

THE MIDLAND COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION
Fall 2005

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Midland College do hereby ordain and establish this constitution under the authority delegated to us by the Midland College Administration .

It is our purpose to increase the educational values of student life, to strengthen the unity of purpose among students, faculty, and administration of Midland College, to broaden the representative character of student government, to realize more fully in our student affairs and concepts the practices of efficient and dynamic democracy, and to foster pride in Midland College and its community.

ARTICLE I
Name

This organization shall be known as Midland College Student Government Association and shall herein be referred to as the MCSGA. The general Midland College student population will be referred to as the Midland College Student Association (MCSA).

ARTICLE II
Membership

- Sec. 1 All students registered in any semester who have paid tuition and fees are eligible to be members of the Midland College Student Association (MCSA) for that semester.
- Sec. 2 The official register of those eligible for membership in the MCSGA shall be the listing of official students provided by the registrar.
- A. GED and high school graduates and students who maintain a 2.5 GPA are eligible to be elected officers on the Executive Committee.
 - B. MCSA members who attend at least three consecutive meetings may fill vacancies when they occur.

ARTICLE III
Structure of MCSGA

- Sec. 1 The MCSGA shall be composed of:
- A. The Executive Branch
 - B. The Legislative Branch
 - C. The Electorates

Sec. 2 The Midland College Student Government Association shall be the organization of elected officers and members comprising the Executive and Legislative branches of the Midland College Student Government Association.

ARTICLE IV
Executive Branch

Sec. 1 The MCSGA Executive Branch shall comprise the following members:

- A. The President
- B. The Vice President
- C. The Secretary
- D. The Parliamentarian
- E. The Sponsor
- F. The TJCSGA State Representative (when required)

Sec. 2 The term of the Executive Branch

- A. The Executive Branch election shall be held once per academic year, on a date to be determined by sponsor.
- B. The Executive Branch shall assume office at the last official meeting in May, unless another date is designated and approved by the current Student Government.

Sec. 3 The Executive Officers of the MCSGA shall not hold any other office in an affiliated club or organization.

Sec. 4 Duties and Powers of the Executive Branch

- A. The Executive Branch shall meet prior to each Student Government meeting to determine the content of the agenda.
- B. The Executive Branch shall have the power to call special meetings of the Student Government.

Sec. 5 Duties of the President

- A. Present to the Student Government at the beginning of his or her term a legislative program that defines goals and expectations throughout his or her term.
- B. Appoint individuals to standing committees without advice and consent of the Student Government.
- C. Review legislation passed by the Student Government.
- D. Fairly execute legislation enacted by the Student Government.
- E. Guarantee faithful execution of the provisions of this Constitution and other

- governing documents.
- F. Brief the incoming President at the beginning of the new term of office regarding the legislative programs in process and various executive procedures.
- G. Preside over Student Government meetings.

Sec. 6 Powers of the President

- A. Call special sessions of the Student Government as he/she deems necessary and fit.
- B. Recommend legislation to the Student Government as he/she deems necessary and fit.
- C. Veto legislation passed by the Student Government making such legislation null and void unless overridden by a two-third (2/3) vote of the Student Government. Legislation shall become effective if not vetoed and returned within ten (10) days of its passage by the Student Government, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.
- D. Enter into agreement with agencies and organizations outside the MCSGA with the advice and consent of the Student Government advisor and administration.
- E. Call for legislative referenda which will assume the force of duly enacted law when passed by the MCSGA.
 - 1. A simple majority of those voting shall decide the issue.
 - 2. Special Elections and Referendum Committees may be appointed by the President without the advice and consent of the Student Government.
- F. Appoint select committees with the advice and consent of the Executive Branch.
- G. Vote in the event of a tie on an issue before the Student Government.

Sec. 7 The duties and powers of the Vice-President shall be to:

- A. Assume the duties and powers of the President in his or her absence.
- B. Train and help new committee chairman.
- C. Keep members informed of activities through email and telephone contacts.
- D. Plan and supervise all Homecoming activities.
- E. Vote in the event of a tie.
- F. Assume the office of President should that office be vacated.

Sec. 8 The duties of the Secretary shall be to:

- A. Keep a permanent record of all proceedings of the Student Government.
- B. Maintain MCSGA bulletin board.

