

CONSTITUTION
of the
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Revised Wednesday, April 8, 2015

PREAMBLE

"The Institute recognizes that students may become involved constructively in efforts of individuals and organizations to improve physical and social conditions of the Institute, to increase the effectiveness of the Institute, to increase the effectiveness of the processes of learning and development of maturity, and to create larger opportunities for self-government characterized by orderly procedures and the exercise of mature judgment."

--Statute 4.1 of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

10 In order to further student interest, determine student responsibility, and to provide for necessary student participation in the governance of the Institute, we, the undergraduates of the Georgia Institute of Technology, hereby establish this Constitution in order to enhance the quality of student life at the Georgia Institute of Technology by committing ourselves to the service and involvement of our fellow students.

15

ARTICLE I – Mission and Vision

Mission: The Student Government Association’s mission is to empower student organizations, embody student opinions, preserve student integrity, and enrich the student experience.

20 Vision: SGA’s vision is to help make Georgia Tech the best place in the world to receive an education: a place where students boldly pursue their academic and life goals, a place where there is widespread student access to on-campus resources and support, and a place where there is collaboration between students, faculty, and administrators.

25 **ARTICLE II – Name and Citizenship**

The name of this organization shall be the Undergraduate Student Government of the Georgia Institute of Technology. All undergraduate students of the Georgia Institute of Technology shall be citizens of this government.

30 **ARTICLE III – Legislative Branch**

SECTION 1 – LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Legislative branch of this government shall be the Undergraduate House of Representatives. The House of Representatives shall have legislative authority within the limits of the Statutes, Student Conduct Code, and Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

35

SECTION 2 – COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS

The House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected every Spring Semester by the Undergraduate Student Body and installed before the beginning of the next semester. They shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are installed. Eligibility for office in the Student Government shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the House of Representatives. Representatives shall be apportioned into the various academic departments, classes, and other such bodies, including student athletes and students following the cooperative plan, deemed appropriate by the House of Representatives for representation, and elected by the constituency of each apportioned area. The House shall elect two members-at-large from the Undergraduate Student Body to serve as representatives. When an office becomes vacant, the candidate with the next highest number of votes shall fill that office. If no other candidate is available or

45

if the office is not filled by regular elections, the Student Body President shall have the power to appoint a representative from the appropriate constituency to fill that office, subject to limitations set forth in the Bylaws. The officers of the House of Representatives shall include the Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer, which are elected by the Undergraduate House of Representatives, the Speaker pro Tempore who is appointed by the Speaker of the House, and other officers according to the Bylaws.

SECTION 3– DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Undergraduate House of Representatives shall represent the entire Undergraduate Student Body in all matters affecting student interest. When appropriate, the Undergraduate House of Representatives shall cooperate with the Graduate Student Senate in exercising general supervision over all student activities. The Undergraduate House of Representatives shall be responsible for calling and conducting meetings and referenda of the undergraduate student body. The Undergraduate House of Representatives shall establish boards, councils, and committees to determine policy and implement decisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the Undergraduate Student Government. The Undergraduate House of Representatives, along with the Graduate Student Senate, may establish a Joint Governing Board by adding the charter of the Board to the Bylaws of both the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Government. The initial charter and any changes must be approved in the same form by both the Graduate Student Senate and the Undergraduate House of Representatives to become effective. Joint Governing Boards shall function as independent organizations from the Student Government Association. The chairman of a Joint Governing Board shall be appointed in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Board’s charter. The Undergraduate House of Representatives shall establish student judiciary bodies in addition to the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet, as the need arises. The Undergraduate House of Representatives, together with the Graduate Student Senate, shall have the power of granting, revoking, and approving revisions to charters for all campus organizations, as defined in the Bylaws. The Undergraduate House of Representatives shall not establish any rule, or law or resolution, which is in conflict with the Statutes of the Georgia Institute of Technology, or any local, municipal, state, or federal law.

