

Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Constitution (2019-2020)

University of Connecticut, Hartford

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 elected or appointed officials, 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 within 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.

Article I. Undergraduate Student Government (USG)

- a. *The Undergraduate Student Government shall be the primary recognized voice on behalf of students to all audiences and shall actively partake in the university-wide decision-making process through representation and advocacy.*
- b. *The right of the Undergraduate Student Government to communicate with the Student Body shall not be abridged.*
- c. *The Undergraduate Student Government will ensure the observance, protection, and promotion of the [Student Bill of Rights](#).*
- d. *The Undergraduate Student Government shall reserve the right to adopt and amend its own Bylaws.*
- e. *The Undergraduate Student Government shall at all times remain accountable and accessible to individual students and the entire Student Body at large.*
- f. *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.*
- g. *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.*
- h. *The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution or its Bylaws. The Senate by two-thirds vote may alter or amend these rules.*

Article II. Membership

- a. *Membership of the Undergraduate Student Government is open only to registered, degree-seeking, fee paying undergraduate students of UConn Hartford. Failure to comply with this criteria or failure to maintain in good [academic standing](#) with the University shall lead to automatic forfeiture of membership rights.*
- b. *The Undergraduate Student Government shall include: elected officers, appointed officers, committee members, and Advisor(s).*
- c. *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. Senate

- a. *All legislative action shall take place in the Student Senate.*
- b. *Any person shall be permitted to attend sessions of the Senate.*
- c. *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.*
- d. *The Student Senate shall approve all presidential appointments, including Committee Chairpersons and external appointments, by two-thirds vote of the body.*
- e. *The Student Senate shall exercise control over its student fee revenue and shall approve the Undergraduate Student Government budget each semester.*
- f. *The Student Senate shall have the power to remove any elected or appointed member through a motion of no confidence and a vote of two-thirds in the full Senate.*
- g. *The Student Senate shall be responsible for carrying out the will of the student body through enacting legislation and creating policy for the Undergraduate Student Government.*
- h. *Speaking privileges within the Senate shall be extended to the Executive Board and Advisor(s).*

Article IV. Executive Board (eBoard)

- a. *The Executive Board (eBoard) shall consist of the President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief of Communications, and other presidential appointees.*
- b. *The Executive Board 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.*
- c. *The Executive 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.*

- d. *The Executive Board shall 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.*

Article V. President (Prez)

- a. *The President of the Student Body shall be the official spokesperson of the Student Body.*
- b. *The President shall deliver a State of the Campus address in a Senate sessions during the first six weeks of each semester and at the final Senate session of each semester.*
- c. *The President shall preside over all sessions of the Senate and vote only when breaking ties and to reach quorum.*
- d. *The President may veto any legislation and the Senate with a vote of two-thirds, the veto of the President may be overridden.*
- e. *The President shall appoint all standing Committee Chairpersons with the confirmation of each by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.*
- f. *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. Any established ad-hoc committee may be subject to re-approval by the new administration through a written charge. All findings and work of established ad-hoc committees must be reported to the Senate.*
- g. *The President shall have the power to call an emergency meeting of the Senate.*
- h. *The President shall retain signature power over all student government accounts and may relinquish their power to the Vice President or the Chief Financial Officer, and in the event that he or she is unavailable to sign.*
- i. *The President shall assist the Chief Financial Officer in the development and presentation of a budget to the Senate each semester.*
- j. *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 VI. Vice President (VP)

- a. *The Vice President shall assist the President in fulfilling all duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board.*
- b. *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 Senate.*
- c. *In the event of the President's absence, the Vice President shall chair Senate meetings.*
- d. *The Vice President shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate but shall not be permitted to vote.*
- e. *The Vice President shall serve as the primary liaison to all Hartford Campus Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and advisor(s).*