- C. Keep a copy of all permanent records.
- D. Prepare a final draft of the agenda as stated by the Executive Committee.
- E. Post a copy of the agenda twenty-four (24) hours before a meeting.
- F. Assist Club Chairmen to insure committee involvement.

Sec. 9 The duties of the Parliamentarian shall be to:

- A. Advise the chair on all matters of parliamentary procedure as set forth in the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order.
- B. Have with him or her a copy of Robert's Rules of Order at every Student Government meeting.
- C. Serve as Chairperson for the Judicial Committee.
- D. Assist the chair in maintaining order at all Student Government meetings.
- E. If order cannot be maintained due to a specific member's presence, the Parliamentarian will have the authority to remove such member(s) from the general session.
- F. Chair the Special Events Committee.

Sec. 10 The duties of the Sponsor shall be to:

- A.. Advise and support the MCSGA on all decisions reached by the MCSGA Executive and Legislative Branches.
- B. Assist the Student Government Association with planning and holding campus activities.

Sec. 11 The duties of the TJCSGA State Representative shall be to:

- A. Represent Midland College on the Executive Board of Texas Junior College Student Government Association.
- B. Fulfill the duties of the office to which Midland College has been elected.
- C. Attend all meetings of the TJCSGA Executive Board and the TJCSGA State Convention.

Sec. 12 Qualifications for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and TJCSGA State Representative

- A. In order to be qualified for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, or TJCSGA State Representative, the candidate must:
 - 1. Have completed six (6) semester hours of college credit and be a full-time student (12 hrs.) at the time of candidacy.
 - 2. Must have a 2.5 GPA the semester prior to running for office.
 - 3. Must have a cumulative 2.5 GPA in the semesters prior to election which includes hours at previous college(s).

4. Be enrolled in at least nine (9) semester hours of course credit during the term of office.
5. Members of the Executive Branch may petition the Dean of Students to suspend enrollment qualifications.

B. The following Oath of Office shall be administered to the incoming President, Vice-President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and TJCSGA State Representative by the Student Government Advisor.

"I, (state name), do hereby affirm that I will faithfully execute the duties of my office and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the MCSGA Constitution, and that I will strive through all my actions to uphold and further the principles for which it is written."

ARTICLE V Legislative Branch

Sec. 1 The Legislative Branch of the MCSGA shall be named the Student Government.

Sec. 2 Composition of the Student Government

- A. The Student Government of the MCSA shall be composed of representatives elected by the Midland College student body.
- B. One representative from each academic division and one representative from each club on campus can be elected/appointed to membership from their respective organizations.

Sec. 3 A. All Legislative power shall be vested in the Student Government of the MCSA.

B. The Student Government shall promote, regulate, and approve all student activities affecting the Student Association as a whole and provide for the students' welfare by:

1. Enacting such legislation necessary to implement the powers of, or to fulfill the purpose of this Constitution.
2. Enacting legislation affecting student life under this Constitution.
3. Selecting and establishing Standing Committees as deemed necessary and appropriate.
4. Making recommendations to the Midland College administration on the funding of student activities and services.
5. Approving appointments made by the President for the MCSGA with the exception of those made for Select Committees.
6. Overriding a Presidential veto of legislation duly enacted by the Student Government. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the total

voting membership of the Student Government shall be necessary to override the Presidential veto.

7. Removing from office any person holding an appointed or elected office or committee position associated with the MCSGA. Grounds for impeachment, trial, and removal from office of the MCSGA officers and members, shall be contained in the MCSGA by-laws.
- C. Enumeration of the above powers shall not preclude other actions essential to the functioning of the MCSGA.
- D. Any power not specifically denied to the Student Government or delegated to the Executive Branch by this Constitution shall reside in the Student Government.
- E. Attendance requirements for members shall be delineated in the MCSGA By-Laws.

Sec. 4 Presiding Officers of the Student Government

- A. The President of the MCSGA shall preside over the Student Government Association.
- B. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside over the Student Government Association.

