

# BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN AGGIES

## 2017-2018 CONSTITUTION



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THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN AGGIES 2017 | PASSED BY BCA General Members  
February 2018

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Brotherhood of Christian Aggies (BCA) at Texas A&M University.

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE, VISION, and BELIEF**

### **Section I – Purpose**

The Brotherhood of Christian Aggies (BCA) at Texas A&M University is an organization created by a group of Christ-centered Aggies with the intent to promote a loving atmosphere of Christian fellowship and brotherhood that provides spiritual, mental, and physical growth in Christ. BCA does not claim to be a church, but rather we exist to support the Body of Christ through our Vision. Our main commitment is to Jesus Christ and His development in our lives and the lives of those around us. We encourage an attitude of selfless service through the offering of time and resources to the aid of others. Our main responsibility is to maintain brotherhood while upholding the values of Jesus Christ.

### **Section II – Vision**

To glorify The Lord through creating and fostering Christian brotherhood, while building up men who serve The Lord through fellowship, service and worship.

### **Section III – Belief**

We hold to the basic truths of historic Christianity; the inerrant and infallible Word of God; the creation and fall of man; the Trinity; the deity and virgin birth of Jesus Christ; substitutionary atonement, bodily resurrection, ascension, personal return of Jesus Christ; the regeneration of believers; bodily resurrection and final judgment of all men and women; a literal heaven and hell.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I – Number**

The number of active members shall at no time exceed 95.

### **Section II – Eligibility**

A local college-enrolled undergraduate or graduate student who:

- A. Is currently enrolled in classes during the regular session at Texas A&M or Blinn and is in good standing with the University or College
- B. Expresses a desire to promote behaviors that are consistent with our purpose and vision statements

### Section III – Selections Process

A. Applications for membership will be available at the beginning of the academic year, followed by mandatory selection functions and interviews. The active members will vote on prospective members by a secret ballot. After the ballots have been cast, the distribution of votes will be displayed from highest number tallied to lowest number tallied, without displaying the names of the prospective members. The active members will then vote on the number of pledges to accept into the pledge class by a simple majority vote at the time of the Pledge Trainer's choosing. The number of newly accepted pledges plus the active members cannot exceed 95

1. Active members will be required to attend all selections week functions deemed mandatory by the acting Executive Council. This includes, but is not limited to all interview sessions and the voting session. Failure to appear at any of these mandatory events without written and approved excuse from the Executive Council, may result in the member being placed on inactive status for the current semester
2. Tardiness at the voting session will result in the following actions:
  - a. If the member is under 30 minutes late, a \$10 fine will be assessed
  - b. If the member is over 30 minutes late, but less than 60 minutes late, a \$25 fine will be assessed
  - c. If the member is over 60 minutes late to the voting session, that member's active status will be reviewed by the EC

B. Pledge Responsibility

1. All pledges must attend all pledge meetings and general meetings. Only two unexcused absences will be allowed per semester. Only University or Blinn recognized excuses will be accepted, or if the member has a scheduled class, lab or other mandatory scholastic function. The Vice President must approve any other reason for absence. Pledges are required to attend at least 2 service projects per semester by the end of pledgeship. Pledges are also required to attend the pledge retreat. Failure to do so will count as two absences
2. All pledges are required to have interviews and receive signatures from every active member in an allotted time period to obtain active membership. Failure to receive all signatures in this time will result in removal from the organization
3. If the conditions of monetary or attendance policy are broken, the pledge will

- have to meet before the EC and his status will be discussed
4. Other responsibilities will be determined during the pledgeship by the Selections Chair and/or Executive Council

## Section IV – Attendance

All members have mandatory attendance at meetings. Members also must attend at least the number of services events as set by the Service Chairman. A \$10 fine will be assessed at the end of the semester for each service point not reached. Members must attend the retreat each semester. Members must attend a Bible study throughout the course of the semester.

