



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## SENATOR INFORMATION & PETITION

### FOR INVOLVEMENT IN USG

The Legislative Branch of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is comprised of the Senate. The Senate consist of representatives from colleges, umbrella organizations, and campus departments.

The Senate positions are listed below next to the constituency group in which they serve. Per the Constitution, if an organization does not select their Senator(s) by the 2<sup>nd</sup> USG meeting of the semester, the position becomes open to all petitioners. Those who successfully complete the petition and meet the Senator Qualifications and Restrictions may be voted in by the USG Senate for one academic year term.

If a seat is full, a candidate may still submit this petition along with the required documents and be placed on a waiting list. To inquire about open positions, contact Chief-of-Staff Haley Spiewak, [usgsiu@siu.edu](mailto:usgsiu@siu.edu).

#### *Academic College Seats*

- College of Arts and Media Two (2) Senators
- College of Business and Analytics Two (2) Senators
- College of Health and Human Sciences Two (2) Senators
- College of Liberal Arts Two (2) Senators
- School of Education One (1) Senator
- School of Automotive\*\* One (1) Senator
- School of Aviation\*\* One (1) Senator
- College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences\*\*\*
- College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, and Mathematics\*\*\*

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*\*\*Due to the Academic Reorganization the school's placement is still being decided.*

*\*\*\*Two (2) Senator are appointed by its respective umbrella organization (i.e., Engineering or Agriculture Student Council)*

## *Department Seats*

- University Housing Two (2) Senators
- University Athletics One (1) Senator
- Veterans Organization One (1) Senator
- Non-Traditional Students One (1) Senator
- Students with Disabilities Two (2) Senators
- Exploratory Students Two (2) Senators
- At-Large Fifteen (15) Senators

## *Umbrella Organization Seats (Appointed)*

- Fraternity and Sorority Life Two (2) Senators
- International Student Council Two (2) Senators
- Black Affairs Council Two (2) Senators
- Hispanic Student Council Two (2) Senators
- Latino Cultural Association One (1) Senator
- Saluki Rainbow Network Two (2) Senators
- Agricultural Student Council Two (2) Senators
- Engineering Student Council Two (2) Senators

## **SENATOR QUALIFICATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

- A full-time undergraduate student.
- Have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA. This GPA requirement may be waived for students that can provide documentation from Disability Support Services and Achieve Program.
- Remain in good standing with Student Rights & Responsibilities.
- Cannot have been impeached from the Undergraduate Student Government in the last semester.

### SENATORIAL DUTIES:

- I. A Senator is entitled to one vote.
- II. A senator will represent the undergraduate students from his/her district.
- III. Senators are required to hold at least one town hall constituency meeting in their respective districts each month. Senators must fill out the *Constituency Report* following each meeting and submit it to the Internal Affairs Committee within five (5) business days to be placed on file. *Any Senator who fails to meet this requirement will be subject to a **Bill of Impeachment**.*
- IV. 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 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.
  - a. A Senator may appoint a proxy to attend on his/her behalf if the Senator is unable to attend a regularly scheduled Senate session. Proxies must be approved by the Vice President or Chief of Staff twenty-four (24) hours prior to the day of the meeting.
  - b. Senators are only allowed two excused absences per semester.
    - i. If a Senator has more than two total absences in a semester, the Senator will be subject to a **Bill of Impeachment**, unless given approval by the President.
  - c. 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 ten minutes or more late to a meeting, or excuses themselves early from the meeting, without prior approval from the USG Vice President, they will be counted as tardy. If a Senator has two incidents in the above fashion, it will be counted as an unexcused absence and the Senator will be subject to a **Bill of Impeachment**, unless given approval by the President.
  - d. Senators are required to attend meetings in business casual or business professional attire. This excludes jeans and t-shirts. A tardy will be issued for improper dress at the discretion of the USG Advisor and President. Senators are encouraged to utilize the University Career Center if they are in need of the required attire.

- V. Senators are expected to communicate efficiently and effectively with the USG Executive Branch Members, Advisors, and their Constituents. Failure to do so may be grounds for a ***Bill of Impeachment***.
- VI. Each Senator will be required to complete 2.5 office hours per week. Office hours are defined as any business being conducted on behalf of USG, including committee meetings and town-hall events. These hours should be reported to the Chief of Staff including the date, time, location, and description of your work. Any Senator who misses four office hours in a semester will be subject to a ***Bill of Impeachment***.
- VII. Senators are required to serve on at least one USG or University Committee, such as Student Funding Board, Internal Affairs Committee and/or External Affairs Committee. This includes any committees appointed by the President.

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

The Student Government Code of Ethics and Conduct provides a codified set of expectations for those individuals who serve in elected or appointed positions within the Legislative, Executive, or Judicial branches of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Undergraduate Student Government. All members of the Undergraduate Student Government, hereafter referred to as USG, are held to the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Student Handbook of the University. However, service as a member of the Legislative, Executive, or Judiciary of USG, hereafter referred to as a USG Official, is both a privilege and a responsibility and as such, USG Officials are held to a higher standard. The expectations for USG Officials include fair and ethical behavior and full accountability to the Student Body of Southern Illinois University. As campus leaders and role models, USG Officials must be dedicated to increased campus unity and school spirit, to full and open communication with constituents, and to efforts for positive and realistic change.

The nature of serving as an USG Official represents responsibility as Public Officials and Representatives of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Student Body. Each who serves as a USG Official shall honor the:

- Responsibility to the letter and the spirit of all laws, rules, policies, election codes, and duties related to the business of the USG,
- Responsibility to standards of personal integrity and civic behavior as befits a member of the governing body of the USG,
- Responsibility to the public trust and to put first the public interest and thereby avoid actions for private gain.

As a USG Official, each member accepts and will act upon the Responsibilities outlined in this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

- I. Responsibility to the Letter and the Spirit of all Laws, rules, Policies, Election Codes, and Duties related to the business of the USG, as such,
  - a. USG Officials agree to adhere to:
    - i. University Student Handbook,

- ii. The Constitution Governing USG,
    - iii. All Laws, Rules, and Duties pertaining to and governing USG and USG Officials,
    - iv. This Code of Ethics and Conduct.
  - b. USG Officials accept the obligation to disclose knowledge of a violation or potential violation of adherence to the governing document to the appropriate party.
- II. Responsibility to standards of Personal Integrity and Civic Behavior as befits a member of the governing body of the USG,
  - a. USG Officials accept,
    - i. The duty to participate as an active and positive member of the Saluki Community,
    - ii. The commitment to strengthen individual skills and professional development abilities,
    - iii. The obligation to remain up to date on emerging issues and potential problems facing the Student Body of the University.
    - iv. The responsibility to address issues arising from the Student Body, respond to public concerns, questions, and inquiries within means that are publicly accessible, and are complete, clear, and honest, and in a manner that is timely.
  - b. USG Officials shall,
    - i. Promote the Constitutional principles of equality, fairness, representation, responsiveness, and due process in an effort to protect Students' rights,
    - ii. Strive to provide the provision of a method by which Students have a means for civil dissent, an assurance of due process, and safeguards against reprisal,
    - iii. Avoid interference with the administrative functions of the Student Government and its staff to implement policy decisions.
  - c. USG Officials' behavior shall,
    - i. Demonstrate professional and personal conduct that is above reproach and shall refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of fellow USG members, boards, committees, and commissions, as well as the University administrators, faculty, staff, and the Student Body at all times,
    - ii. Avoid even the appearance of impropriety and shall work to expose corruption or abuse of power wherever discovered.

- d. USG Officials shall strive to,
    - i. Ensure others receive proper credit for their work and contributions to the work of USG and the University at large,
    - ii. Take responsibility for one's own errors and behaviors.
  - e. In meetings or functions of the USG, each USG Official shall.
    - i. Refrain from interrupting other speakers, making personal comments not germane to the matters of business addressed before the body, or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of meetings,
    - ii. Listen courteously and attentively to all public discussions held before the USG, and focus on resolving the affairs of the student body in an expedient and proficient manner,
    - iii. Have respect for the confidentiality of information concerning the property, personnel, or affairs of the Student body of the University.
- III. Responsibility to the Public Trust and to put first the public interest and thereby avoid actions for private gain.
- a. USG Officials, in an effort to ensure the stewardship of the public trust as a primary concern, shall,
    - i. Work for the common good the Student Body of Southern Illinois University Carbondale,
    - ii. Be prepared to execute decisions that may be difficult,
  - b. USG Officials shall,
    - i. Oppose all forms of discrimination, harassment, and the unfair treatment of any persons, claims, and transactions placed before the Student Senate, Executive Committee, the Student Supreme Court, or any boards, committees, or commissions thereof,
    - ii. Seek to involve the appropriate students and university administrators, faculty, and staff in policy-making decisions,
    - iii. Guard against conflicts of interest and the appearance thereof.

- c. USG Officials, understanding the priority needs of the Student Body and Southern Illinois University Carbondale, shall make decisions based on the needs on the whole of the University and shall not
  - i. Use their official positions to influence decisions in which benefit the interest of any private or personal being, with the exception of those times when acting in the role of advocate as designated in the governing documents of the organizations.
  - ii. Use their official positions for the sake of personal gain or advancement, or for any matter in which they may have material or personal interests,
  - iii. Use their official positions in matters wherein they may have an organizational responsibility to fulfill which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest; and thus, shall recuse themselves from any say or vote on such matters,
  - iv. Use the public resources not available to the public in general, such as Student Government staff time and supplies; not to include the use of the office space or equipment in the course of time spent in the USG office in an effort to increase availability to constituents.



**SENATOR OATH: I, [SAY NAME], AS AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE, UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE AND MISSION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT. IT IS MY DUTY TO UPHOLD AND PERFORM TASKS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL FOR THE STUDENTS I REPRESENT. AS SUCH, I WILL SET AN EXAMPLE OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER AS A CAMPUS LEADER BY EXEMPLIFYING RESPECT, HONESTY, PROFESSIONALISM, AND BEING DUTIFUL TO THE CURRENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AND THE STUDENTS TO COME. I WILL FOSTER POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENS, FACULTY, STAFF, ADMINISTRATION, GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL, AND OTHER STUDENT GOVERNING BODIES. I ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY AND WILL STRIVE TO ENSURE THE ACCEPTANCE OF ALL STUDENTS. I AM PROUD TO BE A USG SENATOR AND SWEAR TO SERVE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FIRST.**

*The Undergraduate Student Government shall periodically review this Code of Ethics and Conduct as determined necessary by the governing bodies there within.*

Go to <https://usg.rso.siu.edu/> to learn more about the USG.

*Revised May 21, 2021, by President Isaiah Overton*

***\*\*Submit your petition now!\*\****

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