



**Undergraduate Student Government at
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Constitution**

Est. 2018-2019

PREAMBLE

“WE, the undergraduate students of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), do hereby establish this Constitution, desiring to preserve within our University an atmosphere of open exchange of ideas with discussion, inquiry, and self expression while ensuring the following: the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University; to promote principles of diversity; and to continue in our tradition of responsible self-governance. As a bipartisan entity, we commit ourselves to respect, encourage, and support one another, while striving to foster a strong academic and extracurricular community. To that end, we shall create spaces where the needs of students are met, the rights of students are respected, and the voices of students are heard.”

ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT

1.01 NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Undergraduate Student Government for the University of Illinois at Chicago, hereinafter referred to as USG.

1.02 PURPOSE

The purpose of USG shall be:

A. Governance

1. To actively participate in top-priority tasks directed by the administration that affects the student body;
2. To recommend and appoint official student representatives to the university boards and committees not elected at large by the student body; and
3. To perform all delegated duties honorably and in all levels of our administration.

B. Advocacy

1. To represent the undergraduate body of the University of Illinois at Chicago;
2. To promote positive multicultural and social growth on campus; and
3. To address, support, and resolve issues that may adversely affect members of the student body by enhancing policies and procedures.

C. Service

1. To fortify relationships with all organizations at the university and assist in their goals as bodies;
2. To assist in the organization and coordination of the independent efforts of students and student organizations, providing assistance and support while remaining impartial; and
3. To serve as a liaison between students and administration, by effectively taking actions to further empower the voices of the undergraduate students of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

1.03 AUTHORITY

- A. This organization is affiliated with the Office of the Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs and adheres to all campus policies set forth by this department.
- B. This organization will establish bylaws to govern administrative and procedural matters. The bylaws shall not conflict with this constitution. Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or temporarily suspended by a majority vote present at an organization meeting where a quorum is present. Furthermore, any bylaw that is found to contradict the constitution is hereby deemed void.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

2.01 MEMBERSHIP

- A. All enrolled (part and full time) degree-seeking students of UIC are eligible for membership in USG.
- B. Membership qualifications to hold any position include:
 - 1. Enrollment every semester by the “last day to add classes” as defined by the University calendar.
 - 2. Maintaining “good academic standing” as evaluated by university wide policy.
- C. No student shall hold more than one elected or appointed position named in the Constitution.
- D. At all USG functions, members shall abide by University policies, local ordinances, and state and federal laws.

2.02 ELECTIONS

- A. The student electorate shall consist of all persons actively pursuing a degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- B. The Government designates the Elections Planning Committee (EPC) with the role of conducting fair and impartial Student Government elections.
- C. Members of the student electorate are eligible to occupy any positions in the Student Government. All students seeking a position in the Government must satisfy the requirements put forth by the EPC, Dean of Students Office and the governing documents of this body.
- D. For more information please visit the Dean of Students Office Student Government webpage at <https://dos.uic.edu/about/student-government/>

2.03 OATH

- A. All members, of both the General Assembly and the Executive Cabinet must take an oath:

1. *I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the students of the University of Illinois at Chicago; that I will serve students faithfully and truthfully; and that I will uphold, protect, and preserve the Constitution and Standing Rules of the Undergraduate Student Government.*

2.04 NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- A. The commitment of the University of Illinois to the most fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity requires that decisions involving students and employees be based on individual merit and be free from invidious discrimination.
- B. USG will not engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity, unfavorable discharge from the military or status as a protected veteran and will comply with all federal and state non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities.

ARTICLE III: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

3.01 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The legislative power of the UIC undergraduate students shall be vested in the USG House of Representatives.

3.02 COMPOSITION

The Legislative Branch shall be composed of:

- A. The USG Speaker of the House, appointed by the USG House of Representatives; and
- B. At maximum, forty-five (45) USG Representatives, elected and/or appointed through the guidelines set in the Bylaws.

