



University of Illinois at Chicago - Undergraduate Student Government: Official Constitution

Preamble

We, the undergraduate students of the University of Illinois at Chicago, herein exercise our right to self-representation, by providing for the establishment, organization, and operation of our student government.

Mission

We will promote the interests of the undergraduate student body and ensure that there is effective communication between students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and administrators, with proper acknowledgment of student voices in all levels of decision making. We shall fulfill this mission through three main tenants: Advocacy, Service, and Governance.

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this constitutional student government shall be the Undergraduate Student Government of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Powers

Section 1: Purpose.

The purpose of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be to provide:

- a. Advocacy:
 1. to represent the undergraduate body of the University of Illinois at Chicago; and,
 2. to investigate all policies and procedures affecting student welfare; and,
 3. to work towards the improvement of existing policies and procedures.
- b. Service:
 1. to ensure the provision of services that meet unfilled student needs;
 2. to ensure that existing services properly meet the needs of the student body;
 3. to deliver information to students and to serve as a communication medium among and between the student body, faculty, staff, administration and all other relevant bodies.
- c. Governance:
 1. to recommend and appoint official student representatives to the university boards and committees not elected at large by the student body; and,
 2. to assist in the organization and coordination of the independent efforts of students and student organizations; to help them fulfill their purposes.

Section 2: Powers.

The Undergraduate Student Government:

- a. shall take all actions necessary and proper toward the pursuit of its purpose; and,
- b. may endorse and fund any program open or available to all members of the undergraduate student body in pursuit of an issue or policy in the best interest of student welfare following guidelines set by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility:

- a. All members of the Undergraduate Student Government must meet these eligibility requirements.
 - a. Current undergraduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
 - b. In current Good Academic Standing as according to their respective college.
 - c. Must meet requirements as specified in the Standing Rules as according to their position.
- b. If at any time a member does not meet the eligibility requirements, then that member is no longer considered a member of the Undergraduate Student Government.

Section 2: Types of Membership:

- a. Any student who meets the requirements of Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution, may serve on the Undergraduate Student Government in one of the following capacities:
 - a. Member of the Executive Board
 - b. Member of the Legislative Assembly
 - c. Associate Member
 - d. Volunteer

Section 3: Elections

- a. All members who serve as a Member of the Legislative Assembly are elected based on the following guidelines:
 - a. Members shall be elected by the undergraduate student body during the general election, which is held every Spring Semester. Candidates for the Legislative Assembly are elected by a majority vote in accordance with the total number of seats available on the Legislative Assembly.
 - b. Elections shall be conducted during the Spring semester, and each voter may vote for the number of at large candidates equal to 50% of the voting members on the Legislative Assembly. The number of at large candidates equal to 50% of the voting members on the Legislative Assembly who receive the highest number of votes shall be seated as members of the Legislative Assembly. In the event of a tie for the last remaining at large seat, the last member shall be drawn by lot from among all those so tied.
- b. All Members who serve as a Member of the Executive Board are elected based on the following guidelines:
 - a. The President and Vice President shall be elected by the undergraduate student body during the Spring Semester. For the position of President and Vice President, the candidate with the most votes shall be elected provided that no candidate run for more than one USG position in the general election.
 - b. The Treasurer and Assembly Speaker shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the assembly at the first meeting of the fall semester. In order to be Treasurer or Assembly Speaker, you must be a General Assembly Person at the time of the first meeting of the fall semester.

Section 4: Term of Office:

- a. All members who are elected to their position in the general election begin their term of office one day after the last day of the Spring Semester. Otherwise, members who have been appointed to the Undergraduate Student Government serve from their appointed date until the last day of the academic year for which they were appointed.
 - i. Legislative Assembly Members serve for two academic years or until their successors shall have been seated after election or appointment, unless they resign, abandon their posts, or are impeached.
 - ii. If an assembly member plans to serve during the second year of their term, they must provide a written statement of intent to the Legislative Assembly by

the fifth meeting of the Spring semester. Members who are appointed to fill a vacancy of the Legislative Assembly cannot exercise this option.

