ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

A. The name of this student organization shall be The Torch Society and the purpose of this organization shall be to engage high-achieving students across Middle Georgia State University in leadership development through service to the campus and community.
B. As part of leadership development, members will choose a leadership book each year to read and discuss collectively, the concepts in which members will apply to events and projects.
C. This organization will support the mission of the Middle Georgia State University. It will subscribe to the policies and procedures of the University System of Georgia and Middle Georgia State University.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

A. Active membership is limited to regularly enrolled sophomore, junior, and senior Middle Georgia State University students who have a minimum academic load of three (3) hours during each semester of participation and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
B. Each academic year, one Presidential Intern will serve as an ex officio member, two At-Large members will be selected from the full University community, and one representative will be selected from each of the following:
   a. Cochran Campus
   b. Dublin Campus
   c. Eastman Campus
   d. Macon Campus
   e. Warner Robins Campus
   f. Online (fully)
   g. School of Arts & Letters
   h. Georgia Academy of Arts, Mathematics, Engineering & Sciences
   i. Graduate Studies
   j. School of Aviation
   k. School of Business
   l. School of Education & Behavioral Sciences
   m. School of Health and Natural Sciences
   n. School of Computing
C. Membership includes a two-year commitment to the organization, with the exception of the representatives from the Georgia Academy and Graduate Studies, who may commit to one year based on program length, and the Presidential Intern whose paid position last for one fiscal year.

D. While active, members will receive a $300 book scholarship from the MGA Foundation each fall and spring semester ($600 maximum per year). Active is defined as attendance at least 2 meetings per semester; 20 hours of community service hours per semester; and 2 campus events per semester. The ex officio member will be employed as a student assistant in the Office of the President earning $10/hour for 20 hours per week.

E. As representatives of the University on campus and in the community, members of this organization will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, both in person and on social media.

F. Membership will not be denied because of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, veteran status, citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law), or sexual orientation.

ARTICLE III - COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

A. The Executive Board of this organization will consist of the chairs of the following committees:

   a. Service Committee
   b. Communications Committee
   c. Membership Committee
   d. Secretarial Committee

B. Boards can be created to organize and manage events or projects. This can be decided by Society vote, with advisors’ approval.

C. The duties of each committee shall be:

   a. Duties of the Service Committee shall be: reaches out to and/or serves as the society’s point of contact for community organizations with which the university and organization partner, works to recruit volunteers for all events in which the society participates, both on campus (such as graduation) and off campus (such as service events organized with partner organizations), and organizes fundraisers as needed pursuant to RSO guidelines.

   b. Duties of the Communications Committee shall be: maintains the society’s social media presence, prepares announcements and communications, communicates important information to fellow members such as meeting/event schedules, nominees for officer elections, information regarding fundraising, and opportunities for collaboration.

   c. Duties of the Membership Committee shall be: leads recruitment of members for vacant membership positions (with participation and approval of advisor) and issues invitations to prospective members.
d. Duties of the **Secretarial Committee** shall be: takes minutes at meetings and distributes them to members, keeps society roster, tabulates society votes (on book selection, officers, and new members), prepares and submits forms to request available university funds for society operations, orders any materials needed to fulfill society's goals and complete projects.

D. All students holding an elected or appointed position of leadership and acting as chair of a committee in this organization must be a member in good standing.

E. Alumni of the organization are welcome to remain active and mentor members, but may not hold officer positions.

F. Committees and committee chair members will be reassigned each semester. Committee members may return to previous committees.

G. Nominations for annual vacancies will be sent to the Membership Committee three weeks before the April meeting. Nominees will accept or decline nominations the week before the April meeting and, if they accept, provide a brief statement on why they are running/should be elected. The slate of candidates, including those statements, will be compiled by and distributed by the Membership Committee.

H. Upon receipt of a student grievance by a member or advisor, the person receiving the grievance will put it on the next meeting’s agenda. At the meeting, a board will be assembled of five members chosen at random through a lottery. The board will set a date within 30 days to hear the grievance and vote on a proposed resolution. Votes will be anonymous and the outcome reported at the following meeting. Advisors will serve only as mediators, if needed, during the grievance process.

**ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS**

A. This organization shall meet twice during the fall and spring semesters on a Friday selected by a majority of the membership in each of the following months: September, November, February, and April. Meetings during the summer semester will be voluntary and called as needed.

B. Meetings will be at the time best suited for maximum participation on the selected Fridays, unless changed by a majority vote, and location will alternate between University campus locations.

C. Fall and spring meetings are mandatory and missing two meetings will result in being removed from the organization. If unable to attend in person due to academic or employment commitments, students may dial-in to one meeting per year.

