



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

SIU Southern Illinois University
CARBONDALE



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ CONSTITUTION ~**



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, & MISSION.....	3
ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP.....	3
ARTICLE III – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH	3
SECTION 1 – Appointments, Composition, and Qualifications	3
SECTION 3 – Executive Succession	4
SECTION 4 – Executive Wages.....	4
ARTICLE IV – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.....	5
SECTION 1 – Name and Composition.....	5
SECTION 2 – Qualifications and Restrictions	5
SECTION 3 – Academic College & School Seats.....	5
SECTION 4 – Constituency Organizations & Umbrella Organizations.....	6
SECTION 4 – Departmental Seats.....	7
SECTION 5 – At-Large Seats.....	8
SECTION 6 – Special Case Seat Nominations.....	8
SECTION 7 – Removal Senate Seats	9
SECTION 8 – Senate Powers	9
ARTICLE V – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.....	10
SECTION 1 – Composition and Qualifications.....	10
SECTION 2 – Chief Justice	11
SECTION 3 – Jurisdiction and Powers.....	11
ARTICLE VI – THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	12
SECTION 1 – Composition	12
SECTION 2 – Student Funding Board	12
ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	12
ARTICLE VIII – IMPEACHMENT.....	12
ARTICLE IX – STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION	12
ARTICLE X – STATEMENT OF NON-HAZING.....	12
ARTICLE XI – STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY AND CAMPUS REGULATIONS	13
ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENT.....	13
ARTICLE XIII – ADVISOR(S).....	13
ARTICLE XIX – UPDATE NOTICE	13



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, & MISSION

This organization will be referred to as the Undergraduate Student Government, further referred to in this document as the USG. The USG in its representative capacity will inform the student body of the university administration's aim, policies, and mission and will be recognized as the voice of the undergraduate student body. The USG represents the undergraduate student body at Southern Illinois University in all matters pertaining to student welfare, student activities, and student participation in this university's planning and administration. The USG is a recognized constituency body by the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Every undergraduate student enrolled at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is considered a member of USG based on their enrollment status at the university. Members may participate in regular Senate Sessions during public comments but are not allowed to vote. Only recognized Senators in good standing have the right to vote. The USG will be comprised of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Each branch is designed to support and balance the others. No branch will hold more power than any other branch.

ARTICLE III – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1 – Appointments, Composition, and Qualifications

1. The Executive Branch will be composed of the following members:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Vice-President
 - c. Vice-President of Student Affairs
 - d. Chief-of-Staff
 - e. Vice-President of Finance
 - f. Executive Assistant
 - g. Executive appointments
2. Executive Branch members must meet the following qualifications:
 - a. Be an undergraduate student enrolled in at least 8 credit hours.
 - b. Have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

- c. This GPA requirement will be waived for students with disabilities with provided documentation from Disability Support Services and/or Southern Illinois University's ACHIEVE Program.
 - i. Proof of at least 8 credit hour status and 2.5 cumulative GPA will be confirmed by the Office of Student Affairs.
3. Has not been impeached from the USG.
4. The Executive Board will be sworn in for one year, beginning and ending at the last USG meeting of the academic year. Other appointments will be served within an academic calendar year.
5. No member of the Executive Branch will serve in the Legislative Branch or the Judiciary Branch, with the exception of being a committee chairperson.
6. Executive Board members that serve on committees will not have voting rights on those committees.

SECTION 3 – Executive Succession

1. If the office of President becomes vacant, the order of executive succession is the Executive Vice-President, Vice-President of Student Affairs, and then Chief-of-Staff.
2. If any office other than the office of the President becomes vacant, the President will appoint a replacement to fulfill the remainder of the absent executive's term.

