

**CONSTITUTION**  
**University of Iowa Student Government**  
*Updated September 2011*

This constitution of the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) shall have precedence over all prior UISG constitutions and the constitutions of all associations, commissions, organizations, committees, or groups of the UISG.

**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 allows 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 the University of Iowa Student Government (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. At its core, the 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.

1. Membership and Organization

1.1. Membership

- 1.1.1 All undergraduate registered students, in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar, shall constitute the membership of the UISG.

1.2 Organization

- 1.2.1 The student body gives governmental authority to the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG), which shall consist of the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches as prescribed by this Constitution.

1.3 Definitions

- 1.3.1 Majority vote: is hereafter defined as a majority of representatives both present (either seated or by proxy) and voting.
- 1.3.2 Two-thirds vote: A two-thirds vote is hereafter defined as a two-thirds majority of representatives both present (either seated or by proxy) and voting.

1.4 Human Rights Policy

- 1.4.1 The University of Iowa brings together in common pursuit of its educational goals persons of many nations, races, and creeds. The University is guided by the precepts that in no aspect of its programs shall there be differences in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all. Among the classifications that deprive the person of consideration as an individual are those based on associational preference. These principles are expected to be observed in the internal policies and practices of the University; specifically in the admission, housing, and education of students; in policies

governing programs of extracurricular life and activities; and in the employment of faculty and staff personnel. The University shall work cooperatively with the community in furthering these principles.

## 2. University of Iowa Student Government

- 2.1 The University of Iowa Student Government (henceforth UISG) shall be the representative governing body of all undergraduate students at the University of Iowa.
- 2.2 UISG shall determine its own rules of order and operating procedure.
- 2.3 Detailed UISG policy and operating procedures shall be outlined in a separate document called the UISG Bylaws.
- 2.4 Procedures for amending the UISG Bylaws shall be established in said document.

## 3. Article IV. Judicial Branch

### 3.1 Composition

- 3.1.1. The University of Iowa Judicial Branch shall consist of the Student Judicial Court (SJC) and the Student Elections Board Commissioner (SEBC).
- 3.1.2. Membership
  - 3.1.2.1. The SJC shall be comprised of seven Justices. The Justices shall serve two-year terms, with no more than six justices appointed within one academic year. Justices may be re-appointed for any number of terms. Members of other judicial entities, the UISG Executive Branch, ECGPS, UISG Senate are not eligible to serve on the SJC.
  - 3.1.2.2. The SEBC shall be comprised of a commissioner for a one-year term. The commissioner may be re-appointed for any number of terms.
  - 3.1.2.3. Members of other judicial entities, the UISG Executive Branch, UISG Senate are not eligible to serve as the SEBC.
- 3.1.3. Qualifications
  - 3.1.3.1. Justices on the SJC must be registered undergraduate or graduate professional students in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar. The SEBC must be a registered undergraduate student in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar.
- 3.1.4. Chief Justice
  - 3.1.4.1. The SJC shall elect a Chief Justice from among the currently seated Justices, who shall act as chair and administrative officer of the SJC. The Chief Justice shall serve for one year.
- 3.1.5. Student Election Board Commissioner (SEBC)
  - 3.1.5.1. SEBC shall be selected by the UISG Senate Nominations Committee Process for whom will act chair and administrative officer of the Student Elections Board.
- 3.1.6. Impeachment
  - 3.1.6.1. Any member of the Judiciary may be impeached and removed from office if that member fails to perform his/her duties.
  - 3.1.6.2. Calls for impeachment may be originated by a member of either legislative body and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of representatives of both UISG and ECGPS. Once impeached, an individual may not be reappointed.

