# Policies and Procedures of the Legislative Branch



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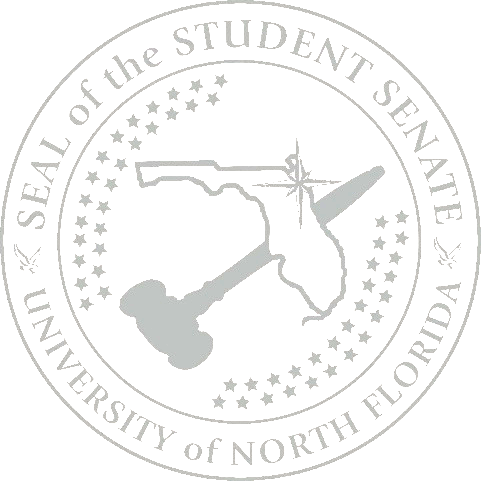
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| **The Mission of the Legislative Branch shall be to serve the students of the University of North Florida by passing legislation and resolutions on their behalf. Furthermore, the Legislative Branch shall represent students in all national, state, local, and university-wide concerns as their elected representatives.** |

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## The Process of Legislation

1. Write the bill.
2. Review the bill with the SG Advisor and the Attorney General.
3. Submit the finalized bill directly to the Senate President for First Read in Senate. \*
   * Every bill must be electronically submitted to the Senate President BEFORE the Senate Packet is sent out (two business days before the meeting).
   * A bill number shall be assigned at this time by the Senate President or their direct designee.
4. The Senate Sponsor shall state the main purpose of the bill during First Read in Senate, followed by a motion to refer the bill to the appropriate committee. \*
5. Committee shall hear, question, discuss, amend, and approve the bill as necessary. Bill moves to Second Read in the next Senate meeting.
6. Senate shall hear, question, discuss, amend, and approve the bill as necessary.
7. The Senate President shall sign the bill and deliver it to the SG President.
8. If the SG President signs the bill, it becomes law. \*\*

\*The only exceptions are Fiscal Requests, which must be submitted to the B&A Chair and shall first appear in the B&A Committee.

\*\*The only exceptions are Senate Resolutions and Constitutional Referenda.

\*\*\*Any deviation from the normal legislative process shall be subject to the discretion of the Senate President and/or the formal vote of the Senate.

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## Purpose and Mission of the Legislative Branch

### Purpose

The Legislative Branch (herein after known as the Senate) of the University of North Florida’s Student Government (herein after known as SG), as defined by the Constitution and Statutes, given the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the student body of the University of North Florida.

### Mission

Mission of the Legislative Branch shall be to serve the students of the University of North Florida by passing bills and resolutions on their behalf. Furthermore, the Senate shall represent students in all national, state, local, and university-wide concerns as their elected representatives.

## **Requirements and Duties of the Senate**

1. Basic Duties of All Senators shall be:
2. To represent UNF students in all university-wide matters and advocate for their interests;
3. To actively seek opportunities to improve student life at the University of North Florida;
4. To consider, write, propose, present, amend, and vote on all legislation necessary and proper for the student body;
5. To serve on at least one (1) Senate standing committee;
6. To attend and participate in all required meetings and events;
7. To read and understand the meeting packet before every meeting;
8. To ask all necessary questions to make an informed decision;
9. To maintain communication with the student body, Senate President and Legislative Cabinet on all matters concerning students;
10. To vet and confirm all qualified Senate, Executive Cabinet, and Judicial appointments, as well as the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor of Elections;
11. To volunteer, if able and needed, at Student Government events.

## Membership of Senate

1. Membership Eligibility
   * + 1. Each member must be an A&S Fee-paying student, enrolled in at least one (1) class during both the fall and spring semesters at the University of North Florida, maintain at least a 2.5 institutional grade point average, unless otherwise approved by the Chief Student Affairs Officer, and not restricted from participation in Student Government by the University of North Florida’s Student Conduct Office. Students may seek membership to Student Government during their first semester and shall be exempt from the GPA requirement.
2. Appointment Process
   * + 1. Any individual interested in joining the Legislative Branch must fill out an application form and submit it to the Student Government Office or email it to the Senate President.
       2. The nominee, if eligible as defined by the previous section, shall meet with Legislative Branch leadership and the Student Body President (or proper designee) for an interview before confirmation hearings.
       3. The Student Body President shall forward any qualified nominee to the Rules and Oversight Committee. This nominee will then be added to the next regularly scheduled R&O meeting agenda.
       4. The Rules and Oversight Committee will then interview the nominee, and after reaching a two-thirds (2/3) consensus, forward the nominee to the Senate for confirmation.
       5. The nominee shall be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting for a confirmation hearing.
       6. The Senate shall, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, reach a consensus to confirm a nominee’s appointment.
3. Installation and Terms
   * + 1. The Senate Appointment nominee shall immediately be sworn in and installed as an active Senator upon the aforementioned two-thirds (2/3) vote confirmation from Senate.
       2. The senator will fill a vacant Senate seat, previously determined by the Senate President.
4. Denial of Nominee
   * + 1. The Rules and Oversight Committee and the Senate both have the power to deny a nominee appointment to Senate.
       2. If denied by the R&O Committee or the Senate, the candidate must repeat the appointment process to be reconsidered for a vacant Senate seat. This entails the resubmission of the Senate Appointment Application, interview with Legislative Branch leadership and the Student Body President, or proper designee, and interviews with both the Rules and Oversight Committee and Senate.

