

**UCSC Student Union Assembly  
Proposed Constitutional Amendments  
2022 Ballot Language**

**Question:** Shall the undergraduate students of UC Santa Cruz amend the Constitution of the Student Union Assembly?

**Summary:** This amendment to the SUA Constitution balances the lopsided power dynamics within the SUA to allow for an equal distribution of power between colleges, student organizations, and the students at large. A dedicated Transfer Student Representative and Students with Disabilities Representative are added. Additional refinements are made to the SUA Judicial Council, Officer Recall Procedures, and mechanisms for how conflicts of interest are addressed in the space. Further, content is reorganized in Articles II and III for clarity and ease of reading. Several additional changes are elaborated upon in the Guide document following this statement.

**A vote of YES is a vote in favor of adopting this amendment effective immediately. A vote of NO is a vote against the adoption of this amendment.**

**Content Changes By Article**

Article I: Purpose, Slogan, and Membership

- Grammatical and clarity edits only

Article II: Structure

- The composition of the voting membership of the SUA will now be: six (6) Officers, ten (10) At-Large Representatives, ten (10) Appointed College Government Representatives, ten (10) Elected Student Organization Representatives, five (5) seats available to the Big Five, one (1) Transfer Representative, one (1) Students with Disability Representative. The voting membership will consist of forty-three (43) seats.
- Officers may now be elected through Special Elections if Spring Elections are canceled or otherwise unavailable
- Officers are no longer solely responsible for hiring mandated staff and the President is now the only executive with the power to call an emergency meeting
- The Big Five are no longer called upon to send representatives to SUA, instead they are welcomed to appoint a representative at their discretion
- The difference between an alternate and proxy is more clearly defined, documentation of alternates can now be “submitted” rather than “signed” & Officers may designate one intern from their Office as an alternate
- A process has been created to declare conflicts of interest
- The Constitution will now specify that special invitees are allowed in closed session

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- In addition to the CA Brown Act, the SUA will now hold itself to the CA Public Records Act (CPRA)

### Article III: Officers, Representatives, and Staff

- Officers must now make an in-person report to the SUA twice each quarter
- The executive ability to call an emergency meeting is now limited to the President, eliminating contradiction
- The hiring process for mandated staff is now relegated to the bylaws bc not all staff have been selected by the officers and approved by the assembly as the current constitution calls for
- Previously unofficial responsibilities of the Parliamentarian have been made official- these include preparing the agenda and saving SUA related documents to be referenced later
- The Communications and Chronicling Director has been renamed as the Multimedia Manager, and their duties have been adjusted accordingly
- Recall of an officer by student petition now requires 5% of the student body rather than 100 signees. Additionally the process through which an Officer can appeal the Recall is eliminated

### Article IV: Relationship between College Governments, Student Organizations, and SUA

- Grammatical and clarity edits only

### Article V: Committees of the SUA

- Vision Committee is added as a standing committee

### Article VI: Judicial Council

- The composition of Judicial Council will now be six (6) undergraduates without further specifications. The former version required 2 representatives from student organizations, 2 representatives from student governments, and 2 students unaffiliated with SUA.
- The Judicial Council can now be called on by the Elections Commission
- Activation of the Judicial Council by student petition now requires 150 signatures rather than 10% of the undergraduate student body

### Article VII: Fiscal Matters

- Grammatical and clarity edits only

### Article VIII: Constitutional Supremacy

- No edits

### Article IX: SUA Bylaws

- No edits

### Article X: Amendments to this Constitution

- Grammatical and clarity edits only

Article XI: Transition

- No edits

In accordance with the SUA Constitutional Amendment policy outlined in Article X, Section A of this Constitution, I, Anna Romstad, propose that this amendment be brought forth for consideration by the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of California, Santa Cruz. I attest that the contents of this amendment have been generated in accordance with policies established by the Dean of Students office and commensurate with the UCSC Elections Policy (Policy #SS001). I further attest that the contents of this amendment have, at various stages, been reviewed by fellow students and has been submitted to all members of the Student Union Assembly and all Student Governments.

**Rearrangement of Articles II & III**

Content from Articles II & III has been reorganized for clarity and ease of reading. This reorganization does not affect the content of the current Constitution, or the amendments listed above for these Articles. To illustrate how content is being arranged, the following is a list of each section in the current Articles II & III, and their new locations. **Notation for the current Constitution is highlighted in yellow, notation for the proposed new arrangement is highlighted in blue.**

- II.A** Executives of the SUA → **II.B**, which incorporates content from **II.B** and **III.A**
- II.B** Voting Membership of the SUA → majority becomes **II.D** Representatives of the SUA, content regarding the Parliamentarian is incorporated in **II.C** Mandated Staff, content regarding SUA Officers is incorporated in **II.B** Executives
- II.C** Voting of the SUA → **III.A**
- II.D** Quorum → **III.B**
- II.E** Conflicts of Interest → **III.C**
- II.F** Procedures → **III.D**
- III.A** Officers and Representatives → content split between **II.B** Executives of the SUA and **II.D** Representatives of the SUA
- III.B** Mandated Staff of the SUA → **II.C**
- III.C** Elections and Terms of Office → **II.F**
- III.D** Qualifications → **II.A**
- III.E** Compensation → **II.E**
- III.F** Vacancies → **II.G**
- III.G** Recall, Procedures, and Re-election of SUA members → **II.H**

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ STUDENT UNION ASSEMBLY

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## **Preamble**

**The Student Union Assembly serves as the representative voice of undergraduate students at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In this capacity, the SUA is enshrined with the responsibility to foster growth, learning, and activism within our shared spaces. In pursuit of these goals the SUA shall strive to address the systems of inequality and oppression that impact the students on our campus. As the SUA, we shall advocate, we shall represent, and we shall speak truth to power. We adopt this constitution in furtherance of our cause.**

## **Article I. PURPOSE, SLOGAN, AND MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section A. Name:**

1. The name of this organization shall be “The Student Union Assembly” of the University of California, Santa Cruz; hereinafter referred to as "the SUA."

### **Section B. Purpose:**

1. The SUA shall be the official Student Government of the Undergraduate Student Body at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), which is composed of

voting members as stated in Article III, Section A1. Due to its broad constituency and expertise on issues, the SUA is the most qualified body to formulate and communicate the undergraduate student position at UCSC on local, state, and national levels. Thus, the Student Union Assembly shall be the official legitimate voice of UCSC undergraduate students on all affiliated committees. The SUA shall use that voice to serve the individual and collective needs of the undergraduate student body at UCSC. The SUA shall promote activism, civic participation, discussion, debate, and awareness of public issues from a variety of perspectives and viewpoints. The SUA shall host campus-wide events, rallies, conferences, and educational forums that train students in direct action organizing, empowerment, and representation. The SUA shall acknowledge and act against systems of oppression as experienced by marginalized populations on campus.

**Section C. Slogan:**

1. The official slogan of the SUA shall be "Student Voice. Student Power. Student Action."

**Section D. Membership:**

1. Every registered undergraduate student of the University of California, Santa Cruz shall be a member of the Undergraduate Student Body regardless of race, color, national origin, creed, gender, religion, sex, disability, gender identity, academic standing, age, medical condition, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, military status, or socioeconomic status.
2. All registered undergraduate students of the University of California Santa Cruz shall be eligible to hold office within the Student Union Assembly or participate in any of its committees, subcommittees, and task forces regardless of race, color, national origin, creed, gender, religion, sex, disability, gender identity, academic standing, age, medical condition, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, military status, or socioeconomic status.

**Section E. Nondiscrimination:**

1. The Student Union Assembly shall not participate in or affiliate with any organization which discriminates on the basis of: race, color, national origin, creed, gender, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition, gender identity, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, military status, or socioeconomic status.
  - a. Discrimination for the purposes of this section is defined as the unfair or unequitable treatment of an individual or group on the basis of one or more of the characteristics listed above.

**Section F. Powers and Responsibilities:**

1. Decisions made by the SUA shall be made on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Body.
2. A decision of the SUA shall be defined as a resolution, stance, action, or motion approved by the voting membership of the SUA.

