

# CONSTITUTION

of

## Student Government Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

*Revised July 10, 2009*



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**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE**

*Revised July 10, 2009*

**Preamble**

We, the Student Government of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, are established to represent the student body within and outside of the University. This organization and its programs and activities shall be available to all interested students without regard for race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical handicap, mental handicap, or other factors covered by law.

**Article I – Authority and Responsibility**

The authority and responsibility of the Student Government is derived from the power of the Chancellor of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to recognize constituency groups as provided in Article V of the Statutes of the Board of Trustees and in Chapter 3 of the Policies of the Board of Trustees.

The Student Government shall:

1. Promote campus life.
2. Further the interests of the student body.
3. Make recommendations on the allocation and use of student fees to SIUE student groups and organizations in the best interest of the student body.
4. Encourage students to develop leadership qualities.
5. Encourage students to exemplify qualities of responsible citizenship.
6. Function cooperatively with other constituent bodies to achieve the mission and purpose of the University.
7. Make recommendations on issues regarding the University.

**Article II – Composition**

The Student Government shall consist of two separate branches - the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch.

**Article III – Legislative Branch**

Section A: Composition

The Legislative Branch of the Student Government shall consist of 12 Senators. Senators shall take office on the Monday immediately following spring semester finals week and serve for one year or until their successors are ratified.

## Section B: Qualifications

A student may not hold both an Executive position and a Senate position at the same time.

A candidate for the office of Senator must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of election or appointment. A Senator must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.4 throughout his/her term in office.

A candidate for the office of Senator must have completed 12 hours as a full-time undergraduate student or six hours as a full-time graduate student at SIUE.

Candidates for these positions must be currently enrolled SIUE students in good disciplinary and academic standing.

Candidates for these positions may not have social academic misconduct records.

## Section C: Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

Each Senator:

1. Must abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of Student Government.
2. Shall serve on two committees: one of which must be a standing committee. Senators shall have the option to serve on two university-wide committees. However, those who choose to serve on two university-wide committees must attend at least three standing committee meetings per semester.
3. Shall attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate and his/her respective committee assignments.
4. Must provide the Senate with a written and verbal report of committee meetings attended. Reports are to be submitted no later than one week after each committee meeting.
5. Must serve and record a minimum of three office hours in the Student Government office or another designated office each academic week during the fall and spring semesters. Committee meetings may count as office hours. Senate pilot meetings may be counted as office hours.
6. Must serve and record a minimum of one and one-half office hours in the Student Government office or another designated office each academic week during the summer session, if enrolled in summer classes, only while the Senators' summer classes are in session.
7. Must attend at least three events sponsored or co-sponsored by Student Government each semester and submit an event report for each program attended.
8. Must attend mandatory training programs sponsored by Student Government.
9. Senators must be enrolled full time in the fall and spring semesters and maintain full-time status. Senators are not required to be enrolled during the summer session.

## Section D: Removal from Office

### *Absences and Tardies (excused or unexcused)*

Senators who are absent for one meeting in a semester, without prior notice, must meet with the vice president prior to the next regularly scheduled senate meeting. Any senator who is 15 minutes late or leaves before senate and executive board reports are finished will receive a tardy and must submit a completed tardy form to the vice president. Tardies may be excused at the discretion of the vice president. Two unexcused tardies will equal one absence. Senators who are absent for two consecutive meetings or who accrue three absences (excused or unexcused) within a semester will be immediately removed from office. Removal for absences shall be announced by the vice president at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### *Grades*

If any Senator's cumulative GPA falls below a 2.4, the Senator will be immediately removed from office. If the Senator is appealing said grade(s), he/she has four weeks from the beginning of the semester to complete the appeal process.

### *Recall*

Any Senator may be subject to recall. Recall of a Senator shall be initiated upon the submission to the Senate of a petition signed by a number of currently enrolled students that is at least equal to twenty-five percent plus one ( $25\% + 1$ ) of those voting in the last general student body election. Upon receipt and validation of the petition, the Senate shall establish a special Recall Election Commission to manage a recall election. The recall election and the Recall Election Commission shall operate in a manner consistent with provisions of Article VIII, except for those provisions not appropriate to a recall election. The recall election shall be held within four working weeks of the validation of the petition and requires a simple majority of those voting to recall a Senator.

### *Impeachment*

A Senator may initiate impeachment of another Senator based on charges of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of duties. A committee of three Senators, appointed by the Director of the Kimmel Leadership Center, shall investigate the charges brought by the Senator(s) initiating impeachment. The committee will forward its recommendation to the Senate for action. Conviction to impeach a Senator requires a 3/4 majority vote of the total current membership (present or not) of the Senate. The Senator who is being charged with malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of duties shall not be able to vote on his/her impeachment charges.

