# TITLE IV: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Chapter 400: The Authority of the Legislative Branch

### The powers and duties within the Legislative Branch, herein referred to as the Senate, are derived and defined from the Student Government Constitution and Statutes.

### The Senate shall:

#### Represent the student body in all University-wide matters and to develop and promote activities of practical value and interests to students.

#### Maintain communication with the student body and the President, herein-after referred to as the SG President, on matters of concern to students.

#### Enforce, follow, and adhere to all laws, policies, and guidelines set forth in the Student Government Constitution and System of Statutes.

#### Be responsible for composing and voting on the approval of Student Government Constitutional Amendments and the enacting of Student Government Statutory revisions.

#### Consider all legislation for the operation of the Student Government.

#### Have the ability to override a Presidential veto of any legislation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members in attendance of the Senate meeting and voting.

#### Serve as the validating body for all Student Government elections.

#### Approve, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, all Senate appointments made by the Rules and Oversight Committee.

#### Under no circumstances vote by paper balloting.

#### Through a written and signed petition of eight (8) or more senators, freeze any action of a committee until such a time that the Senate may take up the issue and may choose to overturn the Committee’s decision by two-thirds (2/3) vote.

#### Be responsible to update and follow the Senate Policies and Procedures, which is a living document that can only be changed through a Standing Rule, over which the SG President has no authority.

## Chapter 401: Senate Absences

### 401.1 The Student Government Senate Policies and Procedures will dictate the guidelines and procedures for absences in the Senate.

### 401.2 Every senator may request either a summer leave of absence or a three-week leave of absence in the fall or spring semester. Requests must be submitted to the Senate President. Special exceptions may be granted by the Rules and Oversight Committee by two-thirds (2/3) vote.

## Chapter 402: Senate Sessions

### 402.1 Fall Session: The Fall Session of the Senate shall begin within the first five (5) business days of fall classes and terminate at the end of the Fall semester.

### 402.2 Spring Session: The Spring Session of the Senate shall begin within the first five (5) business days of spring classes and terminate at the end of the Spring semester.

### 402.3 Summer Session: The Summer Session of the Senate shall begin within the first five (5) business days of the first week of classes of the earliest academic term and shall terminate at the end of the summer academic term.

### 402.4 Each new academic year the Senate may adopt its own Policies and Procedures in accordance with the Student Government Constitution and Statutes.

## Chapter 403: Officers of the Senate

### 403.1 The Officers of the Senate shall be:

#### The Senate President;

#### The Senate President Pro Tempore;

#### The two (2) Standing Committee Chairs;

#### The Senate Secretary;

#### The Parliamentarian; and

#### The Sergeant-At-Arms

## Chapter 404: Senate President

### 404.1 The Senate President shall:

#### Be selected from within the Senate;

#### Be elected in the Spring by majority vote of the Senate;

#### Be the Chief Legislative Officer of Student Government;

#### Perform duties as provided by the Senate Policies and Procedures;

#### Enforce all rules, policies, and procedures of the Senate; and

#### Be responsible for the duties of all vacant Senate Officers.

## Chapter 405: Senate President Pro Tempore

### 405.1 The Senate President Pro Tempore shall:

#### Assist the Senate President in performing duties as provided by the Senate Policies and Procedures; and

#### Serve as the Chair of the Rules and Oversight Committee and perform all duties outlined in Title XIII.

## Chapter 406: Senate Secretary

### 406.1 The Senate Secretary shall:

#### Be hired by the Senate President and serve at their discretion; and

#### Perform duties as provided by the Senate Policies and Procedures and as directed by the Senate President.

## Chapter 407: Parliamentarian

### 407.1 The Parliamentarian shall:

#### Be appointed by the Senate President and confirmed by the Senate; and

#### Give advice on Parliamentary procedure upon request.

## Chapter 408: Sergeant-At-Arms

### 408.1 The Sergeant-At-Arms shall:

#### Be appointed by the Senate President;

#### Attend Senate during its meetings and maintain order under the discretion of the Senate President or Presiding Officer; and

#### Enforce the rules relating to the privileges of the chamber.

## Chapter 409: Calling of Senate Meeting, Quorum, and Voting

### 409.1 The Senate President shall be empowered to call Senate meetings and shall call a meeting if petitioned by a majority of the members of Senate holding office at the time the petition is presented, or if requested by a majority vote of the Senate. The Senate President shall notify Student Senators of all meetings.

### 409.2 Quorum shall be more than half of the membership of the Senate. Membership shall be defined as the total number of Senators entitled to vote, with the exception of Senators on leaves of absence. Quorum shall be more than half of voting members of a committee.

### 409.3 “Majority” and “Two-Thirds” Votes: A majority vote shall be more than half of the votes cast by Senators entitled to vote, excluding abstentions, at any properly called meeting at which quorum is present. A two-thirds vote shall be at least two thirds of the votes cast by Senators entitled to vote, excluding abstentions, at any properly called meeting at which quorum is present. In both cases “entitled to vote” refers to Senators actually voting, not all Senators formally eligible to vote.