3. The specific powers and responsibilities within the jurisdiction of the SUA include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Serve the Undergraduate Student Body at UCSC.
  - b. The sponsorship of student programming as it deems appropriate.
  - c. Ensure continuous and constructive relationships with UCSC student organizations and the UCSC college student governments.
  - d. The maintenance of constructive relations with student governments and associations at other universities and colleges.
  - e. The approval of the annual budget of the Student Union Assembly, its committees, subcommittees and taskforces.
  - f. Advocacy network of the Student Body and therefore campaigns for concrete improvements in the lives of the student body.
4. The SUA may delegate any of its powers or responsibilities to a designated committee, subcommittee, task force, board, or commission by stating so in the bylaws that supplement this constitution (Article XII).
  - a. Any decision of an endowed SUA committee, subcommittee, task force, board, or commission is subject to the provisions outlined for all committees of the SUA (Article V, Section B). Except for in the case of an Officer recall convention (Article II, Section H) or decisions of the Judicial Council (Article VI).

## **Article II. OFFICERS, STAFF, AND REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Section A. Qualifications:**

1. All Officers of and Representatives to the SUA must be registered undergraduate students of the University of California, Santa Cruz to remain in office.

### **Section B. Executives of the Student Union Assembly**

1. The following Officers of the Student Union Assembly shall be vested with executive powers of the Student Union Assembly:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President of Internal Affairs
  - c. Vice President of External Affairs
  - d. Vice President of Academic Affairs
  - e. Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion
  - f. Vice President of Student Life
2. The following shall be the powers of the Executive:
  - a. The day-to-day operations of the SUA.
  - b. Actively represent the SUA to outside entities. Including, but not limited to, the UCSC administration, UC regents, and the Office of the President.
  - c. Take on tasks, campaigns, and projects that will better the student experience at UCSC.

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- d. Actively communicate with, learn from, and collaborate with student organizations that share a common purpose as illustrated in Article I, Section B.
  3. The Officers of the Student Union Assembly shall be elected by the full membership of the Undergraduate Student Body in the Spring quarter campus-wide election (Article II, Section F) and are to carry out the responsibilities outlined in this Constitution and the SUA bylaws.
    - a. This election shall be administered by the Student Union Assembly and fall under the purview of the SUA election bylaws.
    - b. These elections shall function to ensure that those who hold the greatest power within the SUA are representative of the student body and their voice.
    - c. The SUA Bylaws shall outline any additional requirements needed to be fulfilled in order for an Executive Officer to maintain their position or for a candidate for an Executive Officer position to be eligible for such role.
    - d. The Officers of the Student Union Assembly may, if Spring quarter campus-wide elections are cancelled or are otherwise unavailable for engagement from the Undergraduate Student Body, be elected through a special election held at a different time so long as this election abides by the SUA Elections Code and ensures the right to participation from all members of the Undergraduate Student Body.
4. President
  - a. Leader and principal spokesperson of the Undergraduate Student Body.
  - b. Ensure cohesive and effective interaction within the Assembly and the campus.
  - c. Act as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all SUA committees, subcommittees, task forces, and commissions.
  - d. Required to hold weekly office hours (3) at the SUA office.
  - e. Attend weekly officer meeting(s) to ensure communication and collaboration.
  - f. Work in collaboration with the other officers, SUA advisor, committees, subcommittees and task forces to create a budget for the following academic year, which must be approved by the SUA in spring (Article VII, Section A).
  - g. Prepares a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.
  - h. Carryout any other duties set forth in this constitution, and the bylaws and/or as assigned by the Assembly.
  - i. Appoints the Treasurer and the Recording Clerk by the last meeting of the Fall Quarter. The selection needs to be ratified for the Treasurer by the body by a simple majority vote.
  - j. Shall meet once a quarter with the College Senate Advisor and the Organization Advisor in conjunction with the Council of Chairs and Leaders of the Organizations to ensure cohesiveness and explain happenings of the Student Union Assembly in order to establish transparency.
  - k. May call emergency meetings of the SUA voting membership, and determine the Agendas of those meetings.
  - l. The President does not adhere to any administration, unless stated in system wide or university policy.

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- m. Provide regular in-person reports to the SUA regarding their conduct and current activities at a frequency not less than twice per quarter.
  - n. Prepare and periodically update documentation aimed at assisting the next President in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.
5. Vice President of Internal Affairs (VPIA)
- a. Primarily responsible for the internal operations of the Student Union Assembly.
  - b. Helps to coordinate the campus-wide internal campaigns in coordination with any applicable SUA officer, intern, committee, subcommittee, task force, campus organization or campus unit.
  - c. Acts as substitute for the President in their absence.
  - d. Serves as chair of the Student Committee on Committees and oversees the process for appointing students to its member committees.
  - e. Assists the President in carrying out SUA directives.
  - f. Coordinates student participation on all campus-wide committees, boards, and task forces including all academic senate and administrative committees.
  - g. Primary student government organizer on internal campus affairs.
  - h. Required to hold weekly office hours (3) at the SUA office.
  - i. Attends weekly officer meeting(s) to ensure communication and collaboration.
  - j. Prepares a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.
  - k. Carryout any other duties as set forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or as assigned by the Assembly and/or the President.
  - l. Provide regular in-person reports to the SUA regarding their conduct and current activities at a frequency not less than twice per quarter.
  - m. The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall work or be a resource on all internal campus wide issues that come forth from the SCOC, e<sup>2</sup>: Engaging Education, Campus Sustainability Council or the Student Union Assembly.
  - n. Prepare and periodically update documentation aimed at assisting the next Vice President of Internal Affairs in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.
6. Vice President of External Affairs (VPEA)
- a. Primary student government organizer on external campus affairs.
  - b. Represents the SUA to the University of California Student Association (UCSA).
  - c. Represents the SUA to the United States Student Association (USSA).
  - d. Primary coordinator of campus-wide campaigns, UCSA campaigns and USSA campaigns.
  - e. Assists the President in coordinating advocacy efforts on behalf of student interests, by doing research analysis on university policy system wide and nationally, and coordinating legislative campaigns in the local, state and national level.
  - f. Represents the Student Union Assembly to off-campus entities as delegated by the President or the Assembly.
  - g. Required to hold weekly office hours (3) at the SUA office.
  - h. Attend weekly officer meeting(s) to ensure communication and collaboration.



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- i. Prepare a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.
  - j. Carryout any other duties as forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or assigned by the Assembly and/or President.
  - k. Appoints the Legislative Liaison and Campus Organizing Director for the External Office by the last meeting of the Fall Quarter.
  - l. Provide regular in-person reports to the SUA regarding their conduct and current activities at a frequency not less than twice per quarter
  - m. Prepare and periodically update documentation aimed at assisting the next Vice President of External Affairs in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.
7. Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion (VPDI)
  - a. Maintains communication with resource centers, resource center directors, student organizations, Ethnic Student Organization Council (ESOC), Disability Resource Center (DRC), Services for Transfer and Re-entry Students (STARS), Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and the retention and outreach student organizations.
  - b. Chairs the Diversity Commission.
  - c. Helps coordinate all programming that addresses issues of diversity.
  - d. Maintains communication between the SUA, campus units, and administrators that deal with issues of diversity, which include, but are not limited to, Hate/Bias and Title IX.
  - e. Track diversity statistics with regard to enrollment, retention, dropout rates, and academic standing.
  - f. Attend weekly officer meeting(s) to ensure communication and collaboration.
  - g. Required to hold weekly office hours (3) at the SUA office.
  - h. Prepares a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement
  - i. Carryout any other duties as forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or assigned by the Assembly and/or President.
  - j. Shall maintain a volunteer base composed of the SUA representatives.
  - k. Provide regular in-person reports to the SUA regarding their conduct and current activities at a frequency not less than twice per quarter.
  - l. Prepare and periodically update documentation aimed at assisting the next Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.
8. Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA)
  - a. Establishes and maintains communication with the UCSC and system-wide Academic Senate and all undergraduate academic related programs.
  - b. Shall inform and represent the SUA on matters of academic policy.
  - c. Shall act as the representative to the Academic Senate on the Committee on Educational Policy.
  - d. Shall provide periodic polls and information surveys to assess student concerns.
  - e. Required to hold weekly office hours (3) at the SUA office.
  - f. Attends weekly officer meeting(s) to ensure communication and collaboration.

