Undergraduate Student Government at
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Bylaws

Est. 2021-2022
Bylaws

ARTICLE 1: ESTABLISHMENT SECTION:
I. Those duties and powers assigned to USG and its officers in the Constitution are considered as implied under the bylaws.

II. For the purpose of conflict resolution, the Bylaws shall be utilized to interpret language contained within the Constitution.

III. In the event that the Constitution is amended, the Speaker of the House shall, at the next scheduled meeting of USG, provide an interpretation of the Constitutional Amendment and an opinion to USG as to whether the Constitution Amendment necessitates the amendment of the bylaws.

IV. In the event that the Speaker of the House determines such an amendment should be made, the Speaker shall propose such an amendment to the Bylaws, in accordance with the procedure established herein for the amendment.

ARTICLE 2: GENERAL OPERATIONS SECTION:
I. The USG shall meet Monday’s from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Doors will open promptly at 5:30pm. The Speaker of the House may change the meeting place or time of any one Legislative session with three (3) days notice to the USG and the Student Body.
   A. All Legislative Sessions shall be open to the Student Body and the university community.
   B. The House of Representatives may vote by two-thirds (⅔) to enter into Executive Sessions, during which only members of the House, officers, and any person the body invites may be present.

II. A Legislative Session may be canceled by the President, Speaker, or majority vote of the Executive Cabinet. Such vote may occur no less than three (3) days in advance of that meeting, except in the case of severely inclement weather, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event in which travel or attendance at the meeting would place anyone in danger.

III. A quorum for the USG shall include all of the following: at least half (1/2) of the voting members of the House of Representatives, and at least three (3) members of the Executive Branch.
ARTICLE 3: MEETINGS SECTION:

I. All meetings shall be maintained by the Speaker of the House.

a. An Interim Speaker will be designated by the Speaker of the House. In the event that the Speaker of the House is absent, the Interim Speaker shall preside over the House meeting.

b. If both the Speaker of the House and Interim Speaker are absent, the Vice President shall preside over the House meeting.

II. Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the meetings.

A. There shall be a section at the beginning of each General Body meeting dedicated to public comment. The facilitation of the public comments section should function as follows:

1. All people looking to participate in public comment shall sign-up with the secretary no later than 5 minutes before the meeting is to be called to order.

2. All levels of enrolled students, current faculty and current staff are eligible to participate in public comment. Any community member (non-UIC-affiliated people) must be invited as guest speakers.

3. There shall be 4 slots for public comment. Each slot should be 2 minutes. One person can speak per slot, and the slots should be given on a first come first serve basis.

4. The secretary shall collect the name, preferred pronoun if asked to by the person, email, organization affiliation (if applicable) and UIC affiliation of each person who will speak in the meeting minutes. If the person has martials, they would like to share with the body, they should be collected by the secretary and given out during said person’s slot. The materials should be included in the record of the meeting (meeting minutes).

5. Speakers shall not be required to have a written copy of their remarks. But the secretary shall keep a record in the meeting
minutes at minimum the topic of the remarks. If the speaker does have a written copy of their testimony it is to be entered into the record of the meeting.

6. Public comment shall not be a time for discussion and debate. The body may answer pressing questions posed by the speaker, but it should remain minimal. Members can use other appropriate times designated in the agenda for response and comment on the testimony given.

III. The USG shall convene regularly during the academic school year. During the summer, the USG shall convene when a meeting is called for by the President with seven days notice and the ability to call in.

IV. USG members shall be dressed in USG or business (casual or professional) attire during meetings.

V. All votes before the USG require a majority of those present to pass, unless otherwise stated.

VI. Special meetings may be called by the President, or a majority of the Executive Branch, with a minimum three days notice.

ARTICLE 4: EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS SECTION

I. Executive Cabinet Positions shall be recommended by the President unless otherwise stated within the Bylaws.

II. A nominee may only come before the Legislative Branch for confirmation twice per semester.

III. Recommendations must be approved by a majority vote of the House of Representatives.

IV. All nominees must be present at the time of nomination. If deemed necessary be prepared to speak for up to five minutes on behalf of themselves in front of the House of Representatives.