## Chapter 410: Senate Committees

### 410.1 There shall be three (3) standing committees within the Senate. Each of the three (3) standing committees shall perform the duties and follow all procedures as set forth in the statutes and Senate Policies and Procedures. The three standing committees shall be as follows:

#### The Budget and Allocations Committee, herein after referred to as the B&A Committee;

#### The University and Student Affairs Committee, herein after referred to as the USA Committee;

#### The Rules and Oversight Committee, herein after referred to as the R&O Committee;

### 410.2 Committee Membership

#### The Senate President shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that there are an equal number of senators on each committee.

#### There must be a minimum of three (3) Senators on each committee including a chair for that committee to hear business.

#### In the event that a committee cannot establish quorum all business for that committee shall be forwarded to senate unless prohibited by another statute.

#### Standing Committee Chairs shall be elected in the spring by a majority vote of the Senate.

## Chapter 411: The Legislative Cabinet

### 411.1 The Legislative Cabinet shall make recommendations for the standing committees of the Senate.

### 411.2 Any member of the Legislative Cabinet, excluding the Senate Secretary who serves at the discretion of the Senate President, can be removed from office as provided by the Senate Policies and Procedures.

### 411.3 The Senate shall have the ability to place any of the Legislative Cabinet positions, excluding the Senate Secretary, up for a reelection of the position with a three-fourths (3/4) vote, which shall follow the election process outlined in the Senate Policies and Procedures.

### 411.4 The Senate President may dismiss any member of the Legislative cabinet at any time if they feel it is in the best interest of the Student Body. The Senate may override the Senate President by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the next regularly-scheduled Senate meeting.

### 411.5 Legislative Cabinet elections shall occur upon the convening of the new Senate in the spring semester, as outlined in the Senate Policies and Procedures.

### 411.6 The Legislative Cabinet shall consist of the following officers:

#### The Senate President

#### The Senate President Pro Tempore

#### The Senate Secretary

#### The two (2) Standing Committee Chairs

411.7 The Elected Members of the Legislative Cabinet shall occupy Chair Seats in the Legislative Branch.

## Chapter 412: Forms of Legislation

### 412.1 Forms of Legislation include:

#### Joint Resolutions

#### Senate Resolutions

#### Bills

#### Constitutional Referendums

412.2 Joint Resolutions

#### Must be passed by majority vote of the Senate and approved by the SG President to become effective.

### 412.3 Senate Resolutions

#### Must be passed by majority vote and are not subject to the Executive Veto power.

#### The passage of Senate Resolutions that amend or revise Legislative Branch policies and procedures shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Senate and are not subject to the Executive Veto power.

### 412.4 Bills

#### Must be passed by appropriate vote of the Senate and approved by the SG President to become effective.

### 412.5 Constitutional Referendums

#### Amendments to the Constitution are proposed by the Constitutional Convention as outlined in Article VI, Section 1.

#### All proposals recommended by majority vote of the Constitutional Convention shall be forwarded to Senate and the R&O Committee and must be approved by a 3/4 vote of the Senate.

#### Be subject to normal parliamentary motions.

#### Be signed by the Senate President and forwarded directly to the Supervisor of Elections to be placed on the ballot during the next general election.

### 412.6 This chapter only defines the manner in which amendments to the Constitution can be proposed. Article VI details all other ways amendments to the Constitution may be made.

## Chapter 413: Composition of Bills and Resolutions

### 413.1 Each Bill and Resolution shall contain the following:

#### Title and Subject

#### Legislative Intent

#### Enacting Clause

#### Effective Date

#### Senate Sponsor

### 413.2 Title and Subject

#### The subject of each bill shall be briefly expressed in its title.

#### If a bill embraces more than one subject, it shall be defined as an Omnibus Bill. A majority vote shall be required by the Senate Committee(s) to pass an Omnibus Bill, and a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required by the Senate for final passage.

### 413.3 Legislative Intent

#### The legislative intent of the bill shall be included in the body of the bill or resolution.

#### The legislative intent shall state the purpose and intent of that bill or resolution.

### 413.4 Enacting Clause

#### There shall be an enacting clause on every bill or resolution proposed by the Senate

### 413.5 Effective Date

#### Effective dates for all statutory revisions shall be governed pursuant to Article II.

#### All resolutions shall be exempt from having an effective date.

### 413.6 Senate Sponsor

#### All bills, resolutions, or Constitutional Referendums shall have a Senate Sponsor, who shall be from within the Senate.

## Chapter 414: Procedure for Approval of Bills

### 414.1 Summation of Bills

#### Upon receipt of a proposed Bill, Constitutional Referendum, or Resolution the Senate President must submit it to the Senate within a two (2) week period.

#### The Senate President shall transmit any legislation passed by the Senate to the SG President within five (5) business days except in the case of Constitutional Referendums.

### 414.2 Action by the SG President

#### Upon receipt of a Bill:

##### The SG President shall have five (5) business days to approve or veto a bill and submit it to the Senate President.