- g. Prepares a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.
  - h. Carryout any other duties as set forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or assigned by the Assembly and/or President.
  - i. Shall meet at least two times a quarter with the Student Academic Senate in order to establish goals and criteria for academic policy and advocacy for the student body and delegate responsibilities.
  - j. Meet with all the Academic Student Representatives to discuss possible advocacy and policy within the Academic Senate.
  - k. Provide regular in-person reports to the SUA regarding their conduct and current activities at a frequency not less than twice per quarter.
  - l. Prepare and periodically update documentation aimed at assisting the next Vice President of Academic Affairs in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.
9. Vice President of Student Life (VPSL)
- a. Works to improve communication and advertising within the whole SUA.
  - b. Organizes and recruits students to attend programming sponsored by the Student Union Assembly.
  - c. Works with other officers to create publications that further promote the purpose of the SUA.
  - d. Makes and facilitates connections between campus movements/issues and those of the UC system as a whole.
  - e. Be the main coordinator of SUA's involvement in Summer Orientation and move-in week.
  - f. Provides Programs and Activities for the student body.
  - g. Builds relationships between the SUA and organizations, specifically sustainability, SOAR, student media, department, college, OPERS, and all other student organizations.
  - h. Works with SUA entities on publicizing and improving outreach events; for example, making events sustainable, making events accessible, and communicating SUA events to the student body.
  - i. Works on long range development plan of campus life at UCSC including but not limited to improving athletic programs, music and arts facilities, Student Union, programming and organizing spaces, and the amphitheater.
  - j. Required to hold weekly office hours (3) at the SUA office.
  - k. Attends weekly officer meeting(s) to ensure communication and collaboration.
  - l. Prepares a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.
  - m. Serves as the administrator of the SUA Food Pantry and actively seeks out opportunities for its growth, expansion, and service to the students of UCSC.
  - n. Carryout any other duties as set forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or assigned by the Assembly and/or the President.

- o. Provide regular in-person reports to the SUA regarding their conduct and current activities at a frequency not less than twice per quarter.
- p. Prepare and periodically update documentation aimed at assisting the next Vice President of Student Life in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

**Section C: Mandated Staff of the Student Union Assembly:**

1. Regulations

- a. Staff members outlined in this constitution shall be considered “Constitutionally Mandated Staff”
- b. The SUA bylaws may outline the method of hiring for each position.
- c. The SUA bylaws may outline other staff of the SUA that need not be appointed by the Executive, nor confirmed.
- d. All mandated staff shall submit an internal, quarterly report to the executives of SUA, which evaluates the SUA and provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.

2. Legislative Director

- a. The Legislative Director works with the Vice President of External Affairs and the external office in order to coordinate actions on and off the campus with legislative officials.
- b. Sets up lobby visits for the Student Union Assembly to address student concerns.
- c. Researches local, state, and federal legislation and how it affects the student body.
- d. Works with UCSA and USSA as the legislative aide to the organization on behalf of UC Santa Cruz.
- e. Helps the Vice President of External Affairs carry out campaigns and budget for the External Office from year to year.
- f. Will debrief and check in with legislators and officers about the state of the campus.
- g. Shall help establish and maintain the Lobby Corps by recruiting students to join in on lobbying opportunities.

3. Multimedia Manager

- a. Coordinates with the Student Union Assembly Officers about publicity and maintenance of items coming from the undergraduate students.
- b. Works with Student Media about finding new ways and ideas for getting out the student voice and opinions.
- c. Serves as a liaison between the SUA and student-run media outlets to ensure that the student voice is both engaged and informed.
- d. Coordinates history of past work for institutional memory.
- e. Maintains the SUA publicity materials, including the website, news publications, and campus outreach.
- f. Create the campus history archives by connecting with every campus college and/or group and their history.
- g. Maintaining a media database for the Student Union Assembly to conduct media outreach for our campaigns.

- h. Writes and contacts all media outlets when needed during campaigns.
  - i. Shall coordinate with the Recording Clerk and Parliamentarian to send out and document Resolutions and Actions coming from SUA.
4. Parliamentarian of the SUA
- a. Shall serve as the Presiding Officer in all meetings of the SUA, unless the Parliamentarian cannot remain impartial, in which case, the SUA bylaws shall outline who shall serve as Presiding Officer for the issue in question.
    - i. The Parliamentarian may voluntarily recuse themselves by citing a conflict of interest.
    - ii. The Parliamentarian may be temporarily removed as the Presiding Officer for the issue in question through a two-thirds majority vote of the SUA.
  - b. Shall remain impartial on all discussions and decision-making of the SUA, unless in the case of casting a vote to break a tie of the voting membership.
  - c. A Parliamentarian is an expert in rules of order and the proper procedures for the conduct of meetings of deliberative assemblies. Parliamentarians assist organizations in the drafting and interpretation of bylaws and rules of order, and the planning and conduct of meetings.
  - d. Shall receive agenda item requests and prepare the agenda. The Parliamentarian must receive the request by the Friday of the previous week in order to be on the agenda for the next Tuesday. The agenda shall be made public 48 hours before the meeting of the Assembly.
  - e. Chair and moderate the meeting of the Assembly.
  - f. Maintain the official roster of the voting membership of the SUA.
  - g. Foster teamwork between the voting membership of the SUA and the Officers of the SUA.
  - h. Maintain records of Assembly activities, and at the request of the Assembly, investigate and provide documentation regarding past events, actions, or circumstances relevant to college governments, student organizations, or the UCSC administration.
  - i. Shall coordinate with the Multimedia Manager and Recording Clerk to send out and document Resolutions and Actions coming from SUA.
  - j. Shall serve as the chair for the SUA Judicial Council unless the Parliamentarian cannot remain impartial, in which case, the SUA bylaws shall outline who shall serve as Presiding Officer for the issue in question.
    - i. The Parliamentarian may voluntarily recuse themselves by citing a conflict of interest.
    - ii. The Parliamentarian may be temporarily removed as the Presiding Officer for the issue in question through a two-thirds majority vote of the SUA.
  - k. Carryout any other duties as set forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or assigned by the voting membership of the SUA.
  - l. Shall not hold any other position in the SUA.

- m. The Parliamentarian shall be elected by the last meeting of the SUA in Spring Quarter in a manner outlined in the SUA bylaws.
5. Recording Clerk
- a. Shall work with the SUA Officers and Parliamentarian to assemble the agendas, minutes and other items as needed by the SUA.
  - b. The Recording Clerk will take minutes for the SUA Meetings and have them posted by the following Thursday at Midnight. Any corrections to the minutes shall be completed by the next Tuesday meeting.
  - c. Shall coordinate with the Multimedia Manager and Parliamentarian to send out and document Resolutions and Actions coming from SUA.
6. Treasurer
- a. Work with the SUA Officers on maintaining the budget of the year.
  - b. Will work with campus Service Center to establish and maintain the budget throughout the year.
  - c. Does not have budgetary authority but can make alternative budgets and suggestions for the fiscal health of the organization.
  - d. Helps prepare checks and travel reimbursements, preparation for the SUA.
  - e. Will look at the expense reports of the year to analyze what changes can be made to the budget and present them to the President and SUA Board of Directors.
  - f. Every year with approval of the President, based on budget expense reports, prepare at least 3 budget scenarios for the body to consider.
  - g. Research ways to save money and advise the officers on spending from their office budget.
  - h. Will look and advise the SUA Board of Directors on the UCSA and USSA budgets for improvements or suggestions during their budgetary cycles.
  - i. Helps contacts with both USSA and UCSA to pay membership dues.
  - j. Will not advise Engaging Education or Campus Sustainability Council because they have budgetary autonomy from the Student Union Assembly, and therefore will not present or help prepare budgets for the Student Union Assembly.