V. Individuals requested for appointment may be nominated and confirmed within the same meeting, with appropriate three-days notice given to the Legislative Branch.
VI. For Committees formed by a President’s executive order, the Chairperson shall be appointed by the President, unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the Bylaws.

VII. The President shall give one-week notice when filling a Committee Chairperson position. If a member is interested, a Letter of Intent should be submitted within two (2) business days to the Office of the President with documents outlined by the President (i.e Resume, Curriculum Vitae, Personal Statement, etc.)

ARTICLE 5: COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS SECTION:

I. All Committees must have a Deputy Chair. The Deputy Chair shall be appointed by the Committee Chairperson.

II. In the absence of the Committee Chairperson, the Deputy Chair shall function as Chairperson in regards to presiding over Committee meetings, meeting prerequisites for quorum, and reporting to the Legislative Branch or the President.

III. The Committee Chairperson has the power to create and dissolve Sub-committees under that Committee as long as the duties of the Sub-committee fall under the scope of the Committee. Official documentation must be provided to the Legislative Assembly after a Sub-committee is created or dissolved.

IV. The Committee Chairperson also has the power to appoint the Chair of that Sub-committee. At least half of that sub-committees members must be members of the original committee under which the sub-committee was formed.

V. The regular duties of the Deputy Chair shall be determined by the Committee Chairperson.

VI. In the event that a Committee Chairperson resigns or is removed, the Deputy Chair shall serve as Interim Committee Chairperson until a new Committee Chairperson is elected.
ARTICLE 6: COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES SECTION: (Updates from Week 3 Fall 2020)

I. The Five (5) established Committees will be required to:

II. Hold weekly scheduled meetings.

III. Follow the rules set forth by the Committee Chairperson established at the first Committee meeting of each semester.

IV. Meet regularly with the Chief of Staff once scheduling is finished. Prepare summaries of news, work, and issues regarding the scope of their committees.

V. Submit a bi-weekly written report of progress to the Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House, and an oral report to the Legislative branch.

VI. Submit a weekly report for Committee meetings to the Chief of Staff and Speaker of the House.

VII. Abide by the rules, structure, and guidelines as outlined in the accompanied committee guidebooks.

ARTICLE 7: VACANCIES SECTION:

I. The USG shall attempt to fill any vacancies by a special election for that purpose, except when less than four weeks remain in the term of the position or when this constitution provides otherwise.

A. A vacancy of seats in the legislative body shall occur when a position remains unfilled after an election in which that position was eligible to be filled or the member resigned or is impeached. There are 45 possible members of the Legislative Body.

1. Vacated positions must be advertised to the student community for no less than ten school days.

2. Word of vacated positions must be posted on all official USG social media accounts and the official USG website.

B. Vacancies of elected positions shall be filled through Internal Elections. Internal Elections shall proceed as follows:
1. Applicants shall be required to submit a Seat Vacancy Application as determined by the President, Speaker of the House, and Chief of Staff.
2. Applicants shall be required to contact a Committee Chair member to introduce themselves.
3. Applicants shall appear before the House of Representatives at a General Body meeting, in person or virtually, at which time the House shall have the opportunity to question applicants. Internal elections shall be held during the same meeting.
4. All voting members of the body shall have the right to vote.
5. A majority shall be the threshold for election
6. Members may abstain from voting
7. Upon announcement of the election results, the winner(s) shall begin their term of service immediately. Winners are to take their seat with the body for the remainder of the meeting for which they are voted in to start their term.

ARTICLE 8: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SECTION:

I. President

A. The President shall serve as chief executive officer of the organization. The President shall appoint all Committee chairs. The President shall have other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization in the Constitution.

II. Vice-President

A. The Vice President shall perform all legal duties assigned by the President and act as the support of the President. The Vice President shall assume the office of President if the office becomes vacant. The Vice President shall have other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization in the Constitution.

III. Chief of Staff

A. The Chief of Staff shall handle administration of the executive board and implementation of the agenda. The Chief of Staff will assist and collaborate with the President and Vice President in duties of the
Executive Team. The Chief of Staff shall have other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization in the Constitution.

