**Constitution**

Drafted: May 11th, 2022

Ratified: May 12th, 2022

Amended:

**Preamble**

WE, the Students of Taft College, of the West Kern Community College District, Region VI of the State of California, in order to form a more perfect union amongst the Students and to ensure, protect, and defend the rights to an education and that of all Students, through effective participatory and shared governance of equal accessibility and mobility to all Students regardless of creed, which hereby do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Associated Student Organization of Taft College.

**Mission Statement**

To enrich and empower the collegiate experience for all Students, to guide and direct all advocacy efforts of Student rights and education rights, to serve and affirm the needs of all Students, to pursue and attain the necessary resources to provide an effective Student body, to ensure and enshrine the best interests and benefits of the Students, and to provide and exercise the leadership entrusted by the Students, bound by the Students, and for the Students, now and evermore.

**Article I**

**Foundation**

**Section I. Title**

This respective Student body government as prescribed by the administration of Taft College shall be known as an Associated Student Organization.

**Section II. Abbreviation**

This respective Student body government as customary by the Students, staff, faculty, and administration of Taft College shall be known and referred to as an (ASO).

**Section III. Rights to Title**

This respective Student body government shall be the only entity to the rights of entitlement and utilization to the title designated above.

**Article II**

**Membership**

**Section I. Membership**

Membership into the Executive Board shall only be conferred upon Taft College Students who are in good standing with the college, district, and the region.

**Section II. Timeline of Membership**

Membership into the Executive Board is permitted throughout the entire academic year at the discretion of the Executive Board.

**Section III. Eligibility**

**Clause A.**

Membership into the Executive Board will only be bestowed to those eligible Students who meet the legal criteria of a cumulative 2.0 grade point average, and the possession of five (5) units or more at Taft College per California Education Code § 76061 and California State Law.

**Clause B.**

Membership into the Executive Board shall be granted by a recorded majority vote of the present Student body or by the Executive Board.

**Clause C.**

Membership eligibility cannot under any circumstances be altered by any one singular individual or body of Taft College, the West Kern Community College District, or Region VI.

**Clause D.**

Membership eligibility to serve as an Executive Board Officer/Member of any Student body government may only be altered by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Board of Governors, or the California State Legislature whose authority rests within and nothing less.

**Article III**

**Executive Board**

**Section I. Legitimacy**

The Executive Board shall be composed of the Student body and shall act as the official and legitimate governing body and voice of the Students for this college and campus as prescribed by California Education Code § 76060 and California State Law.

**Section II. Composition**

The Executive Board shall consist of the: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Director of Legislative Affairs, Interclub Commissioner, Public Relations Officer, and therefore shall be known as Executive Officers.

**Section III. Directors**

**Clause A.**

Any additional Executives of the Executive Board shall be known as Directors, and shall also exercise and enjoy the same rights and privileges as the Executive Officers, but shall be known and referred to as Executive Members.

**Clause B.**

The focus and responsibilities of the Directors shall be assigned and designated at the pleasure of the President.

**Section IV. Limitation**

At the time of this constitution unless the addition or reduction of offices occurs, the Executive Officers shall be at a cap limit of six (6), and Executive Members at a cap limit of three (3), with one (1) non-voting Ex-Officio, thus equating to the limitation of the Executive Board at a maximum of ten (10) Executives.

**Section V. Ex-Officio’s**

**Clause A.**

Only the Advisor and the Student Trustee shall serve as Ex-Officio’s of the Executive Board.

**Clause B.**

Only the Advisor shall serve as an Advisory Ex-Officio with non-voting restrictions, Member of the Executive Board.

**Clause C.**

The Student Trustee shall serve as a Non-Voting Ex-Officio of the Executive Board.

**Section VI. Quorum**

**Clause A.**

Only the Executive Board Officers and Members count towards quorum and no one else.

**Clause B.**

Quorum is established as fifty-one (51) percent (%) of the Executive Board, and may fluctuate depending on the number of official Executives.

