

## **3359-43-01 Undergraduate student government constitution.**

### **(A) Preamble.**

As members of the undergraduate student government (USG), we serve as an advocate for undergraduate students to the faculty and administration. We are dedicated to understanding and addressing the needs and interests of the undergraduate community, and we strive to contribute to the overall success of collegians within curricular and co-curricular activities at the university of Akron.

We, the members of USG, aim to promote leadership, unity in purpose, and diversity among its members through a unique environment within the university and the community. We work towards effective and tangible results; holding ourselves to the highest level of accountability, excellence, professionalism, and integrity as humble, selfless, and caring leaders at the university of Akron.

### **(B) Guiding principles.**

#### **(1) Mission.**

Building community, enhancing experience.

#### **(2) Vision.**

We believe in a university that is connected, invested, and inspired to grow.

#### **(3) Values.**

Our existence is rooted in community, inclusivity, and service.

### **(C) Introduction.**

#### **(1) Name.**

The official name of this organization is the undergraduate student government.

#### **(2) Membership requirements.**

- (a) All members shall be undergraduate students enrolled continuously at the university of Akron. Members must maintain membership requirements both at the time of election or appointment and throughout their term of office.

Elected and appointed members must carry at least twelve credit hours, maintain a 2.3 cumulative grade point average, and be in good standing as defined by the university of Akron student conduct and community standards. Unless otherwise exempted by the university.

- (b) All elected and appointed members of USG, unless otherwise excused, are required to attend one USG retreat per semester.

- (c) Attendance and duties for elected; and appointed positions shall be outlined in the USG general bylaws.
- (d) All elected and appointed officials, with the exception of those appointed by executive order, must take the oath of office prior to the start of their term. All appointments made by executive order must take an oath of office by the next regularly scheduled senate meeting.
- (e) No individual may hold more than one membership position within USG simultaneously.

(3) Directional leadership team (DLT) officers.

- (a) The DLT officers include the president, vice president, senate chair, vice senate chair, chief justice, and executive justice.
- (b) Non-voting members of the DLT include the advisor(s), chief of staff, and the director of finance.
- (c) The DLT responsibilities are outlined in the USG general bylaws.

(4) Advisor(s).

USG shall have at least one full-time employee as its advisor. Further requirements and duties are outlined in the USG general bylaws.

(5) Accountability.

- (a) In the event that individuals fail to maintain USG membership requirements set forth in any one of the documents listed in this paragraph, a summons can be written which would require the individual to meet with one representative from each branch's leadership and the full-time advisor:
  - (i) USG constitution.
  - (ii) General bylaws.
- (b) Potential action taken against the member in no particular order, is limited to:
  - (i) Oral warning.
  - (ii) Written warning.
  - (iii) Move for impeachment.
- (c) Warnings given to a member must state exactly the failure made by the member, the reason why the action was wrong, and what the member can do to correct the failure.

(d) Progress meetings shall be held at least once a semester for all members of the USG. All other progress meeting stipulations shall be outlined in the USG general bylaws.

(6) University council.

Student representatives to the university council are chosen through the process outlined in the USG general bylaws, consistent with the university council bylaws.

(7) Faculty senate.

Faculty senate seat elections and stipulations of the faculty senate student representatives are outlined in the USG general bylaws in accordance with faculty senate bylaws.

(8) Finances.

There shall be no dues required for membership in USG. USG shall manage its own finances in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the university of Akron. The main source of funding for this organization shall be the extracurricular activities fund ("EAF").

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authorities are delegated to the officers and branches by the provisions found in this constitution.

(D) Legislative branch.

(1) Powers.

The legislative powers herein granted by the constitution and the general bylaws shall be vested in the senate of USG.

(2) Senate meetings shall be held weekly, unless circumstances warrant otherwise.

(3) Senate membership.

The legislative branch shall be composed of the senate chair, vice senate chair, and senators. The composition and number of seats in the senate shall be defined in the general bylaws. Within the composition, at least two senate seats shall be reserved for first year students.

(4) Election of the senate chair and vice senate chair.

The senate chair and vice senate chair shall be elected by a majority vote of senate at the last regular senate meeting of the academic year by the newly elected incoming senate. The senate chair and vice senate chair must be members of the incoming senate.

(5) Legislative duties.

The duties of the senate chair shall include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Attending DLT meetings.
- (b) Appointing standing committee chairs and members. Appointments to these positions do not require the approval of the senate.
- (c) Presiding over weekly senate meetings, unless circumstances warrant otherwise.
- (d) Managing the general operations of the senate.
- (e) Maintaining all records of weekly senate office hours and accountability forms.

(6) Budget and goals.

The president shall present USG's annual operating budget before the senate no later than four weeks from the date of receiving the financial information from the university. The senate shall review and approve the budget by no later than the following week. The operating budget may be approved without a second reading.

(7) University recognition of student organizations.



is not approved by the board of trustees, the USG DLT members shall meet with the vice president for student affairs or his or her designee to discuss the proposed legislation.

(E) Executive branch.

immediate action. Such orders are effective immediately upon their issuance. At the time of issuance, the president shall provide a rationale and justification for the executive order. All presidential appointments shall be written as executive orders.

- (b) For an executive order to continue in effect, it must be approved by a simple majority of the senate at the next senate meeting immediately following the order's issuance. Such orders only need to be read at one senate meeting before being brought to a vote at the same meeting.

(F) Judicial branch.









(2) All election stipulations and rules shall be outlined in the USG election rules.

(3) Referendum.

Any legislation considered by USG may, by a simple majority vote of the senate be referred to the undergraduate student body for a vote.

(a) All information regarding this legislation must be distributed to the voting



- (i) If proposed in the form of a bill, the amendment(s) shall be placed for vote before the undergraduate student body after a two-thirds vote of all USG members voting. The elections chair will administrate the vote.
  - (ii) If proposed in the form of a petition, the amendment(s) shall be placed for vote before the undergraduate student body after the USG advisor has validated the signatures. The board of elections will administrate the vote.
- (b) The elections chair shall submit amendments proposed by passage of a bill or petition in a timely manner prior to the election in which it shall be voted upon. The proposed amendment(s) must be available to the undergraduate student body, in print, at least one week prior to the election.
- (c) If the amendments are approved by a majority of the undergraduate students voting in the election, they shall be forwarded, presented, and reviewed in a reasonable time to be mutually agreed upon by the DLT and the following individuals in the order listed:
  - (i) Vice president for student affairs, or his or her designee;
  - (ii) President of the university, or the university president's designee; and the
  - (iii) Board of trustees.
- (3) Amendments to the bylaws.
  - (a) General bylaws shall be reviewed and approved by the fourth week of the academic year by a simple majority vote within at least two of the three branches.
  - (b) All USG bylaw amendments must pass with a simple majority vote within at least two of the three branches.
  - (c) All USG voting will occur within each branch's respective meeting time.
  - (d) Any amendments to the general bylaws not passed unanimously may be appealed through a grievance process outlined in the general bylaws.
- (4) Amendments to the election rules.
  - (a) Election rules shall be reviewed and voted on at the regular scheduled senate meetings prior to the start of the general elections.
  - (b) All election rules must pass with a simple majority vote of all USG members voting.
  - (c) Amendments and additions to the election rules cannot occur during the election cycle until all appeals have been heard and been ruled on.

