



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF GRAND-BASSAM

Excellence • Accountability • Opportunity



International University of Grand Bassam
Student Government Association

CONSTITUTION

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Président

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF GRAND BASSAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

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**International University of Grand Bassam
Student Government Association Constitution**

Preamble

We, the students at the International University of Grand Bassam (IUGB), do hereby form and establish the Student Government of IUGB to support academic freedom, uphold and promote student rights, foster a cohesive and united student body, and maintain forums for the discussion of our opinions and rights.

Purpose Statement

IUGB's Student Government speaks for the entire student body. We serve the following goals:

- to maintain the University Code of Ethics.
- to encourage scholarship in an environment of open, unbiased inquiry;
- to insist on academic freedom, responsibility, and excellence;
- to take on the responsibility of exercising and protecting students' rights and responsibilities;
- to foster cohesion within the student body;
- to maintain a forum for students to express their diverse viewpoints and interests;
- to initiate, coordinate, and guide student efforts aimed at improving student life and activities;
- to seek and obtain effective communication and relations within the University and outside communities;
- to insist on high-quality education at a reasonable price, thereby providing educational opportunities for people of all economic strata;
- to provide opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills;
- to promote the well-being of both the individual and the group of students.

We fulfill the aforementioned aims by supporting and advocating for students' needs and perspectives before the IUGB administration, faculty, staff, and the local community.

THEREBY, it is established and affirmed that this is the Constitution of IUGB's Student Government.

Article I: Framework and Eligibility

I.A. The organization created in this document is called the Student Government Association (SGA) of IUGB.

I.A.1. In all correspondence and press releases, this organization will refer to itself by its full name or the abbreviated version, SGA.

I.B. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches shall comprise the Student Government.

I.B.1. As stated in the SGA Bylaws, the Communications Department, the Programming Department, and the Funding Department shall comprise the Executive Branch.

I.B.2. the SGA Bylaws defines the Judicial Council as a part of the Judicial Branch.

I.B.3. As defined by the SGA Bylaws, the Senate, Legislative Committees, and the Advocacy Department shall comprise the Legislative Branch.

I.C. All IUGB enrolled students are expected to abide by the Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and this Constitution as members of the Student Government.

I.D. All elected or appointed officers must maintain a cumulative three-point-twenty-five (3.25) minimum GPA, be full-time students in good standing as determined by the Registrar to be eligible to run for and hold office and be in good financial standing (no financial holds at any time while serving in office).

I.D.1. The full-time requirement is waived for students who maintain at least six (6) units during their last semester at IUGB.

I.D.2. With the Division of Student Affairs' permission and endorsement, part-time students may, in extraordinary cases, run for and hold office.

I.E.; The President, Vice President, and Senators will serve one-year terms concurrently with the Senate term.

I.E.1. Every other stipend position will last for the whole Senate term for which it is confirmed.

I.E.1.i. Lifetime terms are granted to judicial branch stipend positions. Stipends are only forfeited by these people in the event of graduation, impeachment, resignation, or unenrollment.

I.E.1.ii. The outgoing Senate may confirm the nominations of officials made by the President-elect and Vice President-elect for their terms.

I.E.2. SGA employees serving stipend jobs cannot hold other stipend positions.

I.E.3. If reapplying or being re-elected, individuals in stipend jobs may serve a maximum of two (2) terms in the same capacity.

I.E.3.i. Judicial Branch stipend officers are exempt from this term limit.

Article II: The Executive Cabinet

II.A. The Executive Cabinet, which consists of the President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Senate Speaker, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Programming Officer, Chief Communications Officer, and Chief Diversity Officer, shall hold all executive powers of the Student Government.

II.A.1. Under Article II of the Bylaws, candidates shall be elected to these posts.

II.B. The Executive Cabinet shall:

II.B.1. Hold regular meetings to go over the issues, strategies, and objectives of the Student Government.

II.B.2. Ascertain that an elected or appointed officer represents the Student Government in all relevant matters.

II.B.3. Interact and communicate with administrators and organizations on campus to accomplish the objectives that the student government has set forth.

II.C. The student body of IUGB shall directly elect the President and Vice President.

II.C.1. The President and Vice President shall adhere to the Bylaws' definition of constituency rules.

II.C.2. The Bylaws allow the President and Vice President to be elected on the same ballot as the Senators.

