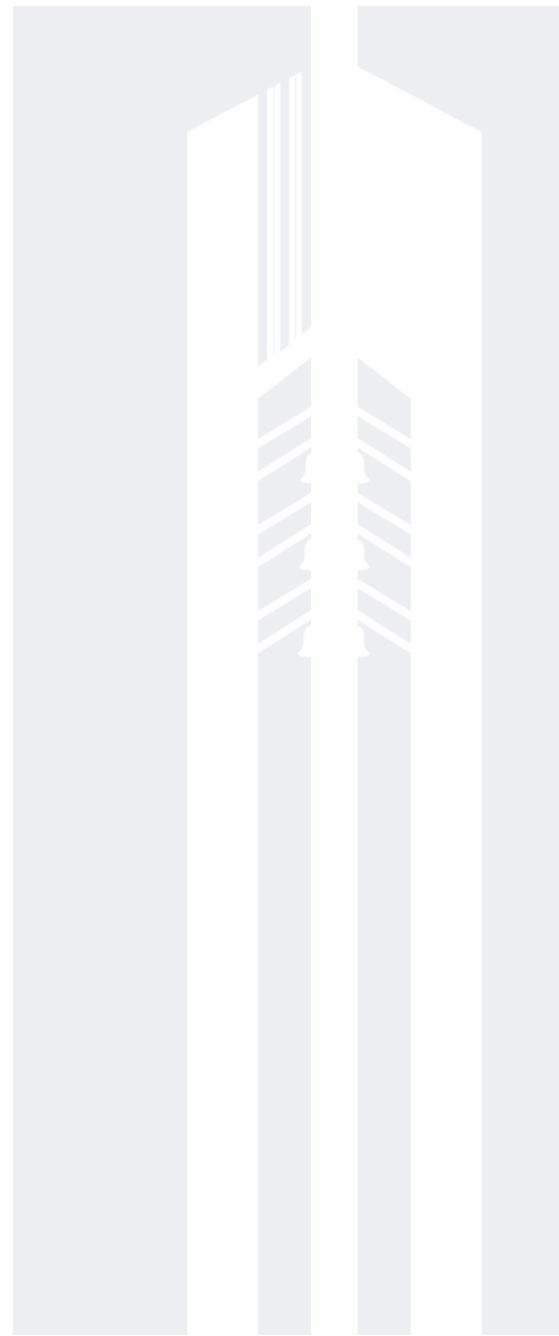


# **The Rules and Procedures of the Butler University Student Government Association Judicial Branch**

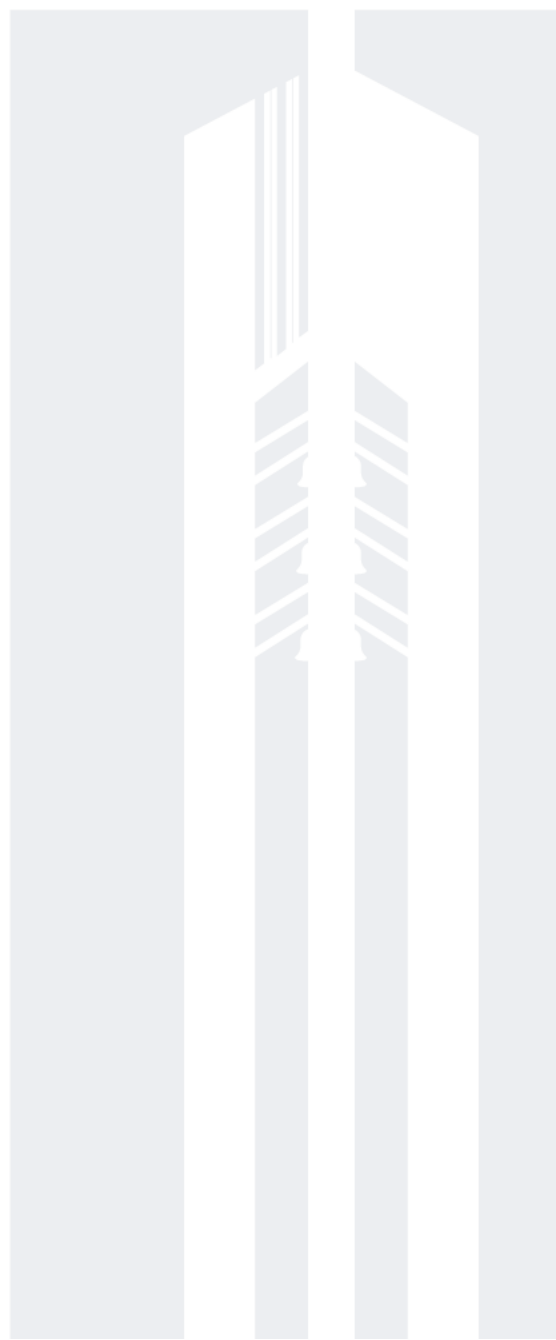
**Ratified:** September 30, 2021  
**Effective:** September 30, 2021  
**Last Amended:** -



