

**University of Southern California
Undergraduate Student Government Constitution: Table of Contents**

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University of Southern California Undergraduate Student Government Constitution

Preamble

We, the undergraduate students of the University of Southern California, in order to encourage freedom of scholarship, preserve and encourage student rights, promote a unified and cohesive student body, and maintain forums to discuss our views and rights do hereby form and establish the University of Southern California Undergraduate Student Government.

Purpose Statement

We, the University of Southern California Undergraduate Student Government, are the representative voice of the undergraduate student body. We serve the following purposes:

- to foster scholarship in an atmosphere of free and objective inquiry;
- to insist upon academic freedom, responsibility, and excellence;
- to assume responsibility for exercising and preserving student rights;
- to promote cohesion within the student body;
- to maintain a forum for expressing students' diverse views and interests;
- to initiate, coordinate, and guide student efforts aimed at improving student life and activities;
- to seek and obtain effective communication and relations within the University and external communities;
- to insist upon quality education at an affordable cost, thereby providing educational opportunities for persons of all economic strata;
- to provide opportunities to develop student leadership qualities;
- to facilitate the individual and collective welfare of the undergraduate student body;
- to uphold in the highest regard the Undergraduate Student Government and University Code of Ethics

We serve these aforementioned purposes via advocacy, programming, and representation of the student views and needs to the administration, the faculty, and the community.

THEREBY, this Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government is affirmed and established.

Article I: Framework and Eligibility

I.1 The body established herein shall be known as the University of Southern California Undergraduate Student Government.

I.1.A This organization will use the name or its shortened form, USG, in all publicity materials and correspondence.

I.2 The Undergraduate Student Government shall consist of the Executive officers, the Legislative Branch, the Advocacy Branch, the Funding Branch, the Communications Branch, the Programming Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

I.3 All registered undergraduate students at USC shall be members of the Undergraduate Student Government and shall be subject to this Constitution, Bylaws, and Code of Ethics.

I.4 Officer Eligibility: As a prerequisite to run for and hold office, all elected or appointed officers shall be full-time students in good standing as defined by the Registrar, and are required to maintain a cumulative 2.50 minimum G.P.A.

I.4.A: Spring semester seniors who maintain at least 8 units during their final semester at USC would be exempt from the full-time requirement.

I.4.B: Under special circumstances, part-time students may run for and hold office with the consent and approval of the Office of Student Affairs.

Article II: The Executive Officers

II.1 The Executive Officers, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

II.1.A Meet regularly to discuss problems, plans, and goals of the Undergraduate Student Government.

II.1.B Ensure all pertinent issues are being addressed by the Undergraduate Student Government through an elected or appointed officer.

II.1.C Communicate and interact with university organizations and administrators to carry out goals set forth by the Undergraduate Student Government.

II.2 All executive powers of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be vested in the Executive Officers, which includes the President, the Vice President, the Chief of Staff, the Treasurer, the Senior Director of Communications, the Senior Director of Programming, and the Speaker Pro Tempore.

II.2.A. These positions shall be appointed or selected as outlined in Article II of the Bylaws.

II.3 The President and Vice President shall be directly elected by the USC undergraduate student body.

II.3.A The President and Vice President shall obey constituency guidelines as defined in the Bylaws.

II.3.B The President and Vice President shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws and on the same ballot as the Senators.

II.3.C The term of office shall be one year. The President may serve only one term in that office. The Vice President may not serve more than two terms in this capacity.

II.3.D If the President is unable to finish the term, the Chief Justice shall swear in the Vice President as the new President and the Speaker Pro Tempore as the new Vice President at the next Senate meeting. This partial term shall not count against the one term limit.

II.3.E If the Vice President is unable to finish the term, the Chief Justice shall swear in the Speaker Pro Tempore as the new Vice-President at the next Senate meeting. This partial term shall not count against the two term limit.

II.3.F If the Speaker Pro Tempore is unable to finish the term, the Senate shall elect a new Speaker Pro Tempore as outlined in the Bylaws.

II.3.G In the event that there that there are concurrent vacancies in the Presidential and Vice Presidential positions, the matter will be moved to the Undergraduate Student Government Advisor to meet with representatives from each branch of the Undergraduate Student Government to determine the proper course of action.

II.4. The President may veto resolutions passed by the Senate, as outlined in the Bylaws. Constitutional and Bylaw amendments and confirmations of personnel are not resolutions, and thus are not eligible to be vetoed.

II.4.A The Senate, with a two-thirds affirmative vote, may override the President's veto.

Article III. The Legislative Branch

III.1 The Legislative Branch, in accordance with this Constitution, shall:

III.1.A Act as the representative and decision-making body for the undergraduate students on any university or local community issue.

III.1.B Create and amend the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government.

III.1.C Create or sponsor resolutions as defined in the Bylaws.

III.1.D Hold the other branches of USG accountable to uphold all federal, state, university, and Undergraduate Student Government policies and procedures.

III.1.E Approve the annual budget, which shall be made public.

III.1.F Approve all appointments including the Executive Officers, as well as those made to the Advocacy, Communications, Funding, Programming, and Judicial Branches in accordance with the process outlined in the Bylaws.

III.1.G Approve certain expenditures as outlined in the Bylaws.

III.1.H Stay informed of university issues and policies by attending meetings, performing research, contacting members of the USC community, and any other means that are necessary to carry out this responsibility.

III.1.I Perform all other duties that may be assigned by the Constitution or Bylaws.

III.1.J The Senate shall not vote on anything subject to Senate approval unless it was presented to the Senate previously or tabled at a prior Senate Meeting.

III.1.J.1 The Senate shall have the power to add an item to the agenda subject to a Senate vote without having previously been presented or tabled only with a 5/6 majority vote.

III.2 All legislative powers of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be vested in the legislative body, or "Senate."

III.3 The legislative body shall be composed of twelve Senators.

III.3.A Senators shall fulfill all duties as defined in the Bylaws.

III.3.A.1 Each Senator shall have one full vote.

III.3.A.2 One Senator shall serve as the Speaker Pro Tempore. The Speaker Pro tempore shall be selected as outlined in Article II of the Bylaws.

III.4 The Vice-President shall serve as Speaker of the Senate.

II.4.A The Speaker of the Senate shall chair the Senate during its meetings.

II.4.B The Speaker of the Senate shall cast a vote only to break a tie.

III.5 Senatorial elections shall be held in accordance with the Bylaws.

III.6 The term of office of Senators shall be one year. They may serve up to two terms as Senator.

II.6.A If a Senator is unable to finish the term, a new Senator shall be sworn in as soon as possible, in accordance with the Bylaws.

II.6.B Currently seated Senators shall be ineligible to serve on the Executive, Programming, or Judicial Branches.

II.7 Senators may be removed from office in accordance with the process outlined in the Bylaws.

Article IV: Advocacy Branch

IV.1 The Advocacy Branch, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

IV.1.A Maintain contact with key administrators, student organizations, and students about issues affecting students. These concerns may come from the data collected by Senators, administrators, individual students or other student organizations.

IV.1.B Ensure that the student voice is heard on-campus, especially regarding new campus initiatives. The advocacy branch is to evaluate and ensure that USC is providing for and caring for all students—in all capacities.

IV.2 The Advocacy Branch, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws, shall be composed of the Chief of Staff, the Chief Diversity Officer, and the following eight directors: an external director, an academic director, a wellness director, a student safety director, a first-year director, an accessibility director, a residential director and a sustainability director. Their duties are to be followed as outlined in the Bylaws.

IV.2.A The aforementioned directors shall be appointed by the President-Elect, with the advice of the respective outgoing director, the Executive Officers, and the Advisors. Appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

IV.2.B The Chief Diversity Officer shall be appointed by the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, with the advice of the outgoing Chief Diversity Officer, the outgoing Chief of Staff, and the Advisor at the same time that the other incoming Executive Officers are chosen. The appointment is subject to a vote of confidence by the outgoing cultural assembly directors under the Programming Branch. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate, as outlined in the Bylaws.

IV.2.C Directors shall fulfill all duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

IV.3 The Advocacy Branch will work on projects/campaigns as they see fit and in accordance with the Bylaws while working with delegates and cultural liaisons.

IV.4 The term of the directors shall be one year and concurrent with the respective Senate term. Directors may serve a maximum of two terms in the same capacity if hired more than once upon re-application.

IV.4.A Directors may not hold other stipend roles in USG.

Article V: Funding Branch

V.1 The Funding Branch, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

V.1.A Provide fiscal support and resources to various recognized student organizations and individuals on campus.

V.1.B Ensure that recognized student organizations and individuals are aware of these resources.

V.2 The Funding Branch shall consist of the Treasurer and the following four funding boards: the Discretionary Funding Board, the Leadership Funding Board, the Professional/Academic Funding Board, and the Philanthropy Funding Board. They shall function and serve the purposes as outlined in the Bylaws.

V.3 The Funding Branch directors and assistant directors shall be appointed by the President and the Treasurer, with the advice of the other Executive officers, the respective outgoing directors, and the Advisors. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate, as outlined in the Bylaws.

V.3.A Directors and assistant directors must fulfill their duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

V.4 The term of the directors and assistant shall be one year and concurrent with the respective Senate term. Directors may serve a maximum of two terms in the same capacity if hired more than once upon re-application.

V.4.A Directors may not hold other stipend roles in USG.

Article VI: Communications Branch

VI.1 The Communications Branch, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

VI.1.A Act as a liaison between USG and the Student Body.

VI.1.B Communicate all USG events, funding resources, legislative projects and advocacy projects to students.

VI.1.C Ensure a copy of the current Constitution and Bylaws are updated on the website for students to view.

VI.2 The Communications Branch shall consist of the Senior Director of Communications and the following six teams: Business Relations, Elections & Recruitment, Graphics, Marketing, Media and Technology.

VI.3 The Communications Branch directors and assistant directors shall be appointed by the President and the Senior Director of Communications, with the advice of the other Executive Officers, the respective outgoing directors, and the Advisors. The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate, as outlined in the Bylaws.

VI.3.A Directors and the assistant directors must fulfill their duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

VI.4 The term of the directors and assistant directors shall be one year and concurrent with the respective Senate term. Directors may serve a maximum of two terms in the same capacity if hired more than once upon re-application.

IV.4.A Directors may not hold other stipend roles in USG.

Article VII: The Programming Branch

VII.1 The Programming Branch, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

VII.1.A Program events for the student body that benefit the students, faculty, staff, and surrounding community around USC.

VII.1.B Work with the Communications Branch to ensure that the student body is aware of the events.

VII.2. The Programming Branch shall be composed of the Senior Director of Programming, the Committees, the Assemblies, and the Production team.

VII.2.A Each Programming Committee and Assembly outlined in the Bylaws shall have a Director or Co-Directors.

VII.2.B Committee Directors and Committee Assistant Director(s), as well as the Productions Director and Assistant Director of the Programming Branch shall be selected by the President and the Senior Director of Programming, with the advice of the respective outgoing officers, the other Executive officers, and the Advisors. The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate, as outlined in the Bylaws.

VII.3. The Directors of the Assemblies, elected by their respective groups, shall serve as elected members of the Programming Branch.

VII.3.A. The Assembly Directors must be elected in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government, the

procedures of the Programming Branch, and those policies/procedures of the respective Assembly.

VII.4. Additional Programming Committees and Assemblies may be incorporated as outlined in the Bylaws.

VII.5. The term of the directors and assistant directors shall be one year and concurrent with the respective Senate term. Directors may serve a maximum of two terms in the same capacity if hired more than once upon re-application or if they are re-elected.

VII.5.A. Directors may not hold other stipend roles in USG.

VII.6 The Programming Manual shall take precedence over the Constitution and Bylaws of each of the assemblies. The Undergraduate Student Government Constitution and Bylaws shall supersede both in areas of difference.

Article VIII: The Judicial Branch

VIII.1 The Judicial Branch, in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules, shall:

VIII.1.A Adjudicate all cases where the constitutionality of an act by the Executive officers, the Legislative Branch, the Advocacy Branch, the Funding Branch, the Communications Branch, the Programming Branch or any member of these branches, is called into question.

VIII.1.B Discuss and adjudicate cases that fall under their jurisdiction in accordance with the procedures in the Bylaws.

VIII.2 All judicial powers of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be vested in the Judicial Council, or "Council," unless the Council cannot form a quorum.

VIII.3 There shall be seven justices. Of these, six shall be Associate Justices and one shall be the Chief Justice.

VIII.4 Justices of the Council shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Legislative Branch in accordance with the Bylaws.

VIII.5 Justices serve as long as they are full time undergraduate students, as defined by the Office of the Registrar, but for a maximum of forty-eight calendar months.

VIII.5.A Justices may not be concurrently seated on the Executive Board or in the legislative, advocacy, programming, funding, or communication branches of the Undergraduate Student Government.

VIII.5.B Vacancies on the Council shall be filled within three weeks. If a Justice takes a leave, temporary or otherwise, he or she removes himself or

herself in fact, if not in body, from the Judicial Council. This vacancy must be filled according to the Bylaws.

VIII.6 Judicial Council members may be removed from office in accordance with the procedures in the Bylaws.

VIII.7 In cases where a court makes a ruling regarding constitutionality, the Senate must make legislative changes to respond to the decision by resolving the conflict between the written legislation and the interpretation of the Council.

Article IX: Faculty/Staff Advisor(s)

IX.1 The Undergraduate Student Government shall have an official advisor(s) from the USC faculty and/or staff.

IX.1.A Other persons may serve as special advisors as needed.

IX.2 The Advisor(s), in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

IX.2.A Actively monitor the policies, actions, and behavior of the Undergraduate Student Government and its members.

IX.2.B Guide USG members and provide mentorship, leadership training, and structure to the organization.

IX.2.C Help create the environment and provide resources for student leaders in the Undergraduate Student Government to successfully serve undergraduate students' needs and interests.

IX.3 The Advisor(s) may not vote on any Senate business or unduly influence decisions of the Undergraduate Student Government.

Article X: Affiliations

X.1 The Undergraduate Student Government is a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, but is not part of the University itself. In all correspondence and business transactions, it may refer to itself as an organization at USC, but not as part of USC itself.

X.2 The Undergraduate Student Government agrees to abide by all pertinent USC policies and regulations. Where USC policies and regulations and those of the Undergraduate Student Government differ, the policies and regulations of USC will take precedence.

X.3 The Undergraduate Student Government recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization, and that the University is not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities expressly benefit and further the goals of the

University, and have received prior review, approval, and consent of Campus Activities, Risk Management, and/or General Counsel.

X.4 Relations with Student Affairs

X.4.A Prior to the first Senate meeting of fall semester, the Undergraduate Student Government President shall develop a document, called the "Collaborative Working Agreement," with the Director of Campus Activities.

X.4.B The Agreement shall contain the following elements.

X.4.B.1 A clear description of how members of the Undergraduate Student Government and members of Student Affairs will work collaboratively during the upcoming year.

X.4.B.2 A clearly articulated understanding of the relationship between the Undergraduate Student Government and Student Affairs.

X.4.B.3 An outline of Senate involvement in decision-making processes including, but not limited to, hiring of Student Affairs administrators, financial decisions and processes, and programming issues.

X.4.B.4 An understanding of the relationship between the Undergraduate Student Government and Program Board Advisors and Student Affairs

X.4.B.5 Any other issues that either party may care to address.

X.4.C The USG President, on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Government and undergraduate students, and the Director of Campus Activities, on behalf of the University and Student Affairs, shall sign the Agreement on behalf of the students and the administration at the first Senate meeting of the fall semester. The Agreement will be circulated to all members of the Undergraduate Student Government and Student Affairs by the Undergraduate Student Government Secretary.

Article XI: Amendments

XI.1 Any proposed changes to this Constitution must go through a one week grace period before it is introduced to the Senate as an item of new business.

XI.1.A During the one week grace period, the Parliamentarian shall look over the proposed amendment(s) to ensure that there is no conflict with any other standing documents in the form of, but not limited to: contradictions, inconsistencies, etc.

XI.1.B During the one week grace period, the Parliamentarian shall present the proposed amendment(s) to the Director of Campus Activities for approval.

XI.1.C If the steps listed above are not taken, no changes to the USG Constitution can be made.

XI.2 Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by a five-sixth majority of The Senate.

XI.3 If a proposal to correct cosmetic changes, such as numbering and spelling, to this Constitution receives approval by a majority of the Senate, the Constitution shall be declared duly amended.

Article XII: Bylaws

XII.1 This Constitution shall be interpreted in conjunction with the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government. This Constitution supersedes the Bylaws in cases of conflict.

XII.2 The Bylaws shall include the duties of the Executive officers.

XII.3 The Bylaws shall include the duties of the members of the Legislative Branch, the conditions of their offices, and the rules of the Senate.

XII.4 the Bylaws shall include the duties of the members of the Advocacy Branch and the conditions of their offices.

XII.5 The Bylaws shall include the duties of the members of the Funding Branch and the conditions of their offices.

XII.6 The Bylaws shall include the duties of the members of the Communications Branch and the conditions of their offices.

XII.7 The Bylaws shall include the duties of the members of the Programming Branch and the conditions of their offices.

XII.8 The Bylaws shall include the duties of the members of the Judicial Branch and the conditions of their offices.

XII.9 The Bylaws shall include the process for appointments and elections of all internal officers.

XII.10 The Bylaws can be amended by a 2/3 majority vote by the Legislative Branch. Amendments will go into effect as stated in the Bylaws.

Article XIII: Enactment

XIII.1 This Constitution shall be in full force and effect following a positive vote by two-thirds of the Senate. In all cases of discrepancy regarding policy, procedure, Judicial Council rulings or any other Undergraduate Student Government business, this Constitution shall take precedence.