Section 5: Vacancies:

- a. In the event of a vacancy on the Legislative Assembly, vacancies can be filled in accordance to the guidelines set in the Standing Rules.
- b. In the office of the President, the Vice President shall become President. If there is no Vice President, the Legislative Assembly shall elect a new President by majority vote.
- c. In the office of the Vice-President, the Assembly Speaker shall immediately assume the office of Vice-President for a period that shall not exceed two weeks. In this time, the Legislative Assembly shall either, by a two-thirds majority, affirm the Assembly Speaker as the new Vice President; or nominate and elect a different Vice-President from within the Legislative Assembly. The sitting Assembly Speaker may not be replaced while acting as Vice-President during this two week period.

Section 6. Impeachment:

- a. Members of the Undergraduate Student Government are subject to impeachment of malfeasance, dereliction of duty, or academic ineligibility.
- b. Any member may formally charge a member at a formal meeting held no less than one week after such member and presiding officer of the Legislative Assembly have been informed of said charges. At that meeting, the charges and defenses shall be brought forth and examined, but the Legislative Assembly shall not vote on the impeachment until in a meeting at least one week after such meeting.
- c. The Legislative Assembly shall attempt, to the limits of its authority, to compel witnesses on behalf of the accused member and no such member shall be impeached who shall not have had the opportunity to confront the accuser in an open meeting. Impeachment shall become effective upon a two thirds vote of the Legislative Assembly provided that neither the accused member nor the accuser shall vote on this matter.
- d. In the event that the President and/or Vice President is subject to impeachment, the legislative assembly shall choose by two-thirds vote a member to preside over Legislative Assembly meetings during Presidential impeachment proceedings.

ARTICLE IV: The Legislative Assembly

Section 1: Composition.

The Legislative Assembly:

- a. shall consist of no more than 30 voting members.

Article V: Officers (The Executive)

Section 1: Enumeration.

The officers of this organization shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Assembly Speaker, and such ex-officio officers as may be specified in this Article.

Section 2: President.

The President:

- a. shall be the President of the undergraduate student body of the University of Illinois at Chicago;
- b. shall be the executive officer of this organization;
- c. shall not be the executive officer of any registered student organizations;
- d. shall be the official public representative of this organization;

Section 3: Vice President.

The Vice-President:

- a. shall be an executive board member of this organization;

- b. shall not be the executive officer of any registered student organizations;
- c. shall aid the President, when requested, in any matters relating to student affairs;

Section 4: Assembly Speaker.

The Assembly Speaker:

- a. shall serve for one full academic year, not to include the Summer semester, at which time a new Assembly Speaker may be appointed.
- b. shall chair all Assembly meetings and prepare meeting agendas and supplemental materials.
- c. shall appoint an interim Speaker in the event of the Speaker's absence.
- d. shall record attendance for all Assembly meetings and issue strikes to absentees.

Section 5: Treasurer

The Treasurer:

- a. Shall be an executive board member of this organization.
- c. The Treasurer shall serve for one full academic year.
- d.. The Treasurer shall manage all USG funds not allocated to the President and Vice-President's discretionary funds.
- e. The Committee on Appropriations shall be under the office of the Treasurer as an executive committee whereas; the Treasurer shall remain as the de facto chairperson.
- f. The Treasurer shall record all USG expenditures, and maintain an official USG budget.

Section 6: Student Trustee.

The Student Member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois from the Chicago campus (SMBOT):

- a. shall be an executive officer of the Undergraduate Student Government ex-officio.
- b. shall not serve as a member of the Legislative Assembly.
- c. shall not have a vote on the Legislative Assembly.

Any staff hired to work for the Office of the SMBOT shall be subject to the same restrictions of membership and voting privileges as the SMBOT.

Article VI: Other Members

Section 1: Volunteers.

Any undergraduate student who assists with the work of this organization shall be classified as a Volunteer. Volunteers have no additional rights or privileges beyond what is necessary for them to complete the work they have volunteered to do. Volunteers cannot vote.

Section 2: Associates.

Any Volunteer may be promoted to the position of Associate as long as they have fulfilled the following criteria:

- a. been in attendance and worked with a committee of their choosing for two weeks time;
- b. received the written recommendation of that committee's Chairperson.

Upon fulfilling the above criteria and receiving a majority vote from the assembly, the nominee shall be promoted to the position of Associate Member. All former Legislative Assembly members and Executive Officers of USG who resign from their position may submit a written request to become an Associate Members upon the approval of a two-thirds majority vote from the assembly.

Section 3: Secretary.

