

**CONSTITUTION
of the
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Preamble

For the purpose of representing and serving the students of the University of Southern Indiana, hereby known as the University, in all matters concerning their education and well being, there is hereby established the organization to be known as the Student Government Association (SGA). Said association shall undertake the following responsibilities of:

- A. promoting the continuous improvement of higher education within the University
- B. promoting high standards for the quality and enrichment of student life
- C. creating a venue to promote diverse ideas, values, cultures, and experiences within the University community
- D. protecting student rights and promoting ethical behavior
- E. providing a forum for the expression of student views and interests
- F. providing and maintaining relationships between SGA, the USI students, the University, and the community.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the official student government body at the University of Southern Indiana shall be the Student Government Association (SGA).

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purposes of the Student Government Association shall be those stated in the Preamble for this Constitution.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1

All students, by virtue of their registration at the University of Southern Indiana, shall be members of the SGA and shall be subject to this Constitution, its By-laws, and Standing Rules.

Section 2

All students registered at the University of Southern Indiana shall be entitled to vote in special and general elections of the student government.

Any USI student may hold an SGA office upon meeting the requirements set forth in this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV

Organization

Section 1: Structure

- A. The Student Government Association is made up of three branches, hereby known as the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches.
- B. The General Assembly is the formal name for the business meetings of the USI Student Government Association. Members of all three branches and representatives from student clubs and organizations make up the General Assembly.

Section 2: Officers

- A. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, the Executive Vice President, and the Attorney General whom are the executive officers of this body and are elected officials.
- B. The Legislative Branch, hereby known as the Legislature, shall consist of the Student Representatives and Administrative Vice Presidents whom are elected officials.
- C. The Judicial Branch, hereby known as the University Court, shall consist of a Chief Justice and Associate Justices whom are appointed officials.

Section 3: Elections and Appointments

- A. The executive officers and legislators are elected annually by the student body through a general election as determined by the By-laws.
- B. University Court Justices are appointed by the President as determined by available seats through graduation, resignation, impeachment, or attrition as outlined by the By-Laws.

Section 4: Terms of Office

- A. Executive officers and legislators shall begin their term in office upon their inauguration and shall conclude their duties at the next annual inauguration. This term will be defined as a session in all SGA communications.
- B. University Court judicial officers shall begin their terms in office at their swearing in and shall remain in office until graduation, impeachment, resignation, failure to meet qualifications, or attrition.
- C. The Chief Justice of the University Court will be elected annually by his/her peers on the Court at the first Court meeting after elections. This meeting shall be no later than two weeks after the inauguration of the officers and legislators.

Section 5: Powers

- A. The following powers shall be held by the President:
 - 1. veto or sign acts of the Student Government Association, provided that he or she exercises such power within six (6) school days or ten (10) calendar days of passage whichever comes first. A veto of the act may be over-ridden by two-thirds vote of the Legislature. If the President takes no action within this time period, the act is considered approved
 - 2. call special sessions of the General Assembly
 - 3. appoint University Court members as specified herein with the concurrence of a majority of the Legislature
 - 4. appoint such officials that s/he deems necessary for the expeditious conduct of her/his duties
 - 5. make recommendations to the President of USI on student appointments and removals to University committees with the concurrence of the majority of the Legislature
 - 6. propose new services, programs, and procedures to the appropriate legislative chairperson
 - 7. hold all power necessary and proper to carry out the mission of the SGA Executive Branch
 - 8. consider legislation from the General Assembly and take appropriate action as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws
 - 9. appoint to the Election Committee as outlined in the By-Laws
 - 10. appoint members of the University committees based upon recommendations of the

Legislature as outline in the By-Laws

11. appoint such officials as the General Assembly deem necessary for the expeditious conduct of SGA business.

