

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE Angelo State University Student Social Work Association

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Angelo State University Student Social Work Association.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Angelo State University Student Social Work Association is to facilitate camaraderie among students who desire to support the mission and values of the social work profession.

The mission of the social work profession is (as taken directly from the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, 1999):

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation, administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- service,
- social justice,
- dignity and worth of the person,
- importance of human relationships,
- integrity, and
- competence.

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience (NASW, 1999; The NASW Code of Ethics Preamble).

Additionally, the association is the primary conduit for social work students to have input on the continued development and refinement of the Social Work Program at Angelo State University.

Accordingly, the mission of the Angelo State University Student Social Work Association is to better the community through education, social action, and service.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any student at Angelo State University who supports the mission and values of the social work profession. Student members do not have to be a social work major or minor.

Section 2. Membership to Student Social Work Association will be recognized once an individual turns in a completed membership form along with payment of yearly dues.

Section 3. Membership dues are to be paid on yearly bases every fall semester.

Section 4. Members of the Student Social Work Association are expected to support the association by participating in any activities the association participates in.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The officers of the Student Social Work Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. All officers shall be elected by the membership of the organization in the manner described in this constitution. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Officers of this organization shall be members of the organization and a social work major at Angelo State University.

Section 3. Candidates for office must be full-time students, who are in good standing with the University, and are a social work major. Elected officers must continue to meet these standards throughout their term of office.

Section 4. Officers for the following academic year shall be elected annually at the end of the spring semester. Officer succession will occur immediately following election.

Section 5. The election ballot shall be created by submitting nominations via the Student Social Work webpage. Candidates for officer may run unopposed if no other candidate is available.

Section 6. Candidates shall declare a willingness to serve in the positions for which they have been nominated.

Section 7. Each officer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast of those present.

Section 8. The officers of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian shall each have a one-year term of office.

Section 9. The following duties shall be assigned to the officers:

A. **PRESIDENT:** The President shall be the chief executive officer, shall preside at all meetings, and shall chair the Executive Committee. The President shall have the authority to appoint committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall perform the duties customary to the office and such additional duties as directed by Executive Committee.

B. **VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President shall serve on committees in an ex-officio capacity and shall perform other duties as assigned by the President. If the President is not at an association meeting or function, the Vice-President shall preside over the meeting or function.

C. **SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall keep the current non-financial records of the association and shall be responsible for: a) recording minutes of association meetings; b)

recording minutes of Executive Committee meetings; c) maintaining a current list of membership with telephone numbers and mailing addresses; d) and contact members to remind them of upcoming events. The Secretary shall submit recorded minutes to be posted on the Student Social Work webpage for corrections no more than one week following a meeting. The corrected minutes shall be posted no more than two weeks following a meeting. The secretary will also perform additional duties as assigned by the President.

D. TREASURER: The Treasurer shall keep track of all finances including: a) report all finances at each Executive Committee meeting and provide a monthly financial report during association meetings; b) create and maintain an operating budget; c) and receive, record, and maintain all money received by the association accurately.

E. PARLIAMENTARIAN: The Parliamentarian shall ensure that proper procedures are followed at all association meetings and events (e.g., Roberts Rules of Order). The Parliamentarian shall serve as the risk management chair.

Section 10. Officers are responsible for ensuring all duties assigned by this constitution and the President are fulfilled. In addition to the duties assigned, all officers must be present at all executive and general meetings as well as any event the president deems necessary.

Section 11. In the event an elected officer other than the President resigns or is otherwise unable to continue in office the position will remain vacant until a special election can take place to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE V. FACULTY ADVISOR

Section 1. The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work will select a member of the social work faculty of Angelo State University to serve as an association advisor.

Section 2. The advisor is to be notified of meetings and activities the association will participate in.

Section 3. The advisor will not have any authority over the financial records.

ARTICLE VI. QUORUM

Section 1. At least seven (7) voting members.

ARTICLE VII. HAZING

Section 1. Hazing as defined by S. B. 24, 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987, is prohibited by State law and University policy.

A. "Hazing" means an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, 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.

Section 2. All members (faculty, students, professional members, and so forth) will not engage in hazing as defined in Article VII, Section 1, Part A; and will follow the university policy that prohibits hazing.

Section 3. From the University Student Handbook:

A. Students and the organizations to which they may belong commit a criminal offense if they are involved in any form of hazing. This includes engaging in, soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding, or attempting to aid another in engaging in hazing; intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permitting hazing to occur; and having firsthand knowledge that hazing is going to occur or has occurred and knowingly failing to report this information in writing to the Dean of Students or other appropriate University official. Hazing is punishable by fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and confinement in jail ranging from 90 days to two years, or both a fine and confinement in jail may be assessed. Organizations involved in hazing are subject to fines of not less than \$5,000 nor more than double the amount lost or the expenses incurred because of such injury, damage or loss. In addition, individuals and organizations involved in any form of hazing subject themselves to University discipline.

B. The above state is a brief, factual summary of the Hazing act and is not intended as a substitute for or a legal interpretation of the Act. Copies of the complete Act are available in the Office of Student Life.

ARTICLE VIII. RISK MANAGEMENT

Section 1. Effective September 1, 2007, the 80th Texas Legislature enacted HB 2639/SB 1138 (Texas Education Code Section 51.9361) regarding risk management education for members and advisors of student organizations registered at postsecondary educational institutions. Under the law, it is mandatory for officers, members, and advisors of registered student organizations selected by the university to complete an annual risk management educational program.

Section 2. The President and the Parliamentarian are required to attend all training provided by the university in accordance with HB 2639/SB 1138 (Texas Education Code Section 52.9361).

ARTICLE VIII. BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. By-laws consistent with this constitution shall be adopted or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the votes cast.

Section 2. Amendments to this constitution may be initiated by the Executive Committee or upon petition to the Executive Committee by ten (10) percent of the membership.

Section 3. The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the votes cast.

This constitution and by-laws were adopted on November 3, 2008.

Amended October 2014