SECTION 4 – PROCEDURE

Procedure of all meetings of the Undergraduate House of Representatives shall be governed by rules set forth in the Undergraduate Student Government Bylaws. Quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the voting membership of the House. Only voting members of the Undergraduate House of Representatives, the Student Body President, may introduce legislation before the Undergraduate House of Representatives. Any rule, regulation, or governing policy approved by the Undergraduate House of Representatives shall be valid for a period of three years from the date the bill is passed, except for changes in the Bylaws or amendments to the Constitution, which shall be permanent. The Student Body President may veto any bill passed during any meeting of the House of Representatives. He or she may veto a particular bill only once, and a two-thirds vote of the House shall be necessary to override the veto. If a veto is exercised during the last meeting of any session, a special meeting to consider the vetoed Bill shall be called to order immediately after adjournment of the last normally scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IV – Executive Branch

SECTION 1 – EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The Executive branch of this government shall have authority to execute all necessary legislation and action as defined within the limits of this Constitution, the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government, all legislation passed by the Undergraduate House of Representatives, and the Statutes, Student Conduct Code, and Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

SECTION 2 – OFFICERS

The Executive branch shall consist of the Student Body President, Executive Vice President, appointed members of their cabinet as outlined in the bylaws, jointly appointed cabinet members as outlined in the

100 bylaws, students serving in appointments external to the Student Government, and students in offices,
boards, commissions, departments, and committees which are provided for in this Constitution or in the
Bylaws, or which the Undergraduate House of Representatives may establish and place under the
105 authority of the Student Body President. The Student Body President shall be the spokesperson for the
Student Body in all Student Government affairs and in student relations with the administration. He or she
shall be the Chief Executive and shall be responsible for the activities of the Executive Branch. He or she
shall make all standing appointments of heads of executive bodies, of non-elected officers, and of
110 students to serve on bodies external to Student Government, with the advice and consent of the House of
Representatives. The President shall have the power to transact routine business which is in the best
interest of the Student Body, and shall be an ex-officio member of all executive committees and
departments. The President shall have the power to remove from office any student whom he or she has
appointed, except members of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet or those in positions primarily
115 responsible for trying student misconduct. The Executive Vice President shall act in full capacity of the
Student Body President, if the President is unable to perform his or her duties. He or she shall assist the
President in the fulfillment of all executive duties. The Speaker of the House shall serve as the ex-officio
chair and call meetings of the House of Representatives. Eligibility for office in the Executive Branch and
duties of all appointed officers shall be set forth in the Bylaws. The Student Body President and
Executive Vice President shall be elected on a ticket system by a majority vote of the Student Body
120 during the Spring Semester and shall be installed in office before the end of that semester. The Speaker of
the House shall be elected by the House of Representatives in office during the Spring Semester and shall
be installed in office before the end of that semester. The Joint positions shall be appointed in a manner
consistent with the selection of Joint Standing Committee Chairs. All officers shall serve for a term of one
year or until their successors are installed.

120 **SECTION 3 – JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

A Joint Standing Committee of the Student Government Association shall be a committee composed of
both undergraduate and graduate members with a statutory responsibility to both the Undergraduate
House of Representatives and the Graduate Student Senate. The Chairman of a Joint Standing Committee
125 shall be appointed by the President of the more populous Student Body with the advice of the President of
the less populous student body, and shall be approved by both the Undergraduate House of
Representatives and the Graduate Student Senate by an Enactment Ratio of 0.5 or higher. There shall be
no restriction placed on candidates for the position of Chairman of a Joint Standing Committee based on
the candidate’s classification of undergraduate or graduate. A Joint Standing committee may be
130 established by approval of both the Undergraduate House of Representatives and the Graduate Student
Senate by an Enactment Ratio of two-thirds or higher. Standing Committees of the Undergraduate House
of Representatives or the Graduate Student Senate may be changed to Joint Standing Committees
provided that the appropriate statutory compositions and responsibility of the committee are changed in
the Bylaws and a Chairman is appointed and approved in accordance with this section. The Joint Finance
135 Committee shall be a Joint Standing Committee of the Student Government Association. The Joint
Campus Organizations Committee shall be a Joint Standing Committee of the Student Government
Association. The Information Technology Committee shall be a Joint Standing Committee of the Student
Government Association.

