**Judicial Branch Bylaws**

As Revised April 21, 2015

**1. Composition**

1.1 The University of Iowa Judicial Branch shall consist of the Student Judicial Court

(SJC) and the Student Elections Commissioner (SEC).

1.2 The SJC is a branch of the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG).

1.3 The SEC shall be selected from the undergraduate membership of SJC by the sitting SJC justices. The SEC shall continue to serve as an SJC justice throughout the duration of this appointment.

**2. Student Judicial Court (SJC)**

2.1 Membership

2.1.1 The SJC shall comprise seven Justices. The Justices shall serve two year terms as outlined in section 2.2 Justices may be re-appointed for any number of terms. Two of the seven available positions on the SJC must be filled by graduate and/or professional students. Members of the UISG Executive Branch, GPSG, UISG Senate are not eligible to serve on the SJC.

2.1.2 Appointment of justices shall be delegated to the power of the existing justices of the Student Judicial Court.

2.1.2.1 Duties of advertising positions, collecting applications, and interviewing candidates for justice positions shall be within the by-laws of the Student Judicial Court.

2.2 Terms

2.2.1 Justices shall serve two-year terms comprising of seven undergraduate students.

2.2.2 Should any Justice resign or be removed from their position by impeachment, the remaining justices shall be tasked in finding an Interim Justice for the remainder of the aforementioned Justice’s term. This Interim Justice will have all the rights and privileges of a Justice but will not be afforded a two-year term from when they join. They will instead only finish out the remainder of the previous term.

2.3 Qualifications

2.3.1 Current and potential SJC Justices must meet the following conditions to qualify for their position.

2.3.1.1 Justices shall be undergraduates in good academic standing and enrolled in at least nine semester hours in the fall and spring semesters in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar.

2.3.1.2 Justices shall be in good non-academic standing with the Office of the Dean of Students.

2.3.1.3 Justices shall read and understand the UISG Constitution and the UISG bylaws.

2.3.1.4 Justices shall read and understand the SJC bylaws.

2.3.1.5 Eligibility shall be confirmed by the SJC Justices.

2.4 Chief Justice

2.4.1 The UISG president shall nominate the Chief Justice from among the currently seated Justices after a formal application process.

2.4.1.1 The nominated candidate will be sent to SJC for an approval vote confirmation.

2.4.1.1 The Chief Justice will be approved by a simple majority.

2.4.2 The elected officer shall act as chair and administrative officer of the SJC. The Chief Justice shall serve for one academic year.

2.4.3 The elected officer will maintain regular contact with the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership to ensure open communication with

the UISG advisor.

2.5 Impeachment

2.5.1 Any member of the SJC may be impeached and removed from office if that member fails to perform his/her duties.

2.5.2 Calls for impeachment shall be initiated by a member of either legislative body and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of representatives of both UISG and GPSG. Once impeached, an individual may not be reappointed.

2.6 Jurisdiction

2.6.1 The SJC shall have original jurisdiction over:

2.6.1.1 Interpretation of the UISG Constitution, its by-laws, and any amendments hereto.

2.6.1.2. Interpretation of the constitutions or by-laws of the governing bodies of UISG, all other Associations, Commissions, Student Organizations, and Committees.

2.6.1.3 Interpretation and constitutionality of the actions of Commissions,

Student Organizations, and Committees.

2.6.2 The SJC shall have appellate jurisdiction over:

2.6.2.1 Disputes heard by the SEC and any other adjudicating legislative body.

2.6.2.2 Disputes heard by other student judicial bodies.

2.6.2.3 Appeals submitted by undergraduate and graduate students to the University of Iowa Parking & Transportation regarding parking violations.

2.6.3 The SJC shall render advisory opinions upon the request of the President(s) of UISG, Member(s) of the UISG Executive Board, or any UISG Senator.

2.6.4 The SJC shall render advisory opinions upon the request of any recognized student organization’s president and/or its elected student leadership.

2.6.5 The SJC may hear and decide any case concerning students provided that the parties agree in writing to submit the case to the court and abide by its decision.

2.7 Rules and Procedures

2.7.1 The SJC shall maintain rules and procedures for the conduct of fair and expeditious hearings at all times of the year. These rules and procedures shall include the following:

2.7.1.1 Any member of the UISG may bring a case to the SJC, subject to the provisions above.

2.7.1.2 Any party to a case before the SJC may be assisted or represented by counsel at that party's expense.

2.7.2 In cases involving the Executive Branch, UISG Associations, Commissions, Student Organizations, or committees, the SJC shall have the power to request that the involved group represent itself in court.