SECTION 4 – Executive Wages

1. The President will receive a wage not exceeding \$2,500 per semester.
2. The Executive Vice-President will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,800 per semester.
3. The Vice-President of Student Affairs will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,800 per semester.
4. The Vice-President of Finance will receive a wage not exceeding \$2,000 per semester.
5. The Chief-of-Staff will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,500 per semester.
6. Other executive appointments will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,200 per semester.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

ARTICLE IV – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1 – Name and Composition

1. The Legislative Branch of the USG is comprised of the Senate.
2. The Senate is the representative body of the USG and will consist of at most fifty (50) Senators.

SECTION 2 – Qualifications and Restrictions

1. A Senator will meet the following qualifications:
 - a. An undergraduate student who is taking at least 8 credit hours, unless they are doing career training with their major curriculum.
 - i. Possible exemptions:
 1. Student Teaching
 2. Full Time Internships
 3. Residencies
 4. Etc.
 - b. Have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
 - i. This GPA requirement will be waived for students with disabilities with documentation provided from Office of Access and Accommodations and/or Southern Illinois University's ACHIEVE Program.
 - c. Remain in good standing with Student Rights & Responsibilities.
 - d. Cannot have been impeached from USG.
2. All Senate terms can start at any time throughout the designated school year and will end on the last Friday of the Spring Semester.
3. The Senator-elect's petition must first be submitted to the Chief-of-Staff so that the Chief-of-Staff can ensure the legitimacy of the petition and inform the Senator of the next steps.
 - a. A Senator elected in this fashion will take office upon completion of the oath conducted by the President.

SECTION 3 – Academic College & School Seats

1. The senate will consist of two senators from each academic college, two with exploratory majors and one from each stand-alone School that serves undergraduates.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

2. It is encouraged that these Senators are chosen by the student umbrella organization within the academic college.
3. The academic college must notify USG before the second USG meeting of their senator appointments. If they do not notify the USG, they are subject to lose their Senate representation (Senate seats) to at-large senators.

4. Colleges and Schools that have representation and are currently allowed are as follows:

<u>College of Arts and Media:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>College of Business and Analytics:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>College of Health and Human Sciences:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>College of Liberal Arts:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>College of Life and Physical Sciences:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>School of Automotive:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>
<u>School of Aviation:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>
<u>School of Education:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>

SECTION 4 – Constituency Organizations & Umbrella Organizations

1. Umbrella Organization and Constituency Organization duties and functions are outlined in the Umbrella Organization Guidelines.
2. Academic Umbrella Organizations & School Seats:
 - a. If an Academic Umbrella Organization represents an entire college, it is allocated two (2) Senate seats.
 - b. If a school within that college has its own umbrella organization, then:
 - i. The school's umbrella organization receives two (2) Senate seats.
 - ii. The remaining portion of the college (excluding that school) also receives two (2) Senate seats.
 - c. Schools wishing to be represented outside of their college and without an Umbrella or Constituency Organization must go through the Special Case Seat Nomination Procedure.
3. Non-Academic Umbrella Organizations:
 - a. Non-Academic Umbrella Organizations are allocated two (2) Senate seats.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

4. Constituency Organizations:

- a. Constituency Organizations are allocated one (1) Senate seats.

5. The Senate will also consist of Senator(s) from each of the following Umbrella Registered Student Organizations that represent a population of undergraduate students. It is to the organization's discretion how their Senator(s) are selected. The umbrella organization must notify USG before the second USG meeting of who these Senators are.

6. Currently allowed Organizations that have representation are as follows:

<u>Agricultural Student Council:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Black Affairs Council:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>College of Engineering, Computing, Technology and Math:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Hispanic Student Council:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>International Student Council:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Saluki Rainbow Network:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Latino Cultural Association:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>

SECTION 4 – Departmental Seats

1. The Senate will also consist of Senator(s) from each of the following departments that represent a population of undergraduate students.
2. The department must notify USG before the second USG meeting their Senator appointments.
3. These departments and the respective number of seats are as follows:

<u>Exploratory Students:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Fraternity & Sorority Life:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Students with Disabilities:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>University Housing:</u>	<u>Two (2) Senators</u>
<u>Commuting Student:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>
<u>Non-Traditional Students:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>
<u>University Athletics:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>
<u>Veterans Organization:</u>	<u>One (1) Senator</u>



