

CONSTITUTION

Thornton Student Council

Flora L. Thornton School of Music
University of Southern California

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. NAME

Part 1. The official name for this organization is Thornton Student Council.

Part 2. This organization will use the official name or its acronym, TSC, in all publicity materials and correspondence.

Section B. PURPOSE

We, the students of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, in order to encourage freedom of scholarship, preserve and encourage student rights, promote a unified and cohesive student body, and maintain forums to discuss our views and rights, do hereby form and establish the Thornton Student Council.

Purpose Statement

We, the Thornton Student Council of the University of Southern California, are the representative voice of the Thornton student body. We shall serve the following purposes:

- to foster musicianship and scholarship in an atmosphere of free and objective inquiry;
- to accept responsibility for exercising and preserving student rights;
- to promote cohesion and unity within the student body;
- to further the individual and collective welfare of the Thornton student body;
- to insist upon creative freedom of expression;
- to develop an understanding of the broad range of perspectives and responsibilities of members within the university including Thornton administration, faculty, and students;
- to champion the acknowledgment, appreciation, and advancement of students' diverse views and interests;
- to facilitate student efforts based on those expressed views and interests;
- to advocate for culturally-responsive teaching and representation within curriculum
- to insist upon quality education at an affordable cost, thereby ensuring that the University provides educational opportunities for persons of all economic strata;
- to disseminate available student resources, news, and events;

- to uphold the University Code of Ethics.

We serve these aforementioned purposes via support and representation of student views and needs to the University of Southern California administration, faculty, staff, and surrounding community. The Council will provide the perspective of Thornton students through regular dialogue with the Thornton School Dean and Dean's Cabinet. THEREBY, this Constitution of the Thornton Student Council of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music is affirmed and established.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. REQUIREMENTS

Part 1. The membership of the Thornton Student Council will be comprised solely of elected representatives from the various academic programs in the Thornton School of Music. For each major program of study at the graduate level, the students currently enrolled in that program will be entitled to elect one representative. For each major program of study at the undergraduate level, the students currently enrolled in that program will be entitled to elect one representative.

Part 2. Members of the Council will be elected during the spring semester of each academic year. Elected members will have one-year terms of service from May 1 through April 30.

Part 3. Only those who will be enrolled as students at the Thornton School of Music for the duration of their elected term are eligible for membership on the Council.

Part 4. The faculty of each academic department of the Thornton School of Music will ensure that elections take place within their departments during each spring semester, and that results are reported to the Thornton School Dean each year by April 1.

Part 5. All members are required to demonstrate support for the purpose of the Council.

Part 6. Decisions made by the Thornton Student Council will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion or creed, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, ability, or sexual orientation.

Section B. RIGHTS

Part 1. All members are eligible to attend all meetings of the Thornton Student Council.

Part 2. All members are eligible to be voting members. Each member is entitled to one vote.

Section C. TERMINATION

Part 1. Members may have their membership terminated for failure to adhere to the requirements for membership as stated above.

Part 2. Members to be voted upon in this regard will be notified of the intention to do so in writing at least three weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

Part 3. A two-thirds majority vote by a quorum of members present at a regular or special meeting called with no less than two weeks' notice to the full membership shall be sufficient to terminate membership.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section A. TITLES

Chair
Vice Chair
Officer of Records
At-Large Undergraduate Representative
At-Large Graduate Representative
Officer of Public Affairs

Section B. DUTIES

Part 1. The Chair will lead all meetings of the Council, will call special meetings as necessary, and will act as the primary liaison of the Council with Thornton School leadership. The Chair will vote on Council matters only in the event of a tie.

Part 2. The Vice Chair will act in the role of Chair when the Chair is unable to do so. The Vice Chair will also serve as the Council Parliamentarian, ensuring that the requirements of this Constitution are understood and followed in the activities of the Council and its officers.

Part 3. The Officer of Records will take, record, and file meeting minutes and/or other official correspondence for the Council. Oversees implementation of an internal organizational flow and its affiliated systems, information design, and file management.