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Section 1: Branch Terminology



## Article I: Rules of Branch Operations

### Section 1: The Chief Justice

The Chief Justice is recognized as responsible for coordinating the operations of the Butler Student Government Association Judicial Branch. The Chief Justice may delegate tasks to other Justices or designate officers of the branch to assist in an operational capacity. Such officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice or their designee shall be primarily responsible for the following matters of branch operation:

1. The Judicial Branch budget.
2. Communication with other branches of the Student Government Association.
3. Coordination and oversight of the branch schedule.
4. Coordination and oversight of Election Oversight Commission activities.
5. Coordination and oversight of officers of the branch.

The Chief Justice or their designee shall keep the Justices of the Court informed of their activities as is appropriate and shall make no effort to avoid oversight in their roles. In an administrative meeting of the Judicial Branch as determined yearly by the Chief Justice, the Justices shall nominate and appoint a Chief Justice to serve the summer and following school year. Justices may nominate themselves to serve as Chief Justice via a letter of intent addressed to their fellow Justices as to why they should be the next Chief Justice. Any nominee must at least be entering their second year as a Justice. Votes shall be made by anonymous paper ballot and shall be tallied and read out by the Court Clerk or presiding officer of the election. The election for Chief Justice shall take place in the month of April at some point before the final administrative meeting of the Judicial Branch.

1. If no nominee garners a majority of the vote, a run-off shall be held, based upon those who earned the most votes.
2. The sitting Chief Justice shall retain the right to run for reelection.
3. The sitting Chief Justice shall retain the right to vote in the election of the Chief Justice.

### Section 2: Oversight

The Justices of Student Government Association Supreme Court in assembly shall serve as an administrative board for the branch, chaired by the Chief Justice. In this capacity, the Justices shall retain certain oversight powers over the office of Chief Justice for matters relating to the operations of the branch. To this end the Justices may censure the Chief Justice should they deem it appropriate and may impose an internal injunction on an official action of the Chief Justice. Censure and internal injunction

shall be adopted with the assent of a simple majority of the Justices. The Chief Justice will vote only to break ties in matters relating to branch operations, but retains full voting privileges in decisions concerning hearings, Orders, or other related court actions, as well as for the annual election of a new Chief Justice.

1. Justices may veto any action by the Chief Justice relating to the branch budget with a simple majority. The Chief Justice must present all planned branch expenditures to the Justices of the Court for review monthly, with the exemption of emergency purchases or purchases related to a planned and budgeted event or duty of the Judiciary.
2. The Judicial Branch has full authority to oversee the operations and conduct of the Election Oversight Commission.
  - a. Adjustments to the Election Guidelines made by the Election Oversight Commission must be reviewed for constitutionality by the Judicial Branch.
3. The Justices of the branch may individually propose and collectively vote on changes to the branch schedule if necessary. Scheduling matters should be a collaborative effort that is decided by availability and consensus of a two-thirds majority.

### Section 3: Required Chairs

The Chief Justice must appoint a Justice to serve as a chair of each of the following areas within the Judicial Branch: Legislative Oversight, Conduct, and Elections. The Chief Justice also has the power to assign Justices to other areas pressing on the Judicial Branch at the time. The Chief Justice may remove a Justice from chair position at will.