B. The following powers shall be held by the Executive Vice President:

1. appoint such officials as s/he deems necessary for the expeditious conduct of her/his duties
2. convene special sessions of the legislative committees
3. perform other duties as are necessary and proper to facilitate communication between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch
4. act for the President in his/her absence, upon his/her request, or in the event that the President is temporarily unable to serve

C. The following powers shall be held by the Attorney General:

1. act as a prosecutor before the Supreme Court for anybody who violates SGA legislation, the SGA constitution, SGA By-Laws, or Standing Rules if need be
2. serve as the lead prosecutor at any impeachment trial unless he/she wishes to disqualify him/herself in the case of conflict of interest
3. certify all SGA elections pursuant to the Election Codes in the By-Laws.

D. The power of the Legislature shall include, but not be limited to:

1. approve appointments of the President and the Executive Vice President which are not otherwise directed by this Constitution or By-Laws;
2. represent the official voice through which student opinion may be expressed through resolution or other means to faculty committees, University committees, and University officials on matters affecting the Student Government Association or student body
3. be the final policy-making body for the Student Government Association and shall have original and final jurisdiction over all expenditures of Student Government moneys
4. approve executive contracts that are signed
5. approve organizational changes
6. provide guidelines for SGA operations
7. provide guidelines for the nomination and election of SGA officials
8. determine guidelines for funding SGA services or programs
9. approve the annual SGA budget
10. undertake any other action that will benefit the SGA or any segment of the University community provided they are not in conflict with the SGA Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules, or the policies and procedures of the University of Southern Indiana
11. make recommendations to the University on the criteria for registration of a campus club

or organization

12. formally recognize student organizations as outlined in the SGA By-Laws
13. elect the President and Executive Vice President of the General Assembly if none is provided by an election as outlined in the By-Laws
14. foster and regulate the non-academic aspects of student life for which jurisdiction has been established by this Constitution or the SGA By-laws where it does not contradict specific powers granted in this Constitution or the policies and procedures of the University of Southern Indiana
15. effect by two-thirds (2/3) voting membership of the Student Representatives and Administrative Vice Presidents the censure or impeachment of any officer, legislator, or University Court justice
16. initiate censure or impeachment proceedings of any officer, legislator, or University Court justice
17. propose activities which commensurate with the purpose of the Student Government Association of the University of Southern Indiana
18. enact by two-thirds (2/3) vote constitutional codes or amendments to the constitution as provided in Article VII of this constitution
19. enact statutes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to the SGA By-Laws or the Standing Rules as provided in the By-Laws
20. provide for the allocation of any SGA funds or fees and recommend changes to the University Administrators
21. appoint a replacement for the Attorney General during an impeachment trial if s/he disqualifies her/himself in a case of a conflict of interest.

E. The powers of the University Court

Student Government, as an elected and representative voice of the student body, has the right to comment on any proposed changes in policy pertaining to the discipline of students.

1. All judicial powers of the Student Government Association shall reside in the University Court.
2. The final interpretation of the Student Government Association Constitution, By- Laws, and Standing Rules shall be made by the University Court.
3. The Court shall have the authority to settle jurisdictional and other questions within the Student Government Association not covered specifically by the Constitution or By-Laws.
4. The Court shall have the authority of Judicial review over the legislation of the Student Legislature.
5. The Court shall have the authority to judge actions of the Legislative and Executive Branches unconstitutional and to order the cessation of such actions.
6. The Court shall have jurisdiction over all violations of Student Legislature legislation.
7. The Court shall have the authority to settle disputes between student organizations relating to campus activities.
8. The Court shall have the authority to settle disputes between a student and a student organization.
9. The Court shall have the authority to hear and rule on the appeal of campus traffic

citations.

10. The Court shall advise the Student Legislature on proposed constitutional amendments before attempting ratification.
11. If during a student-student, faculty-student, or administration-student dispute a student wishes to make public his grievance on an informal basis without pressing charges through any formal University proceeding, he may speak before a session of the Court. A spokesman (from the University community) for the faculty, administration, or student, may reply if they so desire. Justices may comment on what is said and will make recommendations to appropriate University officials.
12. The Court shall serve as the final authority in all disputes arising from SGA elections.
13. The above enumeration as specified powers shall not limit the interpretation of the general powers stated in Section 1 of Article VII.

