

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

(Pending approval by the Student Body and the Board of Trustees)

PREAMBLE

We, the Undergraduate Students, of the University of Connecticut, in affirmation of our inherent rights and responsibilities as citizens who have selected, of our own accord, membership in this University, do hereby affirm this Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government. In demand that our rights and interests be advocated, we entrust their defense and protection to our representative leaders, elected on our behalf under the provisions of this Constitution. We therefore charge all members of this student government to passionately defend our rightful stake in the University. Recognizing the need to balance enduring traditions with the dynamic academic and social environment, we call upon our leaders to facilitate our active partnership with the University of Connecticut faculty, staff, administration, and Trustees. It is the will of the students that complacency by any party in these matters be neither respected nor tolerated at this institution, and that the collective voice of the student body be heard.

ARTICLE I

Powers and Responsibilities of the Undergraduate Student Government

- 1) The Undergraduate Student Government shall be the primary recognized voice of the students to all audiences and shall actively partake in the university-wide decision-making process through representation and advocacy.
- 2) The right of Undergraduate Student Government to communicate with the Student Body shall not be abridged.
- 3) The Undergraduate Student Government will ensure the observance, protection and promotion of the Student Bill of Rights
- 4) The Undergraduate Student Government shall reserve the right to adopt and amend its own Bylaws.
- 5) The Undergraduate Student Government shall reserve the right to choose its own advisor(s).
- 6) The Undergraduate Student Government shall at all times remain accountable and accessible to individual students and the entire Student Body at large.
- 7) The Undergraduate Student Government shall allocate student fees received under its agency relationship with the University in a fair and equitable manner in accordance with state law.
- 8) The Undergraduate Student Government shall retain the power to take any actions which shall be necessary and proper for executing these foregoing powers and duties.

ARTICLE II

Membership of the Undergraduate Student Government

- 1) Membership of the Undergraduate Student Government shall include: elected officer, appointed officers, and committee members.
- 2) Membership of the Undergraduate Student Government is open only to registered degree-seeking, fee paying, undergraduate students at Storrs. Failure to comply with these criteria shall lead to automatic forfeiture of membership rights.
- 3) Members of the Undergraduate Student Government should remain in good academic standing within the University. Good academic standing is defined as: "Shall not be on academic probation for two consecutive semesters".
- 4) Each candidate must reside in his or her respective constituency zone, or be a member of his or her school or college at the time of election and must remain so during the tenure of their position.
- 5) No member shall concurrently hold positions within more than one branch of the Undergraduate Student Government unless explicitly permitted under the Constitution or Bylaws. Election to a subsequent position and subsequent acceptance shall lead to an automatic forfeiture of the previous position.
- 6) Constituencies for the Undergraduate Student Senate shall be determined by Residential Zones and Academic Schools and Colleges.
 - a) This constituency representation system shall go into effect prior to the 2016 Spring Elections
- 7) Each Residential Zone as acknowledged by the Undergraduate Student Government shall have at least one representative.
 - a) Representation shall be based on population as outlined in the Bylaws.
 - b) ~~The total of all Residential Zone seats shall not exceed 20 seats.~~
- 8) Two Multicultural and Diversity seats will be reserved for active cultural center representation to promote diversity and outreach of the Undergraduate Student Government.
 - a) Representation shall be based on population as outlined in the Bylaws.
- 9) Each academic school and college, as acknowledged by the Undergraduate Student Government, shall have at least one representative.
 - a) Representation shall be based on population as outline in the Bylaws.
 - b) ~~The total of all Academic school and college seats shall not exceed twenty five seats.~~
- 10) Up to ten *ex-officio*, non-voting seats may be filled each year by nomination of the Student Body President and confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate.
 - a) Five *ex-officio* , non-voting seats must be filled by representatives from the five cultural centers.
- 11) Upon taking the Oath of Office, members shall serve until the term of their specific seat is specified to end barring impeachment, removal, or resignation.