### Section 4: Court Clerk

The Chief Justice has the duty to appoint a non-voting Clerk of the Court in order to facilitate communications, keeping of records, and other duties fitting the position. The Court Clerk serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice and the Judicial Branch. The Clerk of the Court is responsible for all record keeping relating to the branch including but not limited to:

1. Minutes and agendas for branch meetings
2. Records of official branch proceedings
3. File maintenance and publication of Orders and Opinions of the Court
  - a. The Clerk shall also maintain records of all official documents passed by the Executive and Legislative Branches which pass judicial review.
  - b. The Clerk shall receive petitions and appeals submitted to the branch and prepare them for review by the Justices and the Chief Justices.

- c. The Clerk shall receive documents for automatic judicial review and prepare them for review by the Justices of the Court.

### Section 5: Terms

The Justices shall abide by two-year terms as stated in the Student Government Association Constitution, with exceptions if elected by the Court to serve as Chief Justice. The term of a Justice shall officially end upon a new appointment to the Justice position or reappointment of a Justice by the newly-elected Student Government Association President. If there is no action by the new President by the final school day of the month of April, the Justice position shall be considered vacant.

### Section 6: Quorum

A minimum of sixty percent of Justices empowered to vote on an issue must be present in order to move to voting procedures on any matter brought before the Judiciary or relating to Judicial Branch functions or operations. Should quorum fail to be achieved for a hearing, the hearing shall be postponed to a time when quorum can be met.

### Section 7: Branch Terminology

The branch will adhere to the terms and definitions listed in Appendix B of this document in its operations.

### Section 8: Adherence

All officers of the Judicial Branch are responsible for upholding the standards set by this document, the Student Government Association Constitution, the General Bylaws, and University policy. Enforcement of the rules and policies herein is the responsibility of the Chief Justice and their designees. This document shall be made public for the Student Government Association and the Student Body.

### Section 9: Adherence

Amendments to this document must be presented one week prior to a vote, and shall pass with a simple majority vote of the Judicial Branch. No amendment shall be made which opposes the Student Government Association Constitution or General Bylaws, University policy, or applicable state or federal law.

## Article II: Judicial Proceedings

### Section 1: Authority

The Judicial Branch is recognized as the supreme authority in the Student Government Association to selectively rule on the constitutionality of Student Senate Resolutions, constitutionality of Executive Orders, and rule if amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution and General Bylaws are constitutional and just. The Judicial Branch also has the authority to selectively hear different petitions in regards to actions of the Student Government Association, including but not limited to Student Government Association Grant decisions and Student Senate decisions on the endorsement of student organizations. Above all else, the Judicial Branch has the authority to hold hearings concerning conduct of Student Government Association members, regardless of the status of the member within the organization. The Supreme Court shall be the ultimate arbiter of which petitions it chooses to accept or reject. The Judicial Branch is also endowed with certain powers of oversight upon the Executive and Legislative Branches, and as such is empowered to subpoena documents and other information reasonably determined to be necessary in order to ensure compliance to the Constitution and General Bylaws by the branches and members thereof, and to injunct Resolutions pending review.

### Section 2: Proceeding on General Petitions

The Student Government Organization Supreme Court will rule on all petitions, in accordance with its constitutional authority, and may exercise appropriate discretion in moving petitions through judicial proceedings. The following steps will be followed for any petition submitted to the Student Government Association Supreme Court. Special circumstances for specific cases will be detailed separately.

1. The Supreme Court must be petitioned to decide on a controversy, question, or grievance.
  - a. Parties wishing to petition the Court must submit a fully completed online form and attach necessary briefs.
    - i. Petition submissions will include relevant details such as: the name(s) of the petitioner(s), contact information, academic standing(s) (i.e. first-year, sophomore etc.), relevant organizational affiliation, parties against which the petition is being filed (to be designated as the respondent).
      1. Other petitioner information may be required before bringing a petition to argument, as deemed necessary by the Court. The Court shall not request any information that

violates the privacy of any parties to a petition and will operate within the confines of relevant University policies, state, and federal laws.

