

2015 Constitution Amendments – Official Descriptions and Explanation

Amendment 1 - General Changes and Disambiguation:

1. All document sections and subsections are given proper formatting via bulleted lists for easier reference without changing meaning.
2. Language is cleaned up to be more consistent and less ambiguous throughout.
3. Reflecting the Independent Council's decision to dissolve itself in Spring 2014:
 - a. Independent Senators are now directly elected.
 - b. The Independent Council is no longer listed in the list of organizations the Judicial Board has jurisdiction over, as it no longer exists.
4. Changes are made to resolve ambiguity in elections and term limits:
 - a. Spring elections now referred to as "general" elections – this is because they are not always 1 year apart.
 - b. Conclusion of election defined as release of results for that election, which can be no later than the end of a semester. This is now used as the benchmark against which appointment requirements for EBoarders are set.
 - c. Terms are explicitly defined: lasting until the conclusion of the next general election for that position – preventing gaps or vacancy periods if elections are not exactly one year apart.
 - d. Greek Status described: student must not be member of fraternity or sorority to run for Independent positions, and the Dean of Students Office is consulted to determine fraternal affiliation.
 - e. Runoffs can be held "if no victor can be declared" instead of explicitly only upon a counted tie.
5. Secession procedures may be activated whenever the position of Grand Marshal or President of the Union becomes vacant, rather than only on removal or resignation.
6. Further amendments will once again be tacked on to the end of the document rather than inserted throughout.

Amendment 2 - Officers of the Union

1. The Chairperson of the Judicial Board is now listed as an officer of the Union.
2. The Treasurer of the Union and Director of the Union are no longer listed in Officers section – they are separate articles.
3. Undergraduate Council President now only votes in case of a tie.
4. Term limit wording for President of the Union and Grand Marshal was clarified: Students have a two-full-term limit rather than two terms in a row.
5. Succession Clause for Chairperson of the Judicial Board was added: If there is a vacancy in Judicial Board Chairman, the Judicial Board will choose a new chairman from among its membership, subject to 2/3 approval of the Senate.

Amendment 3 - Executive Board

1. Executive Board members now referred to as “members of the Executive Board” rather than “the President of the Union’s Cabinet”
2. Executive Board has a minimum of 15 voting members, with 5 additional appointed at the discretion of the President of the Union for a maximum of 20.
 - a. These discretionary positions are 3 intercollegiate athletics or club representatives, and 2 members at large.
 - b. All required positions that are appointed by the President of the Union must still be appointed within 3 weeks of elections.
 - c. Discretionary (optional) members may be appointed within 4 weeks of the start of the fall semester.

Amendment 4: Judicial Board

1. It is explicitly stated that the Judicial Board is the chief organization responsible for interpreting the Constitution, as this was previously unclear.
2. Alternate members for the Judicial Board now defined in the Constitution: they are non-voting members who assume voting rights under special circumstances.
3. Judicial Board consists of 6 voting members and 5 alternate members. These can be appointed from any valid Union constituency.
4. Selection committee is removed – instead the Judicial Board Chairperson can nominate appointments similar to the President of the Union. These are subject to Senate approval by a 2/3 vote.
5. Appointments serve until they resign, are removed, or are no longer members of the Union.
6. Appointments become effective when a vacancy exists in a corresponding position. (E.G. an appointment for Judicial Board Member will become effective when there’s a vacancy in that position). Appointments become effective in the order they are approved by the Judicial Board. Appointments are still finalized pending 2/3 Senate approval.

Amendment 5: Judicial Procedure

1. Description of Judicial Procedures has been removed from the Constitution. These procedures are defined in the Student Handbook, which supersedes the Constitution – so their mention in the Constitution is redundant and may actually harm students following the judicial process.

Amendment 6: Council System

1. The Undergraduate Council President is now directly elected by undergraduates.
 1. If the UC President is vacant, the current procedure will be followed, convening the four Class Councils to elect a new UC President from among their membership. This requires Senate approval.
2. Class Councils are now explicitly defined in the Constitution.
 1. President is an officer and nonvoting member who may vote to break a tie.
 2. Vice President, Representatives, Senators are voting members.
 3. President and VP for each class serve on Undergraduate Council as voting members.
 4. Councils are explicitly responsible for spending class dues, subject to UC approval.

5. Regulations on Class Councils will be standardized in the UC bylaws instead of each Council establishing these in their own Constitution.
6. Removal procedures for Class Council members are explicitly given to the Class Councils – not the Undergraduate Council.
3. The Undergraduate Council now consists of the President and VP of each class for a total of 8 voting members.
 1. UC responsible for coordinating Class Councils
 2. UC approves Class Council expenditures by majority vote – cannot spend anything on its own. Approval follows guidelines outlined in UC bylaws.
4. Procedure for altering Class Dues is explicitly defined following the process the Councils have been using historically.
 1. Graduate Council may recommend any change in graduate class dues by majority vote, subject to 2/3 approval of Senate’s total voting membership.
 2. Undergraduate Council may recommend any change in undergraduate class dues by majority vote, subject to 2/3 approval of Senate’s total voting membership.
5. UC president can’t be a President, VP, Representative, nor Senator

Amendment 7: Greek Revisions

1. The Student Senate no longer has to approve changes to the IFC or Panhellenic Association constitutions.
2. The Judicial Board can no longer rule IFC / Panhel’s actions unconstitutional.
3. Greek Senators are no longer appointed by the IFC and Panhel. They will now be directly elected by a popular vote of the entirety of the Greek constituency.
 1. Of the candidates for Greek Senator, the fraternity member with the highest number of votes and the sorority member with the highest number of votes will be elected.

Amendment 8: Removals, Referendum, and Petitions

1. The Senate may remove voting members by a 2/3 vote of its total voting membership following good clause specified in its bylaws.
2. In order for an issue to be brought to a direct vote, the Senate must either:
 - a. Approve a direct vote on that issue by a 2/3 vote.
 - b. Receive a petition signed by 10% of all members of the Union, unless the Senate votes to reject such a petition by a 2/3 vote of its total voting membership.