IV. Executive Cabinet

A. The Treasurer

1. Shall handle all financial affairs and budgeting of the organization.
2. The Treasurer must also maintain all necessary accounting records.
3. The Treasurer shall have other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization in the Constitution.
4. Shall act as the Chairperson of the Treasury committee.
5. All appropriations shall originate in the Treasury Committee.
6. Shall develop standardized forms to allow student organizations to submit a budget for general allocations and request for supplemental allocations and loans.
7. Shall create guidelines, subject to the approval of ½ of the treasury committee, of which student organizations should be funded, subject to approval of the House of Representatives.
8. Shall manage the USG budget and be notified of all requests for USG funds not allocated to the President or Vice President’s discretionary budget, and make recommendations if needed.
9. The Treasurer shall serve as the de-facto Committee Director for the Finance Committee.

B. Chairperson of Diversity and Inclusion

1. Shall work with student organizations and campus initiatives that enhance multicultural inclusion on campus.
2. Shall correspond regularly with and collaborate with the university cultural centers.
3. Shall represent and attend student organizational meetings across campus.
4. The Committee strives to build a coalition of student groups to ensure the voices of all communities are heard to administrators and the USG leaders.
5. Shall advocate for equal treatment for the groups identified under the Equal Opportunity Statement, which include race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, and religion, and recommending ways in which the campus climate might be made more supportive of diversity. Shall also advocate for the equal treatment for groups of non-traditional students.

6. Participating in the development, review, and recommendation of changes in University policies supporting equal treatment for the groups identified above

C. Chairperson of Legislative Affairs

1. Shall serve to promote and raise civic awareness on campus as well as to promote community outreach and political engagement.

2. Shall work closely and coordinate regularly with the UIC Senate as well as the various governmental bodies of the university listed in the guidebook. If the committee size permits, appoint committee member liaisons to these bodies.

3. Shall work within the USG to assist in the writing of legislation when needed and in addressing issues of constitutionality.

4. Shall be responsible for maintaining contact with local, county, state, and federal officials on issues pertaining to higher education.

5. Shall lobby a branch/agency of the government or other officials/entities at least once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring semester with consultation of the membership of the Committee.

6. Shall work to organize voter registration drives on campus.

7. Shall work closely with political student organizations on campus to promote initiatives and host/co-host lobby days.

D. Chairperson of Public Affairs
1. Shall be responsible for promoting outreach of USG by facilitating communications between the House of Representatives, the student body, and the UIC community.

2. Shall serve to spread the vision and message of USG to the undergraduate student body and distribute information and updates regarding USG.

3. Shall follow a consistent posting schedule (at the minimum weekly postings) for all USG social mediums to create and distribute all official publications between USG and the UIC community.

4. Shall be responsible for coordinating publicity of initiatives.

5. Shall when needed function as the press office for the USG. Coordinating with press releases or preparing press conferences.

6. Shall facilitate the covering and documentation of USG events or initiatives as well as larger outreach or media projects.

7. Shall delegate tasks to both the Graphic Designer and Website Administrator, respectively based on assigned responsibilities, and consult with the Graphic Designer and Website Administrator in regard to creating marketing materials and maintaining USG’s online presence.

8. At the discretion of the President, the Chairperson will draft, release, and announce official public USG statements or announcements at USG Assembly Meetings and online through the USG website or social medias. Moreover, the Chairperson shall handle the logistics and execution of public statements or announcements with the assistance of the Website Administrator.

9. Shall be the Public Affairs Liaison to serve as a connection with independent student news organizations. Will maintain good relations and monitor the activities of independent student news organizations.

10. Shall conduct a campus-wide satisfaction survey on the work of the current USG administration and the expectations of the
incoming administration. This survey shall be executed on an annual basis during the Spring Semester.

E. Chairperson of Student Success

1. Shall work closely with the administration to improve the academic experience for all students and advocate for tools of success for all student's professional development needs in a timely and efficient manner.

2. Shall work with the various academic departments and other UIC offices to enhance the student academic experience and professional development needs at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

3. Shall focus on and advocate for issues pertaining to, but not limited to, student academics, curricular policy, career development, internship opportunities, and other resources meant for the empowerment of students.