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

SECTION 5 – At-Large Seats

1. The Senate will consist of ten (10) At-Large Senators. Any remaining Senate seat not accounted for in Sections 1-4 of Article IV will also become an At-Large Senate seat.
2. At-Large Senators must petition to have a seat in the senate.
 - a. Petitions will be evaluated on a rolling basis.
 - b. If there are ten (10) At-Large Senators enrolled in the senate there will be a waitlist for new prospective senators.
3. At-Large Senators represent the larger student body and do not necessarily represent a specific college, organization, or department.

SECTION 6 – Special Case Seat Nominations

1. In the case of an underrepresented school that resides under a college, an executive board decision may be made for that school to have a senate seat.
2. For this executive board decision to be valid the following must happen:
 - a. Identify a school that does not have proper representation in the senate.
 - b. Call an Executive Board meeting including the following positions:
 - i. President
 - ii. Executive Vice-President
 - iii. Vice-President of Student Affairs
 - iv. Chief of Staff
 - v. Vice-President of Finance
 - vi. Executive Assistant
 - c. The Executive Board must listen to the case of the board member presenting.
 - d. There must be a majority vote in the positive for the process to move forward.
 - e. After the meeting, the Executive Board must receive approval from the Advisor of USG.
3. Once all processes have been completed successfully, the school will be notified, and the senate seat will be in addition to the current senate.
4. All cases must be presented 2 weeks before the 1st senate meeting of the school year.
5. Senate seats that are temporarily taken by schools will be evaluated at the 3rd to last senate meeting of the school year by the legislative branch.
 - a. Evaluation of Seats:



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

- i. A 2–5-minute presentation will be made by the senator of the school they are temporarily representing.
 1. This presentation may include testimonials from constituents in that school.
 2. This presentation will act as a part of the Governing Documents Committee’s presentation and the language for this presentation can be debated and voted on at the following senate meeting.
- ii. Senators will receive 5 minutes of discussion and questions that may be extended by a motion from the floor.
- iii. The 2nd to last Senate Meeting will include voting on the seats validity and seat name to be included in the USG Constitution and requires a 2/3rds Vote to pass.
 1. Once this has been approved by the senate the seat will permanently be added to the legislative roster.

SECTION 7 – Removal Senate Seats

1. Senate Seats may be removed by the suggestion of the Governing Documents Committee.
2. These removals will go through the same process as language adaptations in the Constitution.

SECTION 8 – Senate Powers

1. The Senate is solely empowered to pass legislation, which consists of the following:
 - a. Resolution – Statement of policy or opinion.
 - b. Mandate – Direction for action to any part of either the Legislative or Executive branch.
 - c. Bill – Legislation dealing with a direct action.
 - d. Amendment – Written change(s) in the constitution or other governing documents.
2. Legislation will become official immediately upon signature of the President, unless otherwise stated within the legislation.
3. Legislation not acted upon by the President before the next Senate session expires and does not go into effect and is considered a pocket-veto that can be overturned with a 2/3rds vote from the senate.
4. The Senate will study university rule changes, legislation, or other proposals made by student organizations and undergraduate students and will communicate all requests and opinions to the University administration.
5. The Senate will consider recognition of registered student organizations.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

6. The Senate will ratify the annual USG elections.
7. The Senate will recommend and bring about policy that represents the interests of the undergraduate student body.
8. The Senate may override any Presidential veto, including a “Pocket-Veto”, by a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the Senate.
9. The Senate may meet outside of the standing bi-weekly meeting time by a majority vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE V – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION 1 – Composition and Qualifications