2. The Justices will review petitions and briefs submitted to the Court and will determine whether or not to send a petition to docket.
  - a. A minimum of two Justices must agree that a petition should be sent to docket. Any petition that does not receive the necessary support will not be sent to docket and the petitioner will be notified of their petition's rejection.
  - b. The Court will review petitions submitted during weekly administrative meetings. The Clerk of the Court will notify petitioners each week of decisions made regarding their petitions.
3. Once approved for docket, a petition will be made publically available for review via the Judicial Branch webpage. Petitions may also be circulated to relevant parties depending on their nature. Such circumstances will be detailed in a separate section.
4. Once a petition is approved for docket, the Clerk of the Court will coordinate with the petitioner(s) and the respondent(s) to schedule arguments before the Court, if applicable. Parties will be given notice at least one week in advance of their scheduled argument or hearing.
  - a. **Petition Lacking a Respondent:** In the event there is no indicated respondent in a petition, the Court may assign an opposing party or may open the case for a party to rise to respondent. In such an event, scheduling of arguments will be delayed until appropriate measures to find a respondent have been taken. If no party rises to respondent or accepts the assignment of respondent by the Court, the petition may proceed to argument without a respondent.
  - b. **Motion for summary judgment:** After notification of a petition's approval for docket, the petitioner or the respondent may submit a motion for summary judgment to the Court. Summary judgment is appropriate when a matter is clearly decidable based on a matter of Student Government Association or University policy. The motion must include a brief detailing why (based on policy) summary judgment is appropriate. All parties to a petition will be notified of a motion for summary judgment and may submit reasoning to oppose the motion. Motions and opposing reasoning will be reviewed by the Justices and the motion either approved or denied. A minimum of four Justices must concur to approve the motion. If approved, the Court will hand down an Opinion detailing the ruling as in



any other case. Motions for summary judgment may not be submitted for questions of constitutionality.

- c. **Motion for injunction:** After notification of a petition's approval for docket, the petitioner or the respondent may submit a motion for injunction if such a measure is appropriate to the nature of the petition. An injunction is appropriate when the petition is levied against another party for an action which may be considered detrimental to an individual, organization, or the Student Body. The motion must include a brief detailing why an injunction is appropriate. All parties to a petition will be notified of a motion for injunction and may submit reasoning to support or oppose the motion. Motions and opposing reasoning will be reviewed by the Justices and the motion either approved or denied. A minimum of four Justices must concur to approve the motion. If approved, the Court will give public notice of the injunction and direct notice to the parties of the petition as well as any relevant parties the injunction affects.
  - d. **Motion to forego argument:** After notification of a petition's approval for docket, the petitioner(s) may submit a motion to forego argument before the Court. The petitioner is the only party that may motion to forego argument, however, the respondent may contest the motion to forego argument if it wishes. If a motion to forego argument is contested, it is automatically defeated and the petition will proceed to argument before the Court. If a motion to forego argument is uncontested it is automatically approved and the Court will render judgment on a petition based on the briefs it has received.
  - e. The Justices may determine the necessity of an injunction or summary judgment without either party to a petition submitting a motion.
  - f. Forms to submit motions will be made available to parties after approval of a petition for docket.
5. The Court may request the presence of experts unaffiliated with either side of a petition in order to provide testimony regarding the content of a petition. The Court may also subpoena relevant witnesses, documents, or other evidence it deems necessary to make a just decision in the matter petitioned.
  6. By default, petitions will proceed to an argument before the Court after approval for docket, unless a motion to forego argument is successful. Either party to a petition may decline to argue in person and may rest their argument on submitted briefs. The Court must be informed of such a choice at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled time of argument. All pieces of evidence must be submitted to the Court a minimum of 24 hours before the hearing, with exceptions at the discretion of the Court. All evidence shall be shared with both parties a minimum

of 12 hours before the hearing, with exceptions at the discretion of the Court.

Argument of a petition before the Court will proceed as follows:

- a. Petitioner(s) argue(s) first for a maximum of 10 minutes
  - b. Respondent(s) argue(s) second for a maximum of 10 minutes
  - c. Petitioner(s) will have a maximum of 5 minutes for rebuttal and closing statement
  - d. Respondent(s) will have a maximum of 5 minutes for rebuttal and closing statement
  - e. Parties to the petition will be dismissed after arguments are concluded. The Justices will remain convened for deliberation.
  - f. Times may be adjusted at the discretion of the Court to accommodate Justices' questions. Additional sections of argument may be added at the discretion of the Court for expert testimony, questioning of witnesses, or other circumstances not previously mentioned. Parties must be given equal time to address the Court.
7. Justices will deliberate on a case for whatever duration is necessary to reach a conclusion. A majority of Justices must concur in order to constitute a Majority Opinion. Once a Majority Opinion has been reached, the Court will publish a written Majority Opinion for public review. Majority Opinions may be written by one Justice and joined by the other Justices.
- a. Justices who do not agree with the Majority Opinion may draft their own Dissenting Opinion to be published by the Court along with the Majority Opinion. Justices may also offer Opinions which dissent in part and concur in part, or which concur in result but dissent in reasoning.
  - b. Opinions shall be rendered within fifteen school days of argument before the Court. Timing of the rendering of Opinions is ultimately at the discretion of the Court. Parties will be notified of irregularities in the timing of decision rendering.
8. Special circumstances for proceedings on constitutionality and validity: For petitions challenging the constitutionality of Student Senate Resolutions, Executive Orders, Student Government Association General Bylaws, or the validity of the Student Government Association Constitution, all members of the Student Government Association will be informed of petitions once approved for docket. This is to allow stakeholders to submit briefs to the Court for consideration with the case material.
- a. The petition must include the following information in addition to that required by Article 2.2, #1, sub-section a of this document:
    - i. What Resolution, bylaw, or Executive Order is relevant to the petition.

- ii. Why the petitioner believes that it is unconstitutional.
  - iii. Other optional disclosures to the Court.
- b. For petitions relating to the constitutionality of amendments or the validity of a section of the Student Government Association Constitution, the following information, in addition to that required by Article 2.2, #1, sub-section a of this document, must be included:
- i. Which section/amendment is relevant to the petition.
  - ii. What specific text or language is unconstitutional/invalid.
  - iii. Justification for the section's/amendment's unconstitutionality or invalidity.
  - iv. Other optional disclosures to the Court.
    - 1. The invalidity of a section or duly passed amendment to the Student Government Association Constitution should be based on the section's inconsistency with the document or violation of a higher policy, such as University policy or rights under law.

### Section 3: Appeals

The Judicial Branch shall consider all appeal requests submitted for decisions outlined in the Student Government Association General Bylaws. Specific forms for each category of appeal will be made available on the Judicial Branch webpage. Court decisions to approve an appeal for docket will follow required procedures in Article 2.2, #2 of this document.

1. Criteria for appeals: appeals are adjudications on the validity of a past process. Appeals will generally only be approved for docket if the petitioner presents evidence of new information relevant to the original decision or presents evidence of a procedural error or bias that impacted the decision. The Student Government Association Supreme Court may exercise discretion in approving appeals and shall consider all issues of policy relevant to appeals before they are approved or rejected for docket.
2. Processes: The following procedures for appeal hearings will be followed generally in appeal proceedings. The Supreme Court may deviate from these procedures at their discretion while informing parties to the appeal.
  - a. Appeal requests will be reviewed by an appointed Justice or Justices who will offer a summary and recommendation to the Court. Documents from the petitioner will be reviewed and all documents and records from the original decision-making party relevant to the appeal will be requested.
    - i. If the original decision-making party fails to submit documentation and records, the Court may issue a subpoena at its discretion.

- b. Once an appeal is approved for docket, the petitioner will be notified and provided a timetable for the appeals process. Appeal hearings should occur no sooner than seven days after the petitioner has been notified. The petitioner may elect to schedule their appeal hearing before the end of the seven-day grace period. In such an event, the original decision-making body may contest this privilege by motioning the Court for more preparation time. The original decision-making party will also be informed of the appeal's approval for the docket.
  - c. The Court shall allow for live testimony by both the petitioner and a representative of the original decision-making body. Neither party may appoint more than three representatives to present before the Court and both shall be given equal time to make testimonials. Testimonials shall be given separately with the petitioner given first testimonial privilege. Live testimonials are not required in all appeal proceedings and may be foregone by either or both parties. Parties not giving in-person testimonials will have their cases considered on the merits of all submitted records and documentation.
  - d. Parties to appeals may submit additional documentation up to 24 hours prior to the appeal hearing.
  - e. The Court shall retain the authority to adjust and impose additional timetables to these detailed processes. Parties shall always be informed of the specific timing for their relevant appeal.
3. Decision on appeals: The Court will consider the records, documentation, and testimonials presented by all parties to an appeal and shall render a decision in a timely manner consistent with Article 2.2, #7, sub-section b. The Court may elect to issue either an Order or written Opinion to resolve an appeal.

