

JUDICIAL BRANCH BYLAWS

Article I: Definition and Purpose

Section 1: Rules and regulations may be enacted and amended by a simple 2/3 majority resolution in the USG Senate, whereas the sponsor does not have to be a member of the SAC.

Section 2: The USG Judicial Branch serves to uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the USG, to rule on actions of USG Officers and the USG Senate taken in their official capacities.

Section 3: The purpose of the Board shall be:

- i. To actively evaluate and provide support for USG body.
- ii. To serve as an ombudsman so as to ensure the integrity of the governing USG body and all people for which they are serving.

Section 4: The use of the Judicial Branch with the USG Senate body:

- i. All Senators shall be elected in accordance to the Bylaws of the Senate Affairs Committee, and shall be held accountable by the Judicial Branch of the USG to maintain adequate standing as defined by the Judicial Branch Bylaws.
- ii. All Senators are required to uphold the Bylaws of the Senate Affairs Committee, to be held accountable by the USG Judicial Branch.
- iii. All Senators are elected to serve one-year terms.
 - a. Vacancies of Senate seats, committee chairs, and all other Senate appointees shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the Senate Affairs Committee.
 - b. Resignation and impeachment of Senate seats, committee chairs, and all other Senate appointees shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the Judicial Branch.

Section 5: The use of the Judicial Branch with the USG Executive Branch:

- i. All Senators shall be elected in accordance to the Bylaws of the Senate Affairs Committee, and shall be held accountable by the Judicial Branch of the USG to maintain adequate standing as defined by the Judicial Branch Bylaws.
- ii. All Senators are required to uphold the Bylaws of the Senate Affairs Committee, to be held accountable by the USG Judicial Branch.
- iii. All Senators are elected to serve one-year terms.
 - a. Vacancies of Senate seats, committee chairs, and all other Senate appointees shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the Senate Affairs Committee.

- b. Resignation and impeachment of Senate seats, committee chairs, and all other Senate appointees shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the Judicial Branch.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: The Judicial Branch of the USG shall consist of four USG Justices to be presided over by the Chief Justice of the USG Judicial Branch.

- i. The President shall appoint all USG Justices, including the USG Chief Justice. At which point, the Vice-President shall sit on the Judicial Branch as an ex-officio member.
 - a. USG Justices shall not be members of an elected or appointed office of the USG Senate body.
- ii. Executive Judicial Appointments shall be confirmed by a 2/3-majority vote of the USG Senate; the confirmation process shall be outlined in the Senate Affairs Bylaws.
- iii. Term limits shall end with each academic year at which justices were sworn to their obligations and duties.

Article III: Powers and Limits

Section 1: The Powers of the Judicial Branch:

- i. Shall be vested with the authority to decide all cases arising under the Constitution and Bylaws of the USG.
- ii. Shall be vested with the authority to decide cases concerning an elected official, appointee, or officer of the USG in their official capacity.
- iii. Shall be vested with the authority to decide cases arising between bodies governed by the USG.
- iv. Shall be vested with the authority to conduct investigations, examine evidence, call witnesses, and enact and enforce sanctions when dealing with matters in which it has governance.
- v. Shall be vested with the authority to oversee the impeachment of USG officials, in the case of a conflict of interest, the USG advisor shall serve as a non-biased overseer of the process as outlined in the Bylaws of the Judicial Branch.
- vi. Shall be vested with the authority to oversee conduct, behavior, and presentation of the USG Senate.
 - a. Any USG Member who misses three (3) scheduled meetings or required events per quarter without excuses acceptable to the Executive Committee shall be subject to suspension from USG by a majority vote of the body. This action may be taken without the necessity of a hearing as outlined in the By-Laws of the Judicial Branch. The member(s) may appeal any suspension to the Judicial Branch.

- vii. Shall be vested with the authority to create By-Laws to govern its procedures.
 - a. The Bylaws of the Judicial Branch must be confirmed by the USG Senate at the first meeting of the USG Senate of each academic school year by a 2/3-majority vote. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be enacted by the Senate with a 2/3-majority vote.

Section 2: Conflict of Interest

- i. All issues of Conflict of Interest shall follow the procedures as specified in Section 2 of Judicial Branch Operating Procedures.

Section 3: Removal of Justices:

i. The Senate shall provide by SAC Bylaws for the removal of justices for willful or persistent failure to perform their duties and shall provide by USG Constitution and Bylaws for the disability of justices that seriously interferes with the performances of their duties.

Article IV: The Amendment Process

Section 1: The power to amend or alter these bylaws shall be vested by the Judicial Branch. The Committee shall vote by a simple majority on an amendment. If the amendment passes, it shall then be voted on by the greater SGA Senate to be confirmed by a 2/3-majority vote through the process of a resolution. Bylaws shall be approved during the first meeting of the academic year of each new Senate and amendments may occur at anytime.

Article V: Vacancies

Section 1: A Judicial Branch justice may resign their position upon notification in writing specifying the time of resignation to the USG Adviser, the USG Executive Branch, and the USG Senate.

Section 2: Upon the resignation of the Judicial Branch justice, the USG President shall nominate a replacement chairperson, to be confirmed by a 2/3-majority in the USG.

Section 3: In the case of a vacant USG Senate seat which effects membership of Judicial Branch, the seat shall remain unseated until a replacement for the vacant Senate seat is confirmed in accordance to the USG Constitution and its Bylaws.