1. The Judicial Board will consist of five (5) Justices. Three (3) Justices will be initiated based on the seats listed in (point e) by a majority of the Senate, and two constituency body members or senators, excluding the student trustee, will be nominated by the President with majority vote of the senate.
2. There will be two reserve senators elected in the fall semester. In case a member of the Judicial Board runs for Executive Office or as otherwise needed.
3. Elected members of the Judicial Board must meet the requirements outlined in Article VI, Section 6.
 - a. Elected members of the Judicial Board will serve until the executive board term ends or until they no longer meet the requirements.
4. Each Justice will be sworn in by the President after they are elected.
5. Justices must be the chairs or members of the following committees and two constituency members:
 - a. Internal Affairs Chair
 - b. External Affairs Chair
 - c. Governing Documents Chair
6. The Judicial Board will be filled and voted on at second senate meeting by majority vote. Once occupied those seats can only be deserted by impeachment or resignation. All vacant seats will be filled at the second meeting of the Fall Semester.
7. The President must submit their constituency appointees by the third senate meeting and must be approved by a majority vote. If the appointees are not approved the president must submit another name at the succeeding meeting. This process will continue until all five seats are filled.
 - a. Presidential appointments must meet the same requirements of eligibility that senators are upheld to.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

8. The Judicial Board roles are positions that cannot be tabled. If they are tabled, the senate may not meet again until the Judicial Board/Committee Chairs are selected.

SECTION 2 – Chief Justice

1. The Chief Justice will be decided by a majority vote of the senate after the three senate justices have been appointed and approved to serve.
2. The Chief Justice will preside over all court proceedings and will have administrative authority over the Judicial Branch.
3. The Chief Justice shall appoint a senate member as a Court Clerk to keep the records of the court.

SECTION 3 – Jurisdiction and Powers

1. The Judicial Board will have original and exclusive jurisdiction in all matters related to the interpretation of this constitution.
2. The Judicial Board may reconsider or overturn decisions denying RSO status or funding if it is proven that the procedures were not properly followed or if the decisions were based on bias. It also acts as the Appeals Board for funding appeals.
 - a. The Judicial Board will step out of the room during funding appeals and the majority vote will be adjusted to exclude them.
3. In cases pertaining to the USG constitution, conflicts between the branches, funding appeals, or elections, the decisions of the Judicial Board are final.
4. The Judicial Board will act as a court on grievances pertaining to elections and act as the election committee.
5. The Judicial Board may choose to ignore, alter, or overturn any past precedent.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

ARTICLE VI – THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SECTION 1 – Composition

1. The Department of the Treasury will be composed of the following members:
 - a. The Vice-President of Finance
 - b. The Student Funding Board

SECTION 2 – Student Funding Board

1. The Student Funding Board will be composed of seven (7) members, one of which will be the Vice-President of Finance.
2. The remaining six (6) members will be appointed by any member of the USG Senate and confirmed by a simple majority affirmative vote of the Senate.
3. The Student Funding Board will act in accordance with the Student Funding Guidelines.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The USG Executive Elections Policies and Procedures will be found in the “Election and Removal Guidelines” in Articles I, II, III, and IV and all proceedings of the election will be in accordance with this document.

ARTICLE VIII – IMPEACHMENT

All impeachment proceedings can be found in the official USG “Election and Removal Guidelines,” in Article V Sections 1, 2, and 3.

ARTICLE IX – STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

This organization will not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or veteran status.

ARTICLE X – STATEMENT OF NON-HAZING

This organization will not conspire to engage in hazing or commit any act that is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~CONSTITUTION~**

2025-2026

**ARTICLE XI – STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY AND CAMPUS
REGULATIONS**

This organization will comply with all University and campus policies and regulations as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENT

This constitution can be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the entire membership of the Senate upon being announced by the Governing Documents Committee one meeting prior to consideration and the signature of the President.

ARTICLE XIII – ADVISOR(S)

The advisor(s) of the USG will be an appointed member of Student Affairs. This person(s) serves as an ex-officio member of the USG and may sit on and support any USG committee, board, commission, or council.

ARTICLE XIX – UPDATE NOTICE

The Undergraduate Student Government in accordance with the Governing Documents Committee last updated the USG Constitution in April 2025. This Constitution has been published for the 2025-2026 Southern Illinois University school year.