The Secretary shall attend all Legislative Assembly meetings, take minutes for all Legislative Assembly meetings, and upload all approved minutes to the USG website within 48 hours of approval by the Assembly. The Secretary shall be responsible for the information management of the Undergraduate Student

Government, including weekly updating of the website with resolutions, agendas, and or any other documents pertinent to the functioning of USG. As such, the Secretary shall maintain records of all meetings and actions of the Undergraduate Student Government. The Secretary is not required to hold any other position in the Undergraduate Student Government and may be hired from the UIC student population

ARTICLE VII: Committees

Section 1: Enumeration.

There shall be four types of committees: Primary Committees, Sub-Committees and Special Committees.

- a. Primary Committees. Primary Committees function to uphold the primary mission and purpose of the Undergraduate Student Government.
- b. Sub-Committees. Sub-committees are formed to carry out specific functions of the Primary Committees. Sub-committees may be formed and dissolved by the Chair of the Primary Committee, as well as by the means defined in Article V. Section 2.
- c. Special Committees. Special Committees carry out all other functions of the Undergraduate Student Government necessary to conduct business, but does not meet the requirements necessary to be defined as a Primary Committee.

Section 2: Establishment.

Committees may be established by a Rules, Legislation, or Executive Order.

- a. Establishment by Rules. Committees may be established by a declaration within the Standing Rules. Committees established by rules shall serve a broad function that is continuous and unchanging from year to year in respect to the mission and purpose of the student government. Sub-Committees may not be established by rules.
- b. Establishment by Legislation. Committees may be established by a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Assembly. Committees established by legislation shall be dissolved upon the completion of their mission or upon the seating of a new Assembly as specified in Article III, Section 8.
- c. Establishment by Executive Order. Committees may be established by the President. Committees established by executive order shall serve a specific function that is limited and subordinate to the powers of the President as specified Article IV, Section 2. Committees established by executive order may be dissolved by the President or by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly. Committees established by executive order shall be dissolved upon the seating of a new President as specified in Article IV, Section 7.

ARTICLE VIII: Advisor

Section 1: Appointment.

Undergraduate Student Government shall have only one advisor from the office of Student Affairs. This advisor shall be appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Assembly, with the appointment decided at the first meeting of the new Legislative Assembly. A three fourths vote of the Legislative Assembly is required to remove this advisor. USG may have additional advisors, in the form of Faculty/Staff from the various departments, as it may require.

Section 2: Powers and Responsibilities.

The Undergraduate Student Government advisor shall attend all meetings and shall have signatory power over the approval of vouchers and other contracts. This power cannot be used to cancel actions of the Legislative Assembly after the fact, but only to ensure that decisions and actions were appropriately processed.

Section 3: Communication.

The Advisor shall retain the same status as those who have ex-officio status, except that this may be withheld by the Legislative Assembly, as the advisor, not being a student, has no right to this status. Official internal communications shall include the minutes and any memoranda. All communications within and outside of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be in writing to be considered official.

Article IX: Standing Rules

Section 1: Establishment.

Standing Rules shall be established by the Legislative Assembly and shall remain in continuing force and effect.

Section 2: Amendments.

Standing Rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Assembly.

Section 3: Parliamentary Authority.

Meetings will be governed in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or in the Standing Rules.

Section 4: Powers.

Standing Rules shall not contradict or undermine this constitution.

ARTICLE X: Amendments

Section 1: Proposal.

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the Legislative Assembly, by any officer, or by five hundred students who shall petition the president proposing such amendment.

Section 2: Adoption.

Amendments to this constitution may be adopted by two-thirds vote of the Legislative Assembly, provided that said amendment has been presented to the Legislative Assembly for first reading and discussion at least one week prior to its adoption; or by majority vote of students voting in a referendum. Such a referendum may be called by a majority vote of the Legislative Assembly. Any amendment proposed by student petition which is not adopted by the Legislative Assembly shall be submitted to a referendum within one year of its proposal. All Amendments to this constitution shall take effect the first day of the following semester.

Section 3: Placement.

Amendments shall be made to the text of this constitution; they shall not be appended to the end. Nothing contained therein, however, shall be construed to prevent the creation of new articles for the deletion, combination, or division of existing ones.

ARTICLE XI: Ratification

This constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a majority of students voting in a referendum and upon ratification, all previous constitution articles and amendments, and all previous Standing Rules shall become null and void, and all assemblies, officers, and committees organized under the same name shall be dissolved.