

Senate of College Councils Constitution

Fall Term 2026 Version

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Preamble

Each university school and college has a college council made up of and representing their students. The Senate of College Councils (SCC) is a Student Governance Organization (SGO) within the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) student led student governance framework of Institutional Rules on Sponsored Student Governance Organizations, that is the coordinating body comprised of all the college councils to represent students in matters related to their academic experience through their colleges and provide the opinions and sentiments of the college councils on academic issues to the university administration. The Senate of College Councils' mission is to strengthen and improve the academic culture of the university, create awareness and pride in the academic strength of the university, and ensure that The University of Texas at Austin is and remains a "university of the first class."

Article I: Purpose

1. The Senate of College Councils (SCC) is a Limited Student Governance Organization (SGO) organized as student led confederation of the individual college council organizations collectively recognized as "College Councils" representing each of the university's colleges and schools at The University of Texas at Austin. The college councils are student led organizations that serve as voices of students on academic matters in their respective colleges and schools. The functional and governance area of SCC is limited to representing the student voices expressed through individual college councils in matters pertaining to academic affairs and is limited to the enumerated powers described in its governance documents. As such, SCC serves as a voice to express the opinion and sentiment of the college councils and, thereby, the opinion and sentiment of students in matters directly affecting academic affairs. The functional and governance area of SCC is limited to representing the student voices expressed through individual college councils on academic affairs. The SCC may only act on issues wholly within its Limited Student Governance Organization scope alone, including joint resolutions. The SCC may not act as an official body on issues outside of its proper scope.
2. SCC serves as a forum for communication between the college councils and facilitates operations. The college councils serve as the official voices of students in their respective colleges and schools on academic experience issues by:
 - a. working to improve the academic experience of students in each college and school,
 - b. providing programming to promote academic excellence,
 - c. fostering interaction and productive communication between students and faculty, and
 - d. leading initiatives that foster a sense of belonging and positive student academic

experience.

3. In addition, SCC tasks include but are not limited to:
 - a. working to improve academic services for students across the university,
 - b. nominating student appointments to various university-wide governance committees and advisory groups when college council student representation is requested or required,
 - c. providing funding to registered student organizations, and
 - d. implementing programming initiatives that enrich academic life at the university.

Article II: Status and Compliance

1. The Senate of College Councils is recognized as a sponsored student governance organization at The University of Texas at Austin and the SCC president shall be responsible for ensuring that recognition and official sponsorship of the organization by the Office of the Dean of Students is maintained. The Regents Rule 50202 (Student Organizations) and the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, Chapter 6 (Student Organizations) provide that a student organization that wants to exercise any of the rights and privileges listed in Institutional Rules, Sec. 6–301 must apply annually to the dean of students to be recognized as a sponsored student organization and must meet the requirements and adhere to the standards of conduct, expectations, and responsibilities in the Institutional Rules, Chapters 6 and 11 (Student Discipline and Conduct), together with any expectations and conditions of sponsorship required by the official sponsor. Registration or sponsorship may be reviewed, withheld, or withdrawn from organizations that violate university regulations, criteria for sponsorship, or sponsor directions. The SCC shall comply with all campus policies as set forth in the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities.
2. The Senate of College Councils categorically prohibits hazing in all forms. In accordance with state law and Sec. 14-103(3) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution. No delegate member, general member, officer, director, committee member, or representative of the Senate of College Councils or its constituent college councils shall engage in, condone, facilitate, or encourage any form of hazing, and violations of this prohibition may

result in disciplinary action in accordance with university policies, the SCC governing documents, and applicable state and federal law.

Article III: SCC Membership and Governance Structure

1. SCC membership is composed of active members of the 21 college councils. The college councils each have three (3) “delegate” members consisting of the Presidents and Financial Directors, and the Representatives selected by each of the College Councils in accordance with the procedure outlined in its own constitution.
2. The SCC Assembly shall be used for conducting the legitimate business of the SCC. The Assembly includes all delegate members and general members, the president of Student Government, ex officio; and the president of the Graduate Student Assembly, ex officio. The only voting members of the SCC Assembly are the voting college council delegates of the officially recognized college councils. Each College Council receives one vote in the SCC Assembly. The term of the SCC Assembly as a body each year shall be for the fall and spring term of the academic school year.
3. The SCC Governance Structure consists of 1) a legislative Assembly composed of delegate members and general members of the 21 College Councils where each college council delegation receives one vote in the Assembly, 2) a President and Vice President elected each year in April by the delegate members of each of the College Councils, and 3) an Executive Board consisting of seven area Directors (Financial Director, Communications Director, Internal Director, Policy Director, Administrative Director, Membership Director, and Community Advocacy Director) nominated by the President each year in April from the delegate members and confirmed by the Assembly; 4) three Standing Committees (Financial Directors Committee, Presidents Committee and Representatives Committee: and 5) eight Special Committees (Academic Enrichment Committee, Academic Policy Committee, Engagement and Outreach Committee, Community Advocacy Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, Fundraising Committee, Recruitment and Retention Committee, and Undergraduate Research Committee), appointed by the President each year in April from the delegate members and general members with no two delegate and no two general committee members from the same college council.