## Section 1.03 Senate Officers and Their Duties

1. Composition
   1. The Legislative Cabinet shall be comprised of the following Senate Officers:
      1. The Senate President;
      2. The Senate President Pro Tempore;
      3. The Budget and Allocations Committee Chair;
      4. The University and Student Affairs Committee Chair; and
      5. The Senate Secretary.
   2. At the discretion of the Senate President, the following Senate Officers may be asked to participate in any Legislative Cabinet related business:
      1. The Senate Parliamentarian; and,
      2. The Vice Chair of each respective committee.
2. Duties of All Chairs

The Chair shall:

* 1. Conduct all meetings in accordance with Title II: The Parliamentary Authority Statute;
  2. Make public the time, date, and location of meetings in accordance with the State of Florida’s Sunshine Law;
  3. Make public all necessary documents for a meeting;
  4. Prepare an agenda;
  5. Vote in the event of a tie;
  6. Enforce all applicable policies, procedures, and rules of decorum;
  7. Enforce all set limits on speakers and presenters; and
  8. Serve as a non-voting ex officio member of all committee meetings they do not chair.

1. Duties of the Senate President

The Senate President shall:

* + 1. Enforce all policies and procedures outlined in this manual;
    2. Refer all parliamentary interpretations to the Senate Parliamentarian, and may refer all Constitution and Statute interpretations to the Attorney General;
    3. Call a Senate meeting within the first five (5) business days of classes of each semester;
    4. Determine the time, day, frequency, and location of the regularly scheduled Senate and Committee meetings;
    5. Sign and transmit all applicable Senate Legislative Action to the Student Body President no later than five (5) business days after the Senate meeting when the legislation passed;
    6. Hire the Senate Secretary, and appoint the Parliamentarian, and the Sergeant-at-Arms;
    7. Assign each senator to a standing committee;
    8. Preside over a snap election in the case of a vacancy within the Legislative Cabinet in accordance with Chapter V §B;
    9. Swear in newly elected or appointed senators in the event that there is no member of the Judicial Branch available at the Senate meeting;
    10. Create ad hoc committees when necessary;
    11. Supervise the Legislative Cabinet;
    12. Provide each senator with an SG polo, a finalized copy of the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures, a Senate Schedule, and a nameplate for the Senate Chambers;
    13. Serve as Budget Director over the SG Legislative Index;
    14. Keep the Senate, Legislative Cabinet, SG President, and Chief Justice informed of issues that concern students;
    15. Serve as the overseer of the “Legislative” folder on the O-Drive, and ensure all relevant information is filed appropriately;
    16. Oversee mandatory trainings for senators as outlined in Chapter XI;
    17. Formally summarize all signed Constitutional Referenda and forward them to the Elections Commissioner ten (10) business days before the election to be placed on the ballot;
    18. Seek guest speakers at Senate meetings;
    19. Assume duties of all absent or vacant Legislative Cabinet offices; and
    20. Plan and execute mandatory trainings on the Constitution and Statutes as outlined in Chapter XII, Senator Orientations.

1. Duties of the Senate President Pro Tempore

The Senate President Pro Tempore shall:

* + 1. Assume the duties of the Senate President in the event of their absence;
    2. Serve as Chair of the Rules and Oversight Committee;
    3. Prepare the Senate Chambers for each Senate meeting;
    4. Conduct roll call any time the Senate is called to orderand at the end of each Senate meeting;
    5. Inform a senator of their pending absence via e-mail within four (4) business day of receiving the attendance records;
    6. Enforce the Absence Policy outlined in Chapter IX;
    7. Educate all senators about the Absence Policy outlined in Chapter IX;
    8. Assist the Senate President with filing information relevant to Senate activities;
    9. Assist in the coordination of the Legislative Cabinet and assist the Senate President with supervision;
    10. Collect voting records and attendance records of all Legislative Branch meetings and events;
    11. File all voting records and attendance records on the O-Drive within four (4) business days of the Senate or Committee meeting
    12. Oversee the updating of the Constitution, the Statutes, and the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures on the O-Drive to reflect any amendments that were passed by the Senate and, if necessary, approved by the Executive Branch; and
    13. Oversee the mentorship program

1. Basic Duties of the Three Committee Chairs

All three committee chairs shall:

* + 1. Submit accurate minutes of each committee meeting to the appropriate folder on the O-Drive within four (4) business days following the committee meeting;
    2. Submit an agenda for each committee meeting to the appropriate folder on the O-Drive within two (2) business days prior to the committee meeting;
    3. Update any bill or resolution that passes through their committee to reflect the final action of the committee and any amendments that were made. The updated version of the bill or resolution must be filed in the current term’s “Legislation” folder on the O-Drive within two (2) business days of committee action
    4. Maintain voting records and submit time-stamped records to the Senate President Pro Tempore within one (1) business day of each committee meeting or event;
    5. Write any bills or resolutions from the committee and forward them to the Senate President no later than three (3) business days prior to the next regular Senate meeting;
    6. Attend all Legislative Cabinet meetings;
    7. Answer procedural