2.8 Appeals

2.8.1 Decisions of the SJC may be appealed to the President of the University or to his/her designated representative.

2.9 Meetings

2.9.1 A regular weekly meeting time will be agreed upon by the Justices. One or more representatives of SJC may be required to attend UISG meetings as needed. Additional SJC meetings will be at the discretion of the Chief Justice.

2.9.2 Dress code for any formal function of the Court will be determined by the Chief Justice.

2.9.3 All SJC members are required to attend all official meetings of the court. Members who miss two meetings in a semester without appropriate notification of and excusal by the Chief Justice will forfeit their membership on Student Judicial Court.

2.10 Student Parking Appeals

2.10.1 SJC shall be charged with addressing parking ticket appeals of University of Iowa Students (undergraduates and graduates) and shall be responsible for improving parking on campus and addressing reoccurring parking ticket issues.

2.10.2 This committee shall work with the University’s Parking and Transportation Department and meet weekly to address written parking ticket appeals and, if requested by appellant, live parking ticket appeals.

2.10.3 Quorum of parking appeals review shall be set at two members at least consisting of one undergraduate justice and one representative from GPSG in order to address parking ticket appeals.

2.10.4 In the summer time, the SJC will continue its duty to hear parking appeals. If no justices are available, the justice in charge of parking appeals will appoint at least one senator to perform this duty. This appointment will continue until any presiding justice returns to campus.

2.10.5 If a decision cannot be made on a particular parking appeal, it is at the discretion of the deciding members to bring it to SJC for the final decision.

**3. Student Election Commissioner (SEC)**

3.1 Membership

3.1.1 The SEC shall be selected by the SJC from among its undergraduate members. The selected individual will act as administrative officer of the UISG Senate Election Procedure as defined in the University of Iowa Student Elections Code.

3.1.2 The SEC serves for a one-year election cycle. An SEC may be reappointed by the sitting SJC justices for consecutive years.

3.1.3 Any person excluded from SJC membership may not serve as the SEC.

3.2 Qualifications

3.2.1 The SEC must be a member of the SJC in good standing.

3.2.2 The SEC must be a registered undergraduate student in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar.

3.3 Jurisdiction

3.3.1 The SEC shall have jurisdiction over the following:

3.3.1.1 The conduct, certification, and announcement of the results of undergraduate student referenda.

3.3.1.2 The conduct, certification, and announcement of the results of any elections authorized by UISG in accordance with that body’s respective bylaws.

3.3.1.3 Infractions of election rules or procedures.

3.3.1.4 Review of contested ballots.

3.3.1.5 Development of rules and procedures to ensure fair equitable and accessible elections, including the ability of independent candidates to vie effectively with group or party-affiliated candidates.

3.4 Election Code

3.4.1 The SEC shall maintain an Election Code for conducting fair and equitable elections. The Code must be reviewed and updated every year prior to the election cycle. The Senate must approve the code before it may be used in any subsequent election.

3.5 Appeals

3.5.1 The Student Judicial Court shall hear any forms of appeals that deal with the SEC and elections in accordance of SJC appeals and hearings processes.

3.5.1.1 Appeals processes must be presented with all evidence in a timely manner.

3.5.1.2 Appeals must hear affirmative and dissenting opinions with equity.

3.5.1.3 A timely decision must be granted.

**4. Student Organizations Liaison (SOL)**

4.1 Membership

4.1.1 The SOL shall be selected by the SJC from among its undergraduate members. The selected individual will act as administrative officer in assisting new student organizations in drafting their constitutions. Additionally, the SOL is a resource for questions and concerns for student organizations during the approval process of their respective constitutions.   The SOL will also be a member of the Student Organization Review Committee (SORC).

4.1.2 The SOL serves for a one-year election cycle. The sitting SJC justices may reappoint an SOL for consecutive years.

4.1.3 Any person excluded from SJC membership may not serve as the SEC.

4.2 Qualifications

4.2.1 The SOL must be a member of the SJC in good standing.

4.2.2 The SOL must be a registered undergraduate student in accordance with the University of Iowa Registrar.

4.2.3 The SOL must work closely and regularly with CSIL.

4.3 Jurisdiction

4.3.1 The SOL shall have jurisdiction over the following.

4.3.1.1 Order of selection of student organization constitutions to be reviewed.

4.3.1.2 Management of student organization constitution submissions on the UISG website.

4.3.1.3 Maintenance of SOL material and services on the CSIL website.

**5. Revision**

5.1 Revision of these by-laws can occur by a majority vote of the Justices followed by a majority vote in the UISG Senate.