Members themselves are required to attend Parent's Banquet in the Spring. Anyone may be excused from attendance by the Vice President, according to his judgement. An unexcused absence will result in a fine equal to the "cost of the plate" for the absent member as determined by the Vice President. Any fine given will be to cover that one missing member's single plate, nothing more. No more than 3 unexcused absences per semester will be allowed. Penalty for an unexcused absence to a meeting is 1 absence. Penalty for not attending a Bible study session is 1/2 absence. Penalty for missing the retreat is 2 absences. Penalty for missing the philanthropy event is 2 absences. The Vice President must approve excused absences before the event takes place.

## Section V – Probationary Procedures

The two forms of probation are outlined below:

- A. Monetary Probation
  - a. Failure to pay dues by the posted due dates or pay for a function not covered by dues results in immediate monetary probation unless excused by the Treasurer. An additional ten-dollar fine will be owed every week past the posted due dates. Once the Treasurer receives dues and fines, the probationary status is lifted. Members on monetary probation may not attend any BCA social functions. If a member on probation has not paid their fines by the end of the semester they will have until the beginning of the second meeting of the following semester to meet with the Executive Council to pay their fine or face forced inactive status.
- B. Attendance Probation
  - a. Probation begins the ensuing week from any offense that leads to greater than three unexcused absences and continues until the end of the semester. An additional \$10 fine is owed for every unexcused full or half absence after the three allotted. The fine will be due at the end of the week of when the

infraction occurred. Members who fail to pay by the due date will be placed on probation. If a member is on attendance probation they may not attend any social functions. Once payment of fine is received and a verbal re-commitment to mandatory functions is made, the offending member will be removed from probation. If a member on attendance probation commits a third offense at any time within a semester, the member will be contacted by the Executive Council to discuss their membership status. If a member on probation has not paid their fines by the end of the semester they will have until the beginning of the second meeting of the following semester to meet with the Executive Council to pay their fine or face forced inactive status. Determination of extenuating circumstances resulting in offences shall be voted on by the Executive Council

## Section VI – Inactive Status

In order to be considered active, every member must sign a contract committing to meet all of the requirements designated in the constitution. If this contract is not turned in by the second official meeting of the semester, that member will be assumed to be inactive. Signing the contract indicates acceptance and understanding of the rules and expectations of active members found in the constitution. No dues or mandatory functions are required of inactive members, yet are encouraged. A member on inactive status cannot attend BCA social functions unless they receive the approval of the Executive Council by a simple (50% +1) majority vote. Special expenses for an inactive member will be assessed to cover the costs of attending.

## Section VII – Alumni Status

If a member holds inactive status, forced or voluntarily, for 2 consecutive semesters, their status will automatically be changed to Alumni status. Alumni status is no longer holding a membership within BCA. Alumni status still allows for reinstatement to an active member status with a 50% + 1 majority vote, as long as all constitutional active member requirements are met. Alumni seeking reinstatement need to contact the Vice President before the first official meeting of the semester to schedule a vote at the first official meeting for active member reinstatement.

## Section VIII – Substance Policy

At no time shall an alcoholic beverage or tobacco product be served at any BCA function. Members shall not consume an alcoholic beverage at any BCA function. Tobacco use is also prohibited at all BCA functions, with the exception of sigs. Members shall not buy, consume, or use alcoholic beverages or tobacco products while wearing BCA apparel in public.

Members shall conduct themselves with wisdom and discretion when wearing BCA apparel at places where alcohol is consumed in excess so as not to associate BCA with the abuse of alcohol. Members shall also conduct themselves wisely should they choose to consume alcohol or tobacco in a public place so as not to hinder the spread of the gospel nor cause another person to stumble. Members shall not consume alcohol such that their behavior is out of control. Members at no time shall arrive intoxicated to any BCA function or meeting. No member under the legal drinking age shall consume an alcoholic beverage at any time. Use of illegal substances will not be tolerated.