**Section D: Representatives of the Student Union Assembly:**

- 1. The following shall be the duties and responsibilities of Representatives:
  - a. Represent and express the student voice and concerns of students in their respective college or organization.
  - b. Required to hold at least one hour of weekly office hours.
  - c. Sit on and participate in at least one SUA committee.
  - d. Prepare a monthly report to the SUA President that gives an update on the happenings of the college or organization, which they represent.
  - e. Prepares a monthly report evaluating the SUA, which provides constructive criticism, for the purposes of improvement.
  - f. Carryout any other duties as set forth in this constitution, the bylaws, and/or assigned by the voting membership of the SUA.

2. College Student Government Representatives
  - a. Each college student government shall have one Representative to the SUA
  - b. Each representative shall be appointed according to the established manner of their respective student government.
    - i. Representatives must be chosen in accordance with applicable federal and state law and university policy, must be open to any student regardless of race, color, national origin, creed, gender, religion, sex, disability, age, gender identity, medical condition, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, military status, or socioeconomic status.
3. At-Large Representatives
  - a. A total of ten (10) at-large representatives shall be elected by a popular vote of the Undergraduate Student Body during Spring Quarter SUA Elections.
    - i. This election shall be administered by the Student Union Assembly and fall under the purview of the SUA Elections Code.
    - ii. These elections shall function to ensure that those who hold voting power within the SUA are representative of the student body and their voice.
    - iii. The SUA Bylaws shall outline any additional requirements needed to be fulfilled in order for an At-Large Representative to maintain their position or for a candidate for an At-Large Representative position to be eligible for such role.
4. Student Organization Representatives
  - a. A total of ten (10) student organizations shall hold seats on the SUA with each student organization selecting a representative from their constituency to serve as their student organization representative.
  - b. Student Organizations shall be elected to hold seats on the Student Union Assembly by a popular vote of the Undergraduate Student Body during Spring Quarter SUA Elections.
    - i. This election shall be administered by the Student Union Assembly and fall under the purview of the SUA election bylaws.
    - ii. These elections shall function to ensure that those who hold voting power within the SUA are representative of the student body and their voice.
    - iii. The SUA Bylaws shall outline any additional requirements needed to be fulfilled in order for Student Organizations to maintain their position or for a candidate for a Student Organization position to be eligible for such role.
  - c. Student Organizations shall be eligible to hold voting membership in the SUA for as long as they abide by the following requirements:
    - i. The student organization must be led and composed of members of the Undergraduate Student Body.
    - ii. The student organization must have no fewer than ten (10) members who are members of the Undergraduate Student Body.

- iii. The student organization must not, in any tangible form, perform practices that are harmful to the Undergraduate Student Body including but not limited to violence, harassment, and abuse.
  - d. If a student organization ceases to exist, or wishes to no longer retain a voting seat in the SUA, the organization may remove their seat within the SUA by notifying the SUA President and Parliamentarian. Upon notification, the position will be considered vacant and the SUA President or SUA Parliamentarian shall offer the voting seat to the student organization who received the next highest quantity of votes during the election from which the student organization was elected
    - i. The elected organizations shall have the right to their voting seat for the year (starting July 1st and ending June 30th) In no circumstances may the elected organization lose the right to appoint a representative during the year unless they expressly notify the SUA President and SUA Parliamentarian as noted above.
  - e. The student organizations, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and university policy, must be open to any student regardless of race, color, national origin, creed, gender, religion, sex, disability, gender identity, age, medical condition, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, military status, or socioeconomic status.
- 5. Big Five Student Organizations
  - a. The Big Five Student Organizations represent a diverse array of identities that are marginalized at UC Santa Cruz. Through their efforts in advocacy, community organizing, and their longevity as student organizations, the SUA recognizes the importance in enabling their engagement with student governance. In addition to the seats established above, the following student organizations shall be given the right to a voting seat within the SUA at their discretion:
    - i. Black Student Union (BSU)
    - ii. Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA)
    - iii. Student Coalition for Gender, Sex, and Sexuality (Prism)
    - iv. Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA)
    - v. Student Alliance of North American Indians (SANAI)
  - b. Seats reserved for the Big Five Organizations may not be otherwise allocated by the SUA.
  - c. If one of the Big Five Student Organizations ceases to exist or determines that they no longer wish to hold an optional representative seat within the SUA, they shall have the right to be removed from the SUA.
    - i. The voting seats of the Big Five Student Organizations shall be subject to the same methods of accountability as the seats for elected student organizations.
    - ii. A member of the Big Five Organizations may indicate their desire to no longer hold an optional representative seat in the SUA by submitting a statement reflecting their intentions to the SUA President and/or the SUA Parliamentarian.

6. Transfer Student Representative

- a. The Transfer Student Representative shall be a reserved position elected through a collaboration between the SUA and UCSC Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students (STARS).
  - i. This election shall be coordinated by the SUA Parliamentarian and staff members at STARS.
  - ii. This election shall take place during the Summer preceding the representative's term of office.
  - iii. This election shall be open exclusively to the Transfer Student Community as identified by STARS.
  - iv. The SUA Bylaws shall stipulate the conduct of the election described herein.
- b. The Transfer Student Representative shall be a student who meets the definition of a transfer student as assessed by STARS.
- c. The Transfer Student Representative shall, in addition to the responsibilities allocated for all representatives, be responsible for:
  - i. Serving as the chair of a committee dedicated to transfer student issues and outreach.
  - ii. Serving as a liaison between the SUA and STARS.
  - iii. Coordinating with the UC Student Association (UCSA) transfer representative on joint initiatives and outreach.
  - iv. Bring forth the issues and concerns of the Transfer Student Community to the SUA.

7. Students with Disability Representative

- a. The Students with Disability Representative shall be a reserved position elected through a collaboration between the SUA and the UCSC Disability Resource Center (DRC).
  - i. This election shall be coordinated by the SUA Parliamentarian and a committee of student employees at the DRC. This committee will be autonomously formed by the DRC.
  - ii. This election shall take place during the Summer preceding the representative's term of office.
  - iii. This election shall be open to the general student population after a candidate screening process by the DRC Committee and candidate certification by the SUA Parliamentarian and SUA Elections Commissioner.
- b. The Students with Disability Representative shall be a student who meets the definition of a Student with Disability as set forth by the Disability Resource Center.
  - i. Candidates must file their intent to run for the Representative seat through a DRC application process and approved by the committee seated of DRC student employees.
  - ii. Once the aforementioned committee approves or disapproves a candidate, they will send the application of the candidate to the SUA Parliamentarian with reasons for such approval or disapproval.



- iii. The SUA Parliamentarian will then certify approved candidates to be put on the ballot for the seat.
- c. The Students with Disability Representative shall, in addition to the responsibilities allocated for all representatives, be responsible for:
  - i. Serving as the chair of a committee dedicated towards issues on accessibility and advocacy for Students with Disability.
  - ii. Serving as a liaison between the SUA and the Disability Resource Center (DRC).
  - iii. Bring forth the issues and concerns of the Students with Disability population to the SUA.

**Section E. Compensation:**

1. The Officers of the Student Union shall receive compensation for their services as stipulated in the bylaws.
2. The Representatives may receive compensation for their services as stipulated in the bylaws.

**Section F. Elections and Terms of Office:**

1. The SUA shall conduct campus-wide elections for members of the SUA or Constitutional Amendments (Article X) in a fair and open election held during the Spring quarter of each academic year. The SUA shall address all disputes, including issues of interpretation, regarding all candidates, and constitutional amendment items during any undergraduate student election. The SUA may call for the convention of the SUA Judicial Council (Article VI) should these disputes fall within their purview.
2. The SUA shall charge an Elections Commissioner with the coordination of the SUA elections.
3. All Officers of the SUA (Article II, Section B) shall be elected by popular vote of the undergraduate Student Body.
4. All Officers of the SUA shall serve for one year starting July 1st and ending June 30th.
5. At-large representatives (Article II, Section D) shall be elected by popular vote of the Undergraduate Student Body in a fair and open election at the time of SUA elections.
6. Representatives of an organization (Article II, Section D) shall be chosen through the methods as determined by those organizations.
  - a. The Representative of an organization shall serve for the designated time specified by the organization, not to exceed the term of office granted to the student organization.
7. The appointed college Representatives (Article II, Section D) shall be chosen by their respective college government through methods as determined by the college government.
  - a. All appointed college Representatives shall serve for the designated time specified by their college government.

