Constitution
University of Iowa Student Government
Updated: 18 June, 2018

**Preamble**

The formation of the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) seeks to implement an effective and representative government of the undergraduate students of the University of Iowa. The formation of distinct undergraduate governmental structures enables independent work, but also allow for and encourages cooperation and collaboration among the entirety of undergraduate student leaders. Indeed, a successful student government is contingent upon open and honest communication and collaboration between UISG and the constituents they represent; a failure to do so puts at risk effective representation of the undergraduate students of the University of Iowa (hereafter, referred to as the University). At its core, UISG seeks to demonstrate a commitment to the service not only of
the undergraduate students of the University of Iowa, but also of the greater University community, embracing the principles of a peer governance that value collaboration between faculty, staff, and student leaders in the service of the University and its members.

**Article I. University of Iowa Student Government**

**Section A. Constituency**

1. All persons registered as undergraduates at the University of Iowa shall constitute the constituency of UISG. Registration shall be determined by the Office of the Registrar.
2. *In no aspect of its programs shall there be any difference in the treatment of persons on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification which would deprive the person of consideration as an individual.* The organization will guarantee that equal opportunity and equal access to membership, programming, facilities, and benefits shall be open to all persons. Eighty percent (80%) of this organization’s membership must be composed of UI students.

**Section B. Rights and Powers of the Undergraduate Student Body**

1. Students shall retain all rights and protections provided by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
2. Students shall retain the right to amend the UISG Constitution and the UISG Bylaws, remove any elected member of UISG, and put forth initiatives for the consideration of the student body.
3. All organized bodies of UISG shall follow the regulations and rules of the Iowa Open Meetings Open Records Act, as prescribed by Iowa Code, Chapter 22. All UISG records shall be accessible to all students.

**Section C. Organization**

1. UISG shall consist of the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch.

**Section D. Supremacy Clause**

1. The UISG Constitution shall be the preeminent document of UISG.

**Article II. Legislative Branch**

**Section A. Organization**

1. The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Student Senate. The Student Senate shall be unicameral body composed of fifty senators who are elected or appointed according to the procedures in the UISG Bylaws.
2. The Student Senate shall establish a committee system to aid in the fulfillment of its duties.

**Section B. Responsibilities**

1. The Student Senate shall hear and represent student voices.
2. The Student Senate shall express the opinion of undergraduate students.
3. The Student Senate shall advocate for student interests in University, state, and Federal policy.
4. The Student Senate shall present legislation to improve student life.
5. The Student Senate shall plan for general and committee meetings.
6. The Student Senate shall help allocate Student Activity Fees.

Section C. Powers of the Student Senate

1. The Student Senate shall have the power to allocate designated Student Activity Fees.
2. The Student Senate shall have the power to draft and introduce legislation.
3. The Student Senate shall have the power to ratify all contracts and agreements negotiated by the President.
4. The Student Senate shall have the power to set its own rules of order.
5. The Student Senate shall have the power to establish both standing and ad-hoc committees.
6. The Student Senate shall have the power of impeachment.
7. The Student Senate shall have the power to override an executive veto by a two-thirds affirmative vote of seated senators during the Senate Session immediately following the veto.
8. The Student Senate shall have the power to amend the UISG Constitution or the UISG Bylaws according to the procedures in the respective document.
9. The Student Senate shall not have the power to suspend the UISG Constitution and the UISG Bylaws.

Section D. Senate Officers

1. The Senate Officers shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro-Tempore, and Committee Chairs. The Senate Officers shall be selected according to the procedure in the UISG Bylaws.

Section E. Seating of Senators

1. All elected and constituency senators shall be seated immediately after they are sworn into office.
2. All appointed senators shall be seated immediately after the passage of legislation confirming their appointment. This legislation is not subject to an executive veto.

Article III. Executive Branch

Section A. Organization

1. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, Vice President, and the Cabinet.
2. The Cabinet shall assist the President and Vice President in fulfilling their respective duties.

Section B. Responsibilities

1. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the execution of all legislation passed by the Student Senate.
2. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the effective and efficient operation of UISG.
3. The President shall be the voice of the undergraduate student body.
Section C. Powers

1. The President shall have the power to veto legislation. The President shall not have the power of line item veto. If legislation is not signed by the President within six days of passage, it shall be considered vetoed.
2. The President shall have the power to call a Special Session of the Student Senate with a minimum of forty-eight hours of written notice.
3. The President shall have the power to issue Executive Orders.
4. The President shall have the power to negotiate all contracts and agreements between UISG and other entities.
5. The President shall have the power to introduce Letters of Nomination to the Student Senate for Cabinet and Student Judicial Court appointments.
6. The Vice President shall have the power to cast a vote on Student Senate legislation in the case that the Student Senate finds itself equally divided on a vote.
7. The Vice President shall assume the role of the Speaker of the Senate in the event that both the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker Pro-Tempore are not installed or absent.
8. Members of the Executive Branch shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Student Senate. Executives do not have the power to introduce legislation.