ARTICLE II

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- 12) The term of all Residential or Commuter Senators shall begin following the Fall election and shall conclude the subsequent Fall. The term of all other Senators shall extend from their Spring election to the following Spring.
- 13) Speaking privileges within the Senate shall be extended to the President, Vice President and Comptroller.
- 14) Speaking privileges within the Senate shall be extended to the Committee Chairpersons that do

not simultaneously hold both a Senate seat and the position of Chairperson.

ARTICLE III

Powers and Functions of the Student Senate

- 1) All legislative action shall take place in the Student Senate.
- 2) The Student Senate shall have the power to issue statements and take action on behalf of the Student Body as the representative voice of students.
- 3) The Student Senate shall have the power to approve the agenda for Senate meetings and make any alterations to the agenda by majority vote.
- 4) The Student Senate shall approve all presidential appointments, including Committee Chairpersons and external appointments, by majority vote of the body.
- 5) The Student Senate shall exercise control over its student fee revenue and shall approve the Undergraduate Student Government budget each semester.
- 6) The Student Senate shall have the power to delegate authority not herein specified to officers and committees, and shall have the power to supervise, overrule, remove or replace those to whom this authority has been entrusted.
- 7) The Student Senate shall meet at least every other week when fall and spring classes are in session.
- 8) The Student Senate shall elect Senators to serve positions as the Speaker of the Senate and the Parliamentarian.
- 9) The Student Senate shall have the power to remove the Speaker of the Senate and the Parliamentarian through a motion of no confidence and a vote of two thirds.

ARTICLE IV

Powers and Functions of the Senate Leadership

- 1) The Senate Leadership shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, the Deputy Speaker, and the Parliamentarian.
- 2) The Senate Leadership is responsible for carrying out the daily functions of the Student Senate and shall play a guiding role in the development of legislation.
- 3)
- 4) The Senate Leadership shall be responsible for training all members of the Student Senate.
- 5) The Senate Leadership shall be responsible for ensuring that Senators fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.
- 6) The Senate Leadership shall be responsible for creating guidelines to bring forward to Senate that shall outline expectations and standards that are not specified within the Constitution and its Bylaws. These guidelines are to be presented to Senate for approval no later than the second Senate meeting of the fall semester.

ARTICLE V

Powers and Functions of the Speaker of the Student Senate

- 1) The Student Senate shall elect a Speaker of the Senate by and from the Senate at the first meeting of the newly-elected senate each spring.
- 2) The Speaker shall serve as the official spokesperson of the Senate. The Speaker shall communicate the views of the Senate and the intent of all legislation of the Senate.
- 3) The Speaker of the Senate shall preside over all Senate meetings as a neutral party. In the event of his or her absence, inability to preside, or should he or she wish to temporarily step down, the meeting shall be Chaired by the next person in Line of Succession which shall be defined in the Bylaws. In the event of a recusal, the Speaker may regain the Chair once the item of business involving the recusal has closed.
- 4) The Speaker shall have the ability to call a special session of the Senate, provided he or she provide due notice and an agenda 48 hours in advance.
- 5) In the event of death, resignation, or removal from office, a new Speaker must be elected by and from the Senate at the next meeting of the Senate without option to lay table.
- 6) The Speaker shall nominate a Deputy Speaker from a member of the seated Senate, which must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Undergraduate Student Senate.

ARTICLE VI

Powers and Functions of the Parliamentarian

- 1) The student Senate shall elect a Parliamentarian by and from the Senate at the first meeting of the newly-elected senate each fall following the election of the Speaker of the Senate.
- 2) The Parliamentarian shall serve to maintain order and as the monitoring mechanism of the Undergraduate Student Government to ensure fulfillment of the requirements of the constitution, bylaws, and guidelines.
- 3) The Parliamentarian shall report their findings to the Student Senate and the Senate Leadership
- 4) The Parliamentarian shall seek punitive measures against violations of the constitution, bylaws, and guidelines as necessary.
- 5) The Parliamentarian shall only be allowed to seek punitive measures through the normal channels provided in the constitution, bylaws, and guidelines.
- 6) In the event of death, resignation, removal from office or vacancy of the Parliamentarian, a new appointment shall be elected by and from the Senate at the next meeting of the Senate.
- 7) The position of Parliamentarian serves as a monitor and aid in upholding the governing documents that cause the Undergraduate Student Government to function.

