Amendment – An officer may resign by submitting a request in writing to the SGA Secretary and Staff Advisor. The executive board and staff advisor will notify the resigning officer of their resignation acceptance or denial within two business days of receiving the request. Should a resignation request be accepted the SGA Secretary will notify the senate body in a timely manner. If an officer who has previously resigned from their position seeks reelection, they must receive authorization to sit on the senate or executive board through a majority senate vote.

Logic - The proposed amendment introduces an Executive Board and Staff Advisor review period for the resignation and establishes a new requirement for re-election. This update introduces necessary formality and accountability into the process of leaving and returning to the Senate or executive board. Requiring the Executive Board to accept or deny a resignation within two business days ensures official oversight and prevents ambiguity regarding the vacancy. The most significant change is the requirement that any senator who previously resigned must receive majority Senate authorization to be re-elected. This acts as a critical safeguard for the body's integrity and commitment level. It ensures that individuals who have previously failed to fulfill their term are vetted by their peers, deterring casual or frivolous resignations. Failure to notify the executive board of resignation will result in an improper resignation and the senate may place sanctions should the senator seek reelection.

Proposed Amendment VII | Article VII. Committees Section 1. Standing Committees A. Finance Committee

Active Legislation – “The Finance Committee shall review allocation requests, offering its recommendations to the SGA. It shall also develop rules and policies for allocation requests and the distribution of funds. The committee shall be composed of no more than four (4) senators and the Comptroller of the SGA, who shall serve an ex-officio member. a. All voting Finance Committee members may vote to approve allocations of no more than \$250.”

Proposed Amendment – The Finance Committee shall review allocation requests, offering its recommendations to the SGA. It shall also develop rules and policies for allocation requests and the distribution of funds. The committee shall be composed of no more than four (4) senators and the Comptroller of the SGA, who shall serve an ex-officio member.

- a. All voting Finance Committee members may vote to approve allocations of no more than \$250 without seeking a senate vote.
- b. The allocation request must offer description of items, or itemized pricing, name of vendor, as well as various other pertinent information.
- c. For allocations less than \$250 the submission period will run from Wednesday at 12:01 am to Monday at 11:59 pm.
- d. If an allocation less than \$250 is rejected by the finance committee the allocations shall be presented to the senate body at the next business meeting.
- e. The Internal Finance Committee shall meet on a weekly basis. The time and location of these meetings shall be determined at the discretion of the Internal Finance Committee and communicated in advance to the Student Government Association executive board.

Logic – This amendment improves the efficiency, workload, and transparency of the Finance Committee's process of reviewing allocations less than \$250. This amendment streamlines the workload by setting a fixed weekly submission period and mandating weekly meetings to ensure allocations are reviewed in a timely manner. Transparency and financial accountability are enhanced through two new requirements: organizations must submit detailed, itemized pricing upfront, and any rejected \leq \$250 allocations must be presented to the student body, ensuring the most transparent, efficient, and accountable process for reviewing allocations.

Proposed Amendment VIII | Article V. Meetings Section 3. Quorum

Active Legislation – “The quorum for regular meetings and special meetings of the SGA shall be a majority of its members.”

Proposed Amendment – The quorum for regular meetings and special meetings of the SGA shall be greater than fifty one percent of the total senate membership. Executive board members shall not be considered towards satisfying quorum. If the senate fails to meet quorum for two business meetings in a row, emergency senate elections shall be held until quorum can be met. Emergency senate elections will be implemented only in the scenario that the senate has a significant number of vacant senate seats preventing quorum from being reached. If quorum is not reached due to abstention of senators, the SGA president is charged with the responsibility of negotiating with senators to reach quorum.

Logic – This amendment serves to significantly strengthen the stability and accountability of the Senate. The shift from a "majority of members" to "greater than fifty-one percent of the total senate membership" provides an unambiguous definition, ensuring clarity in quorum rules. Additionally, Executive Board members are excluded from counting toward quorum, meaning the ability to conduct legislative business rests solely on the eligible Senators. Finally, the introduction of mandatory emergency elections after two consecutive quorum failures establishes a mechanism to prevent gridlock, ensuring the legislative body remains fully operational.

Proposed Amendment IX | Bylaws Article V. Section 3. B. c.

Active Legislation – “The event or purchase on the funding request cannot occur within two weeks of the date of approval”

Proposed Amendment – The event or purchase on the funding request cannot occur within three academic days of the date of allocation approval, unless otherwise deemed permissible by the allocation approval by senate vote.

Logic – This amendment fundamentally shifts the funding policy to address two persistent issues with the active legislation: impracticality and lack of compliance. The previous two-week waiting period was often unrealistic for student organizations planning events with rapidly approaching deadlines. Because this Bylaw was routinely difficult to follow, the rule was often ignored in the allocation process. The proposed change to a three academic day window, combined with an option for the Senate to waive the waiting period via vote, creates a more practical and adherable policy.

APPROVED
10/07/2025

Proposal to Repeal | Bylaws Article V. Finance Section 3. Funding Subsection C.
Allocation Considerations and Bylaws Article V. Finance Section 3. Funding Subsection
B. Allocations Procedure and Requirements

Active Legislation – “SGA Finance Committee shall only meet to approve allocations under \$250 if they meet the following criteria: 1. The request must be an in-depth offering description, items, or itemized pricing, name, vendor, etc. 2. The finance committee will only consider two allocations per week. The submission period will run from Wednesday at 12:01 am to Monday at 11:59 pm. Allocation requests submitted on Tuesday will automatically be moved to the next Internal Finance Committee meeting for review.”

“The Internal Finance Committee shall meet on a weekly basis. The time and location of these meetings shall be determined at the discretion of the Internal Finance Committee and communicated in advance to the Student Government Association.”

Logic – Under Article VII: Amendments to Bylaws of the SGA constitution “Amendments to portions of these bylaws may be enacted by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.” According to the minutes recorded by Secretary Anderson from the September 23rd, 2025, business meeting six out of the total seven senators were present for the business meeting. On the matter of amending the Bylaws to the SGA constitution as motioned by Senator McLean and seconded by Senator Aleman amending Article V. Finance Section 3. Funding Subsection C. Allocation Considerations and Article V. Finance Section 3. Funding Subsection B. Allocations Procedure and Requirements both amendments resulted in a vote of four in favor, one opposed, and one abstention. The constitution dictates that “Amendments to portions of these bylaws may be enacted by a two-thirds vote of the Senate” and does not specify exceptions for the present voting body and thus the total voting population would be the entire senate, a total of 7 votes. Considering six votes were cast and only four were cast in favor of approving the amendments a vote of two thirds was not met as five votes in favor out of a total possible seven votes is required to satisfy a successful two thirds vote. Therefore, this vote failed and shall be repealed in accordance with the regulations and procedures of the SGA constitution.