

**SIU** Southern Illinois University  
CARBONDALE



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



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**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of the organization shall be referred to as the Undergraduate Student Government, further more referred to in this document as USG.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The USG in its representative capacity will inform the student body of aim, policies, and mission of the University Administration, and will be recognized as the voice of the undergraduate student body.

**ARTICLE III – MISSION**

The USG represents the undergraduate student body at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in all matters pertaining to student welfare, student activities, and student participation in University planning and administration. The USG is a recognized constituency body by the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

Every student enrolled at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIU) 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 is comprised of three branches; The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Each branch is designed to support and balance the others. No branch shall hold more power than another branch.



## ARTICLE V – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

### SECTION 1 – Composition and Qualifications

- a) The Executive Branch will be composed of the following members:
  - 1) President
  - 2) Executive Vice-President
  - 3) Vice-President of Student Affairs
  - 4) Chief-of-Staff
  - 5) Vice-President of Finance
  - 6) Secretary
  - 7) Any other executive appointments except for the Judicial Board
- b) Executive Branch members must meet the following qualifications:
  - 1) An undergraduate student enrolled in at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of full-time status.
  - 2) Have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
    - a. This GPA requirement shall be waived for students with disabilities with provided documentation from Disability Support Services and/or Southern Illinois University's ACHIEVE Program.
  - 3) Will be in good judicial and academic standing.
  - 4) Proof of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of full-time status and cumulative GPA will be confirmed by the Office of Student Affairs.
  - 5) Have not been impeached from USG within the last academic year for misfeasance and/or malfeasance.
- c) The President and Vice-President will hold office for one year, beginning and ending on the last Friday of the Spring Semester.
- d) The Chief-of-Staff, Vice-President of Finance, and Executive Appointments will hold office for one year.
- e) No member of the Executive Branch will serve in the Legislative Branch or the Judiciary Branch, with the sole exception of those who serve on Executive Committees where an Executive Branch member is required to chair, which may serve in the Legislative Branch



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- 1) Executive Board members that serve of committees will not have voting rights on those committees. In the instance of a tie, an Executive Board member serving on the committee may serve as the tie breaker.

**SECTION 2-** Executive Board Duties and Responsibilities

- 1) All executive boards duties and responsibilities are outlined in the bylaws.

**SECTION 8 –** Executive Succession

- a) 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.
- b) If any office other than the office of the President becomes vacant, the President will appoint a replacement.

**SECTION 9 –** Executive Wages

- a) The President will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,800 per semester.
- b) The Executive Vice-President will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,600 per semester.
- c) The Vice-President of Student Affairs will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,600 per semester.
- d) The Vice-President of Finance will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,600 per semester.
- e) The Chief-of-Staff will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,000 per semester.



- f) Other executive appointments will receive a wage not exceeding \$1,000 per semester.

## **ARTICLE VI – THE LEGISLATION BRANCH**

**SECTION 1** – The Legislative Branch of USG is comprised of the Senate. The Senate is the representative body of the USG.

**SECTION 2** – The Senate will consist of at most 50 Senators, as outlined in Article VI, Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**SECTION 3** – Academic College Seats

- a) The senate will consist of two senators from each academic college, two with undeclared majors and one from each stand-alone School that serves undergraduates. It is encouraged that these Senators are chosen by the student umbrella organization within the Academic College. The Academic College’s student umbrella organization must notify USG before the second USG meeting of who these Senators are, if they do not notify the USG they are subject to lose their senate representation (senate seats) to at large senators. All Senators must meet the requirements, as indicated in the Chief of Staff Duties, at the time they are sworn into office and throughout their term.

**SECTION 4** – Umbrella Organizations

Umbrella Organizations are outlined in the Umbrella Organization Guidelines.

