

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

**CONSTITUTION**

**PARIS JUNIOR COLLEGE**

## **Student Government Association Constitution**

### Preamble

We, the students of Paris Junior College, in order to inspire good will and unity among Paris Junior College students, faculty and staff, promote high academic standards, develop socially versatile students, and further the traditions of the College, do hereby establish this constitution.

### Article I - Name of the Organization

The name of this organization shall be the Paris Junior College Student Government Association.

### Article II - Purpose

The Student Government Association is not a policy-forming body with respect to the administrative life of the College; this being, by law, the responsibility of the Board of Regents and its designated officers, the President of the College and/or other administrative officials. The Student Government Association is, through the delegates, the liaison of the student body with the College administration and shall have the authority to make such recommendations and to take such action in the interests of the student body and campus life as do not conflict with the laws of the State of Texas governing public educational institutions and as meet with the consent of the Board of Regents and the President of the College. Their purpose is:

- Section 1. To encourage total student involvement in the life of the College.
- Section 2. To attempt to solve problems and provide means for discussing problems of the membership pertaining to student government.
- Section 3. To provide policy making decisions over all student organizations and be the student liaison of said organizations and activities.
- Section 4. To promote communication among students, faculty, staff and administration.
- Section 5. To allow the students to fill a functional role in the continuing development of ideas and traditions of the school.
- Section 6. To nurture appreciation in our academic community for the distinctive nature and mission of the institution.
- Section 7. To recommend to the Director of Student Life the creation, suspension, or abolition of any campus organization and activities, excluding honorary academic societies.

### Article III - Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Student Government Association shall consist of delegates from each student organization (*as it pertains to individual campuses*) as well as other students enrolled in Paris Junior College who are in good standing with the College. (*Greenville and Sulphur Springs shall have two sophomore and two freshmen representatives*)

Qualifications to become or remain a participating SGA member are:

- A. The student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours at Paris Junior College.
- B. Student Government officers and members must be currently enrolled at Paris Junior College.
- C. No representative of the Student Government Association will be allowed to represent another club unless granted permission to do so by the Student Government Association Executive Council.

Section 2. The advisor to the Student Government Association is the Director of Student Life.

### Article IV - Officers/Executive Council

Section 1. The elected officers of the Student Government Association shall be the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, and the Publicity Director.

Section 2. The elected officers shall together comprise the Executive Council of the Student Government Association.

### Article V - Election and Removal of Officers

Section 1. Term Limits

- A. All executive officers shall serve for a term of one year beginning the first Monday in May of the year they were elected and ending on the last Monday of the following year in April.
- B. Any officer not elected in the spring election shall be elected or appointed from within the organization by October 1st of the fall semester and serve through the unexpired term.
- C. If any office becomes vacant, a replacement shall be named by the Executive Council and approved by a majority vote.

Section 2. Election of Officers

- A. Nominations from the student body should be filed with the Division of Student Life one week before the election.

- B. All nominees must have earned at least 24 semester credit hours with at least one semester of this study at Paris Junior College; or must be a student in good standing.
- C. To be eligible to run for an office a candidate must attend 50% of the meetings during the fall and spring semester.
- D. The Publicity Director must announce filing deadlines and election date two weeks before the deadline and announce the nominees during the week following the filing deadline.
- E. Elections will be on two consecutive days between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.
- F. Voting is by secret ballot during the spring semester. Candidates must receive a majority vote. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a second election shall be held and the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be named to the office.
- G. All officers must maintain a scholastic GPA of 2.75 and carry a minimum of 12 semester hours as confirmed by the Student Records office.
- H. Officers shall not hold office in any other recognized campus organizations.

Section 3. Removal of Officers:

- A. The Student Government Association Executive Council reserves the right to remove elected members of the Student Government Association from office, based on the following:
  - 1. Violation of Paris Junior College Policy and Procedures
  - 2. Violation of the Paris Junior College Student Government Association constitution and by-laws.
  - 3. Conduct unbecoming of leaders of the student body.
- B. An Executive Officer may be impeached by a simple majority of the entire Student Government Association. The SGA Executive Council cannot vote in this matter.
- C. The Vice President of the College and Director of Student Life may remove anyone from office if they believe such removal is warranted.
- D. Removal from office immediately strips the member of all representative powers.

Section 4. Student Government Officers and their Duties:

- A. President:
  - 1. To preside over all meetings of this association.
  - 2. To appoint committees.

3. To vote only in case of a tie.
  4. To attend all functions where a representative of the student body should be in attendance.
  5. To call meetings of the executive officers when necessary.
  6. To enforce and see that all members and student organizations uphold the purpose of the Student Government Association.
- B. Vice Presidents: (Each campus will have a Vice President; Paris, Greenville and Sulphur Springs)
1. To execute the duties of the President in his absence.
  2. To attend all meetings of the executive officers.
- C. Secretary/Treasurer:
1. To keep accurate records of meeting proceedings.
  2. To call the roll and make necessary announcements.
  3. To attend all meetings of the executive officers.
  4. To keep accurate accounts of financial matters under the jurisdiction of the advisor.
  5. Report events to the President of Paris Junior College.
- D. Publicity Director:
1. To provide proper media for effective campus publicity of all student activities and Student Government Association events.
  2. To cooperate with the administration in the proper dissemination of student information and mass media.
  3. To attend all meetings of the executive officers.
- E. Duties of the Executive Advisor, Director of Student Life:
1. To attend all Student Government Association functions and meetings.
  2. To aid the Association in any way that they can.
  3. To keep all permanent records of the Associations.
  4. To attend all meetings of the Executive Officers.

