Outline

Preamble

Article I: Foundation
Section 1 - Name of Organization
Section 2 - Overview
Section 3 - Mission Statement
Section 4 - Grant of Representation

Article II: The Legislative Branch
Section 1 - General Description
Clause 1: Overview
Clause 2: Committee Assembly
Clause 3: Requirements
Clause 4: Tie-Breaker Vote
Clause 5: Vacancy
Clause 6: Impeachment
Clause 7: Impeachment Conviction
Section 2 - Elections
Clause 1: Nominations
Clause 2: Deadline
Section 3 - Senatorial Procedure
Clause 1: Forum Designation
Clause 2: Procedure of Proceedings
Clause 3: Journal of Proceedings
Section 4 - Powers of the Student Government Association Student Senate
(Clauses 1-12)

Article III: The Executive Branch
Section 1 - General Description
Clause 1: Overview
Clause 2: Requirements
Clause 3: Vacancy
Clause 4: Assembly
Clause 5: Inauguration
Section 2 - Official Powers
Clause 1: Legislation
Clause 2: Vacancy Assembly
Section 3 - Assessment
Section 4 - Impeachment
Section 5 - Powers of the Student Government Association Secretary of Communications
(Clauses 1-5)
Section 6 - Powers of the Student Government Association Vice President of Clubs and Organizations
(Clauses 1-8)
Section 7 - Powers of the Student Government Association Executive Vice President
(Clauses 1-10)
Section 8 - Powers of the Student Government Association President
(Clauses 1-7)

Article IV: The Elections Process
Section 1 - Overview
Clause 1: The Elections Committee
Clause 2: Plurality Vote
Clause 3: Tie-Breaker
Clause 4: Eligibility
Section 2- The Elections Commission
Clause 1: Membership
Clause 2: Responsibilities
Clause 3: Misconduct
Clause 4: Disciplinary Action
Clause 5: Intervention

Section 3- Election Day
Clause 1: Declaration of Elects
Clause 2: Invalidity of Elections
Clause 3: Induction

Article V: The Amendment Process
Clause 1: Making Amendments

Article VI: Transcendence
Clause 1: Antecedent
Clause 2: Supremacy
Clause 3: Denouement

Amendment I: Required Grade Point Average
Clause 1: GPA Requirement for Holding a Higher Student Involvement Position

Amendment II: Method for Counting Submitted Votes
Section 1- Counting Courtesy Votes in an Election
Section 2- Counting Majority Votes in an Election

Amendment III: Maximum Number of Senators and Selection Process
Section 1- Maximum Number of Senators
Section 2- Selection Process of Senators
Clause 1: Selection of New Senators
Clause 2: Reappointment of Sitting Senators

Amendment IV: Use of the Title of Senator
Clause 1: Regulation Regarding the Title of Senator

Amendment V: Title of the Senate Leader
Clause 1: Change of title
Preamble

We, the students of St. Thomas University, have formed a union of students to promote a student-centered Catholic university with rich cultural and international diversity, to educate leaders and contribute to the economic and cultural vitality from which they serve, to provide a voice for a progressive student population, to preserve the tranquility and provide for the welfare of the student body, do establish this Constitution for the St. Thomas University Student Government Association.
Article I: Foundation

Section 1: Name of Organization

The name of this organization of students shall be the Student Government Association of St. Thomas University (hereafter referred to as the Student Government Association).

Section 2: Overview

The Student Government Association will be divided into two subsidiary branches to conclusively serve the preamble of this constitution. The two organizations will be the legislative branch (Student Senate) and the executive branch. The government will function as a democratic republic consisting of separate powers, duties, and representations to cohesively serve the student body.

Section 3: Mission Statement

The purpose of the Student Government Association organization is to serve and promote the welfare of the student population. We shall move to provide a student voice, and gain recognition throughout and beyond St. Thomas University. In doing so, we develop leadership, precedence, and above all governing body for the students. The intentions of this organization are to faithfully fulfill the service and welfare of the student population. The goals of this organization should aim towards fulfillment of the true definition of student government. Fundamentally the student government should grow towards being an organization of students as a governing entity serving within St. Thomas University.

