

# CONSTITUTION OF TAPROOT STUDENTS

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization will be "Taproot Students."

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE/GOALS

The purpose of this organization is to meet the needs of Christians for spiritual growth and Biblical training and to reach out to non-Christians with the love and message of Jesus Christ.

We desire to see college students become mature disciples of Christ, with a life-long commitment to the Great Commission.

"Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6-7 NIV)

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

### **Section I - Eligibility**

Membership and activities shall be open to all currently enrolled UTSA students.

Active membership consists of those members who attend a combined average of two-thirds of large group & small group meetings over the course of the most recent semester.

### **Section II - Removal**

A person may be asked to leave Taproot Students if the person's actions and behavior are detrimental to the accomplishment of the goals and operations of Taproot Students.

Such detrimental actions would include the following: an individual being disruptive and disorderly to the purposes of the group or the group's meetings, as defined in Section II, harassing other students in attendance, or exhibiting dangerous or threatening behavior to other students.

### **Section III - Procedure for Removal**

In response to such a situation, the small group leader, officer, or advisor will meet with the individual in question, share their concerns, and first seek reconciliation (instead of removal) on the matter.

If reconciliation does not take place in that initial meeting, or unclear evidence is presented, the accused individual and the small group leader, officer, or advisor may request to pull in a second individual from Taproot's leadership team to attempt a

reconciliation.

As a last resort, the accused member may request a hearing with the full leadership team of Taproot Students. They will hear from the individual, consider multiple testimonies from other members, confer with one another, and make a final decision in the accused member's case (of exclusion from the group, or dismissal of charges). A simple majority of the leadership team will cast a voting decision in the hearing.

## ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP

### **Section I - Requirements**

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

1. Have a minimum grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the selection/appointment, the semester of selection/appointment and semesters during the term of office.

A. For undergraduate UTSA students, the minimum GPA is 2.25. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semesters hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least six credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).

B. For graduate level UTSA students the minimum GPA is 3.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least four hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semesters hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree.

2. Be in good standing with UTSA and enrolled:

A. At least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and

B. At least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.

3. Have been an active member of Taproot Students for at least 2 semesters

4. Have shown leadership and administrative abilities, be in agreement with the goals, purpose and vision of Taproot Students, and have shown an ability to work with other leaders and members of Taproot Students.

## **Section II – Officer / Small Group Leadership Selection & Appointment**

Officers and small group leaders are selected and appointed by the outgoing and current leadership of Taproot Students. Existing officers and small group leaders will be given first priority to continue their leadership role from one semester to the next and from one school year to the next as long as they are qualified, interested and properly carrying out their responsibilities.

When new officers or small group leaders are needed, the existing leadership will conduct a search from among the existing active members of Taproot Students for replacements. Names will be submitted to the existing leaders for review. If the candidate meets the qualifications for active membership listed in Article III, Section II, agrees with the purpose and vision of the student organization, is found to be in good standing with current leaders, and is willing and able to serve for at least 2 consecutive semesters, then the position will offered to them. Typically, the selection of new leaders will be done in late November/early December or in late April/early May, or in other words, to coincide with the end of a semester.

## **Section III - Officer Duty Descriptions**

**President** - The President will organize large group meetings, coordinate local/national events, coordinate with the other officers, attend leadership meetings of Taproot Students, oversee administrative responsibilities for Taproot Student, act as a representative to the university, and promote positive relations with the university and other Christian organizations.

**Vice-President** - The Vice-President will assist the President in all tasks associated with organizing large group meetings, coordinating local/national events, coordinate with the other officers, attending leadership meetings of Taproot Students, overseeing administrative responsibilities for Taproot Student, acting as a representative to the university, and promoting positive relations with the university and other Christian organizations.

**Treasurer** - The Treasurer will monitor all monetary transactions, pay all bills, and ensure a minimum balance in account. The treasurer will ensure that all money belonging to Taproot Students is handled in accordance with all Student Activities regulations. They will know, understand, and comply with everything specified in Article VI of this document.

## **Section IV - Removal of Small Group Leaders & Officers**

Following the guidelines in Article III, Section III, currently serving small group leaders and officers may be removed from their position after due process. If an accusation is brought against a leader, personal reconciliation will first be pursued. If this does not resolve the matter, a second leader will be brought in to mediate. If the matter is still not resolved, the president will call a hearing with all currently serving leaders and officers. The advisor will oversee the hearing with the president. The accused leader may be removed from position by a simple majority.

## **Section V - Organization Decision-Making Process**

Administrative decisions, including event planning, university requirements and relations may be made by the officers. 2/3 of the officers must be present to form a quorum for such a decision. All such administrative decisions may be made by simple majority. In regards to financial expenditures, officers will also hold a simple majority vote, but in accordance with Article VI, Section I, must submit agreed-upon expenditures to the Advisor for final approval.

## ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Large Group and Small Group Meetings of this organization will be held weekly. Officers' and small group leaders' meetings will be held as necessary.

## ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

### **Section I - Financial Guidelines**

Taproot Students may choose to raise funds through contributions, fundraising activities, or by applying for school funds available to student groups. Active members of this organization are not required to pay dues. They may, however, be charged as necessary to participate in special events and retreats.

This organization will hold to strict financial integrity and accountability. The advisor to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

### **Section II - Disbursement of Organization Assets**

Upon dissolution, all uncommitted funds and property shall be turned over to the following Christian ministry at UTSA, Campus Crusade for Christ, due to affinity of goals and common practices.

## ARTICLE VII - LEGAL STATEMENT

Taproot Students agrees to abide by all policies of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), and local, state, and federal laws.

## ARTICLE VIII - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

This constitution may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the Officers. In the event of a tie, the decision will be deferred to the Advisor.

**This constitution was adopted on September 27, 2017 and most recently revised on June 1, 2018. No revisions have been made since June 1, 2018.**