PREAMBLE

We, the students of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College, in order to represent student interests, promote student participation on the campus, promote academic excellence, develop the spirit of democracy and promote loyalty to the ideals of the University.

ARTICLE I.
NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be deemed: Student Government Association of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College, herein referred to as the Student Government Association.

SECTION 2. The Student Government Association shall consist of full and part time students who are enrolled and have paid, or was eligible for the waiver of, the appropriate student service fees.

ARTICLE II.
ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The representative branches of the Student Government Association shall be composed of an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judicial Branch.

ARTICLE III.
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION
The Executive Branch (herein referred to as Executive Council) shall consist of the Student Government Association President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Parliamentarian, Lead Senator, and Chief Student Affairs Officer of RGC. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected “at large.” With the exception of the Chief Student Affairs Officer of RGC, the term of office for members shall begin June 1st and shall end the following May 31st.

SECTION 2. PRESIDENT
A. The chief officer of the Student Government Association shall be the President. Effective January 2001, any candidate for this office shall have served at least one long semester as an SGA member. He/she shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 and not be on disciplinary or academic probation. He/she shall be elected “at large” during the spring general elections. The outgoing President shall conduct Executive Council meetings until June 1st.

B. The President-elect shall attend all meetings of the Executive Council and Congress after election results are deemed official. The outgoing President shall advise the President-elect until the end of the spring semester. During the term of office, the President shall be a junior, senior, or graduate student. In the event of the inability to fulfill the duties of office, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President.

C. The Student Government Association President shall:
1. Present a legislative program to the Congress at the beginning of each semester.
2. Appoint all persons whose appointment is not otherwise provided for in these bylaws.
3. Present periodic messages upon the state of the Association to the Congress.
4. Implement the directives of the Congress, or as the Congress might direct the office.
5. Perform all other duties assigned to him/her by the Constitution, the Congress, or the Student Government Association.
6. Along with the Lead Senator, ensure that all the legislation passed by Congress is communicated with the University administration within 30 days.

D. The President shall be empowered to:
1. Convene all regular and special sessions of the Congress;
2. Establish and appoint such administrative communities as deemed necessary;
3. Represent the Student Government Association personally in its dealings with agencies and organizations within and outside the University Community;
4. Approve allocations of Student Government Association funds under $125.00;
5. Appoint all chairs of standing committees as authorized by these bylaws;
6. Select and appoint standing committee members;
7. Appoint justices to the Student Court with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the Congress members present and voting;
8. Appoint the Parliamentarian with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the Congress members present and voting;
9. Appoint the Public Relations Officer with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the Congress members present and voting;
10. Appoint officers to fill any vacancy not otherwise covered in this Constitution with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the Congress members present and voting;
11. Preside over the Executive Council meetings.

SECTION 3. VICE PRESIDENT
A. The qualifications for the Vice President shall be the same as those for the President. All items dealing with filing, assuming office, advising the Vice President-elect, and term of office shall be the same as for the President.

B. The Vice-President of the Student Government Association shall:
1. Preside as chair at all meetings of the Congress.
2. Assist the President in fulfilling the executive functions of the Student
3. Assume the duties of the President when so directed by the President.
4. Preside over the Student Court.
5. Preside as committee chairperson over the Election Committee.
6. Administer all Student Government Association elections.
7. Perform all other duties assigned to the Vice-President by the Constitution, the Congress, or the Student Government Association.

C. The Vice-President shall be empowered to:
1. Assume the office of President upon the inability of the President to fulfill the duties of the office as determined by the Congress, upon removal from office, or upon resignation from office.
2. Appoint polling officials to assist the election committee during the elections.
3. Appoint six (6) members of the Student Government Association to serve on the Election Committee with the 2/3 consent of the Congress present and voting.

SECTION 4. SECRETARY
A. Any candidate for the office of Secretary must have an overall grade point average of 2.5 and not be on disciplinary or academic probation. He/she shall be elected “at large” during the spring general elections. The outgoing Secretary shall advise the Secretary-elect until June 1st on keeping minutes, files, etc.

B. The Secretary shall:
1. Maintain and keep record of the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Council and the Congress to be posted at each site within three days of the meeting.
2. Distribute such records to the membership of the Congress.
3. Notify all members of the Congress of the time and place of all meetings.
4. Keep a roll of all members of the Congress present at all meetings.
5. Maintain on file all decisions of the Executive Council, Congress, and Student Court.
6. Maintain files of all pertinent literature.
7. Be responsible for correspondence.
8. Perform all other duties assigned to the Secretary by the Constitution, the Congress, or the Student Government Association.

C. The Secretary is empowered to
1. Assume the duties of President in the absence of the President and Vice-President.
2. Assume the duties of the duties of the Public Relations Officer if he/she is unable to perform the duties of the office.
3. Determine the existence of a quorum at all meetings.