140 **SECTION 5 – VACANCY IN OFFICE**

Should a vacancy occur in the office of Student Body President, then the Executive Vice President shall
assume that office. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the Executive Vice President or Speaker of the
House, then the Undergraduate House of Representatives shall elect, by a majority vote, a successor to
that office.

145 **ARTICLE V – Judicial Branch**
SECTION 1 – JUDICIAL COURTS

150 The supreme judicial body of the Undergraduate Student Government shall be the Undergraduate
Judiciary Cabinet. Lesser courts, established by the House of Representatives as needed, shall constitute
the remainder of this branch.

SECTION 2 – JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

155 The Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet shall have appellate jurisdiction over all lower courts and judicial
bodies which the House of Representatives may establish and shall serve as an appeals court for cases,
which have been referred to the Dean of Students by other judicial bodies. The Undergraduate Judiciary
Cabinet shall have the authority to interpret this Undergraduate Student Government Constitution,
Bylaws, and all policies, codes, and legislation adopted by the Undergraduate House of Representatives.
The Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet shall have the authority to determine the constitutionality of the
actions of the Executive and Legislative branches.

160

SECTION 3 – COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet shall be composed of a Chief Justice, twelve Justices, and a
maximum of three Alternate Justices, appointed as needed by the Student Body President with the
approval of the Undergraduate House of Representatives. Alternate Justices may serve in the capacity of a
165 Justice if necessary to have quorum for a hearing. A student must have reached at least Sophomore
standing to be eligible for appointment as a Justice and at least Junior standing to be eligible for
appointment as Chief Justice. Once in office, a Justice shall serve until he or she graduates, unless he or
she resigns, is impeached, or is no longer in good standing with the Georgia Tech Registrar. A Justice
must be in good standing at the beginning of each Fall and Spring semester in order to be eligible to
170 serve. No Justice may concurrently serve in an appointed or elected office in the Executive Branch or
Legislative Branch. No Justice may concurrently serve as a voting member of student judicial bodies
other than the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet and the Joint Judiciary Cabinet. A Justice may not drop
below six hours in any regular semester, nor have any disciplinary action taken against him or her. In-
town co-ops paying the Student Activity Fee and graduating seniors will not be subject to the hours
175 requirement. Justices may sit on any hearing that is occurring during the summer provided they are in
good standing with the Institute and are pre-registered for at least six hours in the fall.

SECTION 4 – CHIEF JUSTICE

180 The Chief Justice shall serve as the primary spokesperson and contact for the Undergraduate Judiciary
Cabinet; organize regular meeting of Justices; prepare practice cases for the Undergraduate Judiciary
Cabinet; appoint a Treasurer of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet; oversee, coordinate, and mediate
trial proceedings, and shall maintain fairness and consistency during such proceedings; keep record of all
policies and procedures governing trial proceedings; organize as necessary the recruiting process for new
justices, and shall submit a list of recommended candidates to the Student Body President; and shall be
185 the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet member to have and to grant access to records of previous cases,
trials, hearings, or proceedings. The Chief Justice may appoint an interim Chief Justice as needed due to
emergency situations, unavoidable time conflicts, or illness. The duration of this interim appointment may
be no longer than two weeks without the advice and consent of the Undergraduate House of
Representatives.

190

SECTION 5 – JOINT JURISDICTION

In order to adjudicate issues arising jointly under the jurisdiction of the Undergraduate Student
Government Association and the Graduate Student Government Association, the Undergraduate Judiciary
Cabinet (UJC) and Graduate Judiciary Cabinet (GJC) shall constitute the Joint Judiciary Cabinet (JJC).

