

3359-43-01 Undergraduate student government constitution.

(A) Preamble.

As members of the undergraduate student government (USG), we serve as an advocate for undergraduate students to the faculty and administration. We are dedicated to understanding and addressing the needs and interests of the undergraduate community, and we strive to contribute to the overall success of collegians within curricular and co-curricular activities at the university of Akron.

We, the members of USG, aim to promote leadership, unity in purpose, and diversity among its members through a unique environment within the university and the community. We work towards effective and tangible results; holding ourselves to the highest level of accountability, excellence, professionalism, and integrity as humble, selfless, and caring leaders at the university of Akron.

(B) Guiding principles.

(1) Mission.

- (c) Attendance and duties for elected; and appointed positions shall be outlined in the USG general bylaws.
- (d) All elected and appointed officials, with the exception of those appointed by executive order, must take the oath of office prior to the start of their term. All appointments made by executive order must take an oath of office by the next regularly scheduled senate meeting.
- (e) No individual may hold more than one membership position within USG simultaneously.

(3) Directional leadership team (DLT) officers.

- (a) The DLT officers include the president, vice president, senate chair, vice senate chair, chief justice, and executive justice.
- (b) Non-voting members of the DLT include the advisor(s), chief of staff, and the director of finance.
- (c) The DLT responsibilities are outlined in the USG general bylaws.

(4) Advisor(s).

USG shall have at least one full-time employee as its advisor. Further requirements and duties are outlined in the USG general bylaws.

(5) Accountability.

- (a) In the event that individuals fail to maintain USG membership requirements set forth in any one of the documents listed in this paragraph, a summons can be written which would require the individual to meet with one representative from each branch's leadership and the full-time advisor:
 - (i) USG constitution.
 - (ii) General bylaws.
- (b) Potential action taken against the member in no particular order, is limited to:
 - (i) Oral warning.
 - (ii) Written warning.
 - (iii) Move for impeachment.
- (c) Warnings given to a member must state exactly the failure made by the member, the reason why the action was wrong, and what the member can do to correct the failure.

powers and authorities are delegated to the officers and branches by the provisions found in this constitution.

(D) Legislative branch.

(1) Powers.

After a new student organization (NSO) has been approved by the department of student life, a representative of the senate will contact a representative of the NSO to inform them of the role of undergraduate student government.

(8) Legislation.

(a) All legislative action shall be in the form of a bill or resolution and require two senate sponsors. No resolution or bill shall be passed until it has been read at two different regular senate meetings or this requirement has been dispensed with by at least a three-quarters vote of senate voting. All legislation must be prefaced by a rationale from the sponsor, justifying the reasons for the piece of legislation.

(b) No action of the senate shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the majority

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- (a) The chief justice, or the executive justice when designated by the chief justice, shall preside over and conduct all judicial branch cases.
- (b) The judicial branch shall hear any case initiated by undergraduate students. Such cases include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (i) The removal of elected and appointed members of USG.
 - (ii) Constitutional questions that include petitions submitted under paragraph (J)(4)(a) of this rule.
 - (iii) Constitutional or bylaw questions, including, but not limited to, all legislation and executive orders.
 - (iv) Constitutional dispute resolutions involving non-academic university complaints, unless the case has jurisdiction within another university process. Constitutional dispute resolution cases shall be outlined in the general bylaws.

~~(v) University parking appeal, per rule 3359-46-01 of the Administrative Code.~~

- (5) Members of the judicial branch may not participate in any case or hearing in which they are involved or have an interest.

(G) Term limits.

- (1) Associate justices shall serve a term until resignation, graduation, failure to meet USG membership requirements, or removal from office.
- (2) The term of the office of the president shall be from the time of oath of office at the last senate meeting of the spring semester until the last senate meeting of the following spring semester.
- (3) All appointments made to the executive branch and the office of vice president, chief justice, and executive justice shall serve a term concurrent with that of the office of the president.
- (4) Senators shall serve a term concurrent with that of the office of the president.

(H) Appointments.

- (1) All appointments must follow the hiring procedures as outlined in the general bylaws.
- (2) Appointments to the legislative branch.

executive session is being called, which will be reflected in the minutes for that meeting.

- (ii) The motion must then be seconded by a separate member.

Records of voting should include:

- (a) A record of how each member voted on a specific motion or action determined by roll-call vote; or,
- (b) The record of the outcome of a voice vote taken on a motion or action.

(J) Elections.

- (1) USG shall hold both general and first-year elections.
- (2) All election stipulations and rules shall be outlined in the USG election rules.

(2) Duty.

The members of USG have the duty to recommend to the senate the removal of any of the above listed positions of USG who is consistently negligent in the performance of his or her duties and responsibilities.

(3) Procedures.

- (a) A bill calling for the impeachment and citing specific reasons for such must be presented at a regular meeting of the senate. A two-thirds vote of senate voting shall instruct the chief justice whether or not to proceed with an impeachment hearing.
- (b) The impeachment hearing of a USG member shall occur at the next regular senate meeting after the passage of the bill. The chief justice shall preside over all impeachment hearings. In the event of the impeachment of the chief justice, the executive justice shall preside over the impeachment hearing.
- (c) Impeachment of a USG member requires a three-quarters vote of all USG members voting.
- (d) Double jeopardy.

Except in the case of newly discovered evidence, no official shall be tried more than once for the same offense, nor shall more than one vote for removal be taken in the course of the hearing.

(L) Governing document review, ratification, and amendment procedures.

(1) Review and ratification of the constitution.

- (a) At least every five years, starting at the year 2010, the constitution will undergo a constitutional review, or earlier at the direction of the DLT. The DLT will initiate the review process.
- (b) If any amendments are proposed, USG members shall vote on the changes within fourteen days after their introduction.
- (c) If the proposed amendments are approved by a majority of all USG members voting, then the amendments shall be presented to the students at a re-ratification election. This election shall be held within thirty days after the senate votes on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendment must be available to the undergraduate student body, in print, at least one week prior to the election.
- (d) If the constitution is ratified by a majority of the undergraduate student body members voting in the election, it shall be forwarded, presented, and reviewed

in a reasonable time mutually agreed upon by the DLT and the following individuals or bodies in the order listed:

- (i) Vice president for student affairs, or his or her designee;
- (ii) President of the university, or the president's designee; and the
- (iii) Board of trustees.

(2) Amendments to the constitution.

- (a) Amendments to this constitution may be proposed, prior to the timeline

- (c) All USG voting will occur within each branch's respective meeting time.
 - (d) Any amendments to the general bylaws not passed unanimously may be appealed through a grievance process outlined in the general bylaws.
- (4) Amendments to the election rules.
- (a) Election rules shall be reviewed and voted on at the regular scheduled senate meetings prior to the start of the general elections.
 - (b) All election rules must pass with a simple majority vote of all USG members voting.
 - (c) Amendments and additions to the election rules cannot occur during the election cycle until all appeals have been heard and been ruled on.

Effective: [12/16/2023](#)

Certification:

M. Celeste Cook Secretary
Board of Trustees

Promulgated Under: 111.15

Statutory Authority: 3359.01

Rule Amplifies: 3359.01

Prior Effective Dates: 04/01/1993, 08/05/1999, 02/12/2005, 11/12/2011,
11/15/2012, 11/01/2013, 02/01/2015, 05/03/2015,
08/27/2017, 08/26/2018, 09/16/2019, 02/26/2022
[04/29/2023](#)