**Clause C.**

Action cannot be taken on any items if quorum is not met as prescribed by California Government Code.

**Clause D.**

If action is taken while quorum is not established, then the motions are null, void, and illegitimate.

**Clause E.**

The Advisor and the Student Trustee do not and cannot count towards quorum.

**Section VII. Voting**

**Clause A.**

All Executive Board Officers and Members are granted the right to vote on any matter presented before the Executive Board.

**Clause B.**

The President may only vote in the case of a tie, thus the President serves as a tie breaking vote, otherwise the President cannot vote on any matter.

**Clause C.**

All votes recorded from Executives shall only count as one (1) singular vote and no individual office or position will exceed that amount.

**Section VIII. Line of Succession**

**Clause A.**

The line of succession is as follows: Vice President first (1st) in line, Secretary/Treasurer second (2nd) in line, Director of Legislative Affairs third (3rd) in line, Interclub Commissioner fourth (4th) in line, Public Relations Officer fifth (5th) in line.

**Clause B.**

The Directors are also entitled to the line of succession, but must ascend in order from longest serving to lastly the most recent serving.

**Clause C.**

No one singular individual has the sole right to curtail the line of succession as prescribed. Upon an abrupt vacancy, the individual next in line can immediately ascend unless denial or disagreement occurs, which in turn the President or the Executive Board has the right to nominate a willing individual and put the nomination to a recorded vote.

**Section IX. Terms**

**Clause A.**

Executive Board Officers/Members may only serve a limit of two (2) years in office and nothing more.

**Clause B.**

Terms shall commence at 12:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time following the day after Spring graduation and expire at 11:59 P.M. Pacific Standard Time on the day of Spring graduation.

**Article IV**

**Advisor**

**Section I. Qualifications**

The Advisor must demonstrate a willingness to abide by the orders of our system partners as suggested or directed, the Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the wishes of the Students.

**Section II. Assessment**

The Advisor shall be assessed and evaluated by the President with advice and consent of the Executive Board.

**Section III. Role**

The Advisor shall embody and mimic the role of a guide, mentor, coach, and instructor of the Executive Board, exercising the appropriate authority over the Executive Board as deemed necessary by the Advisor.

**Section IV. Duties**

**Clause A.**

The Advisor shall serve as a non voting Ex-Officio Advisory Member of the Executive Board.

**Clause B.**

The Advisor has the right to advise on any and all outcomes during meetings which require the consideration of action or approval, as well as any and all matters presented before the Executive Board.

**Clause C.**

The Advisor shall be responsible for upholding and enforcing the rules and orders of the Constitution and Bylaws, as well as maintaining parliamentary procedural order within the Executive Board.

**Clause D.**

The Advisor must be present at all Executive Board meetings and in attendance at least seventy-five (75) percent (%) of the duration of the meeting, or in the case of an absence, the Advisor must coordinate with the President within the week.

**Section IV. Reprimand**

**Clause A.**

If the Advisor for any reason continuously fails to execute their duties and responsibilities and is proven as detrimental, as prescribed by our system partners, or the Executive Board, then the President has the sole right to present a grievance of concern to the Coordinator of Student Life, Dean of Student Success, or Vice President of Student Services.

**Clause B.**

Once the grievance is presented, the Advisor, President, and administrative designee have seven (7) working days to meet, fixate or discuss the matter at hand.

**Article V**

**The Electoral**

**Section I.** **Elections**

**Clause A.**

The Executive Board shall be elected by a majority recorded vote of the Student body at Taft College.

**Clause B.**

General elections are to be held in the month of May, by the Electoral Committee.

**Clause C.**

Special elections are to be held in the month of September, by the Electoral Committee, if there are still vacancies on the Executive Board.

**Clause D.**

Candidates are not to campaign within one hundred (100) feet of the Elections booth, doing so is subject for immediate disqualification.

**Section III. Offices**

All Executive Board offices including the directorship shall be included on the ballot, in the case of vacant offices, those vacancies are to be filled by a special election at the beginning of the fall semester.