**Section G. Vacancies:**

1. A vacancy occurs when any voting member of the SUA has resigned, been removed from office, is no longer a registered UCSC undergraduate student, or becomes otherwise ineligible for office as provided in this constitution.
2. If the vacancy is an Executive Officer position, other than SUA President, and has been vacated before the next SUA election, or in the event that a temporary emergency appointment by the voting membership of the SUA is called for, that position shall be advertised in campus media, and via fliers posted campus-wide for at least two weeks. Any candidate for the vacancy must have been a registered student at the time of the previous Officer's election. The President shall assume the duties of the vacant office until the position is filled.
3. All interested candidates shall be present at a specified SUA meeting at which time they will each have the equal opportunity to present themselves. The voting membership of the Assembly shall, by a two-thirds majority, confirm one of the candidates present to fill the position for the remainder of the term.
4. If the vacancy is an appointed College Representative position, it shall be filled in a manner determined by their respective college government.
5. If the vacancy is an At-Large Representative position, the position shall be offered to the candidate who received the next highest quantity of votes from the same election where the position was filled.
  - a. If an offer for the position is rejected, the offer shall be given to the candidate who received the next highest quantity of votes. This process shall repeat until an offer is accepted.
  - b. In the case where no candidates accept offers for appointment, the position will remain vacant until the next election.
6. If the vacancy is an Organization Representative position or in the event that a temporary emergency appointment by the SUA is called for, that position shall be chosen in a manner determined by their respective organization.
7. If the vacancy is the Parliamentarian of the SUA, the voting membership of the SUA, at the next meeting of the SUA (regular or emergency), shall appoint a new Parliamentarian by a two-thirds majority vote. Until the position is filled, the President shall assume the duties of the Parliamentarian of the SUA.
8. In the event that the President position is vacant, the Internal Vice President shall assume the position and an Internal Vice President candidate search will begin. If there is no Internal Vice President or the Internal Vice President does not wish to become the President, then the External Vice President shall assume the duties of President and an External Vice President candidate search will begin. If there is no External Vice President or the External Vice President does not wish to become the President, then the Internal Vice President of the SUA shall serve as the interim President while a campus-wide search for President candidates is undertaken.
  - a. The Internal Vice President shall relinquish the role of President when the Student Union Assembly confirms a new President following a campus-wide search.

- b. At the newly confirmed President's or the SUA's discretion, they may opt to keep the Internal Vice President in the role of President for a maximum of two (2) weeks following their confirmation for the purpose of ensuring a seamless transition of power.
9. If the vacancy occurs within 14 calendar days prior to the Spring election, the position will not be filled on a temporary basis. The person elected shall take office immediately upon certification of election results by the SUA Elections Commissioner and the President shall assume the duties of the vacant office until that time.
10. If an Executive Officer-elect other than the President-elect chooses to not take office at the beginning of their term, the position will be offered to the candidate with the next highest number of votes, provided that they received at least 30% of votes cast for that position. If they decline the position, it goes to the next candidate, and so on.
  - a. If no candidate that received at least 30% of the votes cast wants to take the position, it shall be filled by appointment as outlined in this section. The President shall assume the duties of the vacant office until it is filled.
  - b. If the President-elect chooses to not take office at the beginning of their term, the position will be offered to the Vice President-elect of Internal Affairs. If they decline the position, it shall be offered successively to the Vice Presidents-elect, in the order they are enumerated in this constitution.
    - i. The Vice President position vacated by this provision shall be filled by appointment, as outlined in this section. The President shall assume the duties of the vacant office until it is filled.
    - ii. If no Vice President-elect wishes to become President, the presidency shall be filled by appointment, as outlined in this section. The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall assume the duties of the presidency until the office is filled.

**Section H. Recall, Procedures and Re-election of Student Union Assembly Members:**

1. Any Executive Officer of the SUA may be subject to recall through either a three-fourths (3/4) vote by the SUA in the presence of quorum or through a petition of at least five percent of the total registered undergraduate students where there are at least ten (10) student signatures from students affiliated with each college
  - a. If more than three Executive Officers have been recalled, a school-wide special election is held.
2. The Parliamentarian of the SUA (Article II, Section C4) may be recalled by three-fourths (3/4) of the SUA voting membership, after one week's notice.
3. At-large Representatives (Article II, Section D) may be recalled by three-fourths (3/4) of the SUA voting membership.
  - a. At-large Representatives (Article II, Section D) may also be recalled by the students. A recall election will be held if twenty percent (20%) of the Undergraduate Student Body petition for an election to occur. The recall ballot would ask if the representative should be removed. If a majority of the students voting in the recall

election vote to remove the representative, that representative shall relinquish their position immediately. The procedure listed in Article II, Section G.4 shall be followed to replace the representative.

4. Appointed college representatives (Article II, Section D) can be removed from office by their respective college government.
5. Organization representatives (Article II, Section D) may be removed from office by their respective organization.

### **Article III. PROCEDURES OF THE MEETING**

#### **Section A. Voting of the Student Union Assembly:**

1. The voting membership of the SUA is composed of the Executive Officers (Article II, Section B) and Representatives (Article II, Section D). The Parliamentarian of the SUA may vote to break a tie (Article II.C.4.b).
2. Each voting member of the SUA shall be given one vote and have the power to vote on all questions.
3. Only voting members of the SUA may make or second motions.
4. Vote by proxy shall not be permitted. Alternates shall represent their constituents, and shall vote using their own best judgement.
  - a. Each college student government and student organization with voting representatives to the SUA shall be allowed no more than two (2) alternates to vote in the absence of their voting representatives. Alternate representatives are not considered proxy votes.
  - b. Alternates require documentation submitted by the head of their respective college government or organization. This shall be presented to the Parliamentarian of the SUA before attendance is taken of the SUA.
  - c. Officers may designate one (1) intern from their office as an alternate. The alternate is not considered a proxy vote.
5. Abstentions by voting members of the SUA shall not be counted toward nor against any required two-thirds (2/3) vote.
6. The SUA shall operate by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, then the SUA shall operate by simple majority rule (50% + 1), unless otherwise stated in this constitution or bylaws.

#### **Section B. Quorum:**

1. Quorum is defined as half plus one of the current SUA voting membership (Article III, Section A.1).
2. The SUA shall not make any decision on any matter if quorum is not present.
3. By the last meeting of the Spring quarter, the SUA Parliamentarian shall acquire a listing of all of the college and student organization representatives that shall be available during the Summer to convene for meetings of the Student Union Assembly.
  - a. This listing shall be used, in addition to the number of Executive Officers, to calculate quorum for the Summer session.

- b. By default, Summer quorum shall be half plus one of the listed combined representatives and elected officers of the SUA.
  - i. During the last meeting of the SUA in the Spring quarter, the assembly may, by simple majority vote, determine an alternative arrangement for quorum over the Summer period.