Section 4: Grant of Representation

The institution that grants the invested powers of the Student Government Association is the Board of Trustees serving St. Thomas University.
Article II: The Legislative Branch

Section 1: General Description

The St. Thomas University Student Senate (hereafter referred to as the Senate) shall consist of no more than 10 student Senators and the Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President serves as the Speaker of the Senate. These Senators can represent any school within St. Thomas University and any undergraduate status (beginning with ‘freshman’ and ending with ‘senior’). A maximum of three seats in the Senate are reserved for each school. Senators from the same school must be of a different undergraduate status. Senators are voted and appointed for an indefinite term, ending upon their graduation or through a termination pending review.

Immediately after assembly, the Executive Vice President shall appoint the Speaker of the Senate Pro Tempore (hereafter referred to as the Pro Tempore) with two-thirds approval by the Senate.

Senators shall be assigned into separate committees as their formation is deemed necessary. Committee selection is subject to the Executive Vice President and two-thirds approval by the Senate. The Senate shall designate at the beginning of each term what Senate committees shall be created. The Student Senate will, however, carry the responsibility of establishing an Elections Commission and designated committees each academic semester. The designated committees may consist of, but not limited to: Political Affairs, Publicity, Food Services, Student Organization Council Budget, Campus Ministry, Commuter/On-Campus Residence, Research, and Elections.

All members of the Senate are to be enrolled as students presently at St. Thomas University and shall maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. The minimum GPA shall be waived for freshman and transfer students until the end of their first semester at St. Thomas University; at which time they must satisfy the prescribed requirements to hold the position in office. If a Senator is absent for more than 2 Senate proceedings without reasonable excuse, they shall be subject to an immediate review conducted by the Executive Vice President and the Student Government Association Advisor.

An individual, who has been removed from the Position of Senator based on poor evaluation, may not use the title of Senator in their Curriculum Vitae, or in any other format when applying for acceptance or a position at another institution of higher learning or an occupation.

The Vice President of Clubs and Organizations of the Student Government Association shall have a tie-breaker vote in the Senate in cases when the votes are equally divided.

The Senate shall vote on appropriate officers and committees. In the assumption that the Executive Vice President cannot serve in office by any means, the Pro Tempore shall become the interim Speaker of the Senate, until the end of the semester, when either a special election or Student Government Elections occur.

All persons holding any position in Student Government Association may have Articles of Impeachment brought forth against them. Any student member may submit Articles of Impeachment for review to the Senate. The trial only ensues after a two-thirds vote by the Senate.
over review. The Senate has the sole power to try all Impeachments. The Student Government Association President (hereafter referred to as the President) and Student Government Association Advisor shall preside over all impeachments. In cases where the President faces impeachment, instead, the Dean of Students shall preside. Conviction shall only occur with a two-thirds vote of all Student Senators present.

Impeachment trials cannot hold a judgment any further than removal from office, and disqualification to hold office under the Student Government Association. The party impeached shall nevertheless be liable and subject to hearing under St. Thomas University Administration.

Section 2

Applicants for a position of Senator shall be confirmed through submission of Senatorial Election Package to the sitting Executive Vice President. This package is reserved to the discretion of the Senate Election Committee. Applicants shall undergo an interview process in two phases in order to be selected for the said position. The first shall be an individual interview with a panel consisting of all available Senators, the sitting Executive Vice President, and the Student Government Association Advisor. The second shall be a group interview, including all applicants, with the initial panel presiding.

The deadline to hand in the Senatorial Election Package shall be up to the discretion of the Senate Elections Committee.

