



**Undergraduate  
Student Government**

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**Legislative Session 2022-2023**

**Student Senate**

**S.S.B. 18**

Sponsor: Senator Clare

Student Senate Action: **Passed** Failed/Tabled

**An Act**

To amend the USG bylaws by adding a clause requiring the USG Direction of Communications to work in conjunction with the IT team of the Iowa Memorial Union (IMU) and the Speaker of the Senate to record, optimize, upload, and archive footage of USG’s weekly senate meetings, as well as any important USG events denoted by USG leadership.

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**Section 1. Short Title**

This legislation may be cited as “Transparency and Accountability Bill”

**Section 2. Discussion**

**Whereas**, 2.5% of the University of Iowa’s undergraduate student body voted for our President and Vice President in the 2022 Election.

**Whereas**, Student involvement in USG’s affairs and processes is at an alarmingly low level, as seen by low levels of attendance at Senate meetings and low levels of voter turnout.

**Whereas**, USG is not just any other club, but one with real and awesome power over finances, student clubs and activities, and is a voice of the student body with a true responsibility to represent them to our administration and board of regents.

**Whereas**, The USG constitution states “a successful student government is contingent upon open and honest communication and collaboration between USG and the constituents they represent;

failure to do so puts at risk effective representation of the undergraduate students of the University of Iowa”.

**Whereas,** Other universities, such as Iowa State University, already film, livestream and archive their student government meetings on YouTube in an easy-to-understand format. **Whereas,** An unfiltered view of government is an essential part of a democratic body.

**Whereas,** USG used to film and post senate meetings on the University of Iowa Student Government YouTube channel, and has the means to do so, but has not in almost four years.

### **Section 3. Action**

**Therefore,** Article III, Section D of the USG bylaws - under the position of “Director of Communications” - shall be amended to read as follows:

#### **“Director of Communications**

1. The Director of Communications shall be responsible for handling or delegating the following:
2. Relations with the media.
3. Coordinating publicity for USG-sponsored events.
4. Promoting USG programs, initiatives, and events to the University of Iowa community through the USG website and social media accounts.
5. **Recording, optimizing, uploading, and archiving footage of USG weekly senate meetings, as well as any other important USG events denoted by USG leadership, in conjunction with the IT team of the Iowa Memorial Union and the Speaker of the Senate. This footage shall include a plain view of the senate and clear audio, as well as including accurate closed-captioning.**
6. Overseeing the communications team
7. The Director of Communications shall notify the local news media about USG activities via distribution of press releases.
8. The Director of Communications shall assist USG Senators and/or Executives in the development of promotional campaigns for USG programs, initiatives, and events.
9. Upon approval from the President, the Director of Communications may request a communications team to aid in marketing, design, social media, media relations, or other matters of communication. These positions shall be filled by the OAC. In addition to having the former Communications Director present, the new Communications Director will also sit in as ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee. Communication team members shall serve 5 office hours per week.
10. The Director of Communications holds the right to decline or suggest modifications to any USG Communications Team Request submitted on the grounds of project size, time allotment, price of project, and/or relevance to USG initiatives.

11. If a USG Communications Team Request is denied, the request can be filled by an outside party. External contracts must be approved first by the President and second by the Senate.
12. The Director of Communications shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the External Affairs Committee.
13. The Director of Communications shall serve a minimum of 15 office hours per week.”

**Therefore**, these weekly recordings shall be published and made available to the student body via USG’s website and social media platforms no less than one (1) week following a general senate meeting.

**Therefore**, any additional expenses incurred by the use of new technology and/or additional compensation for the IT team of the IMU shall be considered by the senate at a later date and in a separate piece of legislation, no earlier than the 2023-2024 administration.

**Therefore, be it enacted** by University of Iowa Student Government upon the signature of the President.

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*Alexis Carfrae*, **Speaker of the Senate**  
Alexis Carfrae

*I hereby attest and certify that this resolution originated from the 2022-2023 Student Senate Session.*

APPROVED on 1/31/23

*Patrick Johnson*, **USG President**  
Patrick Johnson