## *Reappointments*

A Senator who resigns or is removed or recalled may not be reappointed to any senate or executive board position within Student Government for the remainder of the school year.

## **Article IV – Executive Branch**

### Section A: Composition

The Executive Branch of Student Government shall be called the Executive Board and shall consist of the following officers:

1. Student Body President
2. Vice President
3. Student Trustee (excluded from the Executive Board)
4. Financial Officer
5. Internal Affairs Officer
6. External Affairs Officer
7. Organization Relations Officer
8. School Spirit and Pride Chair

The Executive Board shall serve as a selective sounding board for the introduction of new policies and programs and serve as a communications network to the Senate. The Executive Board shall act in the best interests of the Senate when the Senate is not in session.

### Section B: Term of Office

The President and Vice President shall take office on the Monday immediately following spring semester finals week and serve for one year. The Student Trustee shall take office on July 1, and serve for one year. The Financial Officer, Internal Affairs Officer, External Affairs Officer, Organization Relations Officer, and School Spirit and Pride Chair shall take office the day after Senate approval. New chairs may serve unofficially in their office after the President has appointed them.

### Section C: Qualifications

#### *President, Vice President, and Student Trustee*

The Candidates must have completed two academic terms as full-time students at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at time of taking office.

Candidates for president and vice president must have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.6 at the time of election. These candidates must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 during their terms in office. Candidates for student trustee must have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 at the time of election. This candidate must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 during his/her term in office.

Candidates for these positions must be enrolled at SIUE full-time during the fall and spring semesters when they hold office. If the candidate for president is not enrolled during summer term, he or she is obligated to fulfill his/her duties during the summer without pay. If the candidate for vice president is not enrolled during the summer term, he or she is not obligated to fulfill his/her duties during the summer. If the candidate for vice president is enrolled during the summer term, he or she is obligated to fulfill his/her duties. Candidates must be enrolled during the summer term in order to receive compensation.

Candidates for these positions must be currently enrolled SIUE students in good disciplinary standing.

Candidates for these positions must have previously been members of Student Government's Senate, Executive Board, or Finance Board. If all candidates fail to meet this requirement, or in the event that a candidate is unopposed, the positions become available to all students without previous Student Government experience. All other qualifications must still be met.

*Financial Officer, Internal Affairs Officer, External Affairs Officer, Organization Relations Officer, Student Spirit and Pride Chair, and Election Commissioner*

Candidates for these positions must have completed one academic semester as full-time students at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Candidates for these positions must have cumulative GPAs of at least 2.5 at the time of their appointment. Candidates for these positions must maintain cumulative GPAs of at least 2.4 during their terms in office.

Candidates must be enrolled full time at SIUE for the fall and spring semesters of their terms in office. A candidate need not enroll during the summer semester and may work without pay.

Section D: Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

*Elected Positions*

The duties and responsibilities of the President, Vice President, and Student Trustee shall be defined in the Bylaws pertaining to each respective position.

### *Appointed Positions*

The duties and responsibilities of the Financial Officer, Internal Affairs Officer, External Affairs Officer, Organization Relations Officer, Student Spirit and Pride Chair, and Election Commissioner shall be defined in the Bylaws pertaining to each respective chair.

### Section E: Removal from Office

#### *Absences*

Executive Board members who are absent for one meeting in a semester, without prior notification, must meet with the president prior to the next regularly scheduled senate meeting. Any executive board member who is 15 minutes late or leaves before senate and executive reports are finished will receive a tardy and must submit a completed tardy form to the president. Tardies may be excused at the discretion of the president. Two unexcused tardies will equal one absence. Executive Board members who are absent for two consecutive Executive Board meetings or two consecutive Senate meetings in a semester or who accrue three total absences, excused or unexcused, will be immediately removed from office. Removal for absences shall be announced by the President at the next regularly scheduled Executive Board and Senate meeting.

#### *Grades*

If the cumulative GPA of the president, vice president, or student trustee falls below a 2.5, he/she will be immediately removed from office. If any appointed executive board member's cumulative GPA falls below a 2.4, he/she will be immediately removed from office. If the member is appealing said grade(s), he/she has four weeks from the beginning of the semester to complete the appeal process.

#### *Recall*

Any elected Executive Board member may be subject to recall. Recall of any one of these elected members shall be initiated upon the submission to the Senate of a petition signed by a number of currently enrolled students that is at least equal to twenty-five percent plus one ( $25\% + 1$ ) of those voting in the last general student body election. Upon receipt and validation of such a petition, the Senate shall establish a special Recall Election Commission to manage a recall election. The recall election and the Recall Election Commission shall operate in a manner consistent with provisions of Article VIII, except for those provisions not appropriate to a recall election. The recall election shall be held within four working weeks of the validation of the petition. An officer shall be recalled from office if the number of votes cast in the recall election is at least equal to fifty percent plus one ( $50\% + 1$ ) of those voting in the previous general student body election, and if a majority of the ballots cast in the recall election supports his/her recall.