- a) 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.
- b) All Senators must meet the requirements, as indicated in the Chief of Staff Duties, at the time they are sworn into office and throughout their term. These organizations are as follows:
- 1) Fraternity and Sorority Life: 2 Seats
  - 2) International Student Council: 2 Seats
  - 3) Black Affairs Council: 2 Seats
  - 4) Hispanic Student Council: 2 Seats



- 5) Latino Cultural Association: 1 Seat
- 6) Saluki Rainbow Network: 2 Seats
- 7) Agricultural Student Council: 2 Seats
- 8) Engineering Student Council: 2 Seats

**SECTION 5 – Registered Student Organization/ Departmental Seats**

- a) The Senate will also consist of Senator(s) from each of the following standard Registered Student Organizations/ Campus Departments that represent a population of undergraduate students. It is to the organization/ departments' discretion how their Senator(s) are selected. The organization/ department must notify USG before the second USG meeting of who these Senators are. All Senators must meet the requirements, as indicated in the Chief of Staff Duties, at the time they are sworn into office and throughout their term. These organizations/departments and the respective number of Seats are as follows:

- 1) Residence Hall Association: 2Seats
- 2) Sport Clubs: 1 Seat
- 3) Veterans Organization: 1 Seat
- 4) Non-Traditional Students: 1 Seat
- 5) Students with Disabilities: 2 Seats

**SECTION 6 – At-Large Seats**

The Senate will consist of fifteen (15) Senator-at-Large positions. These positions represent the larger student body and do not necessarily represent a specific college, organization, or department. The current USG Senate may vote in these Senators who have successfully petitioned and met all qualifications, as indicated in the Chief of Staff duties, to represent the overall undergraduate student body.



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and voting rights and shall not be treated as a Senator-elect.



## **SECTION 7– Qualifications and Restrictions**

- a) A Senator will meet the following qualifications:
  - 1) A full-time undergraduate student, with the exception of seniors in their last semester who are not full-time.
  - 2) Have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
    - a. This GPA requirement shall be waived for students with disabilities with provided documentation from Disability Support Services and/or Southern Illinois University’s ACHIEVE Program.
  - 3) Remain in good standing with Student Rights & Responsibilities.
  - 4) Cannot have been impeached from the USG in the last semester.
- b) All Senate terms will end on the last Friday of the Spring Semester.
- c) Senators elected during the Spring Election will take office the last Friday of the Spring Semester and shall hold a term of office for one calendar year.
- d) 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.
- e) A Senator elected in this fashion will take office upon completion of the oath conducted by the President.
- f) A Senator will not serve in either the Executive or Judicial Branches unless appointed to an executive committee or elected by the Senate to serve as a Justice on the Judicial Board as described in Article VII Section 1.a).
- g) Senators that represent their umbrella organizations are appointed by their umbrella organizations in their respective colleges/schools.

## **SECTION 8 – Senatorial Duties**

- a) A Senator is entitled to one vote.





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- b) A Senator will represent the undergraduate students from his/her district and will perform all duties required by the position.
- c) All Senators are required to attend retreats held each semester.
- d) Senators will be required to hold at least one constituency meeting in their respective representative districts each month. Senators must fill out the Constituency Report following each meeting and submit it to the Chief of Staff by the end of the month to be placed on file. Any Senator who fails to meet this requirement will be subject to impeachment.
- e) A Senator is required to attend every USG Senate session unless the Senator has found a proxy to take their place and the proxy has been approved by the Executive Vice President or the majority of the Senate. If the Senator cannot find a proxy or the proxy has not been approved, the Senator can be excused by majority consent of the Senate. An absence obtained in the above fashion shall be counted as excused.
  - 1) Proxies must be approved by the Executive Vice President no later than 1:00 pm on the day of the meeting.
    - i. All proxies must meet the same requirements as a Senator for USG, as outlined in Article VI, Section 9, Part A of the USG Constitution,
  - 2) Senators are only allowed two excused absences per semester.
    - i. Excused absences include: At least 24 hour notice to the President and with special approval.
  - 3) Senators are allowed one unexcused absence.
    - i. Unexcused absences include: tardiness to a meeting, missing a meeting without communicating to the President, leaving a meeting early.
  - 4) If a Senator has over the two excused absences in a semester, the Senator will be subject to impeachment, unless given approval by the president.
  - 5) Senators are required to be on time to Senate meetings and to remain in attendance for the duration of said meetings. If a Senator is tardy, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.
  - 6) Senators are required to attend meetings in business casual attire. This excludes jeans and t-shirts. Business casual is defined as blouses, skirts, dresses, slacks, or



Button-downs. A tardy will be issued for improper dress at the discretion of the USG Advisor.