4. Shall be responsible for gauging student satisfaction with studying conditions on campus, tutoring, scholarships accessibility, internship accessibility, Undergraduate research accessibility, and addressing student issues that occur inside and outside of the classroom environment.

5. Shall work closely and coordinate regularly with the UIC colleges and academic programs. If the committee size permits, appoint committee member liaisons to these departments.

G. Graphics Designer

1. Shall manage and create graphic designs, images, and promotional material for the Undergraduate Student Government within the Public Affairs Committee.

2. Shall develop and assist with the creation of graphic designs, images, and promotional materials for annual marketing plans created by the Public Affairs Committee Chair and other marketing plans from other Committee Chairperson’s.
3. Shall attend necessary Committee meetings as requested by the USG body.

4. Shall produce marketing materials with the assistance of the Website Administrator or Public Affairs Committee, if need be. These marketing materials may include, but not limited to: ads, posters, brochures, newsletters, flyers, digital ads, displays, banners, window signs, special events, mobile apps, and websites.

5. Shall prepare final digital and print files, as well as deliver completed projects to USG as needed.

6. Shall regularly attend Public Relations Committee meetings unless waived by the Public Affairs Chair.

H. Website Administrator

1. Create and keep up-to-date the Student Government website, social media pages, and shall keep up-to-date promotional materials uploaded to the website and social media pages. Also, will work to maintain the online USG roster and Committee assignments of members.

2. Shall organize and manage appropriate material of the website to increase transparency and information flow from USG to undergraduate students, faculty, and staff at the discretion of the Public Affairs Chairperson.

3. Shall work with Officers to create their own section within the website to showcase their Committee, their achievements, and upcoming events.

4. Shall ensure collaboration with the Speaker and Secretary to upload Resolutions and weekly Agenda packets according to the Illinois open meeting act.

5. Shall execute any other tasks delegated to from the Public Affairs Committee.

6. Shall regularly attend Public Relations Committee meetings unless waived by the Public Affairs Chair.
7. Will assist the Graphic Designer in creating marketing materials if asked to. These marketing materials may include, but not limited to: ads, posters, brochures, newsletters, flyers, digital ads, displays, banners, window signs, special events, mobile apps, and websites.

I. Chairperson of Campus Life

1. Shall work closely with administration to improve the quality of life and community experience for all students at the University of Illinois at Chicago and to respond to student's needs in a timely and efficient manner.

2. Shall focus on the issues pertaining to, but not limited to, sustainability, campus life, housing concerns, safety concerns, transportation, international student life, infrastructure, commuter students, and quality of life.

3. Shall be responsible for gauging student satisfaction with living, working, and physical studying conditions on campus and addressing student issues that occur on campus grounds.

4. Shall focus on everyday issues that affect the students’ health, wellness, working conditions, and experience with campus facilities.

5. Shall focus on improving the campus experience by increasing community and student involvement across campus through but not limited to events and outreach.

6. Shall work on increasing representation for the various clubs and organizations on campus as well as maintain and increase their collaboration and coordination with the USG.

7. Shall work closely and coordinate regularly with the various Fraternity and Sorority Life councils, housing councils, and other similar bodies listed in the guidebook. If the committee size permits, appoint committee member liaisons to these bodies.

ARTICLE 9: THE POWER AND DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SECTION:
I. Speaker of the House

A. Shall be elected and voted in by the majority of the House of Representatives at the last meeting of the session.

B. Shall have the power to name a member of the House as Interim Speaker.

C. Shall serve as an ex-officio of the Cabinet and non-voting member unless in the event of a draw.

D. Shall serve as a bridge between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

E. Shall forge relationships with and among Representatives.

F. Shall focus on the development of Representatives as leaders.

II. Secretary

A. Shall be able to partake in campus initiatives and co-sponsor USG resolutions.

B. Shall have the power to vocalize their opinion on USG resolutions but may not vote on them.

C. Shall assist the Speaker in organizing the agenda and working with the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch for assistance.

D. Shall be responsible for maintaining and monitoring the USG Gala with the assistance of the Vice President, or other eboard members if need be, once a 2nd ad hoc committee has been formed and established to organize the Gala no later than the 2nd USG meeting.