#### Section 4: Impeachment of Student Government Association Members

Full-time undergraduate students may submit concerns and evidence regarding a member of the Student Government Association via a form designated by the Court. The Judicial Branch will review any documentation submitted and will open an investigation or begin a hearing at its discretion. The Court must vote by a simple majority to send the matter to an impeachment hearing or to open a further investigation. Any member of the Student Government Association who is the subject of an investigation beyond review of any submitted documents or who is subject of a hearing must be informed that the investigation or hearing is occurring, be provided a timeline for the investigation or hearing, be provided with evidence against them, and be afforded the opportunity to submit a brief and evidence in their own defense and to argue their defense before the Court if they so desire. The Court shall also keep the petitioner notified of official action

taken in the impeachment process. The Court shall retain discretion for the levying of sanctions based on investigation findings within parameters provided in the Constitution and General Bylaws. If the Court investigates a member of the Executive Branch not confirmed by the Student Senate, the Court may only deliver disciplinary recommendations to the Student Government Association President, but has no authority to officially sanction or dismiss that member.

1. Evidence in an impeachment: should the Court believe that evidence vital to the decision making process of an impeachment is being withheld, the Court holds the right to issue a subpoena for documentation or witnesses.
2. Articles of Impeachment: When sending an impeachment query to docket for a hearing, the Court must levy specific Articles of Impeachment against the subject of the hearing. These Articles of Impeachment must be voted on by the Court prior to any hearing and pass by a simple majority vote. These Articles must be finalized a minimum of three days prior to the hearing, and the subject of the hearing must be informed of the finalized Articles of Impeachment levied against them. Should any of these Articles be upheld, they shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the Senate for the next portion of the impeachment process.

## Section 5: University Status Checks

In accordance with Article XV Section 7 of the Student Government Association General Bylaws, the Judiciary shall have the responsibility of conducting checks of university standing to ensure compliance with Article III Section 4 of the Constitution. Good university standing is defined as maintaining above a 2.5 GPA and adequate conduct status as defined by the University. The Judiciary must check all organization members' university status a minimum of two times per semester, as well as any additional requirements to run for office. The Judicial Branch shall retain the right to make additional conduct checks on individual members at the discretion of the Judiciary. The process for university status checks shall be as follows:

1. The Chair of Conduct or the Chief Justice shall notify the university advisor to the Judicial Branch of intention to begin the process of conducting a university status check.
  - a. The university designated advisor shall have the responsibility of notifying other university officials of this intention in order to gain the appropriate information.
2. Upon return of this information, any member found not in good standing shall be placed in a performance improvement plan with a minimum time of six weeks and a maximum time lasting to the end of the current academic semester.
  - a. Time on a performance improvement plan due to poor university standing shall not include breaks in the academic calendar.

- b. A member of the Student Government Association may appeal for more time on their performance improvement plan regarding university status within five school days of initial receipt of the plan.
  - i. Any organization member wishing to appeal the time of their performance improvement plan must sign any and all forms or documents deemed necessary by the university designated advisor to the Student Government Association.
  - ii. Should a member believe that they have returned to good university standing before the conclusion of the performance improvement plan, they may appeal to the Judicial Branch to be taken off the plan.
- c. Organization members must be notified that they qualify for a performance improvement plan relating to their university status to retain their position within five school days of the Judicial Branch's weekly administrative meeting at which the university status check results are discussed.
- d. A failure to sign and return the performance improvement plan within three school days of initial receipt shall be grounds for removal from the organization.
  - i. Upon signing of a performance improvement plan, the Branch Leader over the Student Government Association member shall be informed that the member is in a performance improvement plan due to a lack of good university standing. No other information regarding the lack of good standing shall be shared with the Branch Leader by the Court, unless deemed necessary in the removal process should progress not be made on the plan.
3. A failure to fulfill the contents of the performance improvement plan as determined by the Judiciary shall be grounds for removal from the organization.
4. It is the responsibility of the members of the Student Government Association to notify the Judicial Branch or corresponding advisors of a change in university status.
  - a. Failure to provide this notice shall be grounds for removal from the organization, in accordance with Article XV, Section 7 of the Student Government Association General Bylaws.
    - i. Any member who does not provide notice shall not be granted the opportunity to be placed in a performance improvement plan and retain their position.