If any member fails to comply with any of the restrictions above, that member will receive a formal warning from an Executive Council (EC) member. If the warning is met with appropriate repentance, as determined by EC, the member will be restored to good standing in the organization. If the warning is met with a lack of repentance, then a second warning will be given by multiple (2 or 3) members of EC. If the second warning is met with repentance, the member will be restored to good standing. If the second warning is again met with lack of repentance, EC will review the member's status to determine whether the member should be removed from the organization. A 2/3 majority vote by EC is required to remove a member for violations of the substance policy. Each repeated offense after the second warning requires a 2/3 majority vote by EC to remain in good standing. After a member has been removed, if that member comes to an appropriate repentance, he can appeal his membership status at any time at an EC meeting.

Biblical texts relating to this policy: Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 14:13-23; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 1 Corinthians 8:7-13; 1 Corinthians 10:23-33; Ephesians 5:18

## Section IX – Hazing Policy

No member at any time should commit an act of hazing. Hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off university property, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental health, 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 given organization. For further clarification see Appendix VI of the TAMU Student Rules. Any infraction of this or University policy results in immediate removal from the organization.

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

### Section I – Requirements

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be an undergraduate or graduate student in good standing with the University or College and enrolled in at least six credit hours in the semesters during their term of office
2. For undergraduate students, the minimum GPR is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio *prior* to election/appointment, at least six credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s)
3. For graduate level students the minimum GPR is a 3.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least four hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio *prior* to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree
4. An officer is subject to removal from office by the University if this person cannot comply with items 1 and 2

## Section II – Term of Office

The officer's term of office shall run the academic calendar, with the exception of the Selection Chairman. The Selection Chairman shall be voted into office at the third official meeting of the spring semester and the term shall run until the third official meeting of the following spring semester

## Section III – Officers and Duties

The Executive Council shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Social Chairman, Service Chairman, Philanthropy Chairman, Fellowship Chairman and Selection Chairman. All executive council officers have the option to form a committee to aid in duties and responsibilities. The roles of the officers are as follows:

### President

- A. Preside over regular and executive meetings
- B. Communicate with the officers and advisors on all matters
- C. Prepare agenda for Monday night and Executive Council meetings
- D. Oversees Worship Chair

Vice President

- A. Fill Presidency in absence
- B. Aid President in all matters
- C. Keep record of attendance at regular meetings, retreats, and Executive Council meetings and have record present at each Executive Council meeting
- D. Responsible for informing member of probationary status via personal contact within the week of the infraction
- E. Responsible for semester retreats and preparing an agenda to be presented to the Executive Council prior to the retreat
- F. Oversees Prayer Chair

Treasurer

- A. Collect dues and other payments promptly, and keep a record of all payments in a ledger
- B. Prepare a budget by the first Executive Council meeting of each semester
- C. Oversee all other monetary transactions including social and fundraising activities
- D. Up-to-date records shall be kept with the Treasurer and at the Student Organization Finance Center (SOFC)
- E. Oversees Tailgate Chair

Secretary

- A. Take notes and communicate announcements from general and EC meetings
- B. Consistently update the website with announcements, photographs, and videos
- C. Keep member contact information and manage the listserv
- D. Manage alumni relations by sending semester newsletters and keeping up-to-date contact information

Chaplain

- A. Oversee the assistant chaplain in planning weekly Bible studies
- B. Responsible for coordinating speakers for weekly meetings

Social Chairman

- A. Responsible for planning all social functions outside of regular meetings and reporting expenses to the Treasurer
- B. Coordinate social function apparel with the apparel chair
- C. Oversees Apparel Chair

Service Chairman

- A. Arrange all service projects

- B. Log attendance at mandatory service projects
- C. Oversees Mission Chair(s)

Philanthropy Chairman

- A. Responsible for leading the annual philanthropy event
- B. Select and oversee the philanthropy team in planning the event
- C. Oversees Songfest Chairs

Selection Chairman

- A. Coordinate selections and pledge initiation
- B. Oversee all aspects of pledgeship
- C. Check signature books and attendance at pledge meetings

Fellowship Chairman

- A. Plan and coordinate fellowship events
- B. Lead and oversee the BCA Cup competition
- C. Has the authority to establish committees as they see necessary

Section IV – Attendance

Executive Council (EC) members should attend all EC meetings and the EC retreat unless prior approval by the president has been granted. Two unexcused EC absences per semester will be allowed for Executive Council members. Only University or Blinn recognized excuses will be accepted, or if the member has a scheduled class, lab, or other mandatory scholastic function. A \$10 fine will be incurred for each unexcused absence after the second.