Section D. Succession

1. In the instance that the President resigns, is impeached, or fails to qualify for membership in UISG, the Vice President shall assume the role of President. If the Vice President permanently assumes the role of the President, the former Vice President will nominate a new Vice President who shall be confirmed by the Student Senate with a two-thirds affirmative vote of Seated Senators.
2. In the instance that both the President and Vice President are unable to fulfill the duties of the President, the Speaker of the Senate shall assume those duties until a time when a special election can be held to elect a new President and Vice President.

Article IV. Judicial Branch

Section A. Organization

1. All Judicial powers of UISG shall be vested in the Student Judicial Court (SJC).
2. SJC shall consist seven justices, five of which shall be filled by undergraduate students and two of which shall be filled by graduate or professional students. The justices shall serve staggered two-year terms, with no more than six justices appointed in one academic year. No members of the Executive Branch or Legislative Branch shall serve on SJC.
3. SJC shall select a Chief Justice who shall act as the chair of SJC.
4. The Chief Justice shall serve a one-year term, but may serve multiple terms.

Section B. Responsibilities

1. SJC shall have original jurisdiction over:
   a. Interpretation of the UISG Constitution, its Bylaws, and any amendments hereto.
Article V. Student Organizations

Section A. Definition

1. Student organizations are voluntary special interest groups organized for educational, social, recreational, and service purposes. Section B. Registration

1. The Office of the Dean of Students determines the policies and procedures for the registration of student organizations. The policies and procedures for the registration of student organizations are published in the Office of the Dean of Students’ Policies & Regulations Affecting Students.

Section C. Privileges

1. Registered student organizations may request funding from UISG.

Article VI. Elections

Section A. Process

1. Elections shall be held in the spring semester to elect the President, Vice President, and Senators.
2. The Election Commissioner shall oversee the elections process according to the rules and regulations of the Elections Code.
3. All undergraduates at the University are eligible to vote in a UISG election.
Article VII. Allocation of Fees and Finances

Section A. Derivation of Power

1. The Board of Regents, State of Iowa allows UISG to allocate student activity fees. Distribution of student activity fees and other UISG funds shall be vested in the Student Senate. The Student Senate shall consult with the Executive Branch in this process. Section B. Allocation Process

1. Student Fee Committee
   a. As deemed by the Iowa Code 264.26B, a committee composed of five students, appointed by UISG and GPSG, and five university employees, appointed by the President of the University of Iowa, shall make recommendations concerning student activity fee allocation to the President of the University of Iowa for review no later than April 15.
   b. The Student Activity Fee Committee shall provide a copy of its recommendations to UISG. UISG may review the recommendations and provide comment to the President of the University of Iowa and the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.
   c. UISG may continue or discontinue funding existing contracts.

2. Student Senate
   a. The Student Senate shall allocate student activity fees and other UISG funds to registered student organizations and any projects deemed beneficial for the University of Iowa and its constituents or for the function of UISG.
   b. With recommendations from the Executive Branch, the Student Senate shall pass an annual budget for each branch of UISG by the beginning of UI’s fiscal year.

3. Joint Finance Committee
   a. The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) shall be composed of six members of the Student Senate’s allocating committee and three members of GPSG’s allocating committee.
   b. JFC shall make recommendations to the Student Senate on as to which registered student organizations shall be considered CFOs. JFC shall also recommend allocations to CFOs.
   c. JFC shall establish its own operating procedures and policies.

Article VIII. Amendments and Bylaws

Section A. Process to Amend the UISG Constitution

1. An amendment to the UISG Constitution may occur in one of two ways:
   a. Amendments to the UISG Constitution by UISG must be introduced in writing during a general assembly meeting of the Student Senate, this introduction shall be the first consideration of the amendment. For an amendment to move on to a second consideration it must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of seated senators. If the amendment reaches this threshold it must can then be brought up for a second consideration no less than three weeks after the first consideration. After the second consideration, the amendment must receive an affirmative three-fourths vote of seated senators.
   b. Any registered undergraduate student may submit an amendment to the UISG
Constitution along with a petition with signatures from no less than 10% of the Student Body. After SJC and the Office of the Registrar have confirmed the signatures as valid, the amendment shall be put on the next general election ballot for consideration. The amendment must receive an affirmative two-thirds majority of those students voting.

Section B. Establishment of the UISG Bylaws

1. The Student Senate shall have the power to establish bylaws for the effective operation of UISG.
2. The bylaws shall detail its own amendment process.