At the end of every academic semester, all Senators shall be subject to a review process conducted by the Executive Vice President, Student Government Association Advisor, and Dean of Students. They shall be evaluated based on performance, commitment, and the maintenance of the required GPA. Punishment for a failing review will be left to the discretion of the three individuals above mentioned.

Section 3

The Senate shall hold bi-weekly proceedings, designating the time and location at the beginning of each fall and spring semester. The designation of the Senate proceedings shall not be changed without fifty percent-plus-one of the Senate majority vote. Additional forums shall be determined by the Executive Vice President.

All Senate meetings will be conducted under Parliamentary Procedure. Rules of Proceedings may be determined by the Senate within discretion. Expelling a member for disorderly behavior from a proceeding may only take effect with the concurrence of a two-thirds vote.

The Senate shall keep records of its proceedings. Only proceedings that are deemed sensitive shall not be recorded. Proceedings that are recorded must be publicly available for the student body.

Section 4

Senators have representation power to encompass the student body general interest;
To attend all Senatorial assemblies;

To organize and remove Senators from Senate committees;

To expel any member from their seat in the Senate with two-thirds vote;

To participate in all Student Government Association sponsored events which are declared with discretion to the Senate prior;

To advise and pass legislation;

To forward and address communications in Student Government Association assemblies;

To establish and enact proper commissions deemed appropriate for the functioning Student Government Association;

To approve or reject appointments made by any Student Government Association Executive Officer (hereafter referred to as the Executive Officer) with Senate majority vote;

To consent to and confirm appointments by a two-thirds majority vote to any vacant positions which would require a Writ of Elections by the Executive Vice President;

To override a veto by the President with a two-thirds majority vote;

To make all proceedings, except those which require confidentiality, recorded and open to the student body;--And

Lastly, the Senate has the power to try all proceedings on Articles of Impeachment and removal of Executive Officers below St. Thomas University Administration.

Section 5

The Pro Tempore shall have representation power to encompass the student body general interest;

To annotate the minutes for each Senate proceedings;

To conduct Senate proceedings in the absence of the Executive Vice President;

To annotate attendance of Senators in the Senate proceedings;--And

Lastly, become interim Speaker of the Senate in the assumption that the Executive Vice President cannot serve in office by any means.
Article III: The Executive Branch

Section 1: General Description

The executive power shall be bestowed upon the President. The Executive Board shall be elected and serve for a term of one academic year; they shall not serve for more than two terms. Elections for Executive Board positions shall be determined through the electoral process outlined in Article IV.

No Person except an enrolled undergraduate student of St. Thomas University with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 shall be eligible to Office in the Student Government Association. Candidates must satisfy the prescribed requirements to hold a position in office. Executive Officers shall be chosen each spring for the following term.

In case of being that an Executive Officer cannot serve in office by any means, the Senate may provide for this case. They shall declare who may act in place during the absence of those prescribed Offices.

All Executive Officers shall, at designated times, receive for compensation for service in Office. This compensation is to be appropriated by St. Thomas University Student Affairs to Executive Officers and Executive Vice President, and they shall not receive any further pension from St. Thomas University, or elsewhere.

Upon inauguration, Executive Officers shall give credence to the following affirmation; to faithfully execute the Offices of the St. Thomas University Student Government Association, and to the best of ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the St. Thomas University Student Government Association.

Section 2: Official Powers

The President shall have power, with the consent of the Senate, to make and veto legislation concerning the Student Government Association and all bodies it presides, provided by two-thirds concurrence of the Senate. Executive Officers may nominate, with the consent of the Senate, any Officers to Student Government Association: the Senate may also nominate Officers to Student Government.

Section 3: Assessment

The President alone shall be granted power to directly address the Senate upon discretion on grounds of measures to be taken under their consideration. The Senate may be assembled upon discretionary appointment on extraordinary occasions and as well be adjourned by the President. The President’s position shall dictate care that all procedure is faithfully accomplished under the Constitution of the St. Thomas University Student Government Association in accordance with St. Thomas University.
Section 4: Impeachment

All Officers of the Student Government Association under St. Thomas University may be tried under Articles of Impeachment from Office for any infractions to any of the entire St. Thomas University.