II.C.3. The position will have a one-year term that runs concurrently with the relevant Senate term.

II.C.3.i. The President is limited to a (1) single term of office. The Bylaws permit no second term.

II.C.4. If the President is unable to serve out his term, the Chief Justice shall swear in the Vice President as the new President and the Speaker of the Senate as the new Vice President during the following Senate session.

II.C.4.i. This partial term shall not be deducted from the maximum of one (1) term of the Presidency.

II.C.5. At the following Senate meeting, the Chief Justice will appoint the Speaker of the Senate to serve as the Vice President if the Vice President is unable to complete his or her tenure.

II.C.5.i. There will be no deduction for this partial term from the one (1) term of the Vice Presidency.

II.C.6: The Senate will elect a new Speaker of the Senate per the Bylaws if the current Speaker cannot serve their whole term.

II.C.7. Should there be simultaneous vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate will take the oath of office as President at the following Senate session, and after the Speaker's vacant Senate seat is filled, the Senate will choose a new Vice President directly from among its members.

II.C.8. The procedures specified in the Bylaws may be used to remove the President and Vice President from their positions.

II.D. Per the Bylaws, the President may veto legislation that the Senate passes.

II.D.1. The veto power does not apply to personnel confirmation, bylaws, or constitutional amendments.

II.D.2. The Senate may override the veto of the President with a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote.

Article III. The Legislative Branch

III.A. The Legislative Branch will serve as a deliberative body representing students' interests in relevant university matters.

III.B. Resolutions as specified in the Bylaws shall be drafted by or sponsored by the Legislative Branch.

III.C. The Legislative Branch shall ensure that the other branches of SGA accountably follow all university and Student Government policies and procedures.

III.D. The Legislative Branch shall stay informed of university issues and policies by participating in meetings, conducting research, communicating with members of the IUGB community, and any other means necessary to carry out this responsibility.

III.E. The Legislative Branch shall carry out all additional responsibilities of the Constitution or Bylaws assigned.

Section 1: The Senate

III.F. The legislative body, or "Senate," will hold all of the Student Government's legislative authority.

III.G. There shall be sixteen (16) senators in the legislative body:

(02) Senators for UPP, (02) Senators for Freshmen Class, (04) Senators for Sophomore Class, (04) Senators for Junior Class, (04) Senators for Senior Class

III.H. Senators will carry out the responsibilities as outlined in the Bylaws.

III.H.1. A one (1) total vote shall be assigned to each senator.

III.H.2. One (1) Senator shall serve as the Speaker of the Senate, who shall be selected as instructed in Article II of the Bylaws.

III.H.3. If a Senator is unable to serve out his or her term, a new Senator shall be sworn in as soon as possible, per the Bylaws.

III.I. The Vice President shall serve as President of the Senate.

III.I.1. During Senate sessions, the President of the Senate will preside over the body.

III.I.2. III.I.2: The Senate President may only vote to break a tie.

III.J. The Bylaws will govern the holding of senatorial elections.

III.K. Per the Bylaws, the Senate must approve all budget appropriations.

III.K.1. Public disclosure of Senate-approved budgets is required.

III.L. The Senate shall follow the processes specified in the Bylaws to approve nominees to the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches.

III.M. As specified in the Bylaws, the Senate must authorize some expenses.

III.N. The procedure specified in the Bylaws may be used to remove senators from office.

Section 2: Legislative Committees

III.O. Legislative Committees, referred to as “Committees,” shall be entrusted with the policy-making and advocacy responsibilities of the Student Government.

III.O.1. The Committee on Wellness Affairs, the Committee on External Affairs, the Committee on Academic Affairs, the Committee on Sustainability and Campus Infrastructure, the Committee on Accessibility, and the Committee on Affordability and Basic Needs are the six (6) permanent standing committees that will be under the vice president’s direction.

III.O.2. The Bylaws will specify each Committee’s roles and responsibilities.

III.P. Committees are responsible for keeping stakeholders informed about matters regarding students.

III.Q. Senators and General Members should comprise each Committee.

III.Q.1. The Committee Chair shall be one (1) General Member.

III.Q.1.i. The President shall appoint Chairs, on the recommendation of the Advisor(s), the Executive Cabinet, and the departing Chair.

III.Q.1.ii. The procedure specified in the Bylaws shall be used to remove a chair from its position.

III.Q.2. Committee members must carry out all responsibilities specified by the Bylaws.

