

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Illinois Student Council

Constitution

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University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Illinois Student Council

Constitution

*Ratified March 8, 2023 by Illinois Student Government Senate
Approved March 30, 2023 by University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Student Body*

Preamble

We, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students, establish this organization as the driving force of student representation and advocacy to unify our campus community.

Article I

Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Illinois Student Council, hereafter referred to as ISC.

Article II

Mission

Section 1. On behalf of the Student Body, Illinois Student Council advocates for the betterment of our campus community with integrity, transparency, and Illini Pride.

Article III

Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be defined as currently enrolled, full-time, degree-seeking students at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign elected by the student body or appointed/elected by the organization. Full-time status shall be in accordance with the Office of the Registrar. Members must attend in-person meetings at the designated on-campus location.

Article IV Definitions

- Section 1. ISC shall use the following definitions for the operation of the organization.
- A. *Illinois Student Body* shall be defined as students currently enrolled in at least one credit hour at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
 - B. The *Public* shall be defined as non-students affiliated with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. This includes but is not limited to staff, faculty, alumni, and community members.
 - C. *Quorum* shall be defined as a simple majority of voting members.
 - D. *Candidates or nominees* shall be defined as currently enrolled, full-time, degree-seeking students at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign seeking election by the student body or appointment/election by the organization. Candidates must commit to attending meetings at the designated on-campus location.

Article V Structure & Power

- Section 1. Legislative powers shall reside with the Legislature.
- Section 2. Executive powers shall reside with the Executive.
- Section 3. The scope of the legislative and executive branches shall be germane to advocating for, and the betterment of, the daily lives of university students.

Article VI Legislature

- Section 1. Purpose
- A. The Legislature shall advocate and deliberate for developing solutions to student concerns and desires.
- Section 2. Student Congress
- A. The Legislature shall consist of a Student Congress comprising of Student Representatives.
 - 1. Student Representatives
 - i. There shall be a minimum of sixteen (16) Student Representatives of the Student Congress.
 - 2. Meetings

- i. Student congress shall meet weekly during the Spring and Fall semesters when classes are in session.
3. Voting
- i. Each Student Representative shall receive one (1) vote.
 - ii. When not stated, the vote count shall be defined as the number of members present and voting.
 - iii. Proxy Voting shall be allowed where a Student Representative who is not present at a regular meeting may assign their vote to another Student Representative present. Student Representatives may only hold one proxy vote for another Student Representative.
4. Officers
- The legislative officers shall serve as administrative representatives who will guide, support, and act as a resource for Student Representatives and communicate on their behalf to the Illinois Student Body and the Public. It shall consist of the following:
- i. Speaker of the Student Congress
 - a) The Speaker shall serve as the primary representative of the Legislature.
 - b) The Speaker shall be elected by a majority of non-vacant seats of Student Representatives. They may not serve concurrently as a Student Representative.
 - c) Serve as the Chairperson of the Student Congress.
 - d) Shall not vote unless in the case of a tie.
 - e) In case of removal, death, resignation, inability, temporary absence, or permanent inability to serve, the Deputy Speaker shall assume the responsibilities of the Speaker.
 - f) Shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee heads.
 - g) Shall supervise the Secretary and Parliamentarian.
 - h) Sign all legislation approved by the Student Congress.
 - i) Shall swear in all members of the Legislature.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker of the Student Congress
 - a) The Deputy Speaker shall be elected by a majority of non-vacant seats of Student Representatives from among the Student Representatives.
 - b) Shall assume the duties of the Speaker upon their absence or request.
 - c) Shall oversee the legislative process and development of members of the Student Congress.
 - iii. Secretary of Student Congress
 - a) The Secretary shall act as the keeper of Congress records and the primary correspondent for Congress. Records of the Congress shall include minutes, votes, and attendance.
 - b) Shall be appointed by the Speaker and approved by the Student Congress.