Section 5: Powers of the Student Government Association Secretary of Communications

The Student Government Association Secretary of Communications shall provide representation power of student communications of St. Thomas University and the Student Government Association;

To annotate and make public all minutes for Executive Board and Student Organizations Committee proceedings except those that require confidentiality;

To establish and preside over agenda targeted to student communications;

To collaborate accordingly with the appropriate committees of the Senate;--And

Lastly, the Student Government Association Secretary of Communications shall have the power to inform all bodies under the Student Government Association of assessment for Student Government development.

Section 6: Powers of the Student Government Association Vice President of Clubs and Organizations

The Student Government Association Vice President of Clubs and Organizations shall provide representation power of the Student Government Association;

To preside over all proceedings by the Student Organizations Committee;

To organize and preside over all funded organizations under the Student Government Association;

To guide all appropriations for bodies under the Student Government Association with appropriate members;

To make all proceedings concerning organizations, except those which require confidentiality, recorded and open to the student body;

To inform the student body of St. Thomas University by assessment of development by organized bodies;-And

To forward and address communications to the Executive Vice President.
Section 7: Powers of the Student Government Executive Vice President

The Executive Vice President shall have representation power of the Senate and the student body of St. Thomas University;

To serve as an administrative assistant to the President;

To serve as Speaker of the Senate;

To preside over all Senatorial assemblies;

To address and forward communications from the Executive Board in Senate assemblies;

To appeal Senatorial Committees;

To organize and remove Senators from Senate committees with a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate;

To have regular voting power in all Senatorial affairs;

The Student Government Association Executive Vice President shall have the power to ever serve in the President’s absence;--And

Lastly, the Executive Vice President shall have the power to serve as the liaison between the Executive and Legislative Branch.

Section 8: Powers of the Student Government Association President

The Student Government Association President shall provide representation power of the Student Government Association;

To organize and preside over the Student Government Association;

To advise or reject legislation by the Senate;

To facilitate communications of administrative and student bodies of St. Thomas University;

To inform the Student Government Association by assessment of development;

To uphold all policies instated by St. Thomas University to the Student Government Association;--And

Lastly, the Student Government Association President shall have the power to promote the welfare of the students under St. Thomas University.
**Article IV: The Elections Process**

**Section 1: Overview**

The Elections Committee is established to deliberate the elections process. They shall serve in the best interests of the students and promote fairness amongst the general candidacy.

Elections shall be by plurality vote of the ballots cast for seats in the Executive Board.

In the event of a tie between candidates, a run-off election may be conducted. As previous, the run-off election shall be decided by plurality vote, and so forth.

Candidates who have not fulfilled appropriated elections criteria are not eligible to hold any seat or office in the Student Government Association. No person shall hold more than one officer position in the Student Government Association.

When an election occurs as part of the Student Government Association and only one candidate is running for a position, they will be elected on the basis of the Courtesy Vote. If the candidate receives one or more votes, then they would be elected for the position.

**Section 2: The Elections Commission**

The Elections Commission will be composed of the following members: two members of St. Thomas University Student Affairs;--And members of Senate from an Elections Committee.

The Elections Commission shall prescribe and notify election applicants/candidates of elections procedures.

In the event of any misconduct into any elections the Elections Commission shall reserve the right to exercise disciplinary action under St. Thomas University Administration. All members are nevertheless liable and subject to hearing under St. Thomas University Administration.

The Elections Commission shall only perform disciplinary actions in the form of: an immediate hearing with the Elections Commission, a deduction of votes, invalidation from elections, reports to St. Thomas University Student Affairs department;--And reports to St. Thomas University Security Officers. Nevertheless, all members are liable and subject to hearing under members of St. Thomas University Administration.

The Elections Commission nevertheless reserves the right to necessary intervention in any event of elections.

**Section 3: Election Day**

Winners of elections shall be announced at the Award Ceremony held by the St. Thomas University Student Affairs. Election Days are determined at the discretion of the Elections
Commission. Further Writ of Elections shall be subject to their authors and determinable within discretion.

Concern over the outcome of any elections may be submitted to the Student Government Association within twenty-four hours of the Award Ceremony. The submission will be subject for review by the Elections Commission. If the elections are ruled invalid by the Elections Commission, it is to their discretion to take appropriate action. However, if the elections are ruled valid by the Elections Commission, an appeal may be issued for further review.

All students elected into the Student Government Association shall be sworn in. The designation of the induction ceremony is to the discretion of the Elections Commission. Following the inauguration, newly elected members shall be recognized as official members of the Student Government Association.
Article V: The Amendment Process

The process to add Amendments to the Constitution shall be initiated by the powers of the Senate or members of the Student Government Executive Board. Amendments must be proposed by either of these two parties and voted on by the Senate for eligibility with a two-thirds majority vote. When eligibility is recognized, advisory by the Justices of Student Government is reviewed. Before an Amendment to the Constitution is passed, a joint session of the Senate, the Student Government Executive Board and the Justices of Student Government must be assembled and voted on by three-fourths majority vote. Amendments to the Constitution shall be incorporated into the actual document and go into effect immediately following approval. No member of Student Government Representation shall be deprived of equal suffrage in Student Government.
Article VI: Transcendence

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid as against the St. Thomas University Student Government Association, as under St. Thomas University.

This constitution, and the Legislations of student government which shall be made in the preceding thereof; shall be made under the authority of St. Thomas University, shall be the supreme law of this organization; and the judiciary shall have not begrudge, any form writ in the Constitution or legislation of to the contrary notwithstanding.

All student representatives, the Senators, all executive and judicial Officers, of both the Student Government and all bodies governed, shall be bound by Affirmation, to support this Constitution. No test subjugating diversity shall ever be required as a qualification to any Office for any organization under St. Thomas University.
Amendment I

The new requirement for an election process must be carried out before the previous executive board of the Spring semester has completed its term. The President and Vice President of Clubs and Organizations positions must be elected prior to the end of the Spring semester. The elected officers must report to the Student Government Association (SGA).

Amendment II

Section 1

When an election occurs as part of the St. Thomas University Student Government Association and only one candidate is running for a position, he or she will be elected on the basis of the Courtesy Vote. If the candidate receives one or more votes, then he or she would be elected for the position.

Section 2

When an election occurs as part of the St. Thomas University Student Government Association and more than one candidate is running for the one same position then their election will occur under Majority of Votes. In order to win the election, the candidate must have the majority of votes submitted.

Amendment III

Section 1

The number of senators holding office at any given time shall be no more than eleven.

Section II

Applicants for the position of a senator shall undergo an interview process in two phases in order to be selected for the said position. The first shall be an interview with a panel consisting of the sitting Executive Vice President, the Student Government Association Advisor, and the Dean of Student Affairs. The second interview shall be with the senators who currently hold office.

Senators whose term has expired shall be considered for reappointment by the Executive Vice President, the Student Government Association Advisor, and the Dean of Student Affairs. They shall be evaluated based on performance, commitment, and the maintenance of the required GPA.

Amendment IV
An individual who has been removed from the position of Senator based on a poor evaluation midway or at the end of their term of office may not use the title of Senator in their curriculum vitae, or in any other format, when applying for acceptance or a position at another institution of higher learning or an occupation.

**Amendment V**

The title of the Speaker of the Senate shall be permanently changed to ‘President of the Senate’ effective, March 22, 2011.

**Amendment VI**

The position ‘Treasurer’ shall be removed effective, February 20, 2017.

**Amendment VII**

The position of ‘Vice President’ shall be divided into two roles and called the Executive Vice President: