



The Student Court
Letter of Interpretation
March 11, 2011

All Members of the E-Board and Senate,

With the powers stated in the *SGA Constitution Article VI.6.6* and the *Judicial By-laws Section 2.A.*, on March 10, 2011 the Student Court was brought forth by Steve Ransom, the Student Government Association Advisor, to interpret **Article VIII & Article IX** of the **Constitution** that states:

“The Constitution of the Student Government Association may be amended in the following manner:

8.1 By referendum, with a majority vote of the members of the Student Government Association.

8.2 A referendum will be held on a proposed amendment to the Constitution.

8.2.1 If proposed in the Student Senate and two thirds (2/3) of the total voting membership Student Senate is in favor of the amendment being brought before the Student Government Association for a vote.

8.2.2 By petition of members of the Student Government Association. The number of members required on the petition must equal or be greater than thirty (30) percent of the total number of ballots cast in the last general election.

8.2.3 By two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total voting membership of the Student Senate if proposed by an external entity outside the Student Senate.

8.3 Any proposed amendment, together with parts of the Constitution affected, should be published in the Prairie View A&M University Student Newspaper at least one week prior to the election.

8.4 All approved amendments will be appended to the original Constitution.

9.1 This Constitution shall be effective immediately and enforced once ratified by majority of the ballots cast in an election by the members of the General Student Body and approved by the appropriate authorities.

9.2 The President and Executive Vice-President shall immediately, after the ratification of the Constitution, take steps to bring all the activities of the Student Government Association in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitution.”

With a unanimous vote, with Chief Justice Harris D. Brown, Justice Alysha Sample and Justice Darius Kelley present, the Student Court has decided that to amend the Constitution, it first must be proposed in the three ways mentioned in Article 8.2.1, Article 8.2.2 and Article 8.2.3. Once it has been proposed and approved in the manner presented in the three aforementioned articles, it must go to a referendum where the General Student Body must vote on the proposed amendments. It must be published in the Prairie View A & M University Student Newspaper at least one week prior to the vote on the proposed amendments as stated in Article 8.3. If it has been approved by the General Student Body then it has been ratified by the General Student Body. The Student Court also interpreted that “Student Government Association” in Article 8.2.2 is referring to the General Student Body.

If you do not agree with this interpretation, you are free to file an appeal with the Student Court, which you will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours if the appeal was denied or accepted.

Thank you,

Harris D. Brown

SGA Chief Justice 09-11