E. Is responsible for taking meeting minutes, emailing meeting reminders to all USG members, and creating the USG meeting packet before the start of every USG Assembly meeting. Furthermore, these meeting packets and minutes will be sent over to the Website Administrator, or the Chairperson of the Public Affairs if necessary, to be uploaded on the USG website.

III. House of Representatives
A. Shall exercise authority over all matters relating to the policy and operations of this organization.

B. Shall authorize, in advance, all expenditures made and contracts entered into by this organization except as otherwise specified in the Bylaws.

C. Shall periodically direct the President with regards to goals and programs deemed worthy of the USG’s activities and attention; and,

D. Shall consist of no more than 45 members.

ARTICLE 10: STIPENDS FOR USG MEMBERS SECTION

I. Outline

A. USG may grant service awards to its officers as stipends, in recognition of contributions made to the student organization.

B. Funds for stipends to USG members will be paid from the amount allocated to the USG Operating Budget.

C. The House of Representatives are not eligible to receive service awards.

D. All officers receiving service awards will be paid by the end of the semester.

E. Stipends will be set according to an officers duties and responsibilities as laid in the Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE 11: TOWN HALLS SECTION:

I. For the purpose of facilitating communication between students and their representative(s) in the House, all USG Representatives shall join together in holding a public Town Hall meeting with the student body each semester, excluding summer and winter semesters.

II. Such meetings shall be publicized in an appropriate way to the constituency involved at least seven calendar days in advance.
III. For each semester Town Hall meeting a USG Representative fails to attend, they shall be assessed an unexcused absence towards their House of Representative record. Excused absences are left to the discretion of the Speaker.

ARTICLE 12: EXPECTATIONS SECTION

I. Absences

A. Must be excused by the Speaker of the House and Committee Chair for House and Committee meetings, respectively.

B. Members must report absences to the Speaker of the House or Committee Chair 48 hours in advance. In the event of an emergency, the Speaker of the House or Chair shall be notified as early as possible.

C. An absence shall be defined as more than 30 minutes late to a House or Committee meeting.

D. An excused absence will be limited to academic exams, illness, school-approved religious observances, and family emergencies.

1. In the event that an absence is not included into the aforementioned categories, a member must present to the House at least two weeks in advance to ask that their absence be excused.

2. The House may excuse the absence by a majority vote.

E. The Secretary and Committee Chair shall record and keep attendance at each House and Committee meeting, respectively.

F. Members are required to stay for the full duration of House and Committee meetings.

1. See Section II for policy on arriving late/leaving early

G. Upon a member’s accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences, three (3) consecutive excused absences or four (4) total absences from the House per semester, the Speaker of the House shall consider the member to have resigned from their House seat on the grounds of nonfeasance.

H. A member may appeal the decision to resign on the grounds of nonfeasance by presenting an appeal in writing to the Speaker of the
House no later than 48 hours before the next House meeting. The letter will be read aloud to the House, at which time a motion to reinstate the resigned member may be recognized and the resigned member may be reinstated upon the majority vote of the House membership in attendance at the meeting.

II. Arriving Late/Leaving Early

A. Must be excused by the Speaker of the House and Committee Chair for House and Committee meetings, respectively.

B. Members must report tardiness to the Speaker of the House or Committee Chair 48 hours in advance. In the event of an emergency, the Speaker of the House or Chair shall be notified as early as possible.

C. Tardiness shall be defined as less than 30 minutes late to a meeting.

D. Tardiness to two (2) House or Committee meetings is equivalent to one (1) unexcused absence to a House meeting.

E. If a member is to leave more than 30 minutes early before the official ending time of a general body meeting or committee meeting, this will constitute as leaving early.

III. International Caucus Meetings

A. USG members who are unable to attend the USG General Body Meetings for valid recurring reasons shall be able to attend USG International Caucus Meetings for only extreme circumstances.

B. The International Caucus Meetings shall be led by the Vice President at a time that is convenient to those attending.

C. The purpose of the International Caucus Meetings shall be to give Representatives the opportunity to discuss and vote on items that are brought up during the General Body Meeting.

D. Members of the International Caucus may propose amendments to resolutions, but these must be submitted before 6:00 pm CST on Monday of the meeting week.

