

## TITLE II - CODE OF ETHICS

### CHAPTER 100 - CODE OF ETHICS

Created by S.B. 2013-2014/2 "Code of Ethics and Oath of Office Reform Act"

#### ARTICLE I. ADMINISTRATIVE

§1 **AUTHORIZATION.** This Code of Ethics is hereby enacted pursuant to Article III(10)(d) of the Student Government Constitution.

§2 **PURPOSE.** As members of the Texas State University Student Government, we represent the Student Government, student body and University at all times and in all places.

Understanding our duty, both constitutionally and ethically, we recognize that the rules set forth by our organization are not enough. Our ethical expectations must be made as clear as our institutional ones. All members of the Student Government have a responsibility to the students at Texas State and should be held to a higher standard as student leaders.

#### ARTICLE II. ETHICAL STANDARDS

§3 **SERVING THE STUDENT BODY.** To serve the student body, beyond serving oneself, members of Student Government are dedicated to:

- (a) Represent our peers' interests to University officials above that of our own opinion or that of University administrators or others.
- (b) Oppose all forms of discrimination and harassment.
- (c) Recognize and support the students' right to know the affairs of the University.
- (d) Engage with students and assess their needs and wants whenever possible.
- (e) Be compassionate, benevolent and fair.
- (f) Be clear and concise, thoughtful and prepared.
- (g) Be respectful and exemplify the principles of servant leadership when speaking with constituents.
- (h) Don't allow undue influence of others to prevent you from speaking your mind.
- (i) Be prepared to make decisions that may not be popular.

§4 **RESPECTING DUE PROCES.** To respect, support, and study the Student Government Constitution, be objective and expressive concerning the interests of students and to

understand the defined responsibilities, rights and powers of every member of Student Government, members are committed to:

- (a) Understanding, researching, and doing preparatory work before meetings.
- (b) Work to improve and change rules and policies that are redundant or obsolete.
- (c) Eliminate rules that are overly restrictive to the representative purpose of Student Government.
- (d) Read the Student Government Constitution.
- (e) Respect the principle of representative government.
- (f) Limit unnecessary entanglements in the business and powers of the other components.
- (g) Respect information that is confidential.
- (h) Encourage and facilitate legitimate dissenting opinions.
- (i) Respect and abide decisions made by the majority.

§5 **STANDARDS.** Members should demonstrate high standards of work and professional integrity. To exemplify membership in Student Government, you are expected to:

- (a) Maintain truthfulness, honesty, and do not compromise them for personal gain.
- (b) Not abuse power or position.
- (c) Act as an ethical and responsible representative of Student Government and Texas State University at all times and all places.
- (d) Ensure that others receive credit for their work and contributions.
- (e) Guard against conflicts of interests.
- (f) Hold those around you accountable.
- (g) Respect superiors, subordinates, colleagues, and the student body.
- (h) Be objective, thoughtful, and never prejudge when hearing a court case.
- (i) Take responsibility for your own errors.

§6 **ETHICAL PRACTICES.** Strengthen our organization through ethical and transparent practices by:

- (a) Creating a capacity for open communication, creativity, and dedication.
- (b) Establish procedures that promote ethical behavior and hold individuals and groups accountable.
- (c) Provide members with administrative means for dissent, assurance of due process, and safeguards against reprisal.

- (d) Be respectful but firm when expressing student opinion.
- (e) Check student opinion against your own and insure you are not confusing the two.
- (f) Be attentive and participatory when working on Student Government business.
- (g) Promote organizational accountability through appropriate controls and procedures.
- (h) Encourage the organization to adopt, distribute, and periodically review the administrative process of our organization.
- (i) Keep up to date on emerging issues and potential problems.
- (j) Allocate time to meet with students so that their opinion is well represented.

### **ARTICLE III. OATH AND AFFIRMATION**

§1 **OATH OF OFFICE.** As prescribed in the Student Government Constitution, every elected and appointed member of Student Government shall swear an oath to the principles stated within this Code of Ethics, the laws of Student Government, and the Student Government Constitution. It shall read;

“I, [NAME], do hereby swear that I, in my capacity as [OFFICE] of Student Government of Texas State University will represent the students to the utmost of my ability and will discharge the duties of my office with integrity and honesty.

I further state that I will support and uphold the Student Government Constitution and Student Government Code of Texas State University and will strive to promote student government throughout the campus community.”