Section 5. Oath of Office

- A. The officers of the Student Government Association shall take the following oath before beginning to execute the duties of their respective offices.  
  
"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me by the virtue of my office, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and enforce the statues and the Constitution of the Paris Junior College Student Government Association."
- B. Newly elected officers shall take office at the conclusion of the spring semester in which they are elected.

Section 6. Officer Requirements

- A. Officers are required to be at all meetings called by the Association.
- B. Any officer who misses 3 meetings during an academic year shall be removed from office and their scholarship shall be revoked.
- C. Executive officers will review absences and then removal requires a 2/3 vote of the Association.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1. Association Meetings

- A. The general business meetings are held on the first and third Mondays during the fall and spring semesters. The three campuses will link electronically for meetings.
- B. Other Association meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the executive officers.

Section 2. Executive Officer Meetings

Shall be called by the president or by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Committee Meetings

May be called by the chairperson of the committee when deemed necessary.

Article VII - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order 10th Edition, Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not consistent with these by-laws and any special rules the Association may adopt.

Article VIII - Petition to Establish Campus Organizations

- Section 1. A minimum of seven (7) persons must be eligible to create, or petition to create, a new campus organization. The minimum membership requirement may be waived by special petition to the

Executive Committee if extenuating circumstances exists or if a national honor society, approved by the Administration and concurred with by the Association, may wish to establish a chapter. No petitioning organization may duplicate the efforts and objectives of an existing organization.

Section 2. Only persons who at the time of the petition have a 2.0 grade point average, and are enrolled in at least 12 semester hours may petition. Said petition shall not include members of the faculty, students of other educational institutions, private or public, or members of the community who are not students of the College.

#### Article IX - Nominations and Elections for Homecoming/Mr and Miss PJC

Section 1. The Student Government Association shall set the dates for and conduct general student elections and will certify eligibility of candidates who meet election requirements as set in the election code.

Section 2. The Student Government Association of Paris Junior College complies with the law and spirit of the Constitution of the United States in offering equal opportunity to all students, regardless of race, color, national origin, marital status, or sex.

Section 3. Election procedures for elections are as follows:

A. The Publicity Director must publicize the opening of nominations three days prior to the vote.

B. All ballots will be counted by Student Life personnel.

C. All ballots should be kept for at least one week in case of any conflict.

Section 4. Any candidate or nominee may receive a recount on written request to the Association or may appeal the election procedures to the Executive officers of the Student Government Association who will rule on the validity of the appeal.

Section 5. Qualifications for Homecoming King and Queen

A. Each student organization (including athletic teams) will make a nomination for the Homecoming court. A Homecoming court will consist of three men and three women selected by a vote of the student body. The Homecoming King and Queen will be selected from the Homecoming Court by a vote of the student body. All nominees must meet the following requirements:

1. The nominee must not be on disciplinary or scholastic probation.

2. The nominee must be a full-time student taking a minimum of 12 semester hours.

3. The nominee must have an overall 2.5 GPA and have 30 completed college hours as confirmed by the Records office.

Section 6. Qualifications for Mr. and Miss PJC

- A. The Paris Junior College faculty and professional staff will nominate ten students; five men and five women, who meet the following qualifications:
  - 1. The nominee must be a full-time student who is carrying a minimum of 12 semester hours.
  - 2. Each nominee must have an overall GPA of 2.75 according to the Records office.
  - 3. The nominee must be a graduating sophomore.
  - 4. Each nominee must not be on disciplinary or scholastic probation.
- B. The five men and five women who receive the majority of nominations from the faculty members and professional staff shall be placed on a ballot for student voting.
- C. The election will be by the student body, one ballot only.

Article X - Amendments

- Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any regular or called meeting of the Association by two-thirds of the members of the Association, providing that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the members of the Executive Board at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- Section 2. All amendments submitted for consideration to the Executive Officers, must be titled with:
  - 1) the full name of the delegates and principle authors who are sponsoring the amendment.
- Section 3. The purposed amendment shall be published in the official college paper with the date it will be discussed for amending.
- Section 4. Upon receiving two-thirds affirmative vote of the number of members of the Association and the approval of the Advisor.
- Section 5. The amendment will be submitted to the College President for approval.



**Paris Junior College**  
**Student Government Association**  
Information for Candidates

Paris Junior College Student Government Association has as its purpose to provide equitable representation for the student body and to coordinate the functions of various student clubs/groups/organizations.

The officers are: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Publicity Director. The duties are as follows:

President

1. The president or his appointed substitute, shall be the official representative of the Student Government Association at all functions where a representative of the student body should be in attendance.
2. The president shall preside at regularly scheduled and called meetings of the Student Government Association.

Vice-President

1. In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall represent the students from their home campus.

Secretary-Treasurer

The secretary-treasurer shall be responsible for keeping record of the minutes of Student Government Association meetings; call or check roll at all meetings; dispatch correspondence of the Student Government Association; keep an accurate account of all financial matters under the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association; leave a permanent record of the minutes and the financial report with the advisor and report amendments to the Constitution to the President of Paris Junior College for approval.

Publicity Director

The publicity director shall be responsible for the utilization of proper media for the effective campus publicity of Student Government Association activities, and for cooperating with college administration in the proper dissemination of student news to the mass media.

Proposed Activities for Student Government Associations:

1. On-campus trash-off days, working with and through the PJC Maintenance Department
2. Reading program through local elementary schools
3. Promotion of voting rights and responsibilities during local and national elections
4. Canned food drives
5. Activities selected by the Association and approved by the Director of Student Life.