D. As members reach their Junior and Senior year, exceptions to mandatory meetings may be made by majority vote, to accommodate degree requirements such as student teaching, clinical assignments, and internships. Members seeking exceptions must have served and regularly attended meetings for at least one academic year.

E. Meeting agendas will include:
   a. Old business
   b. New business
   c. Discussion of leadership book assignment
d. Other items as requested by members (requests should be sent to the Secretary and Communications Chairs cc Advisors)

F. Recommendations for the leadership book each year shall be sent to the Secretarial Chair, Communications Chair, and Advisors each May. A vote to select the book will be held via email in June and members will receive their copy of the book in July.

G. At any point during the academic year, members may propose selecting a new book by motion and majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE V - FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR

A. The Torch Society will have one advisor from the Division of Student Affairs.

B. The advisor’s responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:
   a. Engaging Torch Society members in institutional events, such as graduation
   b. Facilitating leadership book discussions
   c. Creating opportunities for Torch Society members to earn Experiential Learning@MGA credit for Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum status
   d. Serving as a sounding board for Society discussions and decisions
   e. Approving paperwork as required by Registered Student Organization (RSO) guidelines
   f. Modeling effective leadership as administrators of Middle Georgia State University

ARTICLE VI - REVENUE

A. All monies collected by the Torch Society must be deposited into the organization’s dues account. These deposits will be made by the Secretarial Committee through the Business Office as soon as possible after the monies have been collected.

B. No petty cash or slush funds will be kept by any member or advisor of this organization.

C. The Service Committee will seek approval of all fundraisers by the Office of Student Life at least two weeks prior to the actual event and will follow all of the guidelines as outlined in the RSO handbook.

ARTICLE VII - RATIFICATION

A. This constitution is subject to the approval by the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Life.

B. Following the approval of SGA and Student Life, the founding members of the RSO and advisor will be notified by the Office of Student Life.
# ARTICLE VIII - SUMMARY OF SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS & BENEFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>HOURS/YEAR</th>
<th>BENEFIT TO MEMBERS/MGA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGA GRADUATION</td>
<td>Fall (December) and Spring (May)</td>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>Participation in most important institutional event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGA CONVOCATION, GALA, DIGNITARY VISITS</td>
<td>Each member chooses at least one</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Student representation at high profile events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>Society chooses at least one per year</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Engagement with surrounding community, advocacy for causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL GATHERINGS</td>
<td>One per semester</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bonding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIETY MEETINGS</td>
<td>Two per semester (Fall and Spring)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA REQUIREMENT</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Incentive for continued academic excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOK</td>
<td>One per year</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read in preparation for meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINING</td>
<td>Leadership Training</td>
<td>Week before school starts</td>
<td>Marketable Skills, Experiential Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPUS SPACE</td>
<td>Student Life Center 254 (Macon)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Designated quiet space on two largest MGA campuses, plus storage for polos and blazers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia Hall Student Center (Cochran)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOLARSHIP</td>
<td>$600 ($300 each Spring and Fall)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Additional financial aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING</td>
<td>Bronze Badge (Year 1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Recognition on academic transcript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silver Badge (Year 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gold Badge (Optional Year 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONOR STOLES</td>
<td>At graduation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Recognition at Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECRUITING FOR NEXT CLASS</td>
<td>Invitations sent in May</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Choose class before summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST MEETING</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Begin serving once settled in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL MEETING</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Meetings complete before finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVISORS</td>
<td>One from the Division of Student Affairs</td>
<td>Designated office hours</td>
<td>Professional resources available for guidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL SERVICE HOURS PER YEAR TO EARN BOOK SCHOLARSHIP**

35-40

**ARTICLE IX - BYLAWS**

A. This constitution may be supplemented with bylaws which pertain to the above articles.

B. An electronic and paper copy of any and all bylaws will be filed with the Office of Student Life.

**ARTICLE X**

**AMENDMENTS/SUPPLEMENTS**

A. A written notice will be presented to the membership of this organization at a regular meeting to amend or supplement any part of this constitution. The proposed amendment/supplement will be voted upon no sooner than the next regularly scheduled meeting and must receive 2/3 majority vote of all members in good standing.

B. Any amendments/supplements to this constitution will then be submitted to the Office of Student Life for approval.
SIGNATURES & APPROVALS

• This amended constitution was submitted to the Office of Student Life on June 1, 2019 by Jennifer Brannon (Vice President for Student Affairs, The Torch Society advisor for Academic Year 2019-20).

• This constitution was approved by SGA on ________________________________.

• This constitution was approved by the Office of Student Life on ________________.