- f) A Senator is expected to communicate efficiently and effectively with USG Executive Branch Members, Advisors, and their Constituents. Failure to do so may be grounds for a Bill of Impeachment.
- g) Each Senator will be required to complete 2 office hours per week. Office hours are defined as any business being conducted on behalf of USG, including committee meetings. Any Senator who misses four office hours in a semester will be subject to impeachment.
- h) Senators are required to serve on at least USG Committee, such as Student Funding Board, Internal Affairs Committee and/or External Affairs Committee.
  - 1) Failure to attend and/or participate in the Committee as indicated by the Committee Chairs, may be grounds for removal from the Committee and grounds for Impeachment.

#### **SECTION 9 – Senate Powers**

- a) The Senate will be solely empowered to pass legislation, which consists of the following:
  - 1) Resolution - Statement of policy or opinion.
  - 2) Mandate - Direction for action to any part of either the Legislative or Executive branch.
  - 3) Bill - Legislation dealing with a direct action.
  - 4) Amendment - Written change(s) in the Constitution.
- b) The Senate will study proposals made by student organizations and undergraduate students and will communicate all requests and opinions to the University Administration.
- c) The Senate will consider recognition of registered student organizations
- d) The Senate will ratify the annual USG elections, without this ratification the results are not official.
- e) The Senate will recommend and bring about policy that represents the interests of the undergraduate student body.



- f) The Senate can create and discharge standing or special committees as it sees fit.
- g) Only Senators may be on the Senate committees.
- h) The Senate may override any Presidential veto, including a “Pocket-Veto,” outlined in Article V, Section 2, by a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the Senate.
- i) The Senate may meet weekly rather than bi-weekly for a period of time that is not permanent, but that is determined by an affirmative vote of the Senate. This vote shall be conducted when the Senate determines that the amount of business needing to be conducted requires for more frequent meeting times.

**SECTION 10** – Parliamentary Authority

- a) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order will govern the Senate and Senate committees in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or Standing Rules and Procedures the Senate or Senate committees may adopt.

**SECTION 11** – Senate Legislation

- a) Legislation will become official immediately upon signature of the President, unless otherwise stated within the legislation.
- b) Legislation not acted upon by the President before the next Senate session expires and does not go into effect.

**SECTION 12** – Referendum

- a) Referendums dealing with powers of USG will be binding upon the USG.
- b) Placement of a referendum on the USG President/Vice-President ballot requires one of the following prior to the election petition deadline:
  - 1) A legislation approving the referendum passed by the Senate and signed by the President.
  - 2) A petition containing the signatures of ten percent of the undergraduate student population on file with the legislation.



## ARTICLE VII – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

### SECTION 1 – Composition and Qualifications

- a) The Judicial Board will consist of five justices. One justice will be a Senator elected by a majority of the Senate, and one will be appointed by the President without consent of the Senate.
  - 1) Appointed members of the Judicial Board will meet the following qualifications:
    - i. The President shall not be that appointed member.
    - ii. The Vice-President and Chief of Staff are permitted to be the appointee to serve on the Judicial Board as a justice.
    - iii. Any undergraduate student enrolled full-time at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is eligible to be appointed by the President to the Judicial Board.
  - 2) Elected members of the Judicial Board will meet the following qualifications:
    - i. An undergraduate student enrolled full time and at least a sophomore.
- b) Elected and appointed Associate Justices can be any student meeting the requirements outlined in Article V, Section 1 as long as he/she does not serve on either the Legislative or Executive branch.
- c) Elected members of the Judicial Board will serve for one year or until they no longer meet the requirements.
  - 1) Justices appointed by the Legislative and Executive branches will serve for the duration of the term during which they were appointed to the Judicial Board. If the President appoints a USG non-affiliated student, the appointee will serve for the duration of the term of the President by which the student was appointed.
  - 2) Each Justice will be sworn in by the President before the Senate at the first Senate Meeting.

### SECTION 2 – Chief Justice

- a) The Chief Justice will be decided by a majority vote of the five justices at the first meeting.



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- b) The Chief Justice shall preside over all court proceedings and shall have administrative authority over the judicial branch.
- c) The Chief Justice shall appoint a Court Clerk which shall keep the records of the court.



### **SECTION 3 – Jurisdiction and Powers**

- a) The Judicial Board will have original and exclusive jurisdiction in all matters related to the interpretation of this Constitution.
- b) The Judicial Board may order reconsideration of the decision to deny an organization RSO status only on the basis that in the process of considering recognizing an organization the procedures outlined by the constitution were not properly followed. The Judicial Board may overturn the decision to deny an organization RSO status only on the basis that the decision was based on bias.
- c) The Judicial Board shall act as the Appeals Board for funding appeals. The Judicial Board may order the reconsideration of a decision to deny a RSO funding only on the basis that in the process of considering the funding request the procedures outlined by the Student Funding Board's Student Funding Guidelines were not properly followed. The Judicial Board may overturn a decision to deny a RSO funding only on the basis that the decision was based on bias.
- d) When cases pertain to the USG Constitution, conflicts between the branches, funding appeals, and elections, the decisions are final.
- e) The Judicial Board will act as an appellate court on grievances pertaining to the elections.
- f) If specified in the majority opinion, any decision made by the Judicial Board is binding on all future cases proven to be similar.
  - 1) The Judicial Board may choose to ignore, alter, or overturn any past precedent.

### **SECTION 4 – Procedures**

- a) Upon the convening of the first meeting, the Judicial Board will choose to retain or amend the procedural rules from the previous year. These procedures must align with the policies and guidelines of the University and state.
- b) The Judicial Board will maintain recordings of its proceedings.
- c) The Judicial Board will report their decisions to all relevant parties including the Legislative and Executive Branches within two business days.



- d) The Judicial Board will not generate its own cases. Plaintiffs must file a Writ of Certiorari with the Judicial Board explaining the reasons of appeal.
- e) The Judicial Board may choose not to hear cases.
  - 1) The Judicial Board must contact the plaintiff within three business days upon receiving the Writ of Certiorari informing the plaintiff of the decision on whether or not the Judicial Board will hear the case. If the Judicial Board will hear the case, the notice must contain a date for the first hearing and this notice must also be sent to the defendants.
- f) The Judicial Board will meet when necessary to hear cases.
- g) No case, upon being accepted by the Judicial Board, will remain unheard longer than one semester.
- h) Each Justice will write an opinion for each case to be kept on record.
- i) If any rule is violated by the Judicial Board or its officers, grievances must be submitted to the Senate to be reviewed for possible impeachment.

#### **SECTION 5 – Rights of the Involved Parties**

- a) All parties involved in cases brought before the Judicial Board will enjoy all rights granted to them by the United States Constitution.
- b) Either party will be entitled to receive at least one continuance; any further continuances will be at the discretion of the Judicial Board.

### **ARTICLE VIII – THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

#### **SECTION 1 – Composition**

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



## **SECTION 2 – Student Funding Board**

- a) The Student Funding Board will be composed of seven (7) members, one of which is the Vice President of Finance.
- b) The remaining six (6) members will be appointed by any member of USG Senate, and confirmed by a 1/2 affirmative vote of the Senate.
- c) The Student Funding Board will act as written in the Student Funding Guidelines.

## **ARTICLE X – ELECTIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1 – Election Policies and Procedures**

- a) The USG Executive Elections Policies and Procedures shall be the governing document for the election process. All proceedings of the election shall be in accordance with this document.

## **ARTICLE XIII – REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

### **SECTION 1 – Removal of the Legislature**

- a) Order of removal of Senators





- 1) Anyone may bring forth allegations of constitutional/attendance violations to the Internal Affairs Committee.
- 2) The Internal Affairs Committee will produce a bill of removal to the Senate if the violations, upon the preponderance of the evidence, are found to be true.
- 3) The Senator will only be removed by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Senate.
- 4) The Senator has the right to speak on their behalf but may not vote on the bill of removal.

## **SECTION 2** – Removal of the Executives

### a) Order of removal of the President or the Vice-President

- 1) Anyone may bring forth allegations of constitutional violations to the Internal Affairs Committee.
  - i. Once allegations of constitutional violations are brought to IAC, they must investigate said allegations to determine whether the charges are legitimate.
    1. The IAC in determining the legitimacy of the charges shall consider: Whether the charge is sufficient basis for recommended action; and whether the weight of the evidence is sufficient to require presentation of a defense.
    2. The IAC must meet to hear the charges against the accused within five working days from when the allegations were initiated.
    3. Only IAC members, those bringing charges, those having charges brought against, and witnesses for the charges may be present at this meeting. A motion shall be passed to officially close the meeting. A motion shall be passed to allow comments from the floor.
    4. Those bringing the charges must be present, the persons bringing the charges are only those individuals who have signed the written charges at the time they were presented.



- a. If more than one person brings the charges, only one of them may be present to represent those bringing the charges.
5. Deliberation by the IAC shall be completed behind closed doors and away from the public. The IAC shall listen to the charges and any evidence the charging entities wish to provide, and discuss it only after all persons, except members of the IAC, have left the hearing room.
6. The IAC shall vote on whether or not the charges are legitimate.
7. There must be at least 51 percent votes in the affirmative to determine the legitimacy of the charges.
8. If there are majority votes in the affirmative the Chair shall forward a copy of the written charges, a copy of the meeting minutes, and any evidence presented at this meeting to the accused and the judicial board.
9. Any information that would identify the entities bringing the charges should be omitted from this correspondence. The identity of any witnesses or sources of information shall remain confidential if they so choose.
  - a. Hearing of the Defense
    - i. The IAC must meet to hear the defense of the accused.
    - ii. Only IAC members, the accused, and their witnesses may be present in the room during this portion. A motion will be passed to clear the room of non-essential people. A motion shall be passed to officially close the meeting.
    - iii. The IAC shall listen to all of the defense and evidence. The IAC shall vote on whether or not to



retain the charges against the accused. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

- iv. The accused shall be given no more than one hour to respond to questions during the meeting at which the charges are presented.
- v. The IAC shall spend no more than one hour discussing the charges after the accused finishes answering questions.
- vi. A motion may be made by a member of the IAC to extend discussion beyond the time allotted. A motion to extend the time for discussion requires a 51% affirmative vote of the IAC.
- vii. A quorum of the IAC must be present for discussion to take place. If one does not exist, the discussion and vote must be postponed until the next meeting. The discussion and vote on removal shall only be postponed one meeting under this Section. A vote must be taken at the next meeting event if a quorum is not present
  1. The Chief Justice will chair the removal proceedings in the Senate.
    - a. IAC reads the bill of removal to the Senate and presents the collected evidence.
    - b. The accused has the right to speak on their behalf to the Senate.
    - c. The President or Vice-President will only be removed by a 2/3 affirmative



vote of the Senate present following  
the removal proceedings.

- 2) The President or Vice-President has the right to speak on their own behalf.
- b) All other members of the executive branch serve at the discretion of the President.

### **SECTION 3 – Removal of the Judiciary**

- a) Order of removal of a justice
  - 1) Anyone may bring forth allegations of constitutional violations to the Internal Affairs Committee.
  - 2) The Internal Affairs Committee, with a preponderance of evidence, will produce a bill of removal to the Senate with or without recommendation.
  - 3) The justice will only be removed by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Senate.
  - 4) The justice has the right to speak on their own behalf.
  - 5) Removed members of the Judicial Board cannot appeal to the Judicial Board.



**ARTICLE XIV – STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

**SECTION 1** – This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran.

**ARTICLE XV – STATEMENT OF NON-HAZING**

**SECTION 1** – This organization will not conspire to engage in hazing, or commit an 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.

**ARTICLE XVI – STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY/CAMPUS  
REGULATION**

**SECTION 1** – This organization shall comply with all university and campus policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws.

**ARTICLE XVII – AMENDMENT(S)**

**SECTION 1** – This Constitution can be amended by an affirmative vote of  $2/3$  majority of the entire membership of the Senate upon being announced one meeting prior to consideration and the signature of the President.

**ARTICLE XVII – ADVISOR(S)**

**SECTION 1** – The advisor(s) of the USG shall be an appointed member of Student Affairs. This person(s) serves as an ex-officio member of USG and may sit and support any USG committee, board, commission, or council.