Section V – Executive Council Voting

Voting that takes place during an executive council meeting requires a majority if an Executive Council quorum of 70% is met. The following positions are the voting members of the Executive Council: vice president, treasurer, secretary, chaplain, social chairman, service chairman, philanthropy chairman, fellowship chairman and selection chairman. The president abstains from voting unless a member of the Executive Council is absent.

Section VI – Election Process

Elections for all positions, with the exception of the Selection Chairman, shall be held at the second to last regular meeting during the spring semester. The Selection Chairman's term of office was defined previously (Article IV, Section II). A quorum must be present and simple (50% + 1) majority wins. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off will ensue

between the two candidates who received the most votes. Officers who are newly elected will assume their positions at the following meeting.

## Section VII – Removal of an Officer

If it becomes evident that an elected officer is not fulfilling the duties of the position or is not doing what is best for the organization, the elected officer may be impeached and removed from office by the standard voting procedure of all active members (Article VI, Section II). Three formal complaints to the Executive Council are required to vote on the impeachment. A formal complaint is considered a letter submitted in writing addressed to the Executive Council explaining why the officer should be removed. Upon receiving three such complaints, the Executive Council will notify the officer in question of the upcoming impeachment hearing and vote. Prior to the vote, the organization will be briefed by the Executive Council on the issue at hand, and then the officer will be given the option to share his perspective or reasoning regarding the disputed actions. If there is a vacancy, another election to fill the office will be held at the next regular Monday night meeting.

# **ARTICLE V: PHILANTHROPY EVENT**

## Section I- Active Member Responsibilities

All active members must attend the event or 2 absences will be enforced (Article III, Section IV). Each year the Philanthropy Chairman will determine a minimum participation requirement of BCA members for the philanthropy event, and a penalty for not meeting the minimum. The Chairman must then present this minimum and penalty at BCA meeting for a vote by the general members in attendance. A simple 50%+ majority will be required to pass his determined minimum. If the general members vote down the proposed minimum, the Philanthropy Chairman may try again with a new minimum.

Minimums, as proposed by the Philanthropy Chairman and approved by a vote of general BCA members, will be incorporated into dues payment at the beginning of the semester in which the philanthropy event takes place. Scholarships given out do not cover the this minimum. Scholarship recipients are responsible for paying the minimum set amount. This additional cost may be incorporated into an installment plan for dues payments (Article VIII, Section I).

## Section II- Philanthropy Chairman Responsibilities

Plan, organize, and execute the event. See the EC Passdown for further instructions and advice.

## Section III- Profits

The majority of profits made off of the event will go to the previously chosen philanthropies.

The Executive Council will have the option to keep some of the profits in order to provide funds for the next year's philanthropy event.

## **ARTICLE VI: APPOINTED OFFICERS**

### **Section I – Requirements**

Any member may apply for appointed positions. Appointees must comply with officer requirements (Article IV, Section I).

### **Section II – Appointment Process**

If an active member desires to obtain an appointed position, this person must be present for an interview with Executive Council. Appointed positions will be appointed at the first Executive Council meeting following the officer elections (Article IV Section VI). A majority vote by the EC is required for appointment.

### **Section III – Appointed Positions and Duties**

All appointed officers have the option to form a committee to aid in duties and responsibilities. The roles of the appointed officers are as follows:

#### **Missions Chair(s)**

- A. Responsible for planning and leading the Christmas break and Spring break mission trips

#### **Prayer Chair**

- A. Host weekly prayer gatherings for all members

#### **Assistant Chaplain**

- A. Coordinate with the chaplain to write weekly Bible studies

#### **Apparel Chair**

- A. Create dose wet threads doe

#### **Worship Chair**

- A. Responsible for arranging praise and worship at BCA functions

#### **Songfest Chair(s)**

- A. Responsible for conducting all administrative duties for Songfest.
  - a. Contact Philanthropy Chairman for anything regarding philanthropy partnerships