ARTICLE VIII

Powers and Functions of the Executive Branch

- 1) The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, Vice President, Comptroller, Standing Committee Chairs and any additional personnel which the President may enlist using his powers as the President.
- 2) The Executive Branch shall be responsible for carrying out the daily operations of the student government and implementing the Constitution, Bylaws, and legislation of the Undergraduate Student Government.
- 3) No member of the Executive Branch shall simultaneously hold a position in either the Senate or Judiciary with the exception of those explicitly provided for under the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Powers and Functions of the President of the Student Body

- 1) The President of the Student Body shall be the official spokesperson of the Student Body.
- 2) The President shall deliver a State of the Campus address in a special session during each semester.
- 3) The President shall attend all meetings of the Senate, but shall not be permitted to vote.
- 4) The President shall be required to sign all legislation passed by the Senate within seven days of its passage. Within the seven days, the president may veto said legislation by alerting the Speaker of the Senate in writing. Legislation shall be returned to the Senate, and with a vote of two thirds, the veto of the President may be overridden. Should the President fail to sign or veto within seven days, the legislation shall be considered enacted.
- 5) The President shall nominate Senators to Chair and serve on the Nominations committee by the third Senate of the Fall in order to present recommendations to fill vacancies in the Judiciary. Committee members and Judicial appointments must be confirmed by the Student Senate with a two-thirds majority.
- 6) The President shall appoint up to ten *ex-officio* Senators with the confirmation of each by a majority vote of the Senate.
- 7) The President shall appoint all standing Committee Chairpersons with the confirmation of each by a majority vote of the Senate.
- 8) The President shall appoint all vacancies to external committees with the confirmation of a majority of the Senate.
- 9) The President shall have the power to appoint ad-hoc committees with a written charge and finite timeline. Ad-hoc committees where the President does not give a date of dissolution shall dissolve at the end of the establishing President's term. Any established ad-hoc committee may be subject to re-approval by the new administration through a written charge. All findings and work of established ad-hoc committees must be reported to the Executive Committee and the Student Senate. .
 - a) Requests for decision may be referred to the Judiciary by a majority vote of the Senate, and a hearing panel shall hear the case with the exception of a request for decision on an executive order. Requests for decision on an executive order after receiving a majority vote of the Senate shall be heard by the currently seated Justices and the Speaker of the Senate, or the Deputy Speaker if the Speaker refuses, would represent the senate on their behalf.
 - b) If there is a conflict of interest that would reasonably hold a member of the Judiciary from rendering an objective decision, a temporary proxy may stand in for said conflict holder, confirmed by a majority vote of the other acting Justices prior to the hearing
- 10) The President shall preside over meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 11) The President shall have the power to call a special session of the Executive Committee should a situation requiring immediate action arise at any time.
- 12) The President shall retain signature power over all student government accounts.

ARTICLE VIII

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- 13) The President shall assist the Comptroller in the development and presentation of a budget to the Senate each semester.
- 14) The President shall have the power to enforce all binding documents within the Undergraduate Student Government and may exercise his or her authority to ensure that all officers, employees, committee members, and volunteers of the

Undergraduate Student Government abide by those binding documents through means of executive order(s). The Senate may request a decision on the constitutionality of an executive order by majority vote, which would be heard by the full Judiciary. The Speaker of the Senate, or Deputy Speaker if the Speaker refuses, would represent the senate on their behalf.

