

CONSTITUTION

of the Baylor Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Baylor Third Culture Kids (TCKs).

The term “third culture kid(s)” was coined by sociologists John and Ruth Useem in the 1950s. The “first culture” is that of one’s parents, the “second culture” is the country where one lives, and the “third culture” is an amalgamation of these distinct cultures during one’s formative years. Being a TCK is more than simply living abroad; it’s a total immersion into an unfamiliar culture. These experiences shape identity. Being a proud citizen of a truly global community is the essence of what it means to be a TCK.

Article II. Purpose and Goals

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose shall be to promote community amongst students with shared “third culture” and/or international experiences and to encourage an appreciation for diversity on Baylor’s campus.

Section 2. Goals

The major goals shall be (1) to pursue a community amongst TCKs and/or any Baylor students, (2) to provide a space for such parties to share personal experiences and appreciate those of others, and (3) to support existing Baylor organizations which promote diversity and unity.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Any Baylor student registered for a minimum of 12 semester hours (or full-time equivalent for graduate students) who has maintained a current grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 and a cumulative GPA of 2.33 is eligible for active membership.

Section 2. Selection Process

Membership is open to any eligible student at any time.

Section 3. Attendance

Attendance at all official organization activity is encouraged. Attendance at greater than 50% of meetings and events each semester is a prerequisite for “active membership,” along with payment of dues each semester (refer to Article VI, Section 1).

“Inactive membership” is defined as a failure to meet the active membership requirements (listed above) for two consecutive semesters. Inactive members shall be removed from the organization’s official roster yet are encouraged to attend future organization activities. Inactive

members may pursue active membership again at any time, by (1) expressing their intentions to the officers, and (2) demonstrating commitment to the organization through regular attendance and timely payment of dues in the subsequent semester.

Section 4. Removal Process

Any member found acting in a manner inconsistent with the mission and values of this organization and Baylor University—as determined by the Judicial Review Board (refer to Article VII)—shall be subject to removal from the organization.

Member removal must occur during a general meeting where a quorum is present (refer to Article IV, Section 2). A two-thirds vote of all active members in favor of removal is required. Re-admittance to this organization following removal is subject to approval from the organization's advisor(s) and officers and may be subject to active members' approval.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. General Meetings

General meetings shall be held twice monthly at a time determined by the officers. The calendar of meetings and outings shall be set by the officers at the beginning of each semester.

Section 2. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 50% of membership, plus one member. Quorum must be present to conduct official business.

Article V. Officers

Section 1. Eligibility

Any Baylor student registered for a minimum of 12 semester hours (or full-time equivalent for graduate students) who has maintained a current grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00, and a cumulative GPA of 2.67 is eligible to serve in a leadership capacity as an officer, provided the student maintained active membership for a minimum of one semester.

Certain parties may request an exemption to this policy at the discretion of the Director of Student Activities. Eligible parties may include: (1) graduating seniors requiring fewer than 12 hours to graduate and (2) students with extraneous circumstances—such as internships or practicum experience—which require a course load of fewer than 12 credit hours.

Section 2. Election Process

Elections shall be held annually in the Spring Semester. Voting shall occur through a secure online form, shall be open to all active members (refer to Article III, Section 3), and shall remain open for a minimum of one week. Officer positions for the upcoming year are determined by a relative majority vote, thus, the candidate with the greatest number of votes per position wins. Winning candidates shall be announced at the first general meeting after voting ends.

The sitting officers shall conduct a meeting with the newly elected officers during the Spring Semester for training and information transferal. Newly elected officers shall assume responsibility at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

Section 3. Officers and Duties

This organization shall employ the following officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Relations Chair. If, during elections, insufficient interest is expressed for either the Secretary or Public Relations Chair positions, the sitting officers may retire these positions until they are again determined to be necessary.

1. President

The President shall (1) preside over general and officer meetings, (2) coordinate group activities, (3) communicate with the officers and advisor(s) on all matters, and (4) liaise between this organization and Baylor University. In the absence of an elected Public Relations Chair, the President shall assume those responsibilities.

2. Vice President

The Vice President shall (1) assist the President and collaborate with all officers, (2) preside over meetings in the absence or removal of the President, and (3) serve as the Chair of the Judicial Review Board (refer to Article VII, Section 2). In the absence of an elected Treasurer, the Vice President shall perform all fiduciary roles for this organization.

4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall (1) collect dues, (2) oversee all monetary transactions, and (3) communicate financial updates at each officer meeting.

5. Secretary

The Secretary shall (1) take attendance at all general meetings, (2) receive and respond to all correspondence through the organization's email and social media, and (3) send regular informational newsletters to communicate meeting and event times with members. This position may remain unfilled until the officers determine that it is necessary for the overall function and success of the organization.

6. Public Relations Chair

The Public Relations Chair shall (1) maintain this organization's social media presence, (2) design and publicize flyers for upcoming meetings and events, and (3) create, as necessary, additional social media accounts. This position may remain unfilled until the officers determine that it is necessary for the overall function and success of the organization.

Section 4. Removal of an Officer

Officers shall be subject to removal from their position and/or membership in the organization, should the student: (1) fail to maintain the requirements for holding an office, (2) fail to fulfill their duties as prescribed, (3) or be found acting in a manner that is inconsistent with the mission and values of the organization and Baylor University, as determined by the Judicial Review

Board (refer to article VII). A quorum must be present at a meeting of all members (refer to Article IV, Section 2), and a two-thirds vote must be obtained to remove the student from their officer position. An election to fill the vacant position shall be held at the next general meeting, after which the newly elected officer will assume responsibility.

Article VI. Finances

Section 1. Dues

Dues shall be determined per academic year by the sitting officers (with a recommended minimum of \$5 per semester) and will be collected each semester from all members.

Section 2. Fiduciary Tasks

All moneys belonging to this organization shall be the responsibility of all officers and overseen by the Treasurer. The advisor(s) of this organization must approve and sign each organizational expenditure before payment (refer to Article VIII).

Article VII. Judicial Review Board

Section 1. Enforcement

The Judicial Review Board shall have the power to enforce this constitution.

Section 2. Composition

The Judicial Review Board shall consist of five representatives from the organization, which must include both members and officers. The Vice President shall serve as the Board's chairman.

Article VIII. Advisor(s)

Section 1. Requirements

This organization will have no less than one official advisor. Each advisor shall be a full-time faculty or staff member of Baylor University.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities

The advisor(s) shall: (1) provide guidance for understanding Baylor University policies and procedures and provide leadership for the adherence to those rules by the organization; (2) review and approve requests for organization events, activities, publicity, and t-shirts; (3) act as a consultant in the areas of setting goals, problem-solving, policy-making, and upholding guidelines and purposes—including attendance at organization and officer meetings as deemed necessary; and (4) attend all off-campus and overnight activities as the University representative, assuming leadership in the event of an emergency.

Article IX. Amendments and Revisions

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active membership and is subject to the approval of the Vice President for Student Life, through the Department of Student Activities and the Dean for Student Learning and Engagement.

President's Signature _____ Date _____

Advisor's Signature _____ Date _____

Approval Recommended _____ Date _____
Director of Student Activities

Approval Recommended _____ Date _____
Dean for Student Learning & Engagement

Approved _____ Date _____
Vice President for Student Life