3.03 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The legislature has the following powers and responsibilities:

- A. Shall justly represent all students enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago during their term in office;
- B. Express the will and sentiments of USG through in depth research, interviews, and proposed resolutions;
- C. Approve or deny registered student organizations travel reimbursements;
- D. Make recommendations on issues affecting students;
- E. Examine policy, rules and regulations affecting students;

- F. Shall review and vote on all resolutions, bills, and/or motions made during all Legislative and Emergency Sessions;
- G. Shall not serve on the Executive Branch during their term of office in the Legislature,
- H. Shall not hold multiple positions within the Legislative Branch simultaneously; and
- I. Assemble in frequent, open meetings for the deliberation of legislation and business of the student body.

ARTICLE IV: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

4.01 EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The executive authority is vested within the elected President, Vice President, and other members of the Executive Cabinet. In tandem with the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch will work to actively to further the vision and mission of USG.

4.02 COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch shall be comprised of:

- A. The USG President;
- B. The USG Vice President;
- C. The USG Treasurer;
- D. Speaker of the House; and
- E. The Executive Cabinet.
 - 1. Chief of Staff
 - 2. Director of Student Life
 - 3. Director of Public Relations
 - 4. Director of the Treasury Committee
 - 5. Director of Diversity and Inclusion
 - 6. Director of Legislative Affairs
 - 7. Secretary

4.03 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Branch has the following powers and responsibilities:

- A. All members of the Executive Branch are to attend Legislative Sessions without voice and voting privileges, in the exception of sponsoring or co-sponsoring a resolution, or when time is allocated to them from a House of Representatives member.
- B. The USG President shall:
 - 1. Be the chief executive officer and chief advocate for the student body and USG;

2. Establish priorities and goals for the academic year in cooperation with the House of Representatives;
3. Appoint members of the USG Executive Cabinet, pending confirmation from the Legislative Branch;
4. Recommend the creation or dissolution of positions, ad hoc committees, boards, panels, commission, or groups within the Legislative Branch as deemed necessary
5. Be elected by the student body at large in accordance to the outlined requirements set forth by the Office of the Dean of Students and serve a one-year term of office; and
6. Sign measures passed by the USG House of Representatives.
7. Executive Orders:
 - a. The President shall have the following powers, otherwise known as Executive Orders”
 - i. Veto Power: The ability to veto a resolution. This can be overturned by a 2/3 vote by the Legislative Branch.
 - ii. Accelerate Voting: In the event that business is presented for the body that is normally delayed in voting (i.e: Resolutions are heard during a meeting, and voting is stayed 7 days), the President may order voting to accelerated and immediate.

C. The USG Vice-President shall:

1. Act as President in the absence of the President;
2. Perform and aid in duties delegated by the USG President;
3. Work, in tandem with the Executive Cabinet, to foster relations with student organizations on campus, including but not limited to representing USG at student organizations meetings, scheduling meetings with student leaders, and advocate for student organizations within Student Affairs;
4. Be elected by the student body at large in accordance to the outlined requirements set forth by the Office of the Dean of Students and serve a one-year term of office;
5. Be responsible for planning the yearly student gala, for which an ad hoc committee should be formed no later than the 2nd USG meeting of the Spring semester;

D. The USG Treasurer shall:

1. Be the chief financial officer of the USG;
2. Propose an annual budget by the 3rd USG meeting;
3. Disburse funds appropriated by the Legislative Branch;
4. Report weekly on the financial expenditures of the body;

5. Keep a public record of all expenditures by line item for the Legislative body's review;
6. Create, publish, and maintain a manual guide to student organizations in pursuing budget allocations; and
7. Monitor the proper distribution and use of all the funds distributed by USG.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

5.01 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

- A. USG House of Representatives meetings, also known as USG Legislative Sessions, shall be open to all students at UIC and special guests invited;
- B. USG Legislative Sessions shall serve as a time to communicate to the student body and conduct official business;
- C. These meetings shall be scheduled once a week, using the same day and time consistently;
- D. The body must meet at least eight times each semester; and
- E. Scheduling shall be the prerogative and responsibility of the USG President in consultation with USG Speaker of the House.

