



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

***Est. 2021-2022***

## **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 full-time enrolled undergraduate students.
- B. The role of conducting fair and impartial Student Government elections shall be designated at the discretion of the Government.
- C. The Elections Planning Committee (EPC) shall be designated the authority to conduct Student Government elections as long as approval is maintained from the Government.
- D. 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.
- E. 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 Branch shall be headed by the Executive Team, which shall consist of the President, Vice President, and the Chief of Staff. The Executive Cabinet makes up the Executive Branch and derives its authority from the Executive Team. In tandem with the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch will work 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. Chief of Staff
- D. Speaker of the House
- E. Treasurer; and
- F. The Executive Cabinet.
  - 2. Director of Student Success
  - 3. Director of Public Relations
  - 4. Director of Campus Life
  - 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. Be the head of the Executive Team;
3. Establish priorities and goals for the academic year in conjunction with the executive team, Student Member Trustee of the Board of Trustees, and in cooperation with the House of Representatives;
4. Appoint members of the USG Executive Cabinet, pending confirmation from the Legislative Branch;
5. Recommend the creation or dissolution of positions, ad hoc committees, boards, panels, commission, or groups within the Legislative Branch as deemed necessary in conjunction with the executive team.
6. Be elected by the student body at large in accordance to the outlined requirements set forth by the Government in cooperation with the Office of the Dean of Students and serve a one-year term of office; and
7. Sign measures passed by the USG House of Representatives.
8. 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 be accelerated and immediate.

C. The USG Vice-President shall:

1. Act as President in the absence of the President;
2. Be the Support of the Executive Team.
3. Perform and aid in duties delegated by the USG President, assist with being an advocate of the Student Body, and work to establish priorities and goals for the academic year in tandem with the President, Chief of Staff, and Student Member Trustee of the Board of Trustees;

4. 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;
6. 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;

D. The USG Chief of Staff shall:

1. Be the Chief Enforcement of the USG
2. Be the Enforcement of the Executive Team.
3. Shall collaborate with the President and the Vice-President as the Executive team in coordinating USG initiatives. Coordinate these initiatives with the Student Member of the Board of Trustees.
  
4. An Assistant Chief of Staff will be designated by the Chief of Staff. In the event that the Chief of Staff is absent, the Assistant Chief of Staff will act on behalf of the Chief of Staff in meetings and assist with executive duties.
5. Shall be responsible for the effective administration of the Government offices and office staff.
6. Shall assist with being an advocate of the Student Body, and work to establish priorities and goals for the academic year in tandem with the President ;
7. Shall work within the Government as well as the university administration and associated system to further the goals of the administration.
8. Shall provide Cabinet members with resources necessary to accomplish goals of the USG and their respective committees.
9. Shall establish and maintain a positive and productive culture within the Cabinet.
10. Shall collaborate with the President and Vice President with any administrative needs and event/meeting planning.
11. Shall attend committee meetings at their discretion and be updated about current initiatives by the Chairperson and/or Deputy Chair.
12. Shall levy monetary strikes, in accordance with the USG Advisor, against Executive Branch members within the suggested framework:
  - a. Monetary Strikes are confirmed or denied by a simple majority vote by Executive Board members.
  - b. If the Executive Board denies the monetary strike, the Chief of Staff may appeal to the House of Representatives. This appeal would also need a two-third (2/3) vote to approve the monetary strike.

c. With each strike up to 4, the monetary strike increases which reduces an officer's Stipend: 20%, 50%, 100%, 4th strike starts impeachment process (see Article VII of Impeachment). However, monetary strikes should be determined based on the level of the offense (See Article 8 of Bylaws to see criteria and lay out strikes).

d. Multiple offenses could result in both strikes happening simultaneously.

13. Causes for a strike shall include but are not limited to:

a. Unfulfillment of constitutional duties;

b. Attendance issues as outlined in the Expectations Section of the Bylaws;

c. Failure to follow guidelines outlined in the USG Handbooks.

14. The process of striking shall be mandated in the USG handbook.

15. If the Executive Board denies the strike, the Chief of Staff may appeal to the House of Representatives. This appeal would need a two-thirds (2/3) vote to approve the strike.

E. The USG Treasurer shall:

1. Be the chief financial officer of the USG;

2. Propose an annual budget by the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- 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 a member of the Legislative Branch following a majority vote in favor, or on the fourth strike from the Chief of Staff.
- B. Impeachment is defined as the process by which a member levels charges against an executive or legislative member, which initiates the removal from office.
- C. If any Executive Board member is being impeached, then they will be suspended from office and their respected and nearest successor will inherit their powers and responsibility until the trial for the impeachment of the defendant is determined.
- D. An Impeachment Judicial Rules Ad Hoc Committee will be activated and chosen randomly and anonymously by the President and Speaker of the House using a nondiscriminatory selection process when an impeachment process begins. One representative from each established Committee will make up this committee and this

committee will then elect a Justice Chair to Represent the Voice of the Ad Hoc Committee.

E. In the event of a tie vote to elect a Justice Chair of the Judicial Rules Ad Hoc Committee, the vote for the Justice Char shall be voted upon by the House of Representatives, with the exception of the candidates, by majority vote.

F. Upon the formation of the Judicial Rules Ad Hoc Committee, each Representative shall take the following oath before the Legislative Branch:

***“ I shall conduct myself fitting a member of USG by conducting a well-grounded investigation and voicing my views of impeachments based upon well-founded and concrete evidence. I further shall conduct a true and non-discriminatory investigation and present findings agreed upon by this committee to the rest of the House of Representatives without any ulterior motive to influence the outcome of a trial.”***

G. If the President or Speaker of the House is being impeached, then the nearest next in line successor shall be in charge of forming the Judicial Ad Hoc Committee and inherently any related responsibilities and powers.

H. Examples of charges include:

- a. Misuse of Funds
- b. Lack of Fulfilling Constitutional Duties
- c. Failure to Fulfill Committee Responsibilities

I. The Complainant, or the individual who initiates the impeachment, will draft a written complaint and present it to the USG Advisor. The USG Advisor then will present the complaint to the President, or their nearest successor if the President is being impeached or is unavailable.

J. The Respondent, or the individual who is being impeached, will have three days to formally respond in writing to the complaint and send it to the USG Advisor. If the Respondent fails to respond within three days, then the Respondent will be immediately removed.

K. Once the Complaint has been sent and the Respondent has responded to the complaint, the Ad Hoc Judicial Rules Committee will assemble and will schedule an internal investigation meeting as soon as possible. A written report must be finished

before the next meeting and presented to any member of the Executive Team before the start of the trial.

L. At the earliest available USG meeting, an impeachment hearing will be heard. At this hearing, the Complainant, Respondent, and Ad Hoc Judicial Rules Committee will each have five minutes to present their cases. This Report will be made public by the start of the trial. The order of presentation shall begin with the Complainant, then the Respondent, and finally the Ad Hoc Judicial Rules Committee. 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 and public comment.

M. After all sides have presented, a vote will take place by the entire House of Representatives. This will include those who were part of the Ad Hoc Judicial Rules Committee. Executive members cannot vote, nor can the Complainant or Respondent. Two-thirds of all present voting members are required for the impeachment to pass.