SECTION 5. TREASURER
A. Any candidate for the office of Treasurer must have an overall grade point average of 2.5 and not be on disciplinary or academic probation. He/she shall be elected at large during the spring general elections. The outgoing Treasurer shall advise the Treasurer-elect until June 1st.

B. The Treasurer shall:
1. Initiate payment of expenditures approved by the Congress at each
meeting of the Congress.
2. Preside over the Finance Committee.
3. Keep and report on the financial records of the Student Government
Association.
4. Prepare and present the Annual Financial Report to the Chief Student
Affairs Officer of RGC.
5. Perform all other duties as assigned to the Treasurer by the Constitution,
the Congress, or the Student Government Association.

C. The treasurer is empowered to assume the duties of the President in the absence of
the President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

SECTION 6. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
A. This position shall be filled by appointment of the Student Government
Association President and approved by the advice and consent of two-thirds of the
members of the Congress present and voting. The candidate must not be on
academic or disciplinary probation, and have been a student at the Rio Grande
College for at least one long semester. The outgoing Public Relations shall advise
the Public Relations Officer-elect until the end of the semester.

B. The Public Relations Officer shall:
1. Compose and submit bimonthly articles for the campus newsletter covering
business conducted at the most recent meeting of the Student Government
Association.
2. Report and advertise up-coming activities, working in conjunction with the
appropriate committees;
3. Perform all other duties assigned to the Public Relations Officer by the
Constitution, the Congress, or the Student Government Association.

SECTION 7. PARLIAMENTARIAN
A. This position shall be filled by appointment of the Student Government
Association President and approved by the advice and consent of two-thirds of the
members of the Congress present and voting. The candidate must not be on
academic or disciplinary probation, and have been a student at the Rio Grande
College for at least one long semester. The outgoing Parliamentarian shall advise
the Parliamentarian-elect until June 1st. The Parliamentarian must possess a
thorough knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

B. The Parliamentarian shall:
1. See that all meetings of the Congress and Executive Council are conducted
under the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure.
2. Advise on all points of order according to Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised
(most recent edition obtainable), which shall govern in all cases not covered
by this Constitution or its bylaws.
3. Preside as committee chairperson over the Election Committee.
4. Administer all Student Government Association elections, unless his/her name
is on the ballot.
5. Perform all other duties as assigned to the Parliamentarian by the
Constitution, the Congress, or the Student Government Association.

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6. Preside over the Rules and Regulations Committee.
7. Record all questions of order and questions of the procedure for future reference.

SECTION 8. LEAD SENATOR
The Lead Senator shall be elected by majority vote of members of the Senate present and voting. The Lead Senator shall be a member of the Executive Council, and will act as a liaison between the Executive Council and the Senate. The Lead Senator, along with the SGA President, shall ensure that all legislation passed by Congress is communicated with the University administration within 30 days.

SECTION 9. CHIEF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER OF RGC
The Chief Student Affairs Officer of RGC shall represent the University in Student Government Association Business. The Chief Student Affairs Officer of RGC shall be permitted to discuss all measures of the Student Government Association, but will not be allowed to propose legislation to the Congress or vote on Student Government Association business. The Chief Student Affairs Officer of RGC may be assigned other duties and privileges by the Congress.

SECTION 10. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
A. Any member of the Executive Council, with the exception of the Chief Student Affairs Officer of RGC, will be automatically removed from office for failure to comply with the requirements of the office, if placed on academic or disciplinary probation, or for three (3) unexcused absences or four (4) excused absences, per semester from the Congress meetings, unless the Officer has taken a leave of absence. A member may be “excused” from the meeting by notifying either the President of the SGA or the Chief Student Affairs Officer no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting time.

B. Any elected member of the Executive Council may be removed by a majority affirmative vote of the members of the Congress during a recall election of the Student Government Association or the failure to fulfill the duties of his/her office. A recall petition containing the signatures of 20% of the Student Body shall be required to call a recall election, which shall be held within twenty class days after the presentation of the petition.

C. The Parliamentarian and the Public Relations Officer may be removed from office by the President with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the total Congress members present and voting.

D. The Lead Senator may be removed from office by a majority vote of the senators.

SECTION II. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
The Executive Council shall:
A. Consider all matters that are referred to it by the Congress, make referrals to proper committees when necessary, prepare the agenda for all meetings of the Congress, regulate the areas of responsibility of the standing committees, and perform other duties that may be deemed necessary by the Congress.