**Section IV. Voting Eligibility**

Only the Student body of Taft College are eligible and allowed to vote for the Executive Board and no one else.

**Section V. Assumption of Victory**

**Clause A.**

In the event of multiple candidates, the candidate who receives the majority of the present votes wins regardless.

**Clause B.**

Election results are to be announced within 24 hours of certification by the Chair of the Electoral Committee.

**Section VI. Appointment**

**Clause A.**

If there still remain vacancies on the Executive Board after the special election in the fall semester, then the remaining vacancies shall be filled through appointment by the Executive Board.

**Clause B.**

A candidate outside of the elections processes must present a brief candidate statement live during the Executive Board meeting, and answer three (3) questions as directed by the Executive Board per Regional Policy.

**Article VI**

**Removal & Resignation**

**Section I. Removal Process**

**Clause A.**

Anyone has the right to draft Articles of Removal for any one Executive Board Officer/Member.

**Clause B.**

No one Executive including the President or the Advisor has the right to remove any Executive once elected or appointed without going through the formal removal process.

**Clause C.**

The removal of any Executive including the President must require a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote from the present Executive Board.

**Section II. Introduction of Articles**

**Clause A.**

Only the Secretary/Treasurer or the Advisor may introduce the Articles of Removal at the Executive Board meeting.

**Clause B.**

The President cannot draft or introduce any Articles of Removal against any one Executive, and must instead delegate this ability to the Secretary/Treasurer or the Advisor on behalf of the President upon agreement.

**Clause C.**

Once Articles of Removal are drafted, the author, the individual, and the Advisor can meet at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Executive Board meeting if plausible to discuss, or fixate the matter at hand to find a solution or move the matter forward to the Executive Board for final decision.

**Section III. Presiding Abilities**

**Clause A.**

The President shall chair and preside over the removal process of any one Executive Board Officer/Member.

**Clause B.**

The Vice President shall chair and preside over the removal of the President.

**Section IV. Resignation**

**Clause A.**

Any one Executive must draft a formal Letter of Resignation and submit it to the Advisor and notify the President immediately to record their resignation as voluntarily and officially valid per Regional Policy.

**Clause B.**

Letters of Resignation are effective immediately.

**Clause C.**

The resignation of an Executive must be announced at the next Executive Board meeting by the Chair.

**Article VII**

**Student Senate for California Community Colleges**

**Section I. Regional Delegate Representation**

**Clause A.**

It is in the best interest of the Executive Board to assign the responsibility of the Regional Delegate representing Taft College to the Director of Legislative Affairs.

**Clause B.**

If the President or the Executive Board feels the necessity to delegate this responsibility to another Executive, then an Executive must be nominated and appointed by a majority recorded vote by the Executive Board.

**Clause C.**

The appointment for the Alternate Delegate shall also go through the Executive Board or the President is the de facto Alternate Delegate.

**Clause D.**

The Regional Delegates representing Taft College shall be appointed at the last Executive Board meeting from within the incoming Executive Board.

**Clause E.**

The term of both the Regional Main Delegate and Alternate Delegate representing Taft College shall commence effective immediately on July 1st, and expire on June 30th of the following year.

**Clause F.**

The Regional Delegate(s) shall vote in the best interest of the Students and Taft College whenever summoned by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

**Section II. Annual General Assembly**

The President, Director of Legislative Affairs (Regional Delegate representing Taft College), Alternate Delegate, and the Student Trustee must at least be present at the annual General Assembly.

**Section III. Prohibition Against Secession**

As long as the Student Representation Fee (SRF) is being collected by either governing bodies as required by California State Law, this respective Student body government does not have the right or the authority to secede from membership or participation from the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, and any and all seditious acts or attempts must be blocked and intervened by the administration of Taft College immediately.

**Article VIII**

**Student Representation Fee**

**Section I. Taxation**

This respective Student body government has the right and authority to collect a Student Representation Fee (SRF) of two (2) dollars ($) at the time of registration from any and all registered Students at Taft College.

