By-Laws  
of the  
Student Senate  
Of Texas A&M University at Galveston  

Article I- The Student Senate  

Section 1. The name of this governing organization shall be: the Student Senate of Texas A&M University at Galveston.  

Section 2. The Student Senate shall serve as the legislative branch for the students of Texas A&M University at Galveston.  

Section 3. Members of the Student Senate shall consist of twenty-seven (27) senators elected through the following representational guidelines.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representational Guidelines</th>
<th>Number of Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Biology/Marine Fisheries</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Science/Ocean and Coastal Resources</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Systems Engineering/Marine Engineering Tech</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maritime Administration</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Transportation</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maritime Studies/University Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Academics</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off Campus</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Campus (must be RHA member)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives-at-large</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Class</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Class</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore Class</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshman Class</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 4. Officers of the Senate  

A. The Officer of the Senate shall be the Speaker of the Senate.  

B. The ex-officio position shall consist of: the student Corps Commander of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Corps of Cadets.
Section 5. Duties and Powers of the Student Senate

A. Enact measures necessary and proper for the general welfare of the student body.

B. Pass bills and resolutions on subjects, which affect or are of concern to the student body.

C. Conduct such inquiries deemed necessary to fulfill the purpose of this government.

D. Make recommendations for the allocation of monies to support campus organizations.

E. Render prior approval, modify, or disapprove by 2/3’s majority vote all Student Senate expenditures in excess of $500.

F. Plan, implement and preside over student forums to improve the lines of communication between the students and the administration.

G. Impeach or sanction those members of the Student Senate who have violated the Student Senate By-Laws. Impeach or sanction those members of the Student Government Association who have violated the Constitution.

H. Fulfill all other duties as requested by the TAMUG administration and deemed necessary by the Student Senate.

I. The following programs can be implemented during each academic year: Student Senate Shadow Program, Senate Constituency Days, Taking it to the Streets, Outstanding Senator of the Semester, Bring a Buddy Senate Meeting, Senate Serving Days, and/or other appropriate activities.

Section 6. Standing Committees

A. Committee Members and chairs
   1) No Senator shall serve as a chair of two or more committees.

   2) Each committee must be composed of at least two senators, with the exception of delegated committees.

   3) Each committee shall have a vice chair. The vice chair shall assist the chair and run the meeting in the absence of the chair.

B. Student Affairs Committee
   1.) The Asst. Vice President of Student Affairs will Chair the Committee.

   2.) Act as a liaison between the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Administration and the Student Body.
3.) Will plan and execute Spring Fest, Fall Fest, and Club Dinners and any other events that the Student Body President or Speaker may direct.

4.) The committee and its chair will coordinate between the Student Government and Campus Clubs on all events.

C. Academic Affairs Committee
1) The Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs will chair the committee.
2) Act as a liaison between the Associate Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs and the Student Body.
3) The committee and its chair will communicate academic changes and information to the senate.

D. Senate Affairs Committee
1) The committee will be chaired by the Speaker of the Senate.
2) The committee will be charged with reviewing future legislation and taking any necessary action.
3) This committee will also be charged with initiating any changes necessary to the by-laws, subject to confirmation by the Senate.
4) This committee will be a delegated committee.

E. Campus Development Committee
1) The chair of this committee must have served in the Student Senate for no less than two (2) semesters.
2) The committee will be charged with promoting the beautification of the campus.
3) The committee is responsible for promoting safety on campus.
4) The committee and its chair will act as a liaison to the Campus Police Department as well as to the TAMUG Physical Plant Director.

F. Community Service Committee
1) The committee will coordinate the Fall Campus Clean-up.
2) The committee will plan at least one additional community service project for the Senate each semester.

G. Finance Committee
1) The Treasurer of the Student Government Association will chair the committee.
2) The committee shall work in tandem with the Office of Student Services and the Associate VP for Student Affairs and Administration in budgeting funds to support student activities supported from Student Services and Student Center Complex fees.

3) The committee will appropriate the money from the Student Services budget to clubs and organizations, which apply for funding.

4) The committee will address issues concerning fee oversight.

5) The committee is responsible for conducting at least one fundraiser each semester.

H. Traditions Committee
   1) The chair of this committee must have been registered at Texas A&M University at Galveston for no less than two (2) consecutive semesters.

   2) The committee will enlighten the TAMUG student body of the history and of the many A&M traditions.

   3) The committee will coordinate Aggie Muster, Elephant Walk, Howdy Week, and other traditions as needed with the Director of Student Life.

   4) Traditions Committee will supervise elections for TAMUG Yell Leaders.

I. Public Relations Committee
   1) The committee will be charged with advertising all Student Senate sponsored events.

   2) The committee will be charged with writing articles for the Nautilus.

J. Food Service Committee
   1) The committee will be charged with addressing all food service issues and problems that affect the student body.

   2) The Committee will be charged with the planning and execution of Midnight Breakfast.

   3) Act as a liaison between the Director of Food Services and the student body.

