

**Judicial Branch By-Laws**  
As Revised April 28, 2014

1. Composition

1.1 The University of Iowa Student Judicial Branch shall consist of the Student Judicial Court (SJC), which is a joint committee between the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG), and the Student Elections Commissioner (SEC).

2. Student Judicial Court (SJC)

2.1 Membership

2.1.1 The SJC shall be comprised of seven Justices. The Justices shall serve two year staggered terms as outlined in section 2.2. Justices may be re-appointed for any number of terms. Two of the seven positions on the SJC must be filled by graduate and/or professional students. No members of the UISG Executive Branch, GPSG, or UISG Senate shall serve on the SJC.

2.1.2 Appointment of justices shall be delegated to the power of the UISG/GPSG Joint Nominations Committee.

2.1.2.1 They shall appoint the justices under the proper authority given. Duties of advertising positions, collecting applications, and interviewing candidates for justice positions shall be governed by the by-laws of the Nominations Committee.

2.2 Staggered Terms

2.2.1 Justices shall serve two-year staggered terms; 5 of the seven justices shall be undergraduate students, and 2 shall be graduate or professional students. Each year one new graduate/professional justice will be appointed or re-appointed by the Nominations Committee. On even calendar years, 3 undergraduate students must be appointed or re-appointed and on odd calendar years 2 undergraduate students must be appointed or re-appointed by the Nominations Committee.

2.2.2 Should any Justice resign or be removed from their position by impeachment, the Nominations Committee or UISG/GPSG executives are tasked with finding an Interim Justice for the remainder of the aforementioned Justice's term, depending on when the vacancy occurs, and consistent with Nominations Committee by-laws. Interim Justices shall have all the rights and privileges of a Justice but will only serve for the remaining duration of the term of the Justice whom they replaced.

2.3 Qualifications

2.3.1 Justices on SJC must be registered undergraduate or graduate/professional

students in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar's policies, and must be in good standing with the University.

## 2.4 Chief Justice

2.4.1 The SJC shall elect a Chief Justice from among the currently seated Justices at the first meeting of the year.

2.4.2 The appointed officer shall act as chair and administrative officer of the SJC. The Chief Justice shall serve for one academic year.

2.4.3 The Chief Justice will arrange to have monthly advisor meetings with the Director of The Center for Student Leadership and Involvement (CSIL), or his/her designee, to discuss the courts progress and interests.

## 2.5 Impeachment

3.1.1 Any member of the SJC may be impeached and removed from office if that member fails to perform his/her duties.

3.1.2 Calls for impeachment shall be initiated by a member of either student governments' legislative body and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of representatives of both UISG and GPSG, voting according to their respective government's procedures. Impeached Justices may not be reappointed to the SJC.

## 2.6 Jurisdiction

2.6.1 The SJC shall have original jurisdiction over:

2.6.1.1 Interpretation of this UISG Constitution, its by-laws, and any amendments thereto.

2.6.1.2 Interpretation of the constitutions or by-laws of the governing bodies of UISG, all other Associations, Commissions, Student Organizations, and Committees.

2.6.1.3 Interpretation and constitutionality of the actions of Commissions, Student Organizations and Committees, unless said organizations are otherwise exempted by University policies and/or procedures

2.6.2 The SJC shall have appellate jurisdiction over:

2.6.2.1 Disputes heard by the SEC and any other adjudicating legislative body.

2.6.2.2 Disputes heard by other student judicial bodies.

2.6.3 The SJC shall render advisory opinions upon the request of the President(s) of UISG or GPSG, Member(s) of either Executive Board, or any Senator who currently holds a seat in the UISG Senate.

2.6.4 The SJC shall render advisory opinions upon the request of any recognized student organizations president and/or its elected student leadership.

## 2.7 Rules and Procedures

2.7.1 The SJC shall maintain rules and procedures for the conduct of fair and expeditious hearings at all times of the year. These rules and procedures shall

include the following:

2.7.1.1 Any member of the UISG or GPSG may bring a case to the SJC, subject to the provisions above.

2.7.1.2 Any party to a case before the SJC may be assisted or represented by counsel at that party's expense.

2.7.1.3 Further rules and procedures may be found in the SJC Rules and Procedures document.

2.7.2 In cases involving the Executive Branch, UISG Associations, Commissions, Student Organizations, or committees, the SJC shall have the power to request that that group defend itself in court.

2.7.3 Appeals

2.7.3.1 Decisions of the SJC may be appealed to the President of the University or to his/her designated representative.

2.7.4 Meetings

2.7.4.1 Meetings will take place Friday's at 1:30 p.m. The Court must also attend the UISG Senate once monthly. Additional meetings will be at the discretion of the Chief Justice.

2.7.4.2 Dress code will be business casual for court meetings and business formal for any hearing.

2.7.5 Attendance Policy

2.7.5.1 All SJC members are required to attend all official meetings of the court. Members who miss two meetings in a semester without an approved excuse and a proxy of their votes will forfeit their membership on Student Judicial Court

2.8 Student Parking Appeals

2.8.1 SJC shall be charged with addressing parking ticket appeals of University of Iowa Students (undergraduates and graduate/professional) and shall be responsible for improving parking on campus and addressing reoccurring parking ticket issues.

2.8.2.1 This committee shall work with the Parking and Transportation Department and meet bi-monthly to address written parking ticket appeals and appearance parking ticket appeals.

2.8.2.2 Quorum of parking appeals review shall be set at five members in order to address parking ticket appeals.

2.8.2.3 During the summer term, the UISG President will organize a committee of senators to hear parking appeals until the SJC can relieve them.

3. Student Election Commissioner (SEC)

3.1 Membership

3.1.1 The SEC shall be appointed by the UISG President, in accordance with the

Student Elections Code. The selected individual will act as administrative officer of the UISG Senate Election Procedure as defined in the University of Iowa Student Elections Code.

3.1.2 The SEC serves a one-year term. The SEC may be re-appointed for any number of terms.

3.1.3 UISG Executive Branch officers and the UISG Senators are not eligible to serve as the SEC.

### 3.2 Qualifications

3.2.1 The SEC must be a registered undergraduate student in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar's policies, and must be in good standing with the University.

### 3.3 Jurisdiction

3.3.1 The SEC shall have jurisdiction over the following:

3.3.1.1 The conduct, certification, and announcement of the results of undergraduate student referenda.

3.3.1.2 The conduct, certification, and announcement of the results of any elections authorized by UISG in accordance that body's respective by-laws.

3.3.1.3 Infractions of election rules or procedures.

3.3.1.4 Review of contested ballots.

3.3.1.5 Development of rules and procedures to ensure fair equitable and accessible elections, including the ability of independent candidates to vie effectively with group or party-affiliated candidates.

### 3.4 Election Code.

3.4.1 The SEC shall maintain an Election Code for conducting fair and equitable elections. The Code must be reviewed and updated every year at the end of the election process. The Senate must approve the code before it may be used in any subsequent election.

### 3.5 Appeals

3.5.1 The Student Judicial Court shall hear any appeals that deal with the SEC and elections in accordance of SJC appeals and hearings procedures.

3.5.1.1 Appeals must proceed in a timely manner.

3.5.1.2 Appeals must hear affirmative and dissenting opinions with equity.

3.5.1.3 A timely decision must be granted.

## 4. Revision.

4.1 Revision of these by-laws may occur by a majority vote of the Justices followed by a Majority vote in the UISG Senate and GPSG, in accordance with each student government's respective voting procedures.