III.R. Following the procedure specified in the bylaws, new committees may be incorporated for temporary or permanent jurisdiction.

Section 3: Advocacy Department

III.S. The Advocacy Department shall:

III.S.1. As its primary responsibility, provide a forum for representatives of diverse communities to address matters impacting vulnerable campus communities.

III.S.2. Guide on campus climate/mood issues to the Legislative Branch and the Chief Diversity Officer.

III.S.3. Engage in advocacy efforts to improve under-represented communities' inclusion and representation on campus.

III.T. The Chief Diversity Officer and Advocacy Liaisons will make up the Advocacy Department.

III.T.1. Prior to the Advocacy Department's first meeting, as specified by the Bylaws, the Advocacy Liaisons shall be nominated by their respective communities and appointed by the President.

III.T.2. The procedure specified in the Bylaws may be used to remove an advocacy liaison from their position.

Article IV: The Funding Department

IV.A. The Funding Department shall provide fiscal support and resources to various reputable student organizations and individuals.

IV.B. The Chief Financial Officer shall lead the Funding Department, including the following six funds: (1) the Startup Fund, (2) the Performing and Visual Arts Fund, (3) the Professional Fund, (4) the Philanthropy Fund, (5) the Academic Research Fund and (6) the Diversity and Inclusion Fund. They shall operate and accomplish the goals specified in the bylaws.

IV.C. The Funding Department Directors and Associate Directors shall be appointed by the President and the Chief Financial Officer based on the recommendation of the Executive Cabinet, the respective outgoing directors, and the Advisor(s).

IV.C.1. Directors and Associate Directors must perform the obligations prescribed in the Bylaws.

Article V: The Communications Department

V.A. The Communications Department shall coordinate and encourage communication between SGA and the student body.

V.B. The Communications Department ensures that the current governing papers and budgets are regularly updated and accessible on the SGA website.

V.C. The Communications Department shall comprise the Chief Communications Officer and four (4) teams: creative, digital, media, and public relations.

V.D. The Communications Department Directors and Associate Directors shall be appointed by the President and the Chief Communications Officer, with the recommendation of the Executive Cabinet, the respective outgoing Directors, and the Advisor(s).

V.D.1. The Director and Associate Directors shall carry out the obligations stipulated in the Bylaws.

Article VI: The Programming Department

VI.A. The Programming Department shall plan events for the student body that benefit students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

VI.B. The Chief Programming Officer, Programming Committees, and Programming Assemblies shall make up the Programming Department.

VI.B.1. Each Programming Committee and Assembly established by the Bylaws shall have an Executive Director or two (2) Co-Executive Directors.

VI.B.1.i Assembly Executive Directors shall be elected by their respective groups by the Constitution, Bylaws, and procedures of the Programming Department and the respective Assembly.

VI.B.2 The President and Chief Programming Officer shall appoint Committee Executive Directors and Committee Assistant Director(s) on the recommendation of the relevant outgoing officials, the Executive Cabinet, and the Advisor(s). The appointments shall be subject to Senate confirmation, according to the Bylaws.

VI.C. Additional Programming Committees and Assemblies may be established as the Bylaws indicate.

Article VII: The Judicial Branch

VII.A. The Judicial Branch shall incorporate all of the Student Government's judicial powers.

VII.B. There shall be one (1) body of the Judicial Branch, referred to as the Judicial Council or "Council".

VII.B.1. The Council shall adjudicate all matters in which the constitutionality of an act by any member of the other branches is called into question.

VII.B.2. The Council shall make and enforce all final judicial decisions.

VII.B.3. The Council shall also be the terminal court for all cases about hearings, enforcement, and adjudication of the Elections Code.

VII.C. Judicial Branch officers must be confirmed by the Senate using the procedures established in the Bylaws.

VII.C.1. Officers of the Judicial Branch will serve as long as they are full-time students, as determined by the Office of the Registrar, but for at most 48 calendar months.

VII.C.2. Officers of the Judicial Branch are not permitted to serve in any other branch of the Student Government.

VII.C.3. Vacancies in the Judicial Branch shall be filled within three (3) academic weeks.

VII.C.4. If a Judicial Branch officer takes a leave of absence, whether temporary or permanent, they must quit their respective body.

VII.C.5. Officers of the Judicial Branch may be removed from office using the processes established in the Bylaws.