#### Tailgating Chair(s)

- A. Oversee all game day tailgating activities and reporting expenses to the Treasurer
- B. Organize an annual alumni tailgate event

#### Section IV – Removal of an Appointee

If it becomes evident that an appointed officer is not fulfilling the duties of the position or is not doing what is best for the organization, the appointed officer may be impeached and removed from office by the standard voting procedure (Article VI, Section II). Three formal complaints to Executive Council are required to vote on impeachment. A formal complaint is a letter submitted in writing addressed to the Executive Council explaining why the appointee should be removed. If there is a vacancy, another appointment to fill the office will be held at the next Executive Council meeting.

### ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

#### Section I – Meetings

Regular meeting shall be held every Monday night. The first official meeting of the semester shall be announced at the last official meeting of the previous semester.

#### Section II – Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 70% of the membership and is needed to conduct official business. All votes, with the exception of reinstating a member who is on attendance probation, will be decided by a simple fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) majority of active members in the quorum. To vote, members must be present at the meeting.

#### Section III – Constitution Meeting

By the third regular meeting of the fall semester the active members must review the current constitution in a designated meeting. The pledges will also review the constitution by their second pledge meeting of the fall semester. This is to establish continuity of understanding of the rules and guidelines that govern BCA. All members and pledges must sign an agreement stating their knowledge and future compliance of rules and guidelines in the constitution.

#### Section IV – Visitors

No visitors at any time should be present at regular meetings, pledge meetings, or retreats

except for a guest speaker or an Executive Council approved informational visitor during their appointed times. The BCA faculty advisor is allowed to attend all of the aforementioned activities without an Executive Council Approved appointed time.

## **ARTICLE VIII: FINANCES**

### **Section I – Dues**

- A. Dues for each semester will be determined by the EC for that semester. Dues are required of all members
- B. Scholarships for dues will be available to as many members as the budget allows. All members who desire to receive a scholarship must submit an application for scholarship by the third meeting of the desired semester. The Executive Council will determine who receives each scholarship based on need. The Executive Council will determine extenuating circumstances for late scholarship awards
- C. The schedule of payments will be determined by the EC. Members can choose to pay dues all at once or in three installments. If a member fails to comply with one of the above policies, this person is placed on monetary probation. Extenuating circumstances for missed payments of dues will be determined by the Executive Council

### **Section II – Monetary Transactions**

All money belonging to this organization should be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for BCA at the MSC Student Organization Finance Center and/or Fiscal Office. The advisor to BCA must approve and sign expenditures before payment is made. All funds must be deposited within 24 hours of collection.

### **Section III – Fines**

#### **Allocating Fines Collected:**

- i) Attendance fines in one semester are allocated towards Scholarships for the next semester
- ii) Service fines are allocated to go to BCA's philanthropy for the next semester
- iii) Philanthropy Event fines are included in total monies raised by the philanthropy event itself

## **ARTICLE IX: FACULTY ADVISOR**

### **Section I – Expectations**

- A. Must be a faculty member at Texas A&M University
- B. Must profess to be a Christian
- C. Must agree with the overall purpose of The Brotherhood of Christian Aggies
- D. Must approve all monetary transactions that take place
- E. Should be available for advice and consultation related to the operations of the organization
- F. Should participate in event planning and attend events when possible or when identified as necessary through the planning process
- G. Should be aware of the University Student Rules and other institutional guidelines that establish expectations for student behavior and activities
- H. Should ensure that the group and its officers know where rules and guidelines are published, what the rules are, why they exist, and the consequences for choosing to operate outside their parameters
- I. As an employee of Texas A&M University, the advisor is expected to report all rule violations or potential violations to the appropriate university official
- J. Should be familiar with the BCA's constitution and all other governing documents, so that he may advise effectively

## **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

### **Section I – Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds majority (2/3) of the active membership, subject to approval of the Director of Student Activities.

### **Section II – Revisions**

This constitution is to be reviewed and subjected to the approval of the Department of Student Activities annually

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Signature of Advisor

Date

Signature of President

Date

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Student Activities