F. The following powers shall be held by the Chief Justice:

1. call special sessions of the University Court
2. set a court schedule for each semester and for summer operations
3. appoint such officials that s/he deems necessary for the expeditious conduct of her/his duties
4. perform other duties as necessary and proper to facilitate the communication between all branches of student government and the student body.

Section 6: Governing Rules of SGA

- A. SGA shall be empowered to enact By-Laws which define purpose, structure, requirements for holding office, and the function of its branches and components in greater detail so long as the By-Laws do not conflict with the SGA Constitution.
- B. SGA shall be empowered to enact Standing Rules which shall define and give purpose to meetings, operations, responsibilities, and expectations of its executive officers, legislators, and judicial officers so long as they do not conflict with the SGA Constitution.
- C. The Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules are the governing policies and principles of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE V

Meetings

Section 1

All General Assembly meetings of the SGA shall be open to all students, faculty, administration of the University of Southern Indiana, as well as any interested party pursuant to all Federal and Indiana open meeting acts.

Section 2

General Assembly meetings and retreat dates for the next session shall be decided by the executive officers before the election process begins, as outlined in the By-Laws. All General Assembly meeting dates must be published in the Elections application information.

Section 3

All SGA business for a session must be concluded by the last General Assembly meeting before inauguration. At this time all executive officers, vice-presidents, and chairpersons shall read and submit an annual report of all activities and proceedings under their jurisdiction during their term in office.

ARTICLE VI

Quorum

Quorum for SGA General Assembly meetings shall be a majority of the sworn members of the Legislative Branch.

ARTICLE VII

Adoption and Ratification of the Constitution

- A. The Rules Committee will review the Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules of the SGA each year. At that time the Rules Committee may develop proposals to amend this Constitution.
- B. The Rules Committee shall present their propositions to the SGA General Assembly for discussion in New Business at the next meeting following the end of their review.
- C. Proposals for Amendments may be submitted to the General Assembly in two other ways:
 - 1. in writing by a member of the Legislature at any General Assembly meeting in New Business
 - 2. by petition from the student body at any General Assembly meeting in New Business
 - a. The petition must have signatures of a minimum of ten percent (10%) of currently enrolled undergraduate students.
 - b. A petition with more than twenty percent (20%) of the signatures of currently enrolled undergraduates will automatically be brought to a referendum at the next General Election.

- c. All petitions will be verified for valid information. If any information is found to be invalid, the petition will not be considered.

D. Changes or amendments must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members within two General Assembly meetings after the committee's presentation.

E. If the proposed changes or amendments are not approved, then the Rules Committee may return to the committee and go through the review process again. If the failed proposal was a Constitutional amendment, the committee may not bring the proposal back to the table during the semester in which it was originally proposed.

F. Once an amendment to the Constitution has been passed by two thirds (2/3) of the voting members, the amendment then goes to the President of SGA, who shall sign the amendment or veto it. If the amendment is approved by the President of SGA, it will be brought to a referendum at the next General Election.

G. If the amendment is not signed or vetoed by the President of SGA, it will automatically be approved and be brought to a referendum at the next General Election.

H. If the amendment has been vetoed, it may be brought back to the General Assembly through New Business. If the amendment is passed by three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members at that meeting, then the amendment will automatically be brought to a referendum at the next General Election.

I. The amendment shall be fully ratified upon acceptance of a majority vote of the student body voting in the election.

ARTICLE VIII

General Provisions

- A. This Constitution and General Provisions of the SGA, and amendments thereto, shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees.
- B. The powers, rights, and privileges granted to the SGA by its Constitution shall not be abrogated or surpassed by other student organizations at the University of Southern Indiana.
- C. The Constitution and General Provisions shall take immediate effect and be enforced when ratified by a majority of the ballots cast in an election by the student body and approved by the University of Southern Indiana President and Board of Trustees.