Article VII. Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

- a. *The Chief Financial Officer 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.*
- b. *The Chief Financial Officer shall exercise signature power over all Undergraduate Student Government accounts and shall have the ability to financially commit the organization, and approve expenditures on behalf of the organization. The Chief Financial Officer may relinquish his or her power to the President or the Vice President in the event that he or she is unavailable to sign.*
- c. *The Chief Financial Officer shall be familiar with the bookkeeping system of the Undergraduate Student Government and with the status of all accounts so that the Chief Financial Officer may inform any Senator, student, or other party of the same. The Chief Financial Officer may review the operation of the bookkeeping office and shall report any irregularities to the Student Senate and the Executive Board.*
- d. *The Chief Financial Officer with the assistance of the President, shall develop and present the budget to Senate for approval each semester for the subsequent semester.*
- e. *The Chief Financial Officer shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate but shall not be permitted to vote (unless an elected Senator).*
- f. *The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the creation of fiscal policies for the Undergraduate Student Government.*

Article VIII. Chief of Communications Officer (CCO)

- a. *The Chief Communications Officer shall keep and make available all permanent record and founding documents including, but not limited to the constitution, bylaws, and meeting minutes.*
- b. *The Chief Communications Officer shall manage the overall communication and marketing strategies for the organization.*

Article IX. Committee and Chairperson

- a. *Each standing committee shall have a Committee Chairperson suggested by the chair, confirmed by the Executive Board, and voted on by the Senate. Chairpersons are allowed to simultaneously hold both a Senate seat and the position of Chairperson.*
- b. *The standing committees and chairpersons shall operate under the purview of the Executive Board.*
- c. *Committee Chairpersons shall have the power to appoint and remove members of their respective committees, with just cause.*
- d. *The Committee Chairpersons shall serve as the presiding officer of their committee and shall be responsible for overseeing the work of their respective committee activities and projects.*
- e. *The Committee Chairpersons shall be responsible for reporting the status of their respective committee to the members of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate and the University community. At the last Senate meeting of each semester, Committee Chairpersons shall issue a written semester-end report summarizing the accomplishments, challenges, activities, and future goals of their respective committees.*
- f. *Each standing 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.*
- g. *The Committee Chairpersons shall appoint a Vice Chairperson to assist in the dispersal of Committee responsibilities as they so choose. The appointed Vice Chairperson may chair committee meetings in the absence of the Chairperson or if the Chairperson wishes to temporarily step down for either a part of or the entire meeting. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as a member of the Executive Board in the Chairperson's absence.*
- h. *Standing committees shall establish times and days of the week for committee meetings prior to the start of the semester.*

Article X. Elections

- a. *The President shall appoint an Elections Committee Chairperson; chair or members cannot be a candidate for election.*
- b. *If the Elections Committee is unable to fulfill their duties, Advisor(s) may assume election responsibilities.*
- c. *All registered, degree-seeking, fee paying undergraduate students at Hartford are eligible to run for any vacant seat(s) and may cast one vote for each open seat.*
- d. *The President and Vice President shall be voted in by the Senate.*

Article XI. Impeachment

- a. *The Senate shall be the hearing board with the President presiding over the hearing.*
- b. *In the event the President shall be the one being (or in the process of being) impeached, then the Advisor(s) shall appoint a Senator to lead the hearing.*
- c. *Any member of the Undergraduate Student Government will become subject to impeachment shall they fail to perform the duties of their office, poor academic standing, or failure to meet organizational expectations.*
- d. *The member being charged shall have the charges against them publicly read at an official meeting and notification of the charges must be sent to members via email. The member being charged shall be given one (1) week to prepare their defense and shall have the right to witnesses, and any other evidence to support their case.*
- e. *Conviction with removal from office requires a 2/3 vote of the full Senate.*

Article XII. Succession

- a. *In the event of vacancy the order of succession to the Student Body President shall be the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Chief Communications Officer, respectively.*
- b. *In the event of resignation, removal, or death of a Senator, the position will remain vacant until an election can take place.*
- c. *If all Undergraduate Student Government elected positions are vacant, authority is granted to the University Advisor(s) to conduct an election.*