**Section C. Conflicts of Interest:**

1. The SUA shall endeavor to minimize conflicts of interest with respect to the motions, decisions, and other actions of the space.
2. A Conflict of Interest is said to exist when a voting member of the SUA may receive a personal benefit resulting from the actions or decisions they make in their official capacity.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the voting member to disclose whether or not they have a potential conflict of interest prior to the SUA making a decision, action, or motion relevant to the subject.
  - a. In disclosing a potential conflict of interest, the voting member shall state the explicit subject matter for which they have a potential conflict of interest and the reason for which they believe a potential conflict of interest exists.
  - b. A voting member may choose to voluntarily recuse themselves from voting, making or seconding motions, and taking legislative actions regarding the subject matter alongside the disclosure of their potential conflict of interest.
    - i. In this case, the assessment by the Parliamentarian shall not be required.
  - c. If a voting member does not voluntarily recuse themselves, it shall be the responsibility of the SUA Parliamentarian to assess if the disclosed potential conflict of interest impairs the ability of the voting member to make a fair judgment regarding the subject matter.
    - i. The SUA Parliamentarian shall respond to the disclosure with one of two affirmations:
      1. That a conflict of interest does exist and that the voting member must recuse themselves from voting, making or seconding motions, or taking legislative actions as a voting member regarding the subject for which they have a conflict of interest.
      2. That a conflict of interest does not exist and that the voting member be empowered to participate in the decision-making process regarding the subject matter as normal.
    - ii. The determination by the SUA Parliamentarian may, as with any other action, be overridden by the SUA through a two-thirds majority vote in the presence of quorum.
4. In the event that a voting member of the SUA believes, in good faith, that another voting member has a non-disclosed conflict of interest, the following procedure shall be conducted:
  - a. The voting member claiming a conflict of interest shall state the name of the voting member who they believe has the conflict of interest, the subject for which a conflict of interest exists, and the rationale or reinforcing points legitimizing their claim.

- b. The voting member accused of a non-disclosed conflict of interest shall be entitled a right to respond to the accusation and shall be granted the last word in any subsequent discussion about the conflict of interest.
- c. The SUA Parliamentarian shall be invested with the authority to determine whether a conflict of interest exists according to the procedures as specified in Section E.3.c.

**Section D. Procedures:**

1. The SUA shall meet at least twice per month throughout the regular academic year.
2. The Parliamentarian of the SUA shall be the Presiding Officer over all meetings of the SUA. The SUA bylaws will outline what happens in the Parliamentarian's absence.
3. All members of the SUA, voting or non-voting, have the right to speak at meetings of the SUA.
4. Any person wishing to speak or make a motion, at any meeting of the SUA, must be recognized by the Parliamentarian before doing so with the exception of incidental motions.
5. The agenda of each meeting of the SUA shall be distributed at least three (3) business days in advance to the SUA voting members in a manner they determine. Also, the agenda shall be publicly posted at least three (3) business days in advance of each meeting.
6. The minutes of each meeting of the SUA and its committees, subcommittees, and task forces shall be public, except matters in closed session, as defined in the bylaws; and disseminated via e-mail and posted outside the SUA office within three (3) business days.
7. Meetings of the Student Union Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised – 11<sup>th</sup> Edition).
  - a. The SUA Parliamentarian shall be vested the right to enforce Robert's Rules of Order and shall be considered the Chair for all purposes therein described.
  - b. The SUA shall retain the right to suspend or amend rules as detailed within Robert's Rules of Order.
  - c. The Parliamentarian of the SUA shall be required to provide training resources regarding Robert's Rules of Order to any member of the Undergraduate Student Body who requests it.
    - i. The Parliamentarian shall additionally ensure that primer materials regarding Robert's Rules of Order are made available to the public and guest speakers at SUA Meetings.
  - d. Significant changes to Robert's Rules of Order utilized within SUA meetings shall be permitted to ensure equitable access to the meeting for all involved parties.
8. To ensure transparency and public access, all meetings of the SUA and its subordinate bodies shall abide by the California Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950)
  - a. The SUA and its subordinate bodies shall be open to the public except during times of closed session.
  - b. During closed session, these meetings shall be open only to the Parliamentarian, voting members, members of the Executive of the SUA as specified in Article III, Section A1, and special invitees in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

- c. The Parliamentarian or President shall call for a closed session when the SUA is discussing or voting on issues dealing directly with the hiring, firing, appointing, or removal of positions and staff within the SUA.
  - i. A call for closed session can be overruled by a majority vote of the voting membership in attendance of the meeting.
  - ii. The SUA shall move out of closed session by a 2/3rd vote of the voting membership in attendance of the meeting.
9. In compliance with the California Public Records Act (CPRA), the SUA and all subordinate bodies shall comply with all legal public records requests in a timely manner.
10. The President or Parliamentarian may convene the SUA for an "emergency" meeting at any time. Other voting members of the SUA may convene the SUA for emergency meetings at any time by petition of at least half of the voting membership (Article II, Section B).
11. The head of a college student government or student organization shall be required to submit approval documentation for an elected or appointed representative.
  - a. In the case of a mid-year vacancy, the head of a student government or student organization shall likewise submit approval documentation no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting for which the representative is to take office.
  - b. Valid approval documentation shall include the representative's name, contact information, office hours, and statement of commitment to their duties and responsibilities as a member of the SUA.
  - c. There shall be some form of notification submitted to the SUA Parliamentarian whenever an assigned representative is unable to attend a meeting of the SUA.

**Article IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLLEGE GOVERNMENTS, STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE STUDENT UNION ASSEMBLY**

**Section A. Jurisdiction of the College Governments:**

1. Due to the expertise of the college governments on issues inside their colleges and the personal contact of the college government members to members of the college, the college governments shall continue to have full jurisdiction on the issues within their college.
2. The college governments shall handle issues relating to their college activities and policies.
3. The college government shall distribute college membership fees.
4. The college governments shall appoint their representative to the Academic Senate.
5. The college government may request assistance from the SUA on any issue to protect and assure the rights and needs of students.
6. Authority of the Student Union Assembly is recognized by the Regents of the University of California, the Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz. Membership is strengthened by the participation of the college governments and organizations to the Student Union Assembly.

**Section B. Jurisdiction of the Student Organizations**

1. Due to the expertise that student organizations possess in matters related to their spaces, those student organizations shall continue to have full jurisdiction on the issues that impact their cause and purpose.
2. Student Organizations shall be considered an invaluable ally to the SUA and their participation within SUA shall be prioritized.
3. Student Organizations may, regardless of voting status, request assistance from the SUA on any issue to protect and assure the rights of their members and fellow students.

### **Section C. Right of Dissent**

1. College Governments and Student Organizations shall have the right to dissent from a decision made by the Student Union Assembly.
2. If a College Government or Student Organization wishes to publicly express their dissent towards a SUA decision, they may submit a statement of dissent to the SUA President and Parliamentarian.
  - a. A Statement of Dissent shall be considered valid if it is officiated by the space, signed by the leadership or membership of the space, details the SUA decision, and provides the rationale for dissent.
  - b. A valid Statement of Dissent shall either accompany written publication of a SUA decision or any written publication of a SUA decision shall note the dissenting space.
  - c. A Statement of Dissent can be recalled by the issuing space in a manner according to the space's rules, a notice submitted to the SUA President and Parliamentarian shall be sufficient to recall a Statement of Dissent.

## **Article V. COMMITTEES OF THE STUDENT UNION ASSEMBLY**

### **Section A. Actions:**

1. Any action, resolution, charge, stance, or motion of a standing committee, subcommittee, ad-hoc committee, task force, board, or commission may be overturned by a 2/3rd vote of the voting membership of the SUA.
  - a. Procedural actions are not subject to being overturned.

### **Section B. Standing Committees:**

1. The Student Outreach Committee: Facilitates the outreach to the Student Body, and creates and distributes publicity to inform students of the issues of SUA. The committee should sponsor campus-wide programming and educational events related to SUA issues.
2. The Diversity Commission: Facilitates the overview and tracking of all issues of diversity at UCSC.
3. Student Committee on Committees: Facilitates the appointment and tracking of all student representatives to campus-wide committees, including and administrative committees.
  - a. The Internal Vice President shall serve as the Chair of the SCOC.
  - b. The Internal Vice President shall serve as the Chair of the SCOC. b. Each College Government shall have the right to appoint one voting representative to the SCOC.



