**Student Council Constitution**

**of Cornerstone Academy**

**Preamble**

We, the students of Cornerstone Academy, in order to form a more perfect learning environment, believe

that:

1. All students and staff, regardless of gender, religion, color or creed should have the opportunity to be involved in the school’s Student Government.
2. All participants in the Student Government should be responsible members of the Cornerstone Academy Community.
3. The Student Government should be based on democratic principles.
4. All staff and students should work to create a safe and orderly learning environment.
5. All students shall have certain rights and freedoms as guaranteed to them as students of the school.

**Article 1**

**Name of the Organization**

The Cornerstone Academy Student Government Association, shall hereafter be referred to as the STUCO.

**Article 2**

**Affiliations**

Cornerstone Academy STUCO shall pay dues and maintain affiliations with the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC).

**Article 3**

**Composition of the Student Government**

Section 1: The Executive Board is comprised of elected and appointed officers/chairpersons.

Section 2: The General Assembly is comprised of all StuCo representatives and the Executive Board.

**Article 4**

**Powers of the Student Council**

Section 1: The power of the Student Government is provided by the administration. Within this authority,

the STUCO general assembly and executive aboard shall have the power to pass legislation in matters

concerning the best interests of the student body. All actions of the Student Government are subject to the approval by school administration.

Section 2: The administration will appoint a faculty advisor to the STUCO. The advisor’s role is to direct and guide the actions of the STUCO. He/she does not have voting rights. The student government advisor has the responsibility to:

a) Provide guidance in all STUCO sponsored activities,

b) Chaperone all STUCO activities (and secure additional chaperones as needed),

c) Excuse the absences of students who miss class because of student government activities.

Section 3: General Assembly

The General Assembly shall have all legislative powers. All expenditures of the STUCO over and above ten percent (10%) of the treasury must be authorized by the general assembly.

Section 4: The Executive Board

The Executive Board shall have all legislative powers save those superseded by the Constitution. The

Executive Board has the responsibility to involve the general assembly in as many actions of the STUCO as possible because the general assembly expresses the voice of the total student body.

**Article 5**

**Qualifications and Terms of Office**

Section 1: General Qualifications

a) All officers and representatives shall exhibit exemplary behavior and academic ethics. If reservations

about behavior or academic ethics are brought forth by faculty and staff, the administration and/or the Sponsor shall make the final decision concerning the qualification of the candidate in question.

b) All officers and representatives are expected to attend all general assemblies of the STUCO. Additional meetings are required as specific to the positions listed below.

Section 2: Specific Qualifications

a) Officers - In addition to general assemblies, the executive board is expected to attend all executive

board meetings. Officers will also attend committee meetings as assigned.

1) President . the president shall be in 7th or 8th grade for the year of his/her service

2) Vice Presidents - must be in 7th or 8th grade for the year of his/her service

3) Treasurer - must be in the 7th or 8th grade for the year of his/her service

4) There are no grade-level stipulations on appointed positions.

5) Members are expected to participate in the planning and implementation of STUCO activities, including set-up, working shift(s), and clean-up of at least two dances.

Section 3: Term of Office

a) All spring elected/appointed STUCO officers/chairman shall serve a one year term beginning the last day of school in June, until the last day of school in June the following year.

b) Officers/chairman elected or appointed in the fall begin their term of office after election results/appointments are made, until the last day of school in June of that school year. (This clause would not be required if all elections/appointments are done in the fall.)

**Article 6**

**Responsibilities and Duties**

President:

a) Shall execute and carry out the Constitution of Cornerstone Academy.

b) Shall preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

c) Shall represent the student body of Cornerstone Academy, when called upon to do so by the principal,

STUCO advisor, or other TASC administration.

e) Shall appoint, with the approval of the STUCO Advisor and executive board, ad hoc committees as necessary.

f) Shall have the authority, with approval from the STUCO Advisor and executive board, to call additional meetings of STUCO.

g) Shall promote interest and participation within STUCO.

h) Shall work with Communications Chair to determine who makes Daily Announcements.

Vice President:

a) In case of president’s absence or inability to carry out his responsibilities, the vice-president will take

charge and assume the responsibilities of the president.

b) Shall assist the president as directed.

c) Shall take attendance and record membership points.

Treasurer:

a) Shall assist the STUCO Advisor with record keeping of all STUCO expenditures and

income.

b) Shall, STUCO Meetings, submit a report on the financial status of the organization.

Recording Secretary:

a) Shall be responsible for recording all minutes of STUCO meetings.

b) Shall be responsible sharing records with STUCO members

c) Shall maintain all STUCO Records.

d) Shall be responsible for all secretarial and clerical duties of STUCO.

Corresponding Secretary:

a) Shall be responsible for all approved communication.

b) Shall work with the Communications chair to write/communicate about STUCO articles for school publications.

c) Shall help Communications chair to maintain social media coverage of STUCO events and activities.

Chairpersons:

a) Shall be responsible for the agenda, proceedings, and work of the assigned committee.

b) Shall prepare, with the help of his/her committee, a project plan for the assigned activity.

c) Shall prepare a report on committee activities to the general assembly.