K. Awards Committee: The committee will be charged with all awards and nominations needed by the Senate.

L. Chancellor’s Student Advisory Board
   1) Representatives will consist of the Student Body President and another member of either the executive or legislative branch.

   2) An alternate from either the executive or legislative branch will be chosen.
This representative must be able to serve on the Chancellor’s Student Advisory Board for two years and will become one of the representatives the second year. In the event the alternate representative is not elected the second year, they will still be eligible for the position.

**Article II – Meetings**

**Section 1. Meeting Conduct**

The Student Senate will operate under the guidelines of Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Section 2. Student Senate Meetings**

a. The Student Senate shall meet in regular, open sessions at least every two weeks during the fall and spring semesters with a minimum of eight (8) meetings each semester at a date, time and place decided by the Student Senate.

b. The Speaker of the Senate shall be the presiding officer of the Student Senate.

c. A quorum shall exist with fifty percent plus one of all filled Senate positions.

d. Only duly elected or appointed members of the Student Senate may vote at a meeting.

e. Fifty percent of the senators or ten percent of the student body may request, in writing, a special meeting of the Student Senate.

f. Any member of the student body shall have the right to attend the meeting of the Student Senate, unless it is in closed session, and may participate in the meeting when recognized by the presiding officer.

g. A majority vote of these senators present is required for a measure to be passed unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws.

h. The regular Student Senate meetings will be scheduled to accommodate the greatest number of senators. Senators will vote by majority on a set meeting time.

i. In the event a senator is in excess of 15 minutes late to a meeting, he/she will be recorded as being absent.

j. In the event that a Senator has more than two and one-half university unexcused absences, (General Senate Meetings count as one absence and committee meetings count as one-half an absence), he/she will be asked to tender his/her resignation.

**Section 3. Committee Meetings**

A. All committee meetings are open, with the exception of the Finance Committee.
B. Committee meeting times and locations must be posted at least three days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Legislative Sessions

A. All duly elected members of the Student Senate may propose and vote on legislation.

B. The legislative sessions of the Student Senate are closed meetings.

C. Pending bills and resolutions, along with the agenda for the general meeting, must be distributed to the senators no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

D. A simple majority will constitute passage of legislation.

Article III - Senate Procedures

Section 1. Agendas

A. Agendas are to be prepared by the Speaker of the Senate. Any item to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting date on which it is to be considered.

B. An item that is not on the agenda may be discussed at the meeting with the approval of the presiding officer. However, legislative action may not be considered unless it is in writing at the time of its introduction.

Section 2. Legislation

A. All legislation shall be made available to the student Senators at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which it is to be presented. Bills and resolutions are numbered consecutively with the first four digits representing the academic school year. All bills and resolutions must be sponsored by at least one senator, but may be written by any member of the student body.

B. A bill is a statement of the Senate calling for specific action. A bill can only be considered in the legislative session.

C. A resolution is a statement of opinion of the Student Senate. A resolution may be voted upon at any Student Senate meeting at which it is introduced and is not subject to approval or veto by anyone.

Section 3. Special Sessions

The Student Body President may call a special session of the Student Senate; provided at least 48 hours advance notice is given to all senators. At the commencement of the
special session, the Student Body President will announce the purpose for calling the special session.

Section 4. Voting Procedures

A. Each duly elected member of the Senate shall hold only one vote. The vote may be cast as yea, nay, or abstain.

B. Proxy voting is prohibited. Absentee voting is permitted as long as the issue being voted upon is not amended or otherwise changed.

C. All voting shall be done using roll call methods, except in matters of a personal nature, which will be voted by secret ballot. The Speaker of the Senate will determine which matters require voting by secret ballot. The Speaker of the Senate will be responsible for tallying each senator’s vote and preparing a voting record of the Senate.

D. A member currently involved in impeachment proceedings shall not be a voting member of the Senate.

Section 5. Impeachment

A. The Student Senate may impeach a member of the Student Government Association in concurrence with the Student Government Association Constitution.

B. Any member of the Student Senate may file impeachment charges against a member of the Student Government Association through the legislative process.

C. Impeachment charges must be filed on the grounds of a violation of the requirements or duties as written in the Student Government Association Constitution, pertaining branch’s by-laws, or a violation of the Aggie Honor Code.

D. The impeachment process will be conducted during a closed session of the Student Senate.

Section 5. Speaker Privileges

A. Each general meeting will provide non-senators the opportunity to address the Senate before and after the business of the senate is conducted, once recognized by the presiding officer.

B. There should be no limit to the number of times a senator may address an issue.

C. Closure can be enacted by a 2/3rds vote of the senators present.

Section 6. Letters and Memorandums
Copies of all memorandums and letters sent for the purpose of conducting senate business must be forwarded to the Student Body President and the Speaker of the Senate prior to the time of the original being sent.

**Article IV - The Officer**

**Section 1.** The powers of the Student Senate shall be vested in the Speaker of the Senate.

**Section 2.** Officer Elections

A. The Student Senate at the Senate Forum shall elect officers within two weeks of the general election.

B. Committee Chairs shall appointed as necessary by the Speaker of the Senate, subject to the confirmation by the Senate.