### *Impeachment*

A Senator may initiate impeachment of the President, Vice President, or Trustee based on charges of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. A committee of three Senators, appointed by the Director of the Kimmel Leadership Center, shall investigate the charges brought by a Senator(s) initiating impeachment. The committee will forward its recommendation to the Senate for action. Conviction to impeach an elected Executive member shall require a 3/4 majority vote of the total current membership (present or not) of the Senate.

### *Appointed Positions*

The President may remove any appointee from an appointed position. Upon the removal of an appointee, the President must provide the Senate and Executive Board with written documentation of the reason(s) for removal at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### *Reappointments*

An Executive Board member who resigns or is removed or recalled may not be reappointed to any senate or executive board position within Student Government for the remainder of the school year.

## **Article V – Adviser/Fiscal Officer**

The adviser/fiscal officer for Student Government is the director of the Kimmel Leadership Center.

## **Article VI – Meetings**

### **Section A: Senate Meetings**

Regularly scheduled Senate meetings shall be held bi-weekly starting with the first Friday of the semester.

Two scheduled meetings of the summer semester shall constitute regular meetings. The specific dates of these meetings shall be set by the newly elected Executive Board and Director of the Kimmel Leadership Center, no later than week 14 of the spring semester.

All meetings of the Senate shall be open to the public except when closed by a majority vote of the membership and in accordance with public law (executive session).

Any active Senator shall have the privilege of designating, in writing, another Senator as his/her proxy. Proxy statements must be presented to the Vice President of the Student Body prior to the meeting. A proxy statement shall address only a specific motion concerning a specific issue and shall clearly state the intention of the Senator regarding the vote and said issue.

### Section B: Executive Meetings

The President shall establish bi-weekly meeting dates and times of the Executive Board with the advice and consent of the members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall meet during fall and spring semesters and the summer session.

### Section C: Telephone Conference

Student Government members who are unable to attend a Senate meeting or Executive Board meeting due to reasonable circumstances may be considered present through telephone conferencing. However, they will not be considered towards quorum. Student Government members who wish to teleconference must notify the President 24 hours in advance.

## **Article VII – Quorum**

### Section A: Fall and Spring Semesters

Quorum during the fall and spring semesters shall consist of one-half the membership of the Senate plus one. Senators shall not be required to wait longer than 15 minutes past the regularly scheduled meeting time to establish quorum.

### Section B: Summer Semester

Quorum for summer meetings shall consist of four Senators being present. Summer enrollment is not a requirement for a Senator to be counted for quorum.

## **Article VIII – Rules of Order**

Meetings will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order- Newly Revised, except where inconsistent with this Constitution or the Bylaws.

## **Article IX – Elections**

### Section A: Regular Elections

The general student body election of the Student Government shall be held no later than the 12th week of the spring semester.

### Section B: Voter Eligibility and Privileges

Only SIUE students enrolled for course work at the time of a Student Government election or referendum are eligible to vote in the election or referendum.

Each student voting may cast only one vote each for Student Body President, Vice President, and Student Trustee. Each student voting may vote for up to 12 candidates for Student Senator on the ballot. This includes any write-in votes. Each student may cast only one vote on each question that is placed on the ballot for a referendum or a recall election.

#### Section C: Election Commission

The duties and responsibilities of the Election Commission shall be defined in the Bylaws.

#### Section D: Ratification of Election

The Election Commission shall submit to the Senate its final report setting forth and validating the election rules no later than the last Senate meeting of the spring semester.

The election results shall become official and final once the Election Commission's final report is ratified by a simple majority of the Senate.

If the Election Commission's final report is not accepted and ratified by the Senate, the Senate shall determine what action to take regarding the election and election results.

#### Section E: Oath of Office

I, (name), solemnly promise to perform my duties and responsibilities to the best of my ability while preserving the mission and values of the university. I also vow to uphold the constitution and bylaws of SIUE Student Government while striving for the betterment of the university for all students, faculty, and staff.

### **Article X – Vacancies**

#### Section A: Senate Vacancies

If a senate seat becomes vacant, the President, Vice President, and Internal Affairs Chair shall appoint, as a board, an eligible student, as defined in Article III, Section B, to complete that vacated term. The appointment must be made within four working weeks of the vacancy. Such appointments are subject to the consent of two-thirds of the current total membership (present or not) of the Senate. If the appointment is not made within four working weeks of the vacancy, the Senate shall appoint a Senator with a two-thirds vote of approval.

#### Section B: President

If the presidency becomes vacant, the vice president shall assume the office.

