

Constitution of the Turing Scholars Student Association

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Amended: August 24th, 2009

1 Name of Organization

Turing Scholars Student Association
(Hereafter referred to as TSSA).

2 Statement of Purpose

TSSA exists to provide the members of the Turing Scholars Program with social events, access to speakers (especially from computer science related fields), well-established relationships with the technology industry, and study groups. TSSA is an educational and departmental organization registered with The University of Texas at Austin.

3 Membership

3.1

Membership shall be open to students of The University of Texas at Austin regardless of race, national origin, creed, or political affiliation, sex (in accordance with Title IX), sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or veterans status.

3.2

Membership must be limited to students and/or faculty and staff of The University of Texas at Austin.

3.3

Members must be current members of the Turing Scholars Program.

4 Executive Board

4.1

TSSA shall be governed by an Executive Board comprised of a maximum of seven current members of the Turing Scholars Program.

4.2

The members of the Executive Board must be full time students at The University of Texas at Austin for both the fall and spring semesters of their term.

4.2.1

Graduating Seniors may be members of the Executive Board regardless of full time student status.

4.3

All members of the Executive Board have equal voting rights with votes decided by simple majority. A quorum is required for voting to occur. A quorum is defined as two thirds of the Executive Board.

4.3.1

In the event that no simple majority is attained in a vote, a run-off vote must occur between the two choices with the largest plurality.

4.3.2

In the event that no simple majority is attained in a run-off vote, the board may either continue discussion and vote on a compromise or defer to the judgment of the faculty advisor.

4.3.3

The sole exception to simple majority shall be voting to amend the constitution.

4.3.4

The meeting must have been announced at least one week prior using the official channel of communication for the Executive Board.

4.3.5

Meetings of the Executive Board may be conducted in-person or virtually via freely available communication mediums such as instant messaging or IRC.

5 Channels of Official Communication

5.1

Email is the channel for all official communication.

5.1.1

Official communication to the entire organization is performed by emailing turing@lists.cc.utexas.edu.

5.1.2

Official communication for the Executive Board is performed by emailing turing-board@lists.cc.utexas.edu.

6 Method for Amending the Constitution

6.1

A meeting whose agenda shall include amending the constitution must be announced using the official channel of communication for the Executive Board at least four weeks before the meeting.

6.2

Meetings to amend the constitution must occur in-person.

6.3

A quorum for voting on amending the constitution is established by the presence of all the members of the Executive Board.

6.4

A vote to amend the constitution shall require the agreement of two-thirds of Executive Board members.

6.5

Amendments to the constitution shall be amended rather than edited into the constitution from now on.

7 Emergency Meetings of the Executive Board

7.1

The time requirements for announcing meetings, regardless of purpose, can be reduced or removed with unanimous consent of the entire Executive Board.

8 Elections

8.1

Every year in April elections shall be held for the positions on the Executive Board. If there are no more than seven candidates, no election needs to be held.

8.2

Candidates must be current members of TSSA. Candidates may nominate themselves. There must be a two week period for nominations. There will be a one week period for elections in a medium as determined by the current Executive Board.

8.3

Candidates may campaign for specific Executive Board positions, but the general election will simply elect the seven candidates with the most votes.

8.4

Every member of TSSA has equal voting rights in the election of the Executive Board. Every member may place seven votes on seven separate candidates of their choice.

8.5

In the event of a tie, a run-off will be conducted between the candidates for the number of positions available.

8.6

Once the seven Executive Board members have been elected, the new Executive Board will vote amongst itself to assign the Executive Board positions.

8.7

To conduct this assignment, the Executive Board will nominate candidates within itself for specific positions.

8.8

Once candidates have been established for all Executive Board positions, voting will take place amongst the Board to elect positions in the following order: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster. The remaining three Executive Board members are designated as Event Coordinators.

9 Executive Board Positions

9.1

The Executive Board shall include a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Webmaster.

9.2

The President is responsible for all communication with external entities. The President is also responsible for ensuring that the goals of TSSA are being met by the Executive Board.

9.3

The Secretary is responsible for the creation of a schedule preceding each Executive Board Meeting. The Secretary is also responsible for recording any decisions made at the meeting and distributing the minutes to the rest of the Board.

9.4

The Treasurer is responsible for establishing a budget for each semester. The Treasurer is also responsible for monitoring TSSA's available funds to ensure that sufficient funds are available to maintain the budget.

9.5

The Webmaster is responsible for keeping the TSSA section of the CS Department website updated with TSSA events and news.

10 Ratification

10.1

The Constitution of the Turing Scholars Student Association shall become the governing document of TSSA upon unanimous consent of the Executive Board of 2005-2006.

11 Amendments

11.1 Amendment I: 24 August 2009

The positions of Secretary and Treasurer shall be consolidated into one position, Secretary/Treasurer. This is intended to create a more significant administrative role for the Board member undertaking these responsibilities.

11.2 Amendment II: 24 August 2009

The position of Social Events Coordinator is established. The Social Events Coordinator is responsible for mindfully arranging event dates and initiating, but

not necessarily executing, most event planning, especially a variety of smaller, informal events throughout the year to complement the organization's standard lineup. Voting for the Social Events Coordinator shall take place after the vote for the President.

**11.3 Amendment III:
24 August 2009**

Elections must be completed, and results announced, no later than the 10th day of April, to allow adequate time to transition between outgoing and incoming Board members. To accommodate this, the two-week nomination period may occur in March. Results must be announced via the official communication channel of the Turing Scholars.

**11.4 Amendment IV:
24 August 2009**

The official website of TSSA, for which the Webmaster is responsible, is now turingscholars.org, replacing the previous Departmental site for the Turing Scholars program.