C. The Speaker of the Senate will explain the duties and qualifications for each position. After this, each candidate may give a presentation to the Senate explaining his candidacy.

D. Officer elections will be held by secret ballot.

E. If there are no candidates that meet the required length of service on the Senate, any Senator may become a candidate. In addition, a 2/3 vote in the nominating process may override any prerequisite to nomination.

**Section 3.** Speaker of the Senate

A. Duties and Powers of the Speaker of the Senate
   i. Conduct and preside over all sessions of the Student Senate.
   ii. Prepare an agenda for each session no later than 48 hours before each meeting.
   iii. Submit to the Student Senate at least one executive report containing information on the state of all Student Senate legislation and items requiring action of the Student Senate.
   iv. Deliver all bills passed by the Student Senate to the Director of Student Activities and the Assistant VP for Student Affairs and Auxiliary Services.
   v. Create and/or appoint members to Senate Committees, and decommission Senate Committees and appoint members when deemed necessary.
   vi. Appoint chairs of said Student Senate Committees not already provided for in the Senate By-Laws.

B. Qualifications for Speaker of the Senate
i. Must have been enrolled as a student at Texas A&M University at Galveston for at least 2 semesters.

ii. Must have served for at least 2 semesters on Student Senate

**Article V. – Elections**

**Section 1.** Elections for all positions, with the exception of the freshman representatives, shall be held no later than the last week of April. Senators shall take office during the last regular meeting of the Student Senate.

**Section 2.** Fall elections for freshman representatives and all open positions shall be held no later than three weeks after the first day of classes of the fall semester.

**Section 3.** In the event of a vacancy during the semester, the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Speaker of the Senate shall appoint a replacement subject to confirmation by the Student Senate. Special elections shall be held for vacancies, which occur within the first three weeks of the semester.

**Section 4.** A plurality vote constitutes a winner in any election. In the event of a write in campaign, the candidate must obtain 10 votes from their constituents in order to be declared a victor.

**Section 5.** Petitions for office can be obtained and will be filed through the Office of Student Life. Petitions are to be filed no later than two (2) school days prior to the election date. The Office of Student Life office shall confirm eligibility, according to the requirements established in the Constitution, for office no less than two days before the elections.

**Section 6.** No student who is on academic or conduct probation, or who has a cumulative grade point ratio less than 2.25 shall be eligible for membership on the Student Senate.

**Section 7.** Only members of the student body constituting the constituency of the candidate may vote for said candidate.

**Section 8.** After verification by the Judicial Board and the Director of Student Life, voting results will be published for all special or general elections, as well as all initiatives and referendums. The vote will be preserved in the Office of Student Life for six months after the date of the election for official verification inquiries.

**Section 9.** The Student Senate shall be authorized to call elections on special issues, which are of a concern to the student body of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

**Section 10.** Candidates may run for one position only in the Student Government Association.

**Article VI - Amendments**
Section 1. These By-laws may be amended by a ¾ majority vote of the total membership present and voting, in an announced meeting, of the Student Senate or by a 2/3 -majority vote of the students voting in a general or special election. There must be at least 20% of the students voting for an amendment to pass.

Section 2. A senator or the student body must present amendments in writing to the Student Senate at least one week prior to consideration.

Section 3. A change in the By-laws becomes effective upon approval by the Student Senate.

Article VII - Vacancies

Section 1. A vacancy on the Student Senate shall occur if:

a. A member personally resigns.
b. A member withdraws from the university
c. A member is placed on either scholastic or conduct probation.
d. A member fails to enroll as a full time student at the beginning of the semester while in office.
e. The Judicial Board confirms a Senator’s impeachment.

Section 2. Vacant positions shall be appointed by the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, or Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate. The position will be on the ballot at a special election at the beginning of the next semester, or during the spring elections, whichever comes first.

Article VIII - Student Initiatives, and Referendums.

Section 1. Referendums

The Student Senate may present a referendum to the student body at a general of special election. A majority of the senators must vote in favor of submitting a referendum.

Section 2. Initiatives

a. The student body shall have the power to enact measures independent of the Senate.
b. A petition to place an issue before the student body must contain at least 10% of the student population.
c. Initiatives are effective if a majority of the students voting in the general or special election approve the measure.

Section 3. The Student Body President shall implement the results of a referendum of initiative.
Article IX – Ratification

**Section 1.** Ratification of these By-Laws shall be made by a 2/3-majority vote of the Senators present and voting in an announced meeting.

**Section 2.** All previous By-Laws are considered null and void.

**Section 3.** These By-Laws are hereby ratified on Monday December 3, 2007.
Amendments to
The By-Laws of the Student Senate of Texas A&M University at Galveston

Amendment 1:
A Member who is a representative of a particular major or living-status must resign, when and if they change said major or living-status.

Amendment 2:
A student who is elected as freshman representative may serve their remaining term, regardless of change in scholastic classification.