



## Elected Representative Bodies

The University of Texas-Pan American  
Committees and Councils Project

### UTPA Student Government Association (SGA)

(Last updated 10-09)

#### Purpose

The Student Government Association was created to provide an official student representative body to receive questions and suggestions, promote the rights of each student of the University, provide the official voice through which student opinion may be expressed, participate in the overall policy and decision-making process of the University community, foster awareness of the students' role in the academic community, assist in enhancing the quality and scope of education, provide means for responsible and effective participation in all facets of campus life, and provide identified services to students.

#### Members

##### **Executive Branch:**

Raghuveer Puttagunta	President
Shaney Flores	Vice President
Evan D. Perez	Chief of Staff
Darien Hernandez	Director, Special Programs & Projects
Joe Calzada	Chief of Communications for the President
Kristen A. Hopperstad	Chief of Communications for the Vice President
Geronimo Ruedas	Freshman Year Intern Director
Antara Banik	Freshman Year Intern
Sahil Batta	Freshman Year Intern
Pamela Garza	Freshman Year Intern
Jared Ballejos	Freshman Year Intern
Krystal Vera	Freshman Year Intern
Abilene Rodriguez	Freshman Year Intern

##### **Legislative Branch:**

Argentina Barrera	Undergraduate, College of Arts and Humanities
Katherine Mendiola	Undergraduate, College of Arts and Humanities
Daniel Salinas	Undergraduate, College of Arts and Humanities
Stephanie Dumareille	Undergraduate, College of Business Administration
Francisco Godinez	Undergraduate, College of Business Administration
Olga Gomez	Undergraduate, College of Business Administration

Roger Salinas	Undergraduate, College of Health Sciences & Human Services
Juan Jose Carrales Paez	Undergraduate, College of Health Sciences & Human Services
Natalia Martinez	Undergraduate, College of Health Sciences & Human Services
Miguel A. Setien	Undergraduate, College of Science & Engineering
Nita Thomas	Undergraduate, College of Science & Engineering
Eliza Sebastian	Undergraduate, College of Science & Engineering
Manu Sebastian	Undergraduate, College of Science & Engineering
Esther G. Herrera	Undergraduate, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Celeste Velazquez	Undergraduate, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Josse Alexandro Garrido	Undergraduate, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Irma Jimenez	Undergraduate, College of Education
Bertha Garcia	Undergraduate, College of Education
Rebekah Sepulveda	Graduate
Karla V. Garcia	Graduate
Cesar O. Gonzalez	Graduate
Alex Jay Pedregosa	University Program Board
Amy Ann Davila	Resident Housing Association
Ladislado Garcia, Jr.	Greek Council
Sherley Edinbarough	Senator-At-Large
Yenilda Vela	Senator-At-Large
Erika Y. Perez	Senator-At-Large
Etinosa Edionwe	Senator-At-Large
Humberto Alejandro Rodriguez Garcia	Senator-At-Large

**Judicial Branch:**

Marco A. Setien	Chief Justice, Student Supreme Court
Krystal E. Garcia	Associate Justice, Student Supreme Court
James Duran	Associate Justice, Student Supreme Court

Officers:

Raghuveer Puttagunta	President
Shaney Flores	Vice President (Presiding Officer of the Senate)
Erika Y. Perez	Secretary
Manu Sebastian	Sergeant-At-Arms

Eliza Sebastian	Chair, University & Community Affairs Committee
Esther G. Herrera	Chair, Public Relations Committee
Manu Sebastian	Chair, Fiscal Operations Committee
Miguel A. Setien	Chair, Personnel Committee

## Responsibilities

### *Legislative Branch:*

Faithfully execute all authorities, duties, and responsibilities as outlined by the Student Government Association Constitution, Article III, Section 3.2.

### *Executive Branch:*

The executive and administrative duties of the Student Government Association are vested in the Executive Branch officers. These are detailed in the constitution, Article IV, Sections 4.4 – 4.6.

### *Judicial Branch:*

Student Court – Original jurisdiction to hear and rule on cases involving the constitution, its Bylaws and the constitutionality of statutory enactments when so requested in writing by a University of Texas-Pan American student(s); appeals from plaintiffs regarding an election decision of the Office of Student Development; all original cases from plaintiffs on complaints against the Student Government Association and/or its officers; original cases referred from the Office of Student Development regarding candidates; alleged violations of election procedures as promulgated by the Office of Student Development; and determine the validity of signatures on petitions. These are detailed in the constitution, Article V, Sections 5.03.

Student Supreme Court: To act as the final level of appeal for decisions made by the Student Court.

## Composition and Membership Terms

All full-time and part-time students enrolled in and attending The University of Texas-Pan American are members of the Student Government Association.

The student representative structure of the Student Government Association consists of three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

### *Legislative:*

- Each college shall be represented by 1 undergraduate senator for each 800 undergraduates enrolled in that college, to be elected by the students enrolled in that college.
- Each college shall be represented by 1 graduate senator for each 800 students enrolled in graduate school in that college, to be elected by students enrolled in graduate school in that college.
- 6 students shall serve as Senators-at-large, to be elected by the student body.
- 1 student senator shall be elected by the University Program Board Executive Council.
- 1 student senator shall be elected by the Greek Council
- 1 student senator shall be elected by the Resident Housing Association Executive Council

Undergraduate senators must be registered for at least 6 semester credit hours at the time of filing and while holding office. Undergraduate senators must have and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 throughout their terms of office and must not be on disciplinary probation.

Graduate senators must be registered for at least 3 semester hours at the time of filing and while holding office.

*Executive:*

Members of the Executive Branch are the President, Vice President, Executive Aids, and Freshman Year Interns. The President and Vice President are elected annually by the UTPA Student body. Other positions are appointed by the President and Vice President.

The President and Vice President must be students enrolled at UTPA for no less than 1 long semester or 2 summer sessions at the time of filing. They must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 at the time of filing and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.25 while holding office. Candidates for President and Vice President must have completed at least 30 semester hours at the time of filing.

*Judicial:*

Members of the Judicial Branch are the Chief Justice, Student Associate Justice, and Faculty Associate Justice. The Chief Justice and Student Associate Justices are appointed by the President and approved by a majority of the Senate. The Faculty Associate Justices are appointed by the Faculty Senate.

The Chief Justice must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 at the time of filing and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.25 while holding office and must not be on disciplinary probation. Associate Justices must have and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 throughout their terms of office and must not be on disciplinary probation.

Reporting

The Student Government Association reports to the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, and the Dean of Students.