### Section C: Vice President

If the vice presidency becomes vacant, the senate shall, within two working weeks of the vacancy, elect a new vice president from among its members with a two-thirds vote of approval. In the event the senate does not elect one of its own, the senate shall have two working weeks to select a representative from Student Government's internal committees with a two-thirds vote of approval. In the event no candidate is selected from within Student Government, the senate shall within four working weeks select a student-at-large with a two-thirds vote of approval. In the event of this occurrence, Article IV, Section C, Sub-section 1, Clause E does not apply.

### Section D: Student Trustee

If the student trustee position becomes vacant, the position shall be filled by a campus-wide student election. The election shall be governed by the provisions of Article VIII. The election shall be held within 12 working weeks of the vacancy.

## **Article XI – Bylaws**

Bylaws of the constitution of the Student Government may be enacted or amended by the approval of two-thirds of the total Senate membership or by the approval of a majority of those students voting in a referendum.

## **Article XII – Referendums**

### Section A

The referendum shall be held during the next general student body election, except for a referendum to ratify amendments to this constitution, which shall be governed by the provisions of Article VIII.

### Section B

Questions submitted to referendum shall be adopted if approved by a majority of those voting on the question.

## **Article XIII – Personal Leave**

### Section A

A senator and/or executive board member may be granted one personal leave of no longer than five weeks in duration during his/her term in office. Personal leave for executive board members must be submitted to the president in writing and requires approval by the president. Once approved by the president the matter must be approved by the senate at the next regularly scheduled senate meeting. Personal leave for senators must be requested of the senate in writing and requires approval by a majority vote of the senate.

### Section B

A senator or executive board member on personal leave is not a representative of the Student Body and therefore is not responsible for his/her constitutional duties and may not vote in senate meetings or executive board meetings during his/her leave. A senator or executive board member on personal leave shall not be considered in the determination of quorum.

## **Article VX – Standing Boards**

### Section A: Finance Board

The Finance Board shall make recommendations to the Senate regarding the allocation of funds to support annual allocations for student organizations, student travel, and student programming. The board shall exercise fiscal responsibility in establishing recommendations and will work with all organizations in developing a sound approach to program budgeting. The board shall have the power to establish subcommittees subject to a majority approval of the Senate.

### Section B: Tuition and Fees Committee

The Tuition and Fees Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and researching all student fees and tuition increases in accordance with the fee review process. The committee will propose recommendations on tuition and fees to the Senate for approval.

### Section C: External Affairs Committee

The External Affairs Committee shall be responsible for all activities outside of Student Government, including lobbying efforts and community involvement. The committee shall have the power to establish subcommittees subject to a majority approval of the Senate.

#### Section D: Student Organization Advisory Board

The Student Organization Advisory Board shall be responsible for overseeing and making recommendations for space distribution, as well as approving or revoking any student organization's constitution. The board also shall be responsible to interpret and have knowledge of the Student Government constitution and shall inform the Executive Board and the senate of any violations of the Student Government Constitution. This board will also make recommendations on the status of student organizations and review the criteria for an organization's recognition, which includes reviewing and recommending revisions to the Student Organization Handbook. The board shall have the power to form subcommittees subject to a majority approval by the Senate.

#### Section E: School Spirit and Pride Committee

The School Spirit and Pride Committee shall be responsible for organizing and planning events and activities to promote school spirit and pride on campus. The committee shall have the power to establish additional subcommittees subject to a majority approval of the senate. The School Spirit and Pride Committee shall be responsible for promoting Student Government at all events and functions the committee sponsors.

### **Article XV – Ratification of the Constitution**

Ratification of the constitution requires the approval of two-thirds of the total current senate membership (present or not) or by the approval of a majority of those students voting in a referendum. The constitution is subject to approval by the chancellor of the university.

### **Article XVI – Amendments to the Constitution**

#### Section A: Submission of Amendments

Amendments to the constitution must be submitted in writing at a regularly scheduled meeting of the senate. Amendments may be submitted by a senator or by a student bearing a petition calling for amendment(s) and signed by 25 or more eligible student voters.

#### Section B: Voting

An amendment may not be voted upon at the senate meeting at which it is first presented.

## Section C: Ratification of Amendments

Ratification of an amendment(s) requires the approval of three-fourths of the total current senate membership (present or not) or the approval of two-thirds of those voting in a campus referendum. Such a referendum will be held by the senate within four working weeks of receipt of a petition calling for amendment(s) and signed by a number of students at least equal to fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of those voting in the previous general student body election. Amendments to the constitution require the approval of the chancellor of the university.

Adopted Spring 1958  
Amended April, 1977  
Amended April, 1983  
Amended March, 1985  
Amended April, 1986  
Amended September, 1987  
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Amended October, 1989  
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Amended April, 2005  
Amended April, 2007  
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