**Section II. Authority**

The authority to collect such fees derives from California Education Code § 76060.5.

**Section III. Taxation with Representation**

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges has the right and authority to collect one (1) dollar ($) from the Student Representation Fee (SRF) from each and every registered student at Taft College, thus leaving the Associated Student Organization with only fifty (50) percent (%) of the total collected Student Representation Fee (SRF).

**Section IV. Allowable Usage of the Student Representation Fee**

**Clause A.**

This decision shall remain in the custody of the Chief Financial/Fiscal Officer of Taft College.

**Clause B.**

The Student Representation Fee (SRF) may be utilized for, but not limited to: Student attendance at events sponsored by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, legislative affairs, hosting participatory or shared governance events, travel costs for, to, and from any of the above mentioned, subscriptions to educational oriented applications, stipends for Executives, and organizational dues or donations to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

**Article IX**

**Standard Meeting Protocols & Procedures**

**Section I. Parliamentary Procedure**

The Executive Board must abide by Parliamentary Procedure when conducting any and all meetings.

**Section II. Robert's Rules of Order**

Parliamentary Procedure derived from *Robert’s Rules of Order* must be abided by and enforced in order to conduct any and all meetings.

**Section III. Chairing Authority**

The President shall chair and preside over all meetings, in the case of an absence, the chairing authority falls throughout the line of succession.

**Section IV. Brown Act**

**Clause A.**

Agendas shall be created and distributed seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting in compliance with Brown Act California Government Code § 54950 AB 339.

**Clause B.**

If the agenda is not distributed within the allotted time then the meeting must be pushed back to a later time not constituting as a regular meeting.

**Section V. Special Meetings**

Special meetings are meetings conducted outside of the regular meeting times, and must only be called upon at the discretion of the Chair.

**Article X**

**Bylaws**

**Section II. Passage of the Bylaws**

The Bylaws shall be passed by a simple majority recorded vote from the Executive Board.

**Section II. Separation of Powers**

The Bylaws are a separate governing document from the Constitution.

**Section III. Checks and Balances**

The Bylaws derive its authority and legitimacy from the Constitution.

**Article XI**

**Articles of Incorporation**

**Section I. Numeration of Articles**

There are to be twelve (12) original articles which make up the body and supremacy of the Constitution.

**Section II. Support of Sections**

Sections may be added to any articles to support the articles as needed or deemed necessary.

**Section III. Application of Clauses**

Clauses are to be applied under sections to further elaborate or support on that one specific section.

**Section IV. Amendments**

**Clause A.**

Any of the original twelve (12) articles cannot be decimated unless by a unanimous vote by the entire Executive Board.

**Clause B.**

Additional articles of incorporation may be added only after the original twelve (12) articles and not before.

**Article XII**

**Constitutional Authority**

**Section I. Constitutional Interpretation**

The Constitution is up for interpretation, but not limited to exaggeration.

**Section II. Constitutional Ratification**

**Clause A.**

The Constitution must be ratified once a year by the Constitutional Committee prior to the last month of the last Executive Board meeting in the Spring.

**Clause B.**

The ratification of the Constitution shall require a simple majority recorded vote from the Executive Board.

**Section III. Constitutional Violations**

**Clause A.**

A constitutional violation is any obstruction of articles, sections, or clauses not complied or abided by when specifically stated in the Constitution.

**Clause B.**

Intentional and knowingly constitutional violations and/or obstructions are grounds for removal by the assessment of the Executive Board depending on the severity of the violation and/or obstruction.

**Section IV. Constitutional Alteration**

The Constitution cannot under any circumstances be altered or manipulated by any one Executive throughout the term, unless during the constitutional ratification phase, if done inappropriately, that is a constitutional violation.

**Section V. Constitutional Dissolution**

If this Constitution at any time violates or interferes with federal, state, county, local, district, and/or college law, statute, legislation, resolution, policy or regulation, then the President has the sole right to immediately call for the dissolution of the entire Constitution and a new one must be drafted immediately to comply with such rules or orders.