### 3.2. Student Judicial Court

#### 3.2.1. Jurisdiction

- 3.2.1.1. The SJC shall have original jurisdiction over:
  - 3.2.1.1.1. Interpretation of this UISG Constitution, its by-laws, and any amendments hereto.
  - 3.2.1.1.2. Interpretation of the constitutions or by-laws of the governing bodies of UISG, all other Associations, Commissions, Student Organizations, or committees.
  - 3.2.1.1.3. Interpretation and constitutionality of the actions of Commissions, Student Organizations or committees.
- 3.2.1.2. The SJC shall have appellate jurisdiction over:
  - 3.2.1.2.1. Disputes heard by the SEB, Student Parking Appeals Review Committee (SPARC) and any other adjudicating legislative body.
  - 3.2.1.2.2. Disputes heard by other student judicial bodies.
  - 3.2.1.2.3. The SJC may hear and decide any case concerning students, providing that the parties agree in writing to submit the case to the court and abide by its decision.
- 3.2.2. The SJC shall render advisory opinions upon the request of the UISG President, member of the executive board or any senator who currently holds a seat in any of the Senates.
- 3.2.3. Rules and Procedures
  - 3.2.3.1. 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:
    - 3.2.3.1.1. Any member of the UISG may bring a case to the SJC, subject to the provisions above.
    - 3.2.3.1.2. Any party to a case before the SJC may be assisted or represented by counsel at that party's expense.
    - 3.2.3.1.3. 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.
    - 3.2.3.1.4. Appeals: Decisions of the SJC may be appealed to the President of the University or to his/her designated representative.
- 3.3. Student Elections Board Commissioner (SEBC)
  - 3.3.1. Jurisdiction.
    - 3.3.1.1. The SEBC shall have jurisdiction over the following:
      - 3.3.1.1.1. The conduct, certification and announcement of the results of all-university student referenda
      - 3.3.1.1.2. The conduct, certification and announcement of the results of any elections authorized by UISG in accordance that body's respective by-laws.
      - 3.3.1.1.3. Infractions of election rules or procedures.
      - 3.3.1.1.4. Review of contested ballots.
      - 3.3.1.1.5. 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.
    - 3.3.1.2. Election Code.
      - 3.3.1.2.1. The SEBC shall maintain the Student Elections Board Code for conducting fair and equitable elections. The Code must be must be

reviewed and updated every year. The code must be approved by the UISG Senate and UISG President before it may be used in an election.

4. Elections
  - 4.1. Qualifications
    - 4.1.1. All UISG representatives will meet qualifications as determined by the UISG in accordance with their respective bylaws
  - 4.2. Election Procedures
    - 4.2.1. The Student Elections Board Commissioner and the board will have oversight and facilitate elections when the UISG requests their services. The SEBC will conduct their requested services in accordance with their by-laws and this constitution.
5. Student Organizations
  - 5.1. Definition
    - 5.1.1. Any group which consists of at least 51% University of Iowa students and whose purposes are consistent with the educational objectives of the UI is eligible for recognition by the UISG and the University. Recognized Student Organizations must comply with all regulations contained in this UISG constitution. Recognition of a Student Organization by UISG or by the University does not constitute an endorsement of the Student Organization's program or purposes, but is merely a charter to exists
  - 5.2. Recognition
    - 5.2.1. Student Organizations are those groups other than those authorized in this UISG constitution or recognized by the UISG, upon the recommendation of the Student Organization Review Committee. Groups must have at least five (5) members, of which at least three (3) must be students. These Student Organizations must comply with the University Policy on Human Rights (Art. 1, Sec. C), this constitution, the UISG by-laws, and all regulations pertaining to recognition (Art. 10, Sec. C). In addition the business of these Student Organizations shall be conducted in an open and democratic manner. Any Student Organization which fails to comply with the above requirements, or which violate its own constitution, may have its recognition revoked by the recognizing legislative body or bodies (Art. 10, Sec. C), or by action of the SJC.
  - 5.3. Recognition Procedure
    - 5.3.1. Any group wishing recognition shall first file with the Student Organization Review Committee an application for Student Organization recognition. The Student Organization Review Committee shall review the applications and forward the same to the appropriate legislative body along with a recommendation for adoption or rejection and the reasons therefore. In order to receive funds from mandatory student activity fees a student organization must be recognized. All student organizations must adhere to “III. Student Organization” *Policies & Regulations affecting Students* (section A.5 Recognition Procedure):
    - 5.3.2. Appropriate Legislative Body. The recognition process shall include the provisions of the section below (Art. 10, Sec. D.) and the following regulations:
      - 5.3.2.1. The UISG may recognize and revoke recognition of academic or non-academic, undergraduate Student Organizations by a majority vote.
      - 5.3.2.2. Recognition Retention. Once recognized, any Student Organization shall retain recognition status provided that they submit a Student Group Recognition form to the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership in the fall and spring semester.