ARTICLE IX

Powers and Functions of the Vice President

- 1) The Vice President shall assist the President in fulfilling all duties and responsibilities of the Executive.
- 2) The Vice President shall oversee the daily operation of the Undergraduate Student Government and its office, including establishing and maintaining office policy. Changes to office policy must be reported to the Executive Committee.
- 3) The Vice President shall supervise, evaluate, hire, and terminate all paid, unpaid and work-study employees. All hiring and terminating must be approved by two-thirds of the Executive Committee.
- 4) In the event of the President's absence, the Vice President shall chair the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5) The Vice President shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate, but shall not be permitted to vote.
- 6) In the event of death, resignation or removal from office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed the President.
- 7) In the event of death, resignation or removal from office of the Vice President, a new Vice President shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by a majority of the Senate.
- 8) The Vice President shall be the executive liaison to all ex-officio Senators.
- 9) The Vice President shall serve as Historian for the Undergraduate Student Government.
- 10) It shall be the duty of the Vice President to retain current senators, volunteers, work-studies, and interns.

ARTICLE X

Powers and Functions of the Comptroller

- 1) The Comptroller shall oversee all financial matters of the organization and shall ensure that all expenditures of the Undergraduate Student Government are in accordance with Undergraduate Student Government policy and any applicable laws and regulations.
- 2) The Comptroller shall exercise signature power over all Undergraduate Student Government accounts and shall have the ability to financially commit the organization, approve expenditures and sign contracts on behalf of the organization. The Comptroller may relinquish his or her power to the President or the Vice President in the event that he or she is unavailable to sign.
- 3) The Comptroller shall be required to sign or refuse all requests for expenditures within seven days of receipt. In the event that the Comptroller refuses to sign, the Comptroller must notify the requesting party, the Executive Committee and the Senate in writing within seven days. This refusal must be accompanied by a policy or law that the Undergraduate Student Government is required to follow and included in the written statement of refusal. If the Comptroller's refusal to sign is to be overturned, a case must be filed with the Judiciary by an undergraduate student against the reasoning put forth by the Comptroller. Upon the finding of the Judiciary the Comptroller's decision is either upheld, returned to Senate or funded in full. If the Comptroller's signature is over turned in such a way, the Vice President must sign in place of the Comptroller.
- 4) The Comptroller shall be familiar with the bookkeeping system of the Undergraduate Student Government and with the status of all accounts so that the Comptroller may inform any Senator, student, or other party of the same. The Comptroller may review the operation of the bookkeeping office and shall report any irregularities to the Student Senate and the Executive Committee.
- 5) The Comptroller, with the assistance of the President, shall develop and present the budget to Senate for approval each semester for the subsequent semester.
- 6) The Comptroller shall assist the President in any fiscally related responsibilities that the President deems necessary.
- 7) The Comptroller shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate, but shall not be permitted to vote.
- 8) In the event of death, resignation, removal from office or vacancy of the Comptroller, a new Comptroller shall be elected by the Senate at the next meeting of the Senate.
- 9) The Comptroller is responsible for the creation of fiscally related policy for the Undergraduate Student Government.
 - a) The creation or amending of such policy must be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and then approved by the Senate by a two-thirds majority.

ARTICLE XI**Powers and Functions of the Executive Committee**

- 1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Comptroller, the Speaker of the Senate, Chief Justice, and the chairpersons of each standing committee. The Chief Justice shall serve the Executive Committee in a non-voting capacity.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall consider the agenda proposed for Student Senate meetings by the Speaker of the Senate at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting of the Student Senate. Exclusion of proposed items or inclusion of new items on the agenda shall require approval of 2/3 of the Committee. In the event of an emergency Senate being called by either the Speaker or the Executive Committee, an agenda does not need to be prepared 48 hours in advance.
- 3) The Executive Committee shall have the power to call special or emergency Student Senate meetings in accordance with Connecticut State laws and regulations, in such case the Speaker shall have the responsibility of providing an agenda 6 hours in advance.
- 4) The Executive Committee shall confirm the hiring and termination of all paid employees by a two-thirds majority vote. All instances of hiring and terminating in this manner shall be reported to Senate at its next meeting.
- 5) The Executive Committee shall discuss issues of primary significance to the Student Body and may delegate or recommend a course of action to a standing or ad-hoc committee or to the Student Senate.

ARTICLE XII

Powers and Functions of Committees and Chairpersons

- 1) Each standing committee shall have a Committee Chairperson appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Chairpersons may, but are not required to, simultaneously hold both a Senate seat and the position of Chairperson.
- 2) Committee Chairpersons shall have the power to appoint and remove the members of their respective committees.
- 3) The Committee Chairpersons shall serve as the presiding officer at their respective committee meetings.
- 4) The Committee Chairpersons shall be responsible for overseeing the work of their respective committee activities and projects.
- 5) The Committee Chairpersons shall be responsible for reporting the status of their respective committee to the members of the Undergraduate Student Government and the University community. At the last Senate meeting of each semester, Committee Chairpersons shall issue a written semester-end report summarizing the accomplishments, challenges, activities, and future goals of their respective committees.
- 6) Each Committee shall be required to submit its guidelines and operating procedures to the Senate for consideration and approval by a two-thirds majority at the beginning of each academic year.
- 7) The Committee Chairpersons shall appoint a Vice Chairperson to assist in the dispersal of Committee responsibilities. The appointed Vice Chairperson may chair committee meetings in the absence of the Chairperson or if the Chairperson wishes to temporarily step down for either a part of or the entire meeting. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee in the Chairperson's absence.
- 8) Standing committees shall have established times and days of the week for committee meetings.
- 9) Committee Chairpersons that do not simultaneously hold a Senate seat and the position of Chairperson shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate, but shall not be permitted to vote.

ARTICLE XIII

Powers and Functions of the Judiciary

- 1) The Judiciary shall serve to provide interpretation of the Undergraduate Student government Constitution, Bylaws, policies and procedures and shall address and resolve ethical disputes and alleged violations of the Student Body Constitution, Bylaws, policies and procedures related to the Senate and the Executive.
- 2) The Judiciary shall consist of five Justices. The five Justices shall be nominated by the Nomination Committee to the Student Senate no earlier than eight weeks into the Spring Semester and no later than the second to last Senate of the Spring semester to serve a one-year term, beginning at the Senate Meeting in which the elected Spring Positions take the oath of office.
- 3) From amongst themselves, the Justices shall select a Chief Justice to coordinate the actions of the court.
- 4) Justices **shall** be aware of the student government Constitution, Bylaws, and policies, Robert's Rules of Order, the Student Conduct Code and all applicable local, state and federal statutes. The Judiciary shall also ensure student government compliance with local, state and federal law.
- 5) The Judiciary shall coordinate and oversee all Undergraduate Student Government elections.
- 6) The Judiciary shall collaborate with and assist the peer judicial boards established under the Student Conduct Code where appropriate.
- 7) At least one Justice shall be expected to attend each Senate meeting and Standing Committee meeting, in a non-voting capacity, to provide Constitutional and procedural interpretation if called upon.
 - a) Should there be a perceived violation of any governing document, the Justice at the committee meeting will inform the member running the meeting of the concern and if it is necessary, inform the Parliamentarian for possible follow-up. Should a case arise from informing the Parliamentarian, the informing Justice would recuse themselves from the opinion and a temporary Justice may be selected by the remaining Justices for the purpose of writing the opinion should the Court wish to do so.
- 8) Justices shall provide due process under the following processes:
 - a) Requests for decision regarding the constitutionality of an Executive Order may be referred to the Judiciary by a majority vote of the Senate, and the cases shall be heard by a hearing panel.
 - b) Any undergraduate student may also refer a case or appeal, requesting, in writing, a decision from the Judiciary regarding a topic which is reasonable for the Judiciary to issue an opinion or decision upon. In such cases, the body shall determine by a majority vote of its full membership, whether to hear the request.
 - c) In instances where the Judiciary refuses a request, the refusal shall be returned, in writing, within five business days of receiving the request. In all other instances, b) Should there be a number of sitting Justices that is less than the number of Standing Committees, the Justices shall make reasonable effort to ensure that all Standing Committees have some form of Judicial reference or contact should a Justice not be available.

proceedings shall commence no sooner than three business days and no later than seven business days following written notification of all concerned parties.

- d) Hearing panels shall be composed of three justices, formed on a rotational basis coordinated by the Chief Justice. Should the Chief Justice need to recuse themselves from a case, they may still coordinate the remaining Justices that will hear the case.
- e) Appeals regarding a Judicial case shall be brought before a complete panel of all five justices. Two justices must agree to hear an appeal in which the Judiciary has already ruled and a majority of the full membership shall be required to overturn a previously rendered decision.
- f) All decisions of the court, including its rules of procedure, shall be made public, in writing, and recorded for future guidance except in cases where confidentiality applies.
- g) Justices shall be expected to maintain impartiality and fairness at all times, holding themselves to the highest standards of accountability. Justices shall recuse themselves in cases where a conflict of interest is present.
- h) Should the court need to replace a justice for the purpose of quorum, a temporary replacement may be selected by the Judiciary. The replacement justice must be approved by all remaining justices and his/her service shall expire at the completion of the hearing.
- 9) In the event that there are less than five Justices occupying the Judiciary, the Nominating Committee shall make reasonable effort to fill the empty seats with adequate nominees.
- 10) In the event that no Justice seats are currently filled, an emergency Senate session shall be called with the only order of business to fill a seat on the Judiciary. During this session the Vice President or designated party in the event of a conflict of interest, shall act as judicial reference. The only time in which the Nomination Committee's charge of appointing a Justice shall be temporarily suspended shall be if the Nomination Committee does not have a nomination to put forth during that Senate, in which case the Speaker would ask for nominations during that Senate in its place and confirmed by a majority vote of Senate. The Vice-President would read the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Justice and this Justice shall act as the Chief Justice.

ARTICLE XIV

Powers and Functions of the Chief Justice

- 1) The Judiciary shall select a Chief Justice from amongst themselves to coordinate the actions of the court.
- 2) The Chief Justice shall serve as the spokesperson of the Judiciary to all internal and external audiences
- 3) The Chief Justice may select a Deputy Chief Justice from the Judiciary to aid the Chief Justice in coordinating the actions of the court.
- 4) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for orienting and training all Justices.
- 5) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for creating a timeline of topics each semester that the Judiciary will discuss amongst itself that relates to the organization and the documents that govern it. The Judiciary will issue a per curiam opinion on the topics of concern and these opinions will be presented to the Executive Committee and Senate for review.
- 6) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for creating guidelines regarding the format of Judicial hearings, this procedure must be accepted by a majority of the sitting Justices in order to be enacted.
- 7) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for coordinating the Judiciary with the Vice President and Speaker regarding topics to aid in orienting new members.
- 8) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for ensuring that all legislation that affects the Constitution or Bylaws is included into each respective document correctly and is responsible for issuing an updated version of each document within five business days of any such change to the President and the Speaker.
- 9) The Judiciary will serve to act as a resource for any legislation coming forward by accepting pieces of legislation at the author's request and the Court will consider such an action a question of constitutionality of the document unless otherwise specified by the author.
- 10) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for compiling a set of guidelines that will be presented to Senate for confirmation regarding any duties related to the functioning of the Judiciary which is not laid out in the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XV

Election Procedures of the Undergraduate Student Government

- 1) The elections of all Academic Senators and Executive Officers shall be conducted at least four weeks prior to the end of Spring Semester. The elections of all Residential Zone Senators shall be conducted no later than three weeks following the first day of classes of the Fall Semester.
- 2) All degree-seeking, undergraduate students at Storrs shall be able to cast one vote for each open seat in his or her residential zone and one vote for each seat open in his or her academic school or college.
- 3) All degree-seeking, undergraduate students at Storrs shall, in addition, cast one vote for the Presidential/Vice Presidential ballot as well as the Comptroller ballot.
- 4) All degree-seeking undergraduate students at Storrs shall cast one vote for each open elected Judiciary position.
- 5) Once confirmed by the Judiciary, the results of the Undergraduate Student Body elections shall remain in effect until the next general elections, barring resignation, removal or death.
- 6) Elected Senators, applicable appointed and elected Executive Officers, and appointed Justices shall be sworn in by the Chief Justice at the last meeting of the Senate of the spring academic year or the first Student Senate meeting following any elections, general or special, and any appointments.

ARTICLE XVI

Impeachment and Removal from the Undergraduate Student Government

- 1) Articles of impeachment shall be considered by the Judiciary only when substantial evidence indicates that a Member has demonstrated malfeasance of duties and responsibilities or violated the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution and Bylaws.
- 2) Articles of impeachment shall be brought to the Senate only after a majority vote of the entire Judiciary affirms that the charges warrant consideration of removal by the Student Senate unless otherwise specified. Decisions of the Judiciary to commence impeachment proceedings shall not be subject to appeal.
- 3) Articles of impeachment pertaining to an **elected** justice shall be brought to the Executive Committee for consideration and not the Judiciary. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Executive Committee shall be required for the consideration of removal by the Student Senate at its next meeting. Decisions of the Executive Committee to commence impeachment proceedings on a Justice shall not be subject to appeals.
- 4) It shall be the responsibility of the person or persons filing the articles of impeachment to present the articles before a meeting of the Student Senate. The member who is subject to the charged impeachment shall be notified in writing at least 36 hours prior to the meeting of the Student Senate at which action shall be considered and shall have the opportunity to defend himself/herself against all charges at that meeting. It shall require the affirmative vote of two thirds of all present and voting members of the Student Senate to remove an elected Senator, Executive Officer or Justice.
- 5) Any Senator with unexcused absences shall be notified in writing by any member of the Senate Leadership. Senators who are absent and unexcused from two or more Undergraduate Student Senate meetings per academic semester may be removed from office by unanimous vote from the Senate Leadership. The Speaker shall notify the Senate at the next senate meeting. The Senate may object the decision and has the right to overturn the decision by a two-thirds majority.
- 6) The positive petition requesting the removal of a Senator by 50% plus one of the Senator's constituency shall be grounds for the commencement of impeachment proceedings at the next Senate meeting without requiring review by the Judiciary. The party whom collected the signatures shall act as the plaintiff in the manner.
- 7) Executive appointees and Committee Chairs may be removed from their post by the Senate with the affirmative vote of two thirds of all present and voting members of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE XVII

Successions and Vacancies from the Undergraduate Student Government

- 1) A member of the same constituency shall fill a vacancy among elected student Senators. The replacement shall be elected by a majority of voting fee-paying, undergraduate students from within the respective constituency during a special election coordinated by the Judiciary.
- 2) In the event of resignation, removal or death, the order of succession to the Student Body Presidency shall be the Vice President, the Speaker of the Student Senate, and the Comptroller, respectively.

ARTICLE XVIII

Parliamentary Authority

- 1) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution or its Bylaws. The Student Senate by two-thirds vote may alter or amend these rules.

ARTICLE XIX**Amendments and Bylaws to the Undergraduate
Student Government Constitution**

- 1) Any student may propose amendments to this Constitution through the Executive Committee. An amendment, so proposed, approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate shall be presented to the full membership of the Undergraduate Student Body for a referendum at the next Student Senate election. Unless otherwise stated, upon approval of a majority of the Student Body and the University Of Connecticut Board Of Trustees or their proxy should one exist, every amendment shall be immediately enacted.
- 2) The Undergraduate Student Government shall maintain its Bylaws as an appendix to the Constitution. These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two thirds of all members of the Student Senate present and voting.
- 3) Every four years, beginning in the fall 2005, an ad-hoc committee shall be convened with the explicit task of reviewing the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government, proposing amendments, modifications and revision as necessary.

ARTICLE XX**Enabling Clause of the Undergraduate Student
Government**

- 1) The provisions of this Constitution and its Bylaws related to elections shall immediately replace the existing Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government upon the approval of the Undergraduate Student Body and the University Of Connecticut Board Of Trustees or their proxy should one exist. For the purposes of the first spring election following ratification, oversight and conduct of the elections shall be coordinated by the current Elections Committee. All remaining provisions shall replace the existing Constitution and Bylaws upon the completion of the spring Undergraduate Student Government election. The legislation adopted under that document, which is not superseded by this Constitution and its Bylaws or amendments, shall remain enacted for a period of one year.