- b. The organization member shall not be required to reveal more than that they have had a change in university status, with any additional information provided at their sole discretion.

## Article III: Procedures for Automatic Judicial Review

### Section 1: Process Definition

The Judicial Branch shall automatically review all official policy actions from the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Student Government Association for adherence to the Student Government Association Constitution, General Bylaws, and University policy.

### Section 2: Review Process

All policy actions subject to automatic judicial review will be submitted by designated officials of the Legislative and Executive Branches to the Clerk of the Court. Documents will be distributed to individual Justices per assigned areas of focus for initial review. Justices will then give a recommendation to pass or reject the policy action for adherence as discussed in Article III Section 1 to the Court. Justices will vote by simple majority to pass or reject policy actions after a recommendation has been made and all questions from the Justices have been considered. Following approval or rejection, a communication will be sent by the branch to the President, Speaker of the Senate, and Director of Public Relations containing:

1. Policy number and name.
2. Policy action status (approved, approved but non-binding, rejected).
  - a. Court reasoning (in the case of approval but non-binding or rejection).
3. Additional information concerning decision (if applicable).
4. Appeals process for judicial review decisions.

This communication shall be considered public with the expectation that it will be shared with affected parties internal to the Student Government Association and externally in the Student Body at large. No counts of judicial votes concerning the judicial review process may be included in this communication. Should a party wish to appeal a judicial review decision, the standard rules for appeals laid out in Article II of the Judicial Branch Rules and Procedures shall apply.

### Section 3: Active Policy

Policy actions up for automatic judicial review shall be considered in effect upon being duly passed and/or enacted by its respective branch or organization of the Student



Government Association and shall have injunction placed upon it in the event it does not pass the automatic judicial review process.

1. **Temporary injunction:** if applicable, a minimum of two Justices may agree that a temporary injunction shall be issued in the regard to the policy to cease action immediately pending judicial review at the next weekly administrative meeting. If an item is blocked by a temporary injunction it must be discussed at the next weekly administrative meeting.

#### Section 4: Passage or Rejection

Policy actions which pass automatic judicial review will be appropriately filed and archived by the Court Clerk. Policy actions which do not pass automatic judicial review will be halted by injunction of the Court. The relevant branch or organization which submitted the policy action will be notified of the injunction and provided with the Court's reasoning in the form of a written Opinion. The relevant branch or organization may then revise the policy action or appeal the decision.

#### Section 5: Appeals of Policy Action Injunctions

To appeal an Order of injunction against a policy action submitted for automatic judicial review, the relevant branch or organization of the Student Government Association must submit a corresponding appeal form and designate a representative to submit documentation and/or argue for the policy action before the Court. Process for these appeals will be set on a case-by-case basis, but will guarantee the rights of the appealing party to prepare adequately and to present their argument before the Court.

### Article IV: Judicial Outreach

#### Section 1: Outreach

The Judicial Branch will provide outreach to student organizations in the event of any issues that arise or as a secondary support to the Executive or Legislative Branches.

### Article V: Recusal

#### Section 1: Conflicts of Interest

In the circumstance that a Supreme Court Justice determines they have a conflict of interest in any case, they must consider recusing themselves from proceedings.



## Section 2: Grounds for Recusal

Grounds for recusal may include, but are not limited to: family or close relationships, involvement in conflicting organizations, financial interests, previously expressed opinions on the merits of the case, or other conflicting interests.

## Section 3: Process for Recusal

In the circumstance that a Supreme Court Justice deems it necessary to recuse themselves from a specific case, the following must occur:

1. The recused Justice shall not participate in any proceedings of the recused case.
  - a. This includes, but is not limited to, discussion regarding the case and voting on the case.
2. Any Justice recused must leave the room, but be available to the Court, during the proceedings.
3. At the discretion of the Court, the recused Justice may provide factual points of information related to the case or recommendations on parliamentary procedure.

## Section 4: Chief Justice Recusal

In the case that the Chief Justice chooses to recuse themselves from a specific case, the Court must vote on an acting chair to preside over the case. The acting chair shall have the same responsibilities as the Chief Justice in facilitating discussion and organizational oversight. As with the Chief Justice, the acting chair shall be a non-voting member, except in the event of a tie.

