



CONSTITUTION

AND

BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION

Article I

Name

This organization, a successor to The University of Texas Dads' Association and Parents' Association, shall be known as ***Texas Parents, the Parents' Association of The University of Texas at Austin.***

Article II

Objectives

The objectives of Texas Parents are:

1. To increase public awareness of the mission, goals, priorities, concerns, organizational structure and policies of The University of Texas.
2. To provide an avenue whereby the President of The University, administrative officials and members of the faculty may become better acquainted with the parents of students and develop a broader understanding of their special interests, concerns and perspectives.
3. To bring about closer cooperation among the parents of students, the President, administrative officials, faculty, staff and students of The University of Texas.
4. To provide an agency through which the authorities of The University may more effectively present the needs of The University to the people of the State of Texas and to the governing bodies and officials thereof.
5. To recognize and honor outstanding students and faculty of The University as appropriate through scholarships, awards and endowments.
6. To advise The University administration on services that would be of value to parents.

Article III

Membership

Any individual or entity is invited to purchase a membership by making a tax-deductible donation to Texas Parents.

Article IV

Executive Committee

1. The governance of the Advisory Board shall be through the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:
 - Co-Chair/s
 - Co-Chair/s Elect
 - Fundraising Co-Chair/s
 - Outreach Co-Chair/s
 - Immediate Past Co-Chair/s
 - Ex-Officio Member/s
3. To be eligible for office, an individual or couple must be, when nominated, the parents or guardians of a student at The University of Texas within the coming year or a student who has been enrolled at The University of Texas within the previous year. An individual who is elected to any office, including that of Co-Chair/s Elect, may continue to serve until the end of the designated term of office regardless of the student status of the officer's son or daughter.
4. The Executive Committee will be perpetuated through recommendations of the Co-Chair/s and Co-Chair/s Elect.
5. Executive Committee members will be installed at the fall Advisory Board meeting.
6. In case of vacancies in the position of Co-Chair/s, Co-Chair/s Elect, Fundraising Co-Chair/s and/or Outreach Co-Chair/s, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to fill such vacancies for the remainder of the designated term of office.
7. The Executive Committee shall meet before the fall and spring meetings of the Advisory Board for the purpose of planning, reviewing, evaluating, recommending and/or implementing the organization's activities and programs.
8. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as provided in this Constitution and as set forth in the Bylaws.

Article V

Advisory Board

1. The governance of Texas Parents shall be through the Advisory Board.

2. The majority of the Advisory Board shall consist of members strategically identified to mirror the student population. Membership on the Board will be perpetuated through nominations by current members and Texas Parents staff. Nominations will only be accepted August 1 through October 1 of each fall semester. New members will be installed at the fall Advisory Board meeting.
3. To be eligible for membership on the Advisory Board, an individual or couple must be, when nominated, the parents or guardians of a student at The University of Texas within the coming year or a student who has been enrolled at The University of Texas within the previous year.
4. The Advisory Board has the responsibility for the overall control and direction of the activities of the organization and may adopt operating guidelines as it deems expedient and in the best interest of Texas Parents.
5. The Advisory Board may delegate its authority to any officer or committee by a majority vote.
6. Advisory Board members are expected to:
 - Maintain a membership in the organization.
 - Attend the fall and spring Board meetings.
 - Volunteer at one or more sessions of Family Orientation and/or Parents' Weekend.

Article VI

Meetings

1. The Advisory Board will hold two annual meetings in Austin, Texas. The fall meeting will be held in conjunction with Parents' Weekend. The spring meeting will be held during the spring semester. Other meetings of the organization may be called by the Co-Chair/s at any time or by a majority of the Executive Committee. Advisory Board members will be notified of called meetings by written notice via email or first class mail.
2. The vote of a majority of Advisory Board members present at any officially constituted meeting of the organization shall govern, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or Bylaws.

Article VII

Texas Parents Calling Program

Texas Parents will provide an opportunity to make financial contributions for the benefit of students at The University.

Article VIII

Enactment of the Constitution and Amendment Procedure

On March 2, 2007, the Constitution was revised and adopted by the Advisory Board.

On October 24, 1997, the Constitution was revised and adopted by the Advisory Board.

On February 15, 1992, the Constitution was revised and adopted to mark the beginning of the Parents' Association. Procedures for the transition from the Dads' Association to the Parents' Association were provided in a transmittal memorandum signed by Robert G. Greer, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Future Directions and Priorities of the Dads' Association, to Dads' Association President Coley Cowden and dated January 3, 1992.

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of all members voting at any meeting of the Advisory Board, said amendment having first been submitted to the Executive Committee in advance.

BYLAWS

Article I

Co-Chair/s

The Co-Chair/s shall preside at all meetings of the Texas Parents Executive Committee and Advisory Board. The Co-Chair/s will serve as the official representative(s) of Texas Parents. The Co-Chair/s shall appoint committees as authorized by the Executive Committee.

Co-Chair/s Elect

During the year before assuming the role of Co-Chair/s, the Co-Chair/s Elect shall become thoroughly knowledgeable about the programs and priorities of Texas Parents and shall be an active participant in the planning processes and activities of the organization.

Fundraising Co-Chair/s

The Fundraising Co-Chair/s shall monitor and review the finances of Texas Parents and all fundraising campaigns and activities.

Outreach Co-Chair/s

The Outreach Co-Chair/s shall review Parents' Weekend and Family Orientation activities and other external organization initiatives and make recommendations.

Immediate Past Co-Chair/s

The Immediate Past Co-Chair/s shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee.

Ex-Officio Members

UT staff designated to provide support and assistance to Texas Parents without voting privileges.

Advisory Board Members

Advisory Board members will serve a two-year term with the option of renewing. All Advisory Board members will be provided with current information on University activities, events and future plans. They will serve as ambassadors of The University to their communities. They will serve as conduits between all interested parties and The University. They shall not be considered official spokespersons for The University of Texas or Texas Parents.

Article II

Honorary Life Member Status

Past Presidents of the Dads' Association, Honorary Lifetime Vice-Presidents of the Dads' Association and Past Co-Chair/s of the Parents' Association and Texas Parents, shall be designated as Honorary Life Members.

The Advisory Board may also honor individuals who have rendered outstanding leadership and service to the organization by designating them as Honorary Life Members. Criteria for selection include the individual's sustained interest, participation and contributions to Texas Parents. Honorary Life Members are considered full members of the organization and will be included in Texas Parents activities.

Article III

Awards

By a vote of the Executive Committee, the organization shall recognize distinguished contributions and dedicated service to The University of Texas at Austin. This award

(formerly termed the “Honorary Patron Award” of the Dads’ Association) shall be termed the Texas Parents Award of Distinction.

By a vote of the Executive Committee, Texas Parents shall recognize exceptional participation, dedication and service to the organization by awarding the Texas Parents Service Award when merited.

Texas Parents, through appointed committees, selects the Outstanding Students, Staff Merit Award and the Mike Wacker Award winner/s each fall semester. The recipients are honored at the Celebration of Leadership Dinner.

Article IV

Amendments to Bylaws

These bylaws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of all members voting at any meeting of the Executive Committee having first been submitted to the Advisory Board in advance.

*The University of Texas at Austin
Texas Parents Constitution*

1. Proposed for review and revision at the annual business meeting of the Dads’ Association on February 15, 1992.
2. Proposed for review and revision at the annual fall meeting of the Parents’ Association on October 24, 1997.
3. Proposed for review and revision at the annual spring meeting of Texas Parents on March 2, 2007.