5.02 EXECUTIVE CABINET MEETINGS

- A. The USG Executive Cabinet Meetings will occur at the discretion of the President and the Advisor.
- B. The President must give a three days' notice for a meeting, or have the approval of two thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

6.01 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- A. Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be presented to the membership, in writing, one meeting prior to the meeting where the amendment will be voted on;
- B. Constitution amendments require approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular meeting. The amendment shall be effective immediately unless otherwise stipulated within the amendment; and
- C. A copy of any amendments to this constitution must be submitted to the USG Advisor within two weeks after adoption.

ARTICLE VII: IMPEACHMENT

7.01 IMPEACHMENT

- A. The impeachment process can be started by an executive member or member of the Legislative Branch;
- B. Impeachment is defined as the process by a member levels charges against an executive member, which initiates the removal from office.
- C. Examples of charges include:
 - a. Misuse of Funds
 - b. Lack of Fulfilling Constitutional Duties
 - c. Failure to Fulfill Committee Responsibilities
 - d. Violation of the Mission of USG
 - e. Violation of the Vision of USG
- D. The Complainant, or the individual who initiates the impeachment, will draft a written complaint and present it to the USG Advisor.
- E. The Respondent, or the individual who is being impeached, will have three days to formally respond in writing to the complaint.
- F. At the earliest available USG meeting, an impeachment hearing will be heard. At this hearing, the Complainant and the Respondent will each have five minutes to present their cases. First, the Complainant, then the Respondent. After each five minute speaking period, two minutes of questioning will be allotted to the opposite party, and then five minutes will be allotted to the assembly for questions.
- G. After both sides have presented, a vote will take place. Executive members cannot vote, nor can the Complainant or Respondent. Two thirds of all present voting members is required for the impeachment to pass.

ARTICLE VIII: RATIFICATION

8.01 RATIFICATION

On April 29, 2019, the Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Illinois at Chicago ratified this Constitution and Bylaws. Working diligently on rebranding USG, this group was able to create true, positive change on our campus while building long-term partnerships. We have cultivated a culture of success and change, and we have left a legacy. We are: Dean Dajuan Smith (Advisor), Crystal Jaimes (Business Manager), Jashaun Bowens (President), Frederique Desrosiers (Vice President), Jack Johannesson (Treasurer), Jocelyn Bravo (Speaker of the House), Razaul Haque (Chief of Staff), Aliemah Bradley (Chairwoman of Legislative Affairs), Mark Haddad (Chairman of Diversity and Inclusion), Nada Marei (Chairwoman of Public Relations), Tolu Oduyungbo (Chairwoman of Student Life), Bruna Tavares (Graphic Designer), Darius Newsome (Student Trustee), and House of Representative Members Alejandra Lopez, Angie Sianturi, Anshu Nidamanuri, Ariej Mohamed (Deputy Chair of the Legislative Committee), Chau Nguyen, Crystal Turner, Dahlya El-adawe, Daisy Stancheva (Interim Speaker), Daniela Guerrero, Eric Zaba, Irin Choi, Jake Koertgen, Jocelyn Aranda-Ortiz, John Donners (Deputy Chair of the Public Relations Committee), Julio

Hernandez, Karen Susan John, Kenza Boukrim, Kevin Herrera, Kimi Pu, Klevi Hazizi, Kyla Schulman, Lila Aryadwita, Luke Haddad (Deputy Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee), Mai Anh Tran, Maria Haque, Marian Udoetuk (Deputy Chair of the Student Life Committee), Mark Anderson-Marion, Mayra Hurtado, Mechiya Jamison, Melissa Murtidjaja, Misty Villagomez, Peter Varughese, Ritu Parikh, Robyn Schulman, Roda Musmar, Seamus McNamara, Steve Choi (Deputy Chair of the Treasury Committee), Tegha Obire, Temi Akande, Timothy Oommen, and Zoya Arshad.