- 5.3.2.2.1. Automatic Revocation of Recognition. Failure to fulfill the above requirements (Art. 10, Sec. C) will automatically revoke recognized Student Organization status and make the Student Organization ineligible for UISG funding and the use of University or UISG materials and facilities.
- 5.3.2.2.2. Temporary Recognition. The Student Organization Review Committee or the recognizing legislative body may grant temporary, contingent recognition to those Student Organizations whose recognition is revoked under the above. (Art. 10, Sec. C).
- 5.3.2.2.3. Re-recognition. Re-recognition must follow “III. Student Organizations” in Policies & Regulations affecting Students and is subject to review by the Organization Review Committee. A Student Organizations will be required to regain recognition through the appropriate recognizing legislative body in the following cases:
  - 5.3.2.2.3.1. Recognition that has been lost for one or more years.
  - 5.3.2.2.3.2. A constitution that has been substantially amended
    - 5.3.2.2.3.2.1. Membership or activities that have been altered such that their classification (Art. 10, Sec. D) may be affected.
- 5.3.2.2.4. Classifications
  - 5.3.2.2.4.1. Religious/Political Classification. Religious and Political organizations shall be recommended to the appropriate legislative body by the SOL. Religious and political groups are allowed to seek SABAC funding but are restricted in the type of programming: non-proselytizing and non-evangelizing activities are eligible for funding.
- 5.3.2.2.5. Status
  - 5.3.2.2.5.1. The status of recognized Student Organizations shall be one of the following:
    - 5.3.2.2.5.1.1. Permanent. Permanent Student Organizations are those that have the right to apply for funding and use of university facilities.
    - 5.3.2.2.5.1.2. Ad hoc:
      - 5.3.2.2.5.1.2.1. Ad hoc student organizations are those in existence for less than one year and are working towards specific goals directly connected with one-time events. These goals need to be realized within the one-year term.
      - 5.3.2.2.5.1.2.2. A student organization seeking recognition when UISG is not meeting on a regular basis may also obtain ad hoc status until the UISG is in session, at which time the student organization must pursue permanent status. A student organization meeting this latter condition will need to submit a constitution when presenting the application for ad hoc status.
      - 5.3.2.2.5.1.2.3. Student groups that have an extreme need for timely approval before the UISG and/or ECGPS meets may be determined by the Student Organization Review Committee and the appropriate legislative body.

- 5.3.2.2.5.1.3. Privileges
- 5.3.2.2.5.1.4. Recognized Student Organizations possess the right to obtain use of University facilities, apply for office space, and apply for funding from UISG subject to the following:
  - 5.3.2.2.5.1.4.1. University facilities. Use of University facilities is subject to the regulations outlined in the University Operations Manual.
  - 5.3.2.2.5.1.4.2. Office Space. Assignment of office space in the Student Organization Office Suite (SOOS), or any other University space respective of availability, is subject to regulations outlined in this UISG constitution and rules and procedures of the SOOS And University buildings.
  - 5.3.2.2.5.1.4.3. Funds. Funding is subject to the budgetary processes and availability of funds of UISG and the SABAC legislative committee.

## 6. Provision for Amending this Constitution

### 6.1. Ratification

6.1.1. A proposed amendment to this UISG constitution shall be ratified if either of the following conditions is fulfilled:

#### 6.1.1.1. UISG Approval.

6.1.1.1.1. Approval by a two-thirds vote of the Senate and President. In order for such a vote to be held, the proposed amendment(s) must be submitted to the membership at least two weeks prior to the scheduled UISG meeting unless otherwise approved by the Speaker.

6.1.1.2. All Student Approval. Approval by a majority of the portion of the undergraduate student body voting in the referendum. At least 10% of undergraduate students must vote on the referendum in order for the referendum to be considered valid.

6.1.1.3. Any student may propose amendments to this Constitution. Ratification by means of All Student Approval shall be conducted through a special election. Students or groups of students proposing constitutional amendments may be required to pay for the cost of conducting such a special election.