Sec. 5 Qualifications for the office of Student Government member

- A. In order for a student to hold office as a SGA member, he or she must:
 1. Have paid the appropriate Student tuition and fees.
 2. Must have a 2.5 GPA the semester prior to running for office.
 3. Must have a cumulative 2.5 GPA in the semesters prior to election which includes hours at previous college(s).
 4. Maintain a 2.0 GPA while in office.
 5. Entering Freshmen must have a 2.0 GPA at the end of the first semester in order to retain privileges of membership.
- B. A member may succeed himself/herself for one term of office if he or she can successfully meet the aforementioned qualifications.
- C. Members at Midland College for more than two years may petition to be reelected by the student body for 2(4 semesters) additional terms or continue to attend and be reelected after attending three consecutive meetings.

Sec. 6 Election of Student Members

- A. Election for Student Government members shall be held as soon as possible in September for the current academic year with the date to be decided by the Director of Student Activities.

- B. If all available positions are not contested, a slate will be presented to the student body for approval.

Sec. 7 Student Government Meetings

- A. The first official meeting of the Student Government shall be held within one week after its elections.
- B. Government Meetings will be held on Fridays at noon.
- C. The data concerning times, dates, locations and procedures to be followed shall be contained in the MCSGA by-laws.

Sec. 8 Vacancies
Provisions and procedures for filling vacancies shall be contained in the MCSGA By-Laws.

Sec. 9 Quorum
A simple majority of the voting members of the Student Government shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 10 Oath of Office

- A. The Student Government Advisor shall administer the Oath of Office.
- B. The Oath of Office Shall be as follows:
"I, (state name), do hereby affirm that I will faithfully execute the duties of my office, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the MCSGA Constitution, and that I will strive through all my actions to uphold and further the principles for which it was written.

ARTICLE VI
The Electorates

Sec 1. The Electorates shall be composed of students who have paid the appropriate student fees which are included in tuition and fees for any given semester.

Sec. 2 The composition of the Electorate will reflect a wide representation of members and shall be apportioned by a census based upon the official registration list of the college. Members will include those elected by the student body, one representative of each academic division, and one member from each organized club on campus.

Sec.3 Electorates shall have one-hundred (100) students.

ARTICLE VII

Faculty Advisors

- Sec. 1 The Student Activities Director of Midland College shall serve as the sponsor for the Student Government Association and shall be named the Student Government Advisor respectively, or a representative may be selected by the Midland College President.
- Sec. 2 The Student Government sponsor and/or the designated representative of the Midland College President must be present at all meetings of the Student Government. With the consent of the advisor and MCSGA President, this rule may be waived in certain instances, provided the advisor is promptly informed of all business conducted during the missed meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Standing Committees

- Sec. 1 The following Standing Committees shall be appointed each year by the Student Government Executive Board:
- A. Education Committee
 - B. Programs and Entertainment Committee
 - C. Publicity Committee
 - D. Judicial Committee
 - E. Community Affairs Committee
 - F. State Contest Committee
 - 1. Song
 - 2. Essay
 - 3. Scrapbook
 - 4. Video Scrapbook
 - 5. Event of the Year

Sec. 2 Specific areas of responsibility for each of the standing committees shall be outlined in the MCSGA By-Laws.

Sec. 3 Select Committees
Select Committees shall be those appointed by the President of the MCSGA to perform investigatory and/or advisory roles.

ARTICLE IX

Constitutional Revision

Sec. 1 Proposals to amend this Constitution may be voted on by two-thirds (2/3) of the Student Government, or a petition signed by ten (10) percent of the MCSA.

- Sec. 2 Proposed amendments shall be posted in their entirety for at least two weeks (herein called the posting period) on the official MCSGA Bulletin Board before their submission to the MCSA campus-wide election.
- Sec. 3 Amendments shall go into effect upon approval by the Administrative Council and when ratified by a simple majority of the votes cast by the MCSA.
- Sec. 4 The Student Government shall submit the proposed amendment to the MCSA for ratification within fifteen (15) days of the last day of the posting period.

ARTICLE X
Constitution Ratification

- Sec. 1 This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by a simple majority of votes cast in a special election by the MCSA.
- Sec. 2 The authority granted to the MCSGA under this Constitution and by-laws, shall be subject to the policies, rules, and regulations of Midland College.

ARTICLE XI
Transition

- Sec. 1 The present Student Government shall act as the Student Government under this Constitution until such time as a new member shall be elected.
- Sec. 2 Elected officers and returning members from the previous year shall act on behalf of the Student Association until elections are held in September.