Article XIV. Oath of Office

Section I. The Following is the Process for Inauguration:

- a. *In order for the Senators, President, Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer, or Chief Communication Officer to become official officers they must take an oath of office to affirm the duties they will pursue.*

Section II. The Official Oath of Office:

- a. *"I <state your name> of the Undergraduate Student Government of the University of Connecticut Hartford Campus, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of <insert title here> as described in this constitution. That I promise to represent my fellow students, maintain representative government, and defend all the rights of the student body to the best of my ability. I promise to collaborate with administration, faculty, and students and to become a better leader and scholar."*

Section III. Oath Administrator:

- a. *The President will serve as primary oath of office administrator; in the absence of a President, The Vice President or the Advisor(s) may give the official oath of office.*

Section IV. Terms of Office:

- a. *President - Two (2) years, reaffirmed by $\frac{2}{3}$ Senate vote annually, can be reelected, no term limits.*
- b. *Vice President - Two (2) years, reaffirmed $\frac{2}{3}$ Senate vote annually, can be reelected, no term limits.*

- c. *Chief Communications and Financial Officer - One (1) year, can be reappointed at the President's discretion with Senate confirmation, no term limits.*
- d. *Senator(s) - Two (2) years, can be reelected, no term limits.*

Section V. Non Hazing/Non Harassment Policy

- a. *Undergraduate Student Government maintains a strong commitment to not engaging in any activities that could be considered as hazing by any legal party at the University of Connecticut Office of Community Standards.*
- b. *Hazing is defined as any activity without reasonable or legitimate educational value expected of someone for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm, regardless of a person's willingness to participate.*
- c. *In cases of individual violators, appropriate disciplinary action may be imposed as outlined in The Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code. In cases where the entire organization has authorized such conduct; loss of privileges, temporary suspension of registration, or rescission or termination of registration may be imposed.*
- d. *Such penalties shall be in addition to any penalties pursuant to penal law (Public Act No. 88-328) which violators may be subject .*

Article XV. Amendments, By Laws, and Enabling Cause

Section I. By-Laws:

- a. *The By-Laws shall be established and may be amended as deemed necessary by the Senate. The By-Laws shall be proposed in writing at a regularly scheduled meeting and become effective upon passage by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full Senate.*

Section II. Amendments:

- b. *This Constitution may be amended as deemed necessary by the Senate. Amendments shall be proposed in writing at a regularly scheduled meeting and become effective upon passage by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full Senate.*

Section III. The Enabling Clause:

- a. *This Constitution shall become binding upon two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full Senate, a favorable vote of a plurality of students of the Hartford Campus voting in referendum, and upon approval by the Board of Trustees (or designee).*
- b. *As of that date all previous Constitutions, Bylaws, and rules and procedures to the Undergraduate Student Government and Associated Student Government of the University of Connecticut, Hartford Campus shall become void.*
- c. *Date of approval by the Undergraduate Student Government of the University of Connecticut, Hartford Campus on Monday, January 20, 2020.*

Title:	Name (printed):	Signature:	Date:
<i>President</i>	<i>Erica C. Day</i>		<i>Monday, January 20, 2020</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Sahar Amjad</i>		<i>Monday, January 20, 2020</i>
<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	<i>Amanda K. Carducci</i>		<i>Monday, January 20, 2020</i>
<i>Chief of Communications</i>	<i>Aaron Paladino</i>		<i>Monday, January 20, 2020</i>
<i>Advisor</i>	<i>Paul A. Young</i>		<i>Monday, January 20, 2020</i>
<i>Advisor</i>	<i>Dan O'Reilly</i>		<i>Monday, January 20, 2020</i>

** For purposes of consistency and continuity we borrowed heavily upon the 'Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government of the University of Connecticut' for language, formatting, and familiarity for our campus change and/or split campus students.*