B. Meet no less than once a month to conduct business. The Student Government Association President shall ensure that the agenda is posted at all three sites at least twenty-four hours prior to all meetings. The Student Government Association President shall serve as chair of the Executive Council. Each member of the Executive Council shall have one vote, with the exception of the Chief Student
Affairs Officer of RGC. All meetings of the Executive Council shall be open to
the public unless the Council enters into executive session by 2/3 vote of the
members present and voting. Before executive session may be called, the
President shall announce the business to be discussed and state that no action shall
be taken in closed session. Any decisions made in executive session must be
disclosed and acted upon in open session.
C. Participate in the recognition of new campus organizations.
D. Formulate procedures and regulations within the scope of the authority given to
the SGA of RGC by this constitution and Sul Ross State University Rio Grande
College. The Executive Council shall also have a voice in the allocation of
student services fees.
E. Establish such special committees as are needed to perform its necessary and
proper functions.
F. Establish such procedures as are necessary for the proper functioning of the
Executive Council by ¾ vote of those present and voting.

SECTION 12. STANDING COMMITTEES
The standing committee structure of the Executive Council shall be established as herein
provided:
A. The standing committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the Student
Government President and confirmed by a 2/3 vote of the members of Congress
present and voting.
B. The standing committee chairpersons are active members of the Congress and
shall attend and participate in meetings and events as if they were elected or
appointed members. Therefore, every chairperson shall possess the qualities of
Representative as set out in Article 4 of this Constitution.
C. The tenure of the Standing Committees shall end on May 31st, and shall be re-
established by each new SGA President.
D. The standing committee of the Executive Council and their areas of responsibility
shall be:
1. **Fund Raising Committee:** shall be responsible for student/faculty, and
student/student communications, as well as fund raising and outreach
programs. The committee shall be composed of six members and one
chairperson.
2. **Social Life Committee:** shall be responsible for areas including service
projects and social functions to improve the relations among the students
in an “out-of-classroom” atmosphere. This committee is composed of four
volunteer members who must be interviewed by the committee
chairperson.
3. **Finance Committee:** shall be responsible for the distribution of funds,
and/or use of the student service fees, and the Student Government
Association Fund. This committee shall be composed of the Treasurer of
the Student Government Association (who shall act as chairperson) and
one appointed member from the Student Government Association
representing each campus site (Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde). Its
primary goal is to provide student input on how allocated monies are
disbursed. Its main function during the fiscal year is the appropriation of
funds at the annual Finance Allocations Committee meeting held each
spring.

4. **Rules and Regulations Committee**: shall be responsible for Student Government Association and election rules. The Rules and Regulations Committee shall review and revise this Constitution and a biennial basis unless the President of the Student Government Association calls a special committee session.

**SECTION 13. QUORUM**

1. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent plus one of the Executive Council in good standing.
2. The Executive Council shall not conduct official business without the presence of a quorum.

**SECTION 14. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

1. A member of Congress may take a leave of absence by submitting a letter stating the reason for the leave of absence and the approximate duration of the leave to the President of the Student Government Association.
2. The request for the leave must be presented to the President no later than one week before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Congress.
3. The letter shall be presented as part of the SGA agenda, and read into the minutes of the meeting.
4. Before the member on leave may return to “active duty” the member must submit a letter to the President of the Student Government Association notifying the SGA of the member’s intent and readiness to return. The member shall be at the next regularly scheduled meeting as required by this constitution.

**ARTICLE IV.**

**THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**SECTION 1. CONGRESS**

All legislative powers, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be vested in the Congress of the Student Government Association of SRSU RGC.

**SECTION 2. COMPOSITION**

The Congress shall consist of the Student Government Association Executive Council, nine Senators (three (3) Senators from each site), and one Representative from each recognized Student Organization, and the chairs of the standing committees.

**SECTION 3. SENATORS**

Three (3) Student Government Association Senators shall be elected from each site (Del Rio, Uvalde, and Eagle Pass) for a total of nine Senators. A Senator may run for election at any site, but may be on one site’s ballot.

**SECTION 4. REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Each Student Organization at SRSU shall be allowed to elect, from within its membership, one Representative. Representatives must be approved by a 2/3 vote of Congress present and voting.
2. The chairpersons for the SGA standing committees shall also, for the purposes of this Constitution, be considered Representatives.

SECTION 5. QUALIFICATIONS
Candidates for the office of Senator or Representative must have an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 and not be on academic or disciplinary probation while seeking or holding office.

SECTION 6. TENURE
The tenure of office for Senators and Representatives shall commence June 1st and end the following May 31st.

SECTION 7. VACANCIES
A. In the event of a vacancy of a Senate seat, the Student Government Association President shall nominate a replacement.
B. In the event of a vacancy of a Representative seat, the position will be filled by the organization which he/she represented, according to the by-laws of that organization.
C. Any replacement candidate must meet all requirements of the position and shall be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members of Congress present and voting.