E. Only invited Representatives can attend the International Caucus Meetings.
F. If a Representative fails to attend both a General Body Meeting and an International Caucus Meeting, they shall be counted as absent.

G. The International Caucus Meetings shall only be offered to Representatives when the USG is operating on a virtual basis.

ARTICLE 13: VOTING SECTION

I. A majority of the members of the House of Representatives shall constitute a quorum of all meetings of the House of Representatives.

II. No official and binding votes can be taken at any meeting when a quorum is not present. The meeting may, however, be called to order, the roll called, announcements made, and the meeting recessed or adjourned.

III. Any member of the House of Representatives may, by a point of order, request a determination of the presence of a quorum. Such request shall suspend all business and the only action at this point shall be a roll call to determine the presence of a quorum.

ARTICLE 14: UNIVERSITY ADVISOR(S) SECTION:

I. The advisor shall fulfill the responsibilities specified in the University of Illinois at Chicago Undergraduate Student Government Constitution and Bylaws. Advisors shall serve on an academic year basis or until their successor has been selected.

II. The advisor shall participate in the Student Life Advisor training/recertification process yearly.

ARTICLE 15: AMENDING THE BYLAWS SECTION:

I. The USG shall be empowered to adopt its own rules and procedures, through bylaws, consistent with the USG Constitution.

II. Newly introduced bylaws and amendments to the Bylaws may be introduced by all branches.

III. A ⅔ majority of members present is required to amend or change the Bylaws. This vote shall be taken during a legislative session.
IV. Upon approval of any amendments to the Bylaws, the Speaker of the House shall be responsible for updating the Bylaws to reflect the amendments made by the Undergraduate Student Government.

ARTICLE 16: USG COMMISSIONS:

I. Foundation
A. Undergraduate Student Government Commissions, or USG Commissions, shall be a working group tasked with improving an aspect of the UIC community through advocating for improvements in the UIC system, policies, and/or services.
B. USG Commissions must be under a USG Committee that corresponds to the issue or topic the commission is addressing; however, any USG Representative may join a commission.
C. USG Commissions will serve 1-year terms, starting on the month and year the resolution has passed.
D. After the 1-year term has ended, the responsible committee will review and assess the need of the commission, and write a resolution to continue or disband the commission.
E. The responsible committee or USG President may disband a commission before its annual review if the commission is assessed to have achieved its goal, if the commission is not assessing its purpose and duties, or if there is no longer a need for the commission.
F. The USG Constitution and Bylaws shall be the top governing document for USG Commissions and will follow aspects including, but not limited to, membership status, meeting procedures, and quorum.
G. There may be no more than 3 active commissions at one time.

II. Membership
A. At least three USG members from either the Executive or Legislative Branch must be a part of the commission.
B. Non-USG members may hold membership in a commission as long as they are a full or part-time student or a recognized UIC faculty or administrator.
C. USG Vice President: shall serve as the ex-officio officer for all commissions.
D. Commission members shall hold one academic year term.
E. Commissioner: shall be appointed by the USG Vice President, with approval by the responsible USG committee, to lead the commission.
F. Deputy Commissioner: shall be appointed by the commissioner.

III. Duties and Responsibilities
   A. Commissioner Duties
      1. Shall be responsible for chairing commission meetings.
      2. Shall set objectives and goals for the commission.
      3. Shall report commission progress to the USG Executive Team.
   B. Deputy Commissioner Duties
      1. Shall chair commission meetings in the absence of the commissioner.
      2. Shall perform duties set forth by the commissioner.
   C. General Member Duties
      1. Shall attend Commission meetings to assess commission progress.
      2. Shall perform any duties the commission may need.

IV. Funding
   A. In order to use funds, USG Commissions must follow USG Funding Guidelines and consult with the Treasury Committee.

V. Operations
   A. The campus issue a USG Commission will focus on must be written in a mission statement.
   B. USG Commissions shall address campus issues through meetings with student groups, UIC administration, faculty, and community members.
   C. USG Commissions shall address campus issues through researching campus services and collecting data from the student body.
   D. USG Commissions must hold at least bi-weekly meetings since conception.