Article IV: SCC Assembly Meetings and Voting Procedures

1. The SCC Assembly of officially recognized college councils meets biweekly during the fall and spring semesters to conduct the legitimate business of the SCC pertinent to university policy and processes related to academic affairs. All meeting times and agendas can be found online on the Office of the Dean of Students official SCC website.

2. The SCC Assembly may pass (1) resolutions and (2) bills. A piece of legislation must be on the agenda before the SCC Assembly can vote on it. The president and the policy director share the authority to put legislation on the agenda. The agenda shall be provided to the Office of the Dean of Students by 12 noon at least five business days before a meeting. The text of proposed amendments to the SCC Governing Documents must be approved by the Office of the Dean of Students prior to being put on the agenda and introduction in the SCC Assembly. No changes are permitted to be made to text of proposed amendments to the SCC Governing Documents as approved by the Office of the Dean of Students prior to adoption.
3. Each college council delegation receives one vote in the SCC Assembly. College councils may abstain from voting. For a college council delegation to cast a vote, at least one of its three delegates must be present at the meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted.
4. Legislation cannot be passed unless a quorum is achieved. A simple majority of the official college council delegations must have at least one delegate present at the meeting for a quorum to be achieved. College council delegation attendance is determined by roll call at the beginning of each meeting.
5. Legislation cannot be passed at the same meeting in which it is introduced.
6. Unless otherwise determined by the governing documents of each college council, the vote cast by the president, financial director, and the SCC representative of a college council must reflect the vote decision of the college council they represent.
7. For a resolution to pass, a simple majority of the college council delegations present must vote in favor of the resolution, provided that a quorum is achieved. For a bill to pass, a two-thirds majority of the college council delegations present must vote in favor of the bill, provided that a quorum is achieved. The SCC president breaks any ties. Any legislative matters not completed and approved within the fall and spring term of the academic calendar year term of the SCC Assembly as a body are considered expired.

Article V: The SCC Budget

1. SCC receives an annual budget from the Student Services Budget Committee (SSBC), which is housed in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Financial Directors Committee is responsible for allocating the SCC budget.
2. The budget is divided into (1) the SCC's Operating budget, (2) the college councils' budget, and (3) the appropriations budget.
3. The operating budget may be spent by (1) the Executive Board, and (2) the Standing Committees. The college councils' budget is allocated to the college councils. The

appropriations budget is distributed to registered student organizations.

4. Use of the budget is subject to the rules and limitations contained in the Bylaws of the Senate of College Councils.

Article VI: Governing Documents

1. The SCC Constitution and Bylaws are the official governing documents of the Senate of College Councils. Elements of the Constitution or Bylaws may not be suspended. The governing documents may be amended in the manner described in this Article.
2. Amendments to the official SCC governing documents shall take effect on the first class day of the fall semester following their adoption and approval unless the university president and vice president for student affairs determine there are compelling circumstances essential to the operation of the Senate of College Councils that require an earlier effective date. The following approval process must be followed:
 - a. The text of proposed amendments to the SCC Governing Documents must be approved by the Office of the Dean of Students prior to being put on the agenda and introduction in the SCC Assembly. No changes are permitted to be made to text of proposed amendments to the SCC Governing Documents as approved by the Office of the Dean of Students.
 - b. Proposal and approval by two-thirds majority of all the officially recognized college councils,
 - c. Submit a finalized copy of the updated SCC governing documents with proposed changes noted, a copy of the current SCC governing documents, notes from any committees involved, and minutes from the SCC Assembly meeting in which the vote for approval was taken for review to the student governance organization advisor; and,
 - d. Approval of amendments by the vice president for student affairs and university president of The University of Texas at Austin.