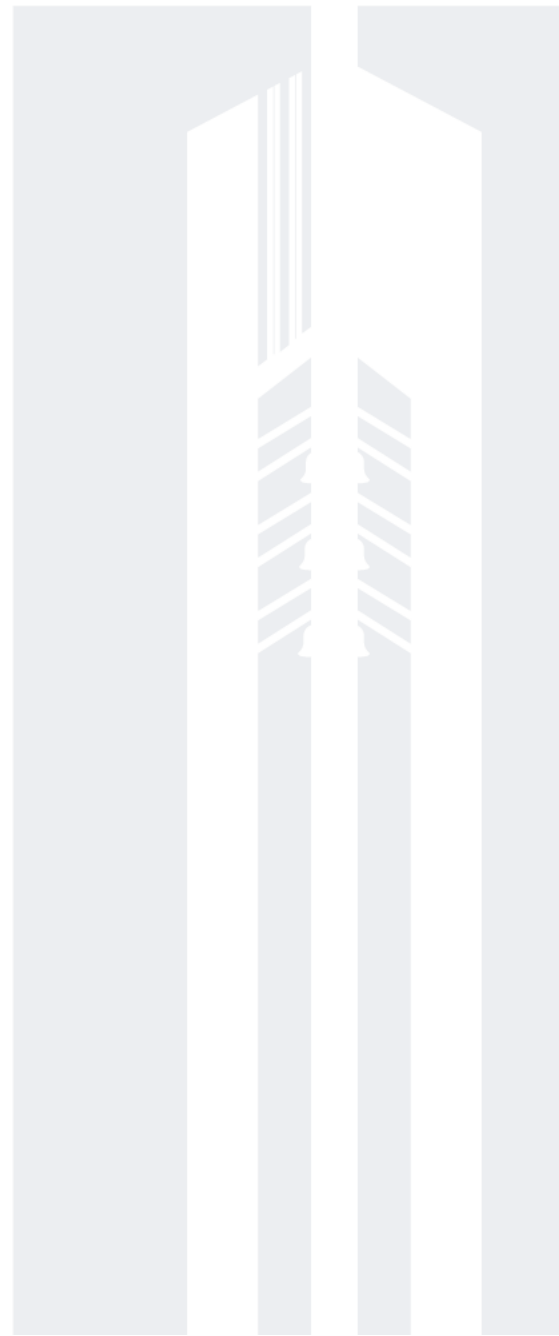
## Section 5: Forced Recusal

In accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, General Bylaws, or Judicial Branch Rules and Procedures, if member(s) of the Judicial Branch believe(s) that for one of the above stated reasons another member of the Judiciary should not hear a particular case, a Justice may motion to discuss whether the stated member should recuse themselves. The motion shall be upheld with a simple majority vote.

# Appendix A: Election Oversight Commission

## Section 1: Authority

The Judicial Branch shall have the authority to create rules governing the Election Oversight Commission as the Court sees fit.



# Appendix B: Branch Terminology

## Section 1: Branch Terminology

The Judicial Branch will adhere to the following terms and definitions in its operations:

1. **Petition:** any controversy, question, or grievance brought before an institution of the branch. Petitions shall be considered and ruled upon by an appropriate institution of the branch according to rules detailed herein. As petitions are so named, the party bringing the petition shall be known as the petitioner(s). Petitions should detail the issue at hand for the petitioner, its relevance to the petitioner, and the desired outcome of the overall issue.
2. **Appeal:** a specific type of petition to the Court which asks it to review the decision of another organization within the Student Government Association or a previous decision of the Supreme Court.
3. **Hearing:** a meeting of the Court regarding an appeal or a petition in which arguments take place. A hearing may be an internal procedure of the Court or petitioner(s), experts, or other individuals or organizations may be present at the invitation of the Court.
4. **Documentation:** documents detailing the arguments of parties of a petition as well as the situation relevant to a petition. There may be multiple documents supporting one petition.
5. **Respondent:** the party against which a petition is filed, or a party speaking in opposition to the argument of a petitioner.
6. **Argument:** a presentation of the petitioner's argument and, in most cases, a counter argument presented by the respondent.
7. **Decision:** the final decision of an institution of the branch.
8. **Concurring opinion:** opinion crafted optionally by a Justice who agrees with the majority opinion.
9. **Dissenting opinion:** opinion crafted optionally by a Justice who disagrees with the majority opinion.