4. The Student Academic Senate Committee: Works to establish common goals among all the colleges and talk about academic and university policy to promote academic progress.
5. The Vision Committee: Provides a working space for legislation, reforms, and discussions regarding the current state of the SUA and potential reforms to it.
  - a. Shall actively solicit feedback from the Undergraduate Student Body and provide public forums for their concerns to be heard.
6. The Finance Board: Promotes fiscal sustainability of the SUA through continued oversight of expenses and funding practices to ensure responsible use of funds afforded to the SUA.
  - a. The President shall serve as the Chair of the Finance Board.
  - b. Each College Government shall have the right to appoint one voting representative to the Finance Board.
  - c. The Board will maintain accurate fiscal and spending information from both the Assembly and the Executive to ensure transparency and assess the budget allocations for future years.
7. The SUA is empowered to create additional committees, subcommittees as well as ad hoc committees as it deems necessary.
8. The SUA shall determine the rules and procedures for all committees, subcommittees, and task forces.

## **Article VI. JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

### **Section A. Purpose:**

1. To provide interpretation of the governing documents in the event of a constitutional crisis and recommend amendments of the governing documents to the SUA.
  - a. Constitutional crisis is defined as a disagreement over the interpretation of a specific Article, section or subsection within the Constitution, Bylaws, or other adopted legislation of the Student Union Assembly (SUA).
2. To investigate SUA member conduct when reported violations of the Code of Conduct occur and recommend a course of action following such investigation.
  - a. The SUA Code of Conduct and recommended actions to take prior to the activation of the Judicial Council shall be articulated in the SUA Bylaws.
3. To report on the validity of decisions made by the SUA, its members, and any subordinate bodies..

### **Section B. Membership and Selection**

1. The overall responsibility for selecting members of the SUA Judicial Council shall be vested in the Student Committee on Committees (SCOC).
  - a. The SCOC shall develop criteria for membership that includes but is not limited to:
    - i. Proficient understanding of the SUA Governing Documents
    - ii. Capacity to make decisions in a multicultural space with the understanding that enduring institutions of white supremacy and discrimination both exist and are reinforced on this campus.
    - iii. Demonstrated capacity for or experience in:

1. Holding institutions of power accountable for their (in)actions.
  2. Holding individuals in power accountable for their (in)actions.
  3. Having been in a situation where they were the vocal minority and they held true to what they believed to be right despite some source of adversity or pressure.
2. The council shall be composed of the following voting members;
    - a. The Parliamentarian of the SUA
    - b. Six members of the Undergraduate Student Body who are selected according to Section B.1.
  3. Voting members of the Judicial Council shall hold office for the duration of the academic year in which they were appointed.
    - a. Voting members of the Judicial Council may re-apply for their voting membership during subsequent academic years and be subject to the same application process as any other applicant.

### **Section C. Activation**

1. The Judicial Council shall be convened through any of the following;
  - a. A 2/3 vote of the SUA voting membership, rounded up.
  - b. A 2/3 vote of the college governments, rounded up.
  - c. A 2/3 vote of the voting student organizations, rounded up.
  - d. A complaint submitted by the SUA Elections Commission.
  - e. A petition signed by 150 members of the undergraduate student body that must include the following in order to be valid:
    - i. A statement on the top of each page of the petition that reads one of the following:
      1. "We, the undersigned undergraduate students of the University of California Santa Cruz call for the Student Union Assembly (SUA), which is the undergraduate campus-wide student government, to convene the Judicial Council to review the interpretation of Article (Number), or Section (Letter), or subsection (Number/Letter), which reads (disputed part of constitution). The SUA's interpretation(s) of this section are: (List all interpretations from the SUA) As (State name(s) and/or student organization(s)) my/our interpretation is/are as follows: (List complaint interpretation) As there appears to be a disagreement over the interpretation, I call for the SUA Judicial Council in accordance with Article VI, Section A of the SUA Constitution to be convened to determine the final interpretation."
      2. "We, the undersigned undergraduate students of the University of California Santa Cruz call for the Student Union Assembly (SUA), which is the undergraduate campus-wide student government, to convene the Judicial Council to review the conduct of (SUA Member). We request that the Judicial Council determine if

(Reported Conduct) is in line with the SUA Governing Documents, specifically (Section Where Potential Violation Exists).

3. “We, the undersigned undergraduate students of the University of California Santa Cruz call for the Student Union Assembly (SUA), which is the undergraduate campus-wide student government, to convene the Judicial Council to review the constitutionality of (SUA Decision). We request that the Judicial Council determine if the decision made by the SUA is in line with the SUA Constitution. Specifically, (Governing Document Language Potentially Contesting SUA Decision).
  - ii. The petition must include a printed name, signature, student I.D. number, and college affiliation for each person who signs, in order to be valid.
  - iii. In order to be valid, the petition must also include a section for phone and email address. This information would be listed as optional, but must be on the petition.
2. The Judicial Council will automatically convene if there is a conflict of interpretation between SUA and University administration, following the procedures laid out for a constitutional crisis.

#### **Section D. Procedures**

1. The SUA Bylaws shall be invested the authority to clarify and expand upon the procedures established by this section.
2. Except for in cases of impeachment, the standard of evidence utilized in making judgments shall be by preponderance of evidence.
  - a. As defined, the Judicial Council shall determine if a violation of the SUA Governing Documents more likely than not occurred.
3. The SUA Parliamentarian shall serve as the chair of the Judicial Council.
  - a. The Chair shall be responsible for distributing resources, informing members, scheduling meetings, securing a private location, and receiving information from sources around campus as needed.
4. The Judicial Council shall meet no less than once a month when not officially convened.
  - a. In the case that there is no material to discuss, the meeting shall consist of refresher training on the SUA Governing Documents and/or Robert’s Rules of Order led by the Parliamentarian. The meeting shall also be made open to the public.
5. Members of the Judicial Council who believe that they possess a conflict of interest shall be required to recuse themselves from the Judicial Council temporarily.
  - a. A conflict of interest is defined for the purpose of this section as the presence of beliefs, opinions, or bias that may prevent one from conducting themselves with impartiality.
  - b. When a vacancy in the Judicial Council occurs due to the recusal of a Judicial Council member, the SUA shall be endowed with the authority to appoint a replacement as soon as possible.

- i. The replacement shall only serve in the Judicial Council for the current issue.
6. When the Judicial Council is called to meet, the meetings shall be considered closed session.
  - a. During closed session, members of the Judicial Council may take personal notes for their reference. These notes may not be distributed under any circumstance.
7. Any decision of the Judicial Council shall be made by a simple majority vote.
  - a. During final votes that are considered a decision of the Judicial Council, no member may be permitted to abstain.
  - b. Votes of the Judicial Council shall be tallied to the Chair.
  - c. The identities of Judicial Council members who have voted shall remain anonymous.
8. The decision of the Judicial Council may not be overturned in cases where the Judicial Council has been convened to resolve a constitutional crisis.
  - a. The Judicial Council shall draft and publish a document detailing the rationale of their decision to the SUA.
9. If the Judicial Council is convened to determine the constitutionality of a member's conduct or a decision made by the SUA, the Judicial Council shall render one of four possible judgments:
  - a. Constitutional – The Judicial Council upholds the conduct or decision as valid and in line with the SUA Governing Documents.
  - b. Unconstitutional – The Judicial Council asserts that the conduct or decision did violate some component(s) of the SUA Governing Documents.
    - i. In this case, the Judicial Council shall list all known violations, the rationale for its determination, and a recommendation for restorative action to the SUA.
    - ii. The SUA Judicial Council shall not be construed to have the authority to unilaterally implement restorative actions as elaborated upon in Section E.
  - c. Constitutionally Irrelevant – The Judicial Council determines that the conduct or decision is not relevant nor adequately covered by the SUA Governing Documents.
  - d. Insufficient Information – The Judicial Council determines that it does not have sufficient information to render one of the three above listed judgments.
10. In any judgment, the Judicial Council shall provide their opinion, concurring opinions, and any dissenting opinions to the public.
  - a. All opinions rendered to the public from the Judicial Council shall be submitted anonymously.
11. As the result of any judgment, the Judicial Council shall be empowered to likewise provide recommendations to the SUA.
  - a. Recommendations for the SUA may include proposed amendments, institutional changes, restorative actions, or other material that the Judicial Council wishes to submit to the SUA for consideration.
  - b. The scope of permitted recommendations shall be dictated by the SUA Bylaws.
12. Elements of the Judicial Council meetings that are not dictated herein shall be relegated to the SUA Bylaws as appropriate.