VII.D. The Judicial Branch shall remain an unbiased, objective, and independent body responsible for reviewing and adjudicating any cases brought before it by a Student Government official or any interested student against a Student Government officer.

VII.D.1. The Council's hearings and deliberations shall be closed to the public.

Section 1: The Judicial Council

VII.E. The Judicial Council shall interpret, enforce, and adjudicate any instances involving SGA governing document violations.

VII.E.1. For complaints about the IUGB Student Handbook, the Chief Justice may order compliance and refer the complaint to the appropriate governing body, such as the Office of Community Expectations or law enforcement.

VII.E.1.i. Decisions by those bodies may be grounds for sanctions, as determined by the Council.

VII.F. There shall be eight (8) justices.

VII.F.1. There shall be seven (7) Associate Justices and one (1) Chief Justice.

VII.F.2 Justices shall be appointed by members from each branch of the Student Government under the procedures provided in the bylaws.

VII.G. When the Council makes a ruling concerning constitutionality, the Senate must enact legislative changes to retort to the decision by reconciling the difference between the written legislation and the interpretation of the Council before the end of the Senate term.

VII.H. The Council shall oversee elections for the President, Vice President, Senators, and Referendums.

VII.I. A simple majority of all Justices, including the Chief Justice, shall be present to adjudicate regarding complaints, violations of the Elections Code, and sanctions.

VII.I.1. All general and special elections shall follow an Elections Code.

VII.I.1.i. The Elections Code shall be defined, established, and updated under the

procedures specified in the Bylaws.

VII.I.2. The Judicial Council may impose sanctions for violations of the Elections Code.

Article VIII: Faculty/Staff Advisor(s)

VIII.A. The Student Government shall have an official advisor(s) from the IUGB faculty and staff.

VIII.A.1. Other individuals may act as special advisors as needed.

VIII.B. The Advisor(s), by the Constitution and Bylaws, shall:

VIII.B.1. Actively monitor the policies, actions, and behavior of the Student Government and its officers.

VIII.B.2. Guide SGA officers and provide mentorship, leadership training, and structure to the organization.

VIII.B.3. Contribute to creating an environment and resources for student leaders in the Student Government to serve the needs and interests of all students effectively.

VIII.C. The Advisor(s) shall not vote on Senate matters or exert undue influence over Student Government actions and choices.

Article IX: Amendments

IX.A. Any proposed amendments to this Constitution must go through a one-week grace period before being introduced to the Senate as new business.

IX.A.1. During the one-week grace period, the Parliamentary Secretary will analyze the proposed amendment(s) to ensure no conflicts with other standing documents, such as contradictions, inconsistencies, etc.

IX.A.2. During the one-week grace period, the Parliamentary Secretary shall approve the proposed amendment(s) for the Director of Campus Activities.

IX.A.3. If the following processes are not followed, no amendments to the SGA Constitution can be implemented.

IX.B Amendments to the Constitution require a ninety percent (90%) supermajority vote of the Senate, a two-thirds vote of the Executive Cabinet, and a two-thirds vote of the Judicial Council.

IX.C. If a request to make cosmetic modifications to this Constitution, such as numbering and spelling, is approved by a majority of the Senate, the Constitution will be declared duly altered.

Article X: Bylaws

X.A. This Constitution shall be construed in conjunction with the Student Government Bylaws.

X.A.1. In the event of a conflict between this Constitution and the Bylaws, the Constitution takes precedence.

X.B. The Bylaws shall specify the duties of the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch officers and the working of their offices.

X.C. The Bylaws shall specify the duties of Legislative Branch officers and the overall legislative process.

X.D. The Bylaws shall specify the procedure for appointing and electing all officers.

X.E. A five-sixths vote of the Senate can amend the Bylaws, a majority vote of the Executive Cabinet, and a majority vote of the Judicial Council.

X.E.1. Amendments will take effect as stipulated in the Bylaws.

X.F. Any proposed Bylaws amendment must go through a one-week grace period before being brought to the Senate as new business.

X.F.1. During the (1) one-week grace period, the Parliamentary Secretary must forward the proposed amendment(s) to the Director of Campus Activities for approval.

Article XI: Enactment

XI.A. This Constitution shall be in full effect following a vote by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate. This Constitution shall surpass all cases of inconsistency regarding the policy, procedure, Judicial Branch rulings, governing documents, or other business of the Student Government.