##### The Senate Secretary shall post the bill if approved. The bill shall be sent back to the Senate if vetoed.

##### If vetoed, the SG President shall transmit written and/or oral objections for vetoed legislation to the Senate at the next regular meeting.

##### If approved, the Senate President shall inform the Senate at the next meeting.

#### In cases where a bill is vetoed by the SG President the bill may be amended and sent back to the SG President as an alternative action on the veto. In this case, amended bills may be vetoed again by the SG President.

## Chapter 415: Terms of Office

### 415.1 Senate members shall take office upon installation. The term of office shall last from the election from Fall/Spring semester to the following Fall/Spring semester.

### 415.2 Senators shall terminate office at the installation of their successors or when they are no longer qualified to hold office. Those Senators who run in the election and do not get re-elected will have their term expire upon installation of the new Student Senators.

### 1. Any current senator whose name is on the validation bill, regardless of whether they have been re-elected or not, must abstain from the validation vote.

2. Any current senator who holds a leadership position in a Political Party Organization (PPO), as determined by the Office of Elections, regardless of whether they are running in the election, must abstain from the validation vote.

### 415.3 All Senators including cabinet members must go through the elections process in order to retain their Senate seat at the end of their term.

## Chapter 416: SAID Representatives

416.1 Student Alliance for Inclusion and Diversity (SAID) representatives’ seats are perpetual and are filled by their current President or designee.

416.2 SAID group representatives are considered non-voting ex-officio representatives in Senate.

## Chapter 417: Legislative Transition Period

### 417.1 The Transition Period begins upon the conclusion of Senate Officer Elections by the Senate and concludes after one week.

### 417.2 During this transition period, the outgoing administration must transfer all SG records and files, including a transition binder (a folder containing all procedures, forms, etc.), regarding the Senate to the incoming administration.

### 417.3 The incoming and outgoing administrations shall share all office space allocated to the legislative branch for purposes of conducting business relating to the transition.

### 417.4 All signature authority for the Senate shall be automatically transferred upon the swearing-in of the new Senate President.

## Chapter 418: Maintenance of Legislative Records

### 418.1 The Senate President shall be ultimately responsible for the complete and accurate records of the actions and proceedings of the Senate and its three standing committees.

### 418.2 These records shall include any of the following: agendas of Senate and committee meetings, minutes of Senate and committee meetings, records of attendance for all Senate and committee meetings, records of legislation passed or proposed by the Senate, and any audio recordings of Senate or committee meetings.

1. Legislation refers to Senate Resolutions, Joint Resolutions, bills, and proposed amendments to the Constitution.

### 418.3 Requests for copies of any of the above documents can be made by any individual through the following process:

#### The request must be made in writing to the SG Advisor.

#### The SG Advisor shall fulfill the request in a reasonable amount of time as dictated by Florida Public Records Law, Chapter 119.

### 418.4 Legislative Records

#### All records of the Legislative Branch, including but not limited to voting records, attendance records, bills, and minutes shall be made available online within five (5) business days of becoming effective.

#### Updated versions of the governing documents shall be posted on the website within five (5) business days of receipt of the approval from the ADA Compliance Office.

## Chapter 419: Vote of Confidence (VOC)

419.1 The Student Government Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures will dictate the guidelines and procedures for a Vote of Confidence in the Senate.

## HISTORY:

SB-96F-961 (November 25, 1996)

SB-97S-982 (March 13, 1997)

SB-97S-988 (March 27, 1997)

SB-00SA-1346 (June 9, 2000)

SB-02SB-1568 (September 19, 2002)

SB-03S-1662 (April 4, 2003)

SB-03SB-1698 (Spring, 2004)

SB-04F-1847 (December 17, 2004)

SB-05SA-1918 (June 20, 2005)

SB-05SA-1919 (June 20, 2005)

SB-06S-1988 (February 13, 2006)

SB-07SA-2132 (July 3, 2007)

SB-07SB-2139 (July 23, 2007)

SB-09SA-2339 (June 25, 2009)

SB-09F-2372 (January 10, 2010)

SB-10SA-2417 (July 9, 2010)

SB-10SB-2435 (August 31, 2010)

SB-10F-2441 (September 1, 2010)

SB-11S-2479 (February 14, 2011)

SB-11SA-2532 (July 11, 2011)

SB-11F-2551 (October 24, 2011)

SB-12S-2594 (May 9, 2012)

OB-12F-2625 (September 10th, 2012)

SB- 13S-2681 (March 11, 2013)

OB-14SA-2771 (June 9, 2014)

OB-14F-2818 (November 24, 2014)

SB-15S-2859 (April 27, 2015)

SB-16S-2928 (February 8, 2016)

OB-16S-2944 (April 11, 2016)

SB-16SA-3009 (July 6, 2016)

SB-16SB-3025 (July 20, 2016)

SB-16SB-3031 (July 20, 2016)

SB-17F-3236 (October 27th, 2017)

OB-20S-3496 (March 13th, 2020)

SB-21S-3542 (July 1st, 2021)

SB-21F-3577 (October 22, 2021)

OB-22SA-3625 (July 31, 2022)