ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

A. The name of this student organization shall be The President's 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. Macon Campus
   b. Cochran Campus
   c. Dublin Campus
   d. Eastman Campus
   e. Warner Robins Campus
   f. Online Campus
   g. School of Arts & Letters
   h. Georgia Academy
   i. Graduate Studies
   j. School of Aviation
   k. School of Business
   l. School of Education & Behavioral Sciences
   m. School of Health & Natural Sciences
   n. School of Computing
   o. Presidential Intern
   p. Member at Large
   q. Member at Large

C. If a member’s GPA falls below a 3.0, the member must meet with the President’s Torch Society Advisor to discuss a plan of action. If a member’s GPA falls below 2.5, the
member may be removed from the President’s Torch Society. GPAs will be checked by the advisor at the end of each semester.

D. Membership includes a **one year commitment** to the organization with an option to serve additional years **if there has been consistent and active participation by the member**, 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 lasts for one fiscal year. An official email will be sent to members each academic year to confirm membership status. Removal from the membership roster can take place any time during the academic year due lack of participation, lack of communication, and or a significantly low GPA.

E. Active membership and being in good standing is defined as attendance at least 2 meetings per semester; 20 hours of community service hours per semester; and 2 campus events per semester. If an ex officio member/Presidential Intern is chosen by the Office of the President, he or she will be employed as a student assistant in the Office of the President earning $10/hour for 20 hours per week. **There is no Presidential Intern for the 2020-2021 academic year.**

F. 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.

G. As a member of the President’s Torch Society, you will be issued a blazer to wear at events. You are required to return the blazer prior to your graduation. If you do not return the Blazer, a financial hold will be placed on your account and you will have to pay a $200.00 fee. It is also your responsibility to have the blazer cleaned before returning it.

H. Torch Society attire at special events include black pants and or skirts for women, white button down shirt, and black shoes. You may wear purple, grey, or back ties but this is optional.

I. 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 elected President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer:

B. There will be four appointed chairs who will lead each committee
   a. Communications Committee
   b. Events and Programming Committee
   c. Membership Committee
   d. Service Committee

C. The duties of each committee shall be:
   a. Duties of the **Communications Committee** shall be: maintains the society’s
social media presence, prepares announcements and communications, designs flyers and images, and communicates important information to fellow members such as meeting/event schedules.

b. Duties of the **Events and Programming Committee** shall be: plans, implements, facilitates, and leads in person and virtual events and programs, and identifies opportunities for collaboration with other organizations (with the participation, assistance, and approval of all members and the advisor).

c. Duties of the **Membership Committee** shall be: leads recruitment of members for vacant membership positions (with the participation, assistance, and approval of the advisor) and issues invitations to prospective members.

d. 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.

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 in a limited capacity and may not hold officer positions.

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

G. Applications for vacancies will be considered on an as needed basis. The selection and interview process will be led by the membership committee under the strict guidance of the advisor.

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 3 times during the fall and spring semesters on a Friday selected by a majority of the membership in each of the following months: September, October, November, January, March, and April. Meetings during the summer semester will be voluntary and called as needed. Members are required to attend at least 2 meetings per semester. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. Attendance at the Annual Student Leadership conference in February will take the place of the February meeting.

B. The Executive Board and Committees are required to hold meetings at least monthly but may need to meet more frequently as needed.

C. Torch Society meetings will be held from 9:00am-12:00pm on selected Fridays, unless changed by a majority vote, and location may alternate between University campus locations and virtual meetings.
D. Fall and spring meetings are mandatory and missing two meetings could result in being removed from the organization. If unable to attend in person or virtually due to academic or employment commitments, students should schedule a meeting with the advisor.

E. 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.

F. 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 Chair cc Advisor)

G. Recommendations for the leadership book each year shall be sent to the advisor in August and voted on during the first meeting in September. Members will receive their copy of the book in October.

ARTICLE V - FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR

A. The President’s 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. Serving as a sounding board for Society discussions and decisions
   d. Completing and approving paperwork as required by Registered Student Organization (RSO) guidelines
   e. Modeling effective leadership as an administrator of Middle Georgia State University

ARTICLE VI - REVENUE

A. All monies collected by the President’s Torch Society must be deposited into the organization’s agency account. These deposits will be made by the Advisor and or the Treasurer through the Bursar’s 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>12-14</td>
<td>Participation in most important institutional event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CENTER FOR CAREER &amp; LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CCLD)</td>
<td>Fall and Spring (Career Fairs, Annual Student Leadership Conference, and Student Leadership Programs)</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Career and leadership development, campus involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGA CONVOCATION, ORIENTATIONS, OPEN HOUSES, PRESIDENT’S 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 <strong>(Day of Service)</strong></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>At least two per semester (Fall and Spring)</td>
<td>12</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>Read in preparation for meetings</td>
<td>Sharing with colleagues, learning/applying new concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPUS SPACE</td>
<td>Student Life Center room 280 by reservation only (Macon) Sanford Hall (Cochran)</td>
<td>During university business hours</td>
<td>Designated quiet space on two largest MGA campuses, plus storage for blazers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONOR STOLES</td>
<td>At graduation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Recognition at Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECRUITING FOR NEW MEMBERS</td>
<td>Invitations sent in September</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Choose new members in the Fall and as needed.</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>ADVISOR</td>
<td>One from the Division of Student Affairs</td>
<td>Available as needed</td>
<td>Professional resources available for guidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED PER YEAR** 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 in October 2020 by Dr. Tamika Russell, Coordinator for Student Leadership Programs, and the President’s Torch Society advisor for Academic Year 2020-2021.

• This constitution was approved by SGA on______________________________.

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

Revised December 2020