Part 4. The At-Large Undergraduate Representative will ensure that the Council sufficiently facilitates dialogue with Thornton undergraduate students throughout the course of the year.

Part 5. The At-Large Graduate Representative will ensure that the Council sufficiently facilitates dialogue with Thornton graduate students throughout the course of the year.

Part 6. The Officer of Public Affairs aids in communication to external channels: social media management, press releases, interviews, flyers, involvement in community events, etc.

Section C. ELIGIBILITY

Part 1. All officers will be selected from among the members of the Council.

Part 2. The office of At-Large Undergraduate Representative must be filled by an undergraduate student.

Part 3. The office of At-Large Graduate Representative must be filled by a graduate student.

Section D. NOMINATION & SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Part 1. The selection of officers will take place at a meeting of the newly elected Thornton Student Council as soon as possible after May 1.

Part 2. It will be the responsibility of the out-going officers to call this meeting with no less than two weeks' notice to the full membership of the newly elected Thornton Student Council.

Part 3. It will be the responsibility of the faculty/staff advisor to preside over this meeting.

Part 4. A quorum of at least half of the newly elected membership must be present in order to conduct the meeting.

Part 5. Nominations for all offices will be taken from the floor at this meeting. Any members may nominate any other member. Self-nominations by any member will also be permitted.

Part 6. All members will vote to select the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. All undergraduate members will vote to select the At-Large Undergraduate Representative. All graduate members will vote to select the At-Large Graduate Representative.

Part 7. Selection of officers will be determined by simple majority vote of members present. If there are more than two candidates and no candidate receives a majority, there will be a run-off vote between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.

Section E. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Part 1. Officers may be removed from office for failure to perform duties, for violation of membership requirements, or for violation of the requirements of this Constitution.

Part 2. Officers to be voted upon in this regard will be notified in writing of the intention to do so at least three weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

Part 3. A two-thirds majority vote by a quorum of members present at a meeting called with no less than two weeks' notice to the full membership shall be sufficient for removal from office.

Section F. TERMS OF OFFICE & VACANCIES

Part 1. The term of office shall be for the full term of service of all elected Thornton Student Council members – May 1 through April 30.

Part 2. Should a vacancy in office occur, there will be another nomination procedure and election for the vacant office at a meeting called with no less than two weeks' notice to the full membership.

Part 3. During a period of vacancy, the Vice Chair will assume the duties of the Chair should the office of Chair be vacant; the Officer of Records will assume the duties of the Vice Chair should the office of Vice Chair be vacant; the At-Large Graduate Representative will assume the duties of the Officer of Records should the office of Records be vacant; and the At-Large Undergraduate Representative will assume the duties of the Officer of Public Affairs should the office of Public Affairs become vacant. The offices of At-Large Undergraduate Representative and At-Large Graduate Representative will remain vacant until a new At-Large Representative is selected.

Part 4. During a limited period of vacancy, an elected representative not holding an office as listed above (Section F, Part 3) may welcome a proxy member from their community (ex: a MTAL graduate may take another MTAL graduate's place). Should the proxy be required beyond a semester, the affected student body must confirm or vote on their replacement for the remainder of the term (ex: if this occurred in the Fall, the constituents would need to vote to either keep the current proxy for the Spring term or nominate a new member from their program. If this occurs in Spring, the proxy would finish out the term and elections for the following academic season would still proceed as scheduled). Should the officially elected member be immediately unavailable due to unforeseen, long-term hardship or illness, the issue would be resolved as outlined in Section F, Part 2.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section A. Regular meetings of the Thornton Student Council will be held at least once per semester. At least part of the agenda for each regular meeting will be dedicated to open comment by any member of the Council. All regular meetings must be called with at least two weeks' notice to the full membership.

Section B. Special meetings may be called for any purpose by any combination of three of the officers. Notice of special meetings must be communicated to all members at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Section C. To conduct business or take a vote on any matter at any meeting, a quorum must be present. A quorum at any meeting of the Council will be defined as one half of the full elected membership.