195

ARTICLE VI – Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government Association

The Undergraduate House of Representatives shall establish a set of rules, which shall be known as the
Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government. The Bylaws shall be a lesser authority than this

200 Constitution and shall establish further guidelines for the Student Government. The Bylaws shall be
ratified by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the House of Representatives. Approval of the
Student Activities Committee of the Faculty shall be necessary for final ratification. A two-thirds vote of
the entire membership of the Undergraduate House of Representatives shall be required to amend the
Bylaws, provided notice has been given of the proposed amendment(s) at least one week prior to the vote.
205 Approval by the Faculty Senate, via the Student Activities Committee of the Faculty shall be necessary to
finalize the revision; however, final approval from the Faculty Senate shall not be necessary for
amendments to the Bylaws to be acted upon.

ARTICLE VII – Ratification, Amendments, Referendum, Initiative, and Recall

SECTION 1 – RATIFICATION

210 This Constitution shall become effective upon receiving two-thirds of the votes cast by the Student Body
in a special election, and approval of the Faculty Senate via the Student Activities Committee.

SECTION 2 – AMENDMENTS

215 Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the House of Representatives,
or by a petition of ten percent of the Student Body directed to the Student Body President. Amendments
shall become part of this Constitution upon receiving two-thirds of the votes cast by the Student Body in a
special election, which the President of the Student Body shall call, provided the proposed amendments
have been publicized to the Undergraduate Student Body in either the Technique or an email to all
students at least one week prior to the vote. Approval by the Academic Senate, via the Student Activities
220 Committee, shall be necessary for final ratification.

SECTION 3 – REFERENDUM

225 A referendum on any question except the allocation of Student Activity Fee Funds, the chartering of
campus organizations, or the revocation of campus organization charters may be called by a petition
signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Undergraduate Student Body, or by a majority vote of the
House of Representatives. The House of Representatives shall be responsible for conducting all referenda,
and referendum votes by the Undergraduate Student Body must be carried by a majority of the students
voting.

SECTION 4 – INITIATIVE

230 An Initiative on any question except the allocation of Student Activity Fee Funds, the chartering of
campus organizations, or the revocation of campus organization charters may be called by a petition
signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Undergraduate Student Body. The House of Representatives
must consider the initiated question and vote on the initiated question. A meeting of the Undergraduate
235 House of Representatives must be called by the Student Body President within thirty days upon receipt of
a petition signed by at least ten percent of the Undergraduate Student Body.

SECTION 5 – RECALL

240 A recall election for any elected member of the Legislative Branch or Executive Branch may be called by
a petition signed by at least ten percent of his or her electing constituency. A special election shall then be
held in which the electing constituency shall vote on whether or not to maintain that member or officer in
his or her position. A recall vote must be carried by a majority of the students voting.

Article VIII - Impeachment

245 If the Student Body President, Executive Vice President, Speaker of the House, representative in the
Undergraduate House, or member of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet neglects his or her duties, is
convicted of a violation of the Student Conduct Code, or is accused of an action which is detrimental to
the interests of the Student Body, impeachment charges may be brought against him or her by a majority
vote of the entire Undergraduate House of Representatives. If impeachment charges are brought against

250 any of these representatives, the charges shall be reviewed by the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet.
Within two weeks, the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet will issue a formal recommendation to the
Undergraduate House of Representatives for impeachment or acquittal of the individual. In order to
affirm an impeachment recommendation from the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet, the Undergraduate
House of Representatives must pass a three-fifths vote. In order to overturn an impeachment
255 recommendation from the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet, the Undergraduate House of Representatives
must pass a three-fourths vote. The Chief Justice of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet shall chair the
hearing proceedings. If charges are brought against the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice will no longer act
as the presiding officer of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet hearing proceedings, and the Executive
Vice President shall chair the hearing proceedings.

260