SECTION 8. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
A. A Senator may be removed by a majority affirmative vote of the members of the Congress during a recall election of the Student Government Association or the failure to fulfill the duties of his/her office. A recall petition containing the signatures of 20% of the Student Body shall be required to call a recall election, which shall be held within twenty (20) class days after the presentation of the petition.
B. A Representative from the Student Organization may be removed from office by the members of the Student Organization he or she represents, according to the bylaws of the Student Organization. A Representative may also be expelled from office by 2/3 vote of Congress.
C. The Student Government Association President with a 2/3 vote of Congress present and voting may remove standing Committee Chairpersons from office.
D. Any Senator or Representative will be automatically removed from office for failure to comply with the requirements of the office, if placed on academic or disciplinary probation, or for three (3) unexcused absences or four (4) excused absences per semester from the Congress meetings unless a leave of absence has been taken.

SECTION 9. DUTIES
The Congress shall represent the Student Government Association by exercising the power to:
A. Participate in the recognition of new campus organizations.
B. Formulate legislation for the SGA to be presented to the Executive Council for implementation.
C. Take all action within the limits of the Constitution and Bylaws, which shall be
necessary and proper.

D. The members of Congress may call special sessions of the Congress by a signed petition of fifty percent or more of the members. The special session must be convened by the President of the Student Government Association within two class days upon delivery of the petition unless otherwise stated in the petition, provided the members of Congress receive actual notice.

E. Refer cases to, and establish jurisdiction of, the Student Court.

SECTION 10. LEAD SENATOR
After the first official meeting of each Congress, the Senators present and voting shall elect from amongst themselves one person to act as Lead Senator. The Lead Senator shall be a member of the Executive Council, and will act as a liaison between the Executive Council and the Senate. The Lead Senator will hold office until the end of the following Spring semester, unless recalled by a 3/4 vote of Senators present and voting.

SECTION 11. QUORUM
1. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent plus one of the members of Congress in good standing.
2. The Congress shall not conduct official business without the presence of a quorum.

ARTICLE V.
THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION 1. The Judicial Branch (herein referred to as the Student Court) shall consist of three (3) Justices, appointed by the Student Government Association President, with the advice and consent of 2/3 of Congress present and voting. The President shall appoint one Justice from each of the three campus sites. The location for the Justices shall be determined by their place of registration.

SECTION 2. The Student Government Association Vice President shall preside over the Student Court, yet shall have no vote in the decisions of the Court.

SECTION 3. The candidates for Justice must have an overall grade point average of 2.5 and not be on disciplinary or academic probation.

SECTION 4. The Vice President shall convene the Student Court no less than once every sixty days. The Vice President shall determine where each session of the Student Court will convene and will post at all three sites the times and dates of each session at least ten days before the session is convened.

SECTION 5. The Student Court will hear and rule on all cases referred to it by the Congress. The Congress shall refer to the court all cases which the complainant has filed a request for a hearing in writing. A decision shall be determined by a majority vote of the Student Court Justices. Unless the decision is appealed or is in violation of State law, University codes, this Constitution, said decision shall be final. Appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Student Affairs Officer for RGC within fifteen days. Decisions by the Chief Student Affairs
Office of RGC concerning appeals shall be final.

SECTION 6. A Justice’s term shall last from appointment until the following May 31st, unless removed from office.

SECTION 7. A Justice may be automatically removed from office for failure to perform the duties of the office of Justice as prescribed by this constitution or given to it by the Congress, or for two absences from meetings of the Student Court. A Justice may also be removed at the discretion of the President with the advice and consent of a 2/3 vote of Congress.

ARTICLE VI.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

SECTION 1. The Student Government Association shall have the power to propose measures and to enact or reflect the same at the polls, independent of the Executive Council, except where otherwise noted in this Constitution. An initiative petition containing the signatures of 20% of the Student Government Association shall be required to call and initiate election. The election shall be held within 20 class days after the presentation of the petition to the Student Government Association President. Any measure approved by the majority of those voting in a Student Government Association special election shall be forwarded to the Student Government Association President for implementation.

SECTION 2. All Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College enrolled students, graduate and undergraduate, are qualified voters in campus elections.

SECTION 3. All members of the Student Government Association shall have the privilege to speak on the floor during open meetings of the Executive Council. Non-members of the SGA shall only be allowed privilege of the floor by prior arrangement with the President of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE VII.
AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION

SECTION 1. This Constitution shall be amended by a 3/4 vote of all Congress members present and voting. All proposed changes to this constitution shall be posted at each site by the Chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting in which the vote is to occur.

SECTION 2. The Constitution shall be ratified by the signatures of 3/4 of the Congress members present and voting, and the signature of the President of Sul Ross State University.