### **Section E. Checks and Balances**

1. The Judicial Council shall exist within a system of checks and balances to guarantee that no one group of individuals has overwhelming power within the Student Union Assembly.
2. Check by Students and Assembly: The Judicial Council may only be convened as outlined within Section C.
3. Check on Implementation: The Judicial Council shall submit their judgment and recommendation to the Student Union Assembly or, in the case of a complaint from the Elections Commission, to the Elections Commission. If the Judicial Council finds that the conduct or decision was unconstitutional, they may recommend that the questioned decision of the SUA be annulled or restorative action assigned of intensity not exceeding the impeachment of a member of the SUA.
  - a. Any recommendation by the Judicial Council shall be voted on by the SUA or Elections Commission as appropriate, who may pass the recommendation by a 2/3 majority vote.
  - b. Alternatively, the SUA or Elections Commission may vote down the recommendation and offer a new action that may be similarly approved by a 2/3 majority vote.
    - i. The new action recommended by the SUA may not include Impeachment.
  - c. If the SUA or Elections Commission fails to achieve sufficient consensus to commit to a specific action, the recommendations of the Judicial Council shall not be put into effect.

### **Section F. Impeachment**

1. The recommendations of the Judicial Council may include, at the maximum severity, the removal of a SUA member from office. When this case is considered by the Judicial Council, the Chair shall note that the Judicial Council should proceed with extreme caution.
  - a. In making this recommendation, the Judicial Council shall demonstrate that the violations of a SUA member amounted to significant and harmful violations of the SUA Governing Documents that either:
    - i. Were harmful to the Student Body of UCSC.
    - ii. Threatened the safety of any student or student-run organization at UCSC.
    - iii. Substantially violated the purpose for which the SUA exists. (Article I)
    - iv. Consisted of gross negligence, corruption, falsification, discrimination, or hate.
  - b. In making this recommendation, the Judicial Council shall ensure that the information gathered is accurate and correct.
  - c. In making this recommendation, the Judicial Council shall determine if a violation of the nature detailed in (i) occurred beyond a reasonable doubt.
2. As with any other recommendation, the Checks and Balances noted in Section E shall be enforced in cases of Impeachment.
3. If the SUA enforces the recommendation, the SUA Parliamentarian may call an emergency recess (non-debatable, non-objectionable) to guarantee the following actions take place:

- a. The space that the former SUA member represents shall immediately be notified by the SUA Parliamentarian.
- b. The impeached member shall forfeit all duties, responsibilities, and authority.
- c. The SUA Advisor and Executive Board shall take immediate steps to ensure that the impeached member no longer has access to sensitive SUA resources.
- d. If the safety of the space is threatened by the presence of the impeached member, they may be asked to leave regardless of whether or not the SUA is in closed session.
  - i. Alternatively, the remaining SUA agenda items may be tabled to the following meeting in the interest of member safety.

## **Article VII. FISCAL MATTERS**

### **Section A. Fiscal Authority:**

1. The SUA shall have authority over all the budgets of the SUA or any of its committees, subcommittees, and task forces.
  - a. The SUA must approve a budget in spring for the following academic year
  - b. The President has overall responsibility for proper fiscal management of the Student Union Assembly.
  - c. The Internal Vice President shall be responsible for other financial matters as assigned by the SUA, the President or the bylaws.
    - i. The budget of the Student Union assembly shall be public to anyone in accordance with campus policies and law.
  - d. The SUA may specify in the bylaws restrictions on the use of SUA funds
  - e. The SUA Budget shall be reviewed by the voting membership of the SUA by the 5th week of the Spring Quarter to be ratified by the 9th or 10th week of quarter. If this does not occur, the Student Union Assembly must meet in an emergency session, including going into Summer Session until a budget is passed.

## **Article VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL SUPREMACY**

### **Section A. Supremacy:**

1. This Constitution shall be the supreme governing document of the Student Union Assembly. All bylaws and regulations of the Student Union Assembly shall be inferior to this Constitution.

## **Article IX. STUDENT UNION ASSEMBLY BYLAWS**

### **Section A. Purpose:**

1. The SUA bylaws shall supplement this constitution by establishing such boards, councils, committees, subcommittees, and task forces the SUA deems necessary. The bylaws shall enumerate powers, duties, and rules pertaining to these boards, councils, committees, subcommittees, and task forces. The bylaws shall also lay out procedures governing the function and/or activities described in the constitution, and may assign additional duties to the Officers and Representatives.

**Section B. Amendments and Procedures:**

1. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SUA shall be necessary to ratify, modify, or suspend portions of the bylaws.
2. One-week notice must be given to the Assembly before amendments, creation or removal of any bylaws.

**Article X. AMENDMENTS OF THIS CONSTITUTION**

**Section A. Procedures:**

1. An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by either a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SUA, two-thirds (2/3) of the college governments (rounded up), or petition signed by at least ten-percent (10%) of all registered undergraduate students and shall be taken to a vote in accordance with Article III, Section B.1.
2. Approval of any amendment requires a simple majority where twenty- percent (20%) of the Student Body, the undergraduate students of UCSC has voted on the amendment measure. If adopted, the amendment shall take effect on the date specified in the amendment, or if no date is specified, immediately upon confirmation of election results by the Elections Commissioner of the Student Union Assembly.
3. Proposed amendments cannot be approved by the SUA, a student petition, or college government during Summer Session.
4. Whenever the constitution is amended, an annotation of the date on which the amendment is adopted shall be placed at the end of the "as amended" section of this Constitution.
5. If two (2) or more conflicting amendments are passed simultaneously, all non conflicting parts shall be enacted and the conflicting part(s) of the measure receiving the highest number of votes shall be enacted.
6. Typographical, grammatical, or formatting changes to this constitution shall not be considered an amendment, and may be proposed by the Executive to the voting membership of the SUA.
  - a. If a consensus of the voting membership of the SUA does not confirm the proposed changes as typographical, grammatical, or formatting, the voting membership can call the Judicial Council (Article VI) to approve the proposal by consensus.
7. Anyone from the Student Union Assembly or Partnerships can call for a Constitutional Emergency for amendments to the Constitution and bylaws without a campus wide vote until a campus wide election can be run. SUA requires a 2/3rd's vote from the Student Union Assembly, and then majority vote (50% + 1) of the Partnerships of the Student Union Assembly (Engaging Education, Campus Sustainability Council and the Student Committees on Committees) in order for an amendment to be considered. A 2/3rd's vote is then required of the SUA body in order to pass.
8. A "Partnership" is a taskforce or a standing committee that is a part of the SUA.

**Article XI. TRANSITION**

**Section A. Procedures:**

1. All pre-existing bylaws and regulations that do not conflict with new constitutional amendments shall remain in effect.
2. If a new elected position is created by a constitutional amendment, an interim appointment shall be made until the next SUA election is held, unless otherwise stated in the amendment.
3. If an elected position is eliminated by a constitutional amendment in the same election as that position is filled, the winner of that election shall remain in office for the specified term.
4. All approved changes to the constitution shall be completed by the Spring Quarter Election of the next year. In order to ensure an updated constitution to the student body, all changes to the Constitution must be completed/changed by the SUA to be presented to the entire student body two months after the results of the election are given through the website and paper documentation.

**Article XII.** Adopted: May 1985

**Article XIII.** As Amended: May 1988

**Article XIV.** As Amended: May 1995

**Article XV.** As Amended: May 2002

**Article XVI.** As Amended: May 2003

**Article XVII.** As Amended: May 2005

**Article XVIII.** As Amended: May 2015

**Article XIX.** As Amended: October 2015

**Article XX.** As Amended: May 2019

**Article XXI.** As Amended: May 2020