- c) Coordinate the open period of the Student Congress meeting for non-members and the public.
- d) The Secretary shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Student Congress.
- iv. Parliamentarian
 - a) The Parliamentarian shall advise and serve as the official resource to Student Congress on matters pertaining to Parliamentary Procedure.
 - b) The Parliamentarian shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Student Congress.

Section 3. Balance of Power

- A. Legislative acts that are approved are sent to the President for approval. Should the President veto, Student Congress may overturn the decision with a three-fourths majority.

Article VII Executive

Section 1. Purpose

- A. The Executive shall coordinate the operational aspects, promote the initiatives, and speak on behalf of the organization. It shall also facilitate relationships with university administration and external entities.

Section 2. Officers

The Executive shall consist of the Student Body President and Vice President.

- A. Student Body President
 - i. Primary representative of the Illinois Student Body.
 - ii. Serves as the primary liaison to the university administration.
 - iii. Approves or vetoes legislation.
 - iv. Manage external relations of ISC.
 - v. In case of removal, death, resignation, inability, temporary absence, or permanent inability to serve, the Vice President shall assume the responsibilities of the President.
- B. Student Body Vice President
 - i. Shall coordinate the Cabinet.
 - ii. Shall serve as the primary representative for internal relations.
 - iii. Assist the President with any delegated responsibilities.
 - iv. Shall assume the duties of the President upon their absence or request.
- C. Treasurer
 - i. Shall provide oversight for all Illinois Student Council financial transactions.

- ii. Shall advise the Executive and Legislative branches on the use of financial resources.

Section 3. Cabinet
A. The Cabinet shall consist of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and all other officers of the Executive as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 4. Balance of Power
A. The President shall approve or veto legislative acts approved in Student Congress.

Article VII Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of the Illinois Student Council shall be open to the Illinois Student Body and the Public.

Section 2. Voting in all meetings of the Illinois Student Council shall be conducted with transparency, where all votes cast by members shall be published to the Illinois Student Body.

Section 3. Illinois Student Council shall meet at a regular frequency during the academic year.

Article VIII Committees

Section 1. The Illinois Student Council shall have the power to create the following committees: Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Task Forces.

- A. Standing Committee
 - i. A committee that exists in perpetuity and meets regularly during each academic year. These committees shall address key issues that impact the Illinois Student Body.
- B. Ad Hoc Committee
 - i. A committee created by the legislature designed to address a specific issue for a designated period of time.
- C. Task Forces
 - i. A task force shall be established by the executive to research a specific issue for a designated period of time.

Article IX Elections

- Section 1. Student Representatives shall be elected by their respective college, school, or division during regularly scheduled elections.
- Section 2. The President and Vice President shall be elected as a ticket during regularly scheduled elections.

Article X Advisement

- Section 1. The Illinois Student Council Advisor(s) are staff members who are full-time employees of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- Section 2. The advisor(s) shall be selected by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs or their designee with the consultation of members.
- Section 3. The advisor(s) shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Illinois Student Council, including special sessions, committee meetings, and any meetings where ISC business is discussed. The advisor(s) shall not debate or vote during any meeting they attend.
- Section 4. The role of the advisor(s) shall be to serve as a resource, provide perspective and advisory support, and hold members accountable to rules, regulations, and expectations.

Article XI Parliamentary Authority

- Section 1. Parliamentary Authority shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised at meetings in which actions will be deliberated.

Article XII Amendments

- Section 1. The Constitution shall be amended by an affirmative two-thirds vote of the Legislature, followed by an affirmative two-thirds vote of students voting in a student body referendum in which the proposed changes appear.

Section 2. A Governing Documents Task Force shall be established in years ending in two and seven, or prematurely under exceptional circumstances, that shall be charged with reviewing the governing documents and suggesting any amendments. The task force shall consist of at least six and at most ten members with equal representation from each branch of government. In addition, the Governing Documents Task Force shall appoint one student of the student body who is not affiliated with ISC via a well-advertised application and review process.