 Available Committees: Teacher Appreciation, Dance, School Pride, DARE, Communications

**Article 7**

**Elections and Appointments**

Section 1: Election/appointments of the Executive Board shall take place in April/May the spring before the year of service.

Section 2: Specific election guidelines will be reviewed in February and submitted to STUCO Advisor for approval. Candidates shall receive a copy of all election guidelines.

Section 3: (spring elections) The students in 6th and 7th grade will vote for their choice of candidates for

the office of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. (Fall elections) The members will vote for all remaining available offices.

Section 5: The candidate receiving the most votes cast (popular vote) will win the election.

**Article 8**

**Meetings**

Section 1: All meetings, as deemed appropriate, shall be conducted using *Robert.s Rules of Order, Newly*

*Revised*.

Section 2: The executive board shall meet a minimum of twice a month.

Section 3: The general assembly shall meet a minimum of twice a month.

Section 4: Student Council Members will earn 30 points each semester by doing one or more of the following:

* Meetings: Attending a meeting +1 point
* Committees: Attending and contributing to a committee +2
* Projects/Events: Participation/Contribution toward projects or events outside of meetings +1/hour
* Special Activities: points vary and are designated by the advisor. Special activities may include attending a TASC training or workshop, special leadership roles, such as district activities or serving as a TASC junior counselor)

Members who earn 100 or more points for the year will be recognized during a Special Assembly and will receive a Certificate of Exemplary Leadership.

**Article 9**

**Impeachment and Succession**

Section 1: Impeachment

a) All officers (elected/appointed) and representatives shall be subject to impeachment for behavior

deemed inappropriate by the STUCO Sponsor or administration.

b) Suspension or expulsion from school requires automatic impeachment from any STUCO position.

d) Missing 3 or more meetings, unexcused, may result in impeachment proceedings.

e) Any officers or representative who fails to carry out his/her duty in a responsible manner may have

impeachment charges brought against him/her.

f) Impeachment proceedings are defined in the bylaws.

Section 2: Succession

a) In case of the president’s permanent inability to serve, the STUCO Vice President will assume

all responsibilities of the office of president.

b) In case of all other elected/appointed officer’s inability to serve, the STUCO Advisor shall work with the President to appoint a replacement, based on demonstrated leadership skills and interest.

**Article X**

**Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the legislative body.

**Article XI**

**Ratification**

This Constitution shall be in effect when it is approved by the administration and then receives two-thirds (2/3) vote of the student body.

***Bylaws to the Constitution***

**Article I**

**Standing Committees**

Section 1: All standing committees shall be composed of any student who wishes to serve on them.

Students must have met all eligibility requirements for extra-curricular activities.

Section 2: The standing committees shall be as follows:

a) **COMMUNICATION:** Is responsible for the maintenance of the STUCO bulletin board, all

advertisements for STUCO events, working with the corresponding secretary for published articles and social media, and other school publicity as submitted and approved by the STUCO advisor.

b) **DANCE:** . Is responsible for the planning and implementation of all STUCO dances.

c) **TALENT SHOW:**  Is responsible for the planning and implementation of the Talent Show.

d) **SCHOOL PRIDE** - Is responsible for the planning and implementation of any School Pride project.

e) **TEACHER APPRECIATION** - is responsible for planning and implementation of teacher appreciation/Recognition events.

Section 3: All committee chairs shall:

a) Attend all STUCO meetings

b) Actively participate in STUCO activities

c) Maintain regular communication with officers, other staff members, and the advisor

d) Give progress reports on committee activities

e) Submit a report at the end of the year detailing the actions of the committee during that year

**Article II**

**Ad Hoc Committees**

Section 1: May be formed as deemed necessary by the STUCO Advisor and the executive board.

Section 2: Must have specific objectives for a one-time event/program. A project-plan should be

completed as required with all STUCO events.

Section 3: The STUCO Advisor, along with the officers.

 Section 4: The committee will be disbanded at the conclusion of its function.

**Article III**

**Impeachment**

Section 1: From Article 9, Section 1 in the Constitution, these are the proceedings to be implemented when disciplinary concerns arise with a STUCO member.

a) Concerns should be submitted in writing to the STUCO advisor or administrator.

b) A committee of faculty and/or administration may convene to discuss the charges, and the STUCO advisor will then inform the Executive Board.

c) If the committee and/or administration find the charges to be credible, the STUCO member charged with the impeachment shall present his or her defense to the committee and/or adminstration.

d) After hearing the member’s response, the committee and/or administration shall determine the appropriate outcome given the circumstances.

**Article IV**

**Adoption and Amendments**

Section 1: This document shall take effect upon its approval by the STUCO Advisor and two-thirds vote of

the Executive Board.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended upon approval by STUCO Advisor and 3/4 vote of the

executive board.

**Article V**

**Jurisdiction**

Section 1: This document shall be appended to the Constitution for the duration of its authorization, but

shall be superseded by the Constitution in any conflicts.