Section D. Voting remotely or by proxy on any matter before the Council may be permitted, so long as any combination of three of the current officers agree to permit it and all members receive advance written notice that it will be permitted.

Section E. At least once per semester, an open dialogue session will be hosted for all Thornton undergraduates by the At-Large Undergraduate Representative. This open dialogue session should take place before a regular meeting of the Council.

Section F. At least once per semester, an open dialogue session will be hosted for all Thornton graduate students by the At-Large Graduate Representative. This open dialogue session should take place before a regular meeting of the Council.

Section G. At least once per semester, the Chair will ensure that a time has been scheduled for the officers to meet with Thornton School leadership. This meeting should be arranged through the Thornton Dean's office and should take place after a regular meeting of the Council.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section A. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Part 1. A committee may be appointed for any purpose by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting called with no less than two weeks' notice to the full membership.

Part 2. The activities of any appointed committee will be limited to its specific charge as articulated at the time of its appointment. In most cases, the committee's work will culminate in a report and/or recommendations to the membership on a specified topic or issue.

Part 3. While other committees may be appointed for any purpose as outlined in Parts 1 and 2 of Article V, Section A, TSC commits to the following standing committees: 1) Undergraduate Committee, and 2) Graduate Committee.

Section B. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Part 1. A committee chair will be appointed as part of the committee's charge. The committee chair must be a member of the Thornton Student Council.

Part 2. The committee may be comprised of Thornton students who are not members of the Thornton Student Council. In all cases, committee members must be currently enrolled students of the Thornton School of Music.

ARTICLE VI. AFFILIATIONS

Section A. USC

Part 1. The Thornton Student Council is a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, but is not part of the University itself.

Part 2. In all correspondence and business transactions, it may refer to itself as an organization at USC, but not as part of USC itself.

Part 3. The Council accepts full financial and production responsibility for all activities it sponsors.

Part 4. The Council agrees to abide by all pertinent USC policies and regulations. Where USC policies and regulations and those of any other affiliated organization differ, the policies and regulations of USC will take precedence.

Part 5. The Council recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization, and that the University is not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities expressly benefit and further the goals of the University, and have received prior review, approval, and consent of Campus Activities, Risk Management, and/or General Counsel.

Section B. Should the Council determine that affiliation with other organizations would be beneficial, such affiliation must only be established by a simple majority vote by a quorum of members present at a meeting called with no less than two weeks' notice to the full membership. Such affiliation must be reported to the USC Division of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE VII. FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR

Section A. ADVISOR REQUIREMENTS

Part 1. As a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, the Thornton Student Council is required to have an official advisor from the USC faculty or staff.

Part 2. Other persons may serve as special advisors as needed.

Section B. DUTIES

Part 1. The advisor must sign the USC recognition application each year, or whenever officer information changes or amendments are made to the constitution.

Part 2. Officers should meet with the advisor at least once per semester, preferably near the end of the semester for the purpose of discussing the Council's work for the following semester.

Part 3. The advisor will be responsible for presiding over the selection of officers at the first meeting of the newly elected Thornton Student Council each year. This meeting will be called by the out-going officers to take place as soon after May 1 as possible.

Part 4. An advisor may not vote on any Council matters, hold office, or unduly influence its decisions.

ARTICLE VIII. BY-LAWS & AMENDMENTS

Section A. BY-LAWS

Part 1. By-laws can be added to this constitution by a simple majority vote of a quorum of members present at a regular meeting.

Part 2. Notification of such consideration must be made to members at least one meeting in advance of the one in which the actual vote is to be taken.

Part 3. This constitution takes precedence over any and all by-laws.

Section B. AMENDMENTS

Part 1. This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of members present at a regular meeting.

Part 2. Notification of such consideration must be made to members at least one meeting in advance of the one in which the actual vote is to be taken.