

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

## 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 upheld, 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 our 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 our collective voice be heard.*

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## **The Student Bill of Rights**

The concept of higher education and the understanding of what it means to be educated continues to evolve drastically. At the University of Connecticut today, success goes beyond academic results. As an institution of higher learning, the University of Connecticut must continue to adapt its policies and practices to best serve its students.

The Undergraduate Student Government holds that the following are the hallmarks of a complete educational experience at any institution of higher learning and dedicates itself to working so that these hallmarks are forever included in the lives of students:

1. Exceptional instruction, including a diverse array of courses and faculty that represents the University of Connecticut's diverse array of students and services that will advance post-collegiate individual success.
2. A wide variety of extracurricular activities to enrich the educational experience; including Greek Life, Cultural Centers, student-run organizations, and academic societies.
3. An affordable education including ease of access to educational resources.
4. An affordable and high standard of living including access to food, water, and housing.
5. A safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment that condemns all bias, hatred, and violence, is accessible to people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, religions, spiritualities, nationalities, and socioeconomic statuses and all other identities.
6. Financially accessible services of the highest quality for student health and wellness, including both physical and mental health services.
7. A positive campus culture that acknowledges the intersectionality of identities and diversity, while also fostering the pursuit of knowledge, inclusion, and school pride.
8. All additional amenities that have an impact on education, including access to high-speed internet, information, transportation, educational assistance, and research opportunities as accessible to students of all mental and physical ability.
9. Engagement in civil discourse, as well as responsible civic action, and full participation in our democracy.
10. A clean and sustainable campus that supports the future of our environment.
11. Avocation for student interests and concerns through all university, municipal, state, and federal policies.
12. A supportive administration and faculty that works with students to build a better university.

**ARTICLE I: Powers and Responsibilities of the Undergraduate Student Government**

- 1) The Undergraduate Student Government (“USG”) 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 the 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 at all times remain accountable and accessible to individual students and the entire Student Body at large.
- 6) The Undergraduate Student Government shall allocate student fees received under its agency relationship with the University of Connecticut in a fair and equitable manner in accordance with state law.
- 7) 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.
- 8) USG Meetings — The Douglas Rules of Order shall govern all meetings. The Student Senate may alter or amend these rules as any other governing document.

## **ARTICLE II: Membership of the Undergraduate Student Government**

- 1) Membership of the Undergraduate Student Government shall include: elected officers, 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 of Connecticut.
- 4) Each academic school and college, and residential zones, as acknowledged by the Undergraduate Student Government, shall have at least one representative in the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.
- 5) Each candidate for student senate must reside in their respective constituency zone or be a member of their school or college at the time of election and must remain so during the tenure of their position.
  - a) Constituents of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be defined as students who are fee-paying undergraduate students at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.
  - b) At least one Multicultural and Diversity seat will be allotted for active cultural representation to promote diversity and outreach of the Undergraduate Student Government.
  - c) Each Residential Zone as acknowledged by the Undergraduate Student Government shall have at least one representative.
  - d) Each academic school and college, as acknowledged by the Undergraduate Student Government, shall have at least one representative.
  - e) Representation shall be outlined in the Bylaws.
- 6) No member of the Governing board or Judiciary 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.
- 7) There shall be several Ex-Officio seats in the Undergraduate Student Government
  - a) The Undergraduate Student Trustee shall be an Ex-Officio Member of both the Student Senate and the Governing Board.
  - b) There shall be no more than fifteen other Ex-Officio Seats in the Student Senate. The allotment of these Ex-Officio seats will be outlined in the Bylaws.
- 8) The term of all Residential or Commuter Senators shall begin following the Fall election and shall conclude the subsequent Fall. The term of Academic and Multicultural Senators shall extend from their Spring election to the following Spring.
- 9) 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 III: Powers and Functions of the Legislative Branch**

- 1) The Legislative Branch shall have one body, the Student Senate.
- 2) The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Speaker, Parliamentarian, Deputy Speaker, Senators, and Representatives.
- 3) The Legislative Branch shall be responsible for carrying out the will of the student body through enacting legislation and creating policy for the Undergraduate Student Government.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION I: Powers and Functions of the Student Senate**

- 1) All legislative action shall take place in the Student Senate.
- 2) Any person shall be permitted to attend meetings of the Student Senate.
- 3) 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.
- 4) The Student Senate shall approve all external presidential appointments, and Advocacy Directors, by two-thirds 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, and at least once over the summer break.
- 8) The Student Senate shall elect Senators to serve the position as the Speaker of the Senate.
- 9) The Student Senate shall have the power to remove any elected or appointed member of the Legislative Branch through a motion of no confidence and a vote of two-thirds in the Student Senate.
- 10) Speaking privileges within the Senate shall be extended to all members of the Undergraduate Student Government.
- 11) The Student Senate may request a decision on the constitutionality of an executive order by a two-thirds vote, which would be heard by the full Judiciary. The Speaker of the Senate would represent the senate on their behalf.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION II: Powers and Functions of the  
Speaker of the Student Senate**

- 1) The Student Senate shall elect a Speaker 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 their absence, inability to preside, or should they 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 they provide due notice and an agenda twenty-four hours in advance.
- 5) The Speaker shall nominate at least one other appointed officer from a member of the seated Senate, which must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Undergraduate Student Senate.



**ARTICLE IV: Powers and Functions of the Executive Branch**

- 1) The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, Vice President, Comptroller, the members of their respective offices, and employees of the Undergraduate Student Government.
- 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.

**ARTICLE IV, SECTION I: 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 Senate meeting during the first six weeks of each semester and at the final Senate meeting of 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 enacted.
- 5) The President shall nominate Senators to Chair and serve on the Nominations Committee by the third Senate of the Fall and Spring 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 vote.
- 6) The President shall appoint all Advocacy Committee Advocacy Directors with the confirmation of each by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- 7) The President may appoint any additional personnel to assist in the execution of their duties. These members will serve in the office of the President unless otherwise noted.
- 8) The President shall appoint all vacancies to external committees with the confirmation of a two-thirds vote 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.
- 10) Any established ad-hoc committee may be subject to re-approval by the new administration through a written charge.
  - a) All findings and work of established ad-hoc committees must be reported to the Governing Board and the Student Senate.
- 11) The President shall preside over meetings of the Governing Board.
- 12) The President shall have the power to call a special session of the Governing Board with twenty-four hour notice should a situation requiring immediate action arise at any time.
- 13) The President shall retain signature power over all student government accounts. The President may relinquish their power to the Vice President, Comptroller, and Chief of Staff.
- 14) The President shall assist the Comptroller in the development and presentation of a budget to the Senate each semester.
- 15) The President shall have the power to enforce all binding documents within the Undergraduate Student Government and may exercise their 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).

**ARTICLE IV, SECTION II: Powers and Functions of the Vice President**

- 1) The Vice President shall assist the President in fulfilling all duties and responsibilities of the Executive Branch.
- 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 Governing Board.
- 3) It shall be the duty of the Vice President to retain current senators, representatives, volunteers, work studies, and interns.
- 4) The Vice President shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate but shall not be permitted to vote.

**ARTICLE IV, SECTION III: 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.
  - a) In the event that the Comptroller refuses to sign, the Comptroller must notify the requesting party, the Governing Board 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.
  - b) If the requesting party wishes to overturn the Comptroller's decision, a case must be filed with the Judiciary challenging the rationale put forth by 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 Governing Board .
- 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 have authority in any fiscally related responsibilities not explicitly delegated in the Constitution or Bylaws.
- 7) The Comptroller shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate but shall not be permitted to vote.
- 8) The Comptroller is responsible for the creation of fiscally related policy for the Undergraduate Student Government.

## **ARTICLE V: Powers and Functions of Advocacy Committees and Advocacy Directors**

- 1) Each Advocacy Committee shall have a Advocacy Director appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Chairpersons are allowed to simultaneously hold both a Senate seat and the position of Chairperson.
- 2) Each Advocacy Committee shall have a Advocacy Director appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Chairpersons are allowed to simultaneously hold both a Senate seat and the position of Chairperson.
- 3) The Advocacy Committees and chairpersons shall operate under the joint purview of the Legislative and Executive branches.
  - a) The Student Senate shall have the power to supervise, overrule, remove or replace those to whom this authority has been entrusted.
  - b) The Student Senate shall have the power to remove any chairperson through a motion of no confidence and a vote of two-thirds in the Student Senate.
  - c) The President shall have the ability to dismiss an Advocacy Director. The dismissed Director shall have the ability to appeal their dismissal to the Senate and a 2/3rds vote in favor of the Director will overturn their dismissal.
- 4) Advocacy Directors shall have the power to appoint and remove the members of their respective committees, with just cause.
- 5) The Advocacy Directors shall serve as the presiding officer of their committee and shall be responsible for overseeing the work of their respective committee activities and projects.
- 6) The Advocacy Directors shall be responsible for reporting the status of their respective committee to the members of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate and Governing Board and the University community. At the last Senate meeting of each semester, Advocacy Directors shall issue a written semester-end report summarizing the accomplishments, challenges, activities, and future goals of their respective committees.
- 7) Each Advocacy Committee shall be required to submit its guidelines and operating procedures to the Senate for consideration and approval by a two-thirds vote at the beginning of each academic year.
- 8) Advocacy Committees shall establish times and days of the week for committee meetings at the beginning of each semester.

## **ARTICLE VI: Powers and Functions of the Governing Board**

- 1) The Governing Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Comptroller, Chief Diversity Officer, Speaker of the Senate, Chief Justice, and the chairpersons of each Advocacy Committee.
- 2) The Governing Board 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 twenty-four hours in advance.
- 3) The Governing Board 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 VII: Powers and Functions of the Judicial Branch

- 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 Constitution, Bylaws, policies and procedures related to the Senate and the Executive.
- 2) The Judiciary shall consist of seven Justices. The seven Justices shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee.
- 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.
- 5) The Judiciary shall coordinate and oversee all Undergraduate Student Government elections.
- 6) At least one Justice shall be expected to attend each Senate meeting and Advocacy 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. Should a case arise from the violation, 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. Justices shall provide due process.
  - b) Should there be a number of sitting Justices that is less than the number of Advocacy Committees, the Justices shall make reasonable effort to ensure that all Advocacy Committees have some form of Judicial reference or contact should a Justice not be available.
- 7) Justices shall provide due process under the following processes:
  - a) 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.
  - b) Requests for a decision regarding the constitutionality of an Executive Order may be referred to the Judiciary by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, and the cases shall be heard by a hearing panel.
  - c) 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.
  - d) 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, proceedings shall commence no sooner than three business days and no later than seven business days following written notification of all concerned parties.
  - e) 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.
  - f) Appeals regarding a Judicial case shall be brought before a complete panel of all seven 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.
  - g) 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.
  - h) 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.
  - i) 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 their service shall expire at the completion of the hearing.
- 8) In the event that there are less than seven Justices occupying the Judiciary, the Nominating Committee shall make reasonable effort to fill the empty seats with adequate nominees.

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- 9) 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 shall act as judicial reference. The Vice-President shall read the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Justice and this Justice shall act as the Chief Justice.
- 10) In the event of a grievance or perceived violation of the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution, Bylaws, and or the Student Code as well as any perceived ethical violation a letter of grievance may be sent to the Judiciary if no formal petition for a hearing is desired. The letter of grievance shall be given to the Chief Justice who shall assign any justice to the case, who shall recuse themselves from all judgement on matters related to the case should it reach trial. This individual shall be known as the Special Investigator. The Special Investigator shall conduct a formal investigation and alert the party of a grievance against them. In the event that a violation is found the Special Investigator may contact the person and attempt to reconcile the case. At any point before or after the start of investigation, a formal petition may be brought by the accusing party. This grievance would be a personal matter and therefore would only be subject to the public in the event a petition is created.



**ARTICLE VII, SECTION I: Powers and Functions of the Chief Justice**

- 1) The Chief Justice shall serve as the spokesperson of the Judiciary to all internal and external audiences
- 2) The Chief Justice may select a Deputy Chief Justice from the Judiciary to aid the Chief Justice in coordinating the actions of the court.
- 3) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for orienting and training all Justices.
- 4) 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.
- 5) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for coordinating the Judiciary with the Vice President and Speaker regarding topics to aid in orienting new members.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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 VII, SECTION II: 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 five weeks following the first day on 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 their residential zone, one vote for each seat open in his or her academic school or college, as well as one vote for each open at-large seat.
- 3) All degree-seeking, undergraduate students at Storrs shall, in addition, cast one vote for the Presidential/Vice Presidential ballot one vote for the Comptroller ballot, as well as one vote for the Chief Diversity Officer.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Senators, applicable appointed Governing Officers, Elected 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 VII, SECTION III: 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 a breach of duties and responsibilities or violated the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution and or Bylaws.
- 2) Articles of impeachment shall be brought to the Senate only after a two-thirds 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 a justice shall be brought to the Governing Board for consideration and not the Judiciary. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Governing Board shall be required for the consideration of removal by the Student Senate at its next meeting. Decisions of the Governing Board 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 forty-eight hours prior to the meeting of the Student Senate at which action shall be considered and shall have the opportunity to defend themselves 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 a Senator, Executive Officer, Governing Officer, or Justice.
- 5) Any Senator with unexcused absences shall be notified in writing by the Speaker of the Senate. Senators who are absent and unexcused from two or more Undergraduate Student Senate meetings per academic semester may be removed from office by the Speaker. 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 vote.
- 6) The positive petition requesting the removal of a Senator by fifty percent 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 who collected the signatures shall act as the plaintiff in the manner.
- 7) Executive appointees and Advocacy 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 VIII: Powers and Function of the Diversity and Outreach Commission**

- 1) The Diversity and Outreach Commission shall consist of the Chief Diversity Officer and the appointed members as described by within the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VIII, SECTION I: Powers and Functions of the Chief Diversity Officer**

- 1) The Chief Diversity Officer shall call and preside over all meetings of the Diversity and Outreach Commission, with regularity as determined by the Chief Diversity Officer.
- 2) The Chief Diversity Officer shall have the power to call a special session of the Governing Board with twenty-four hour notice should a situation requiring immediate action arise at any time.
- 3) The Chief Diversity Officer shall keep a record of statistics pertaining to diversity competency within the Undergraduate Student Government.
- 4) The Chief Diversity Officer must be a party to all hiring and promotion decisions, as well as terminations by supervisors, of the Undergraduate Student Government.
- 5) 5) The Chief Diversity Officer may veto any cluster of employment candidates.
  - a) This veto must be ratified by two-thirds of the Diversity and Outreach Commission.
  - b) Such a veto should be issued upon the evaluation of the entire cluster, rather than any individual hire
- 6) The Chief Diversity Officer shall work with the Elections and Outreach Commissioner as well as the Public Relations director during election periods with the specific intent to broaden USG's visibility to underrepresented groups on campus.
- 7) The Chief Diversity Officer shall be required to give three state of diversity reports to the Senate, two in the Fall semester, and one in the Spring semester.
- 8) The Chief Diversity Officer shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate but shall not be permitted to vote.

**ARTICLE VIII, SECTION I: Powers and Functions of the  
Diversity and Outreach Commission**

- 1) The Diversity and Outreach Commission shall:
  - a) Identify, investigate, and report violations of the Student Bill of Rights within USG and the University.
  - b) Develop and organize organization-wide diversity and inclusion training that can be used beyond USG.
  - c) Recruit students of diverse backgrounds to serve in all branches of USG.
  - d) Work with the University to reexamine and maintain its bias response protocols and definitions.
- 2) The Diversity and Outreach Commission shall advise the Commissioner on all matters relating to its mission
- 3) The Diversity and Outreach Commission shall discuss and take action in issues of diversity and inclusion and may refer, delegate, or sponsor a course of action or legislation to the Student Senate, Judiciary, Governing Board, or any other body.
- 4) The Diversity and Outreach Commission shall have the power to call special Student Senate meetings with 48-hour notice.
- 5) The Diversity and Outreach Commission may veto any legislation within 7 days of passage, if all of the following conditions are met:
  - a) The Commission believes that it is contrary to the Student Bill of Rights.
  - b) The President has not already signed or vetoed the legislation, regardless of any Senate action on the veto.
  - c) Such a veto may be overridden in the same manner as a presidential veto.
- 6) The Diversity and Outreach Commission shall be required to meet twice semesterly with the specific intention of reviewing current Undergraduate Student Government policies and determining if such policies are equitable.

**ARTICLE IX: Compensation of Members**

- 1) The Undergraduate Student Government may amend its Governing Documents to permit the compensation of some of its members. Attempts to do so through other means shall be void.
- 2) In order to be eligible for compensation, the position in question must be outlined in either the Bylaws or the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government and be made available to the public.
- 3) All compensable positions shall have an open, competitive, and transparent hiring process.
- 4) The Undergraduate Student Government shall reserve the right to suspend compensation for some or all of its members under extraordinary circumstances. Such a motion may be made by the Comptroller, President, or an Advisor of the Undergraduate Student Government, and shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the full Judiciary before becoming binding.

**ARTICLE X: 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.
- 3) 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 two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- 4) In the event of death, resignation, removal from office or vacancy of the Comptroller, a new Comptroller shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Senate at the next meeting of the Senate.
- 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 by a two-thirds vote of the Senate without option to lay table.
- 6) In the event of death, resignation, or removal from office, from amongst themselves, the Justices shall select a Chief Justice to coordinate the actions of the court.



**ARTICLE XI: Amendments and Bylaws to the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution**

- 1) Amendments to the constitution must originate from one of two sources, a senator, or another fee-paying undergraduate. 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. All proposed amendments will then go through the Governing Board. 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 to govern itself. These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of all members of the Student Senate present and voting.

**ARTICLE XII: Enabling Clause of the Undergraduate Student Governments**

- 1) The Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be in effect upon the approval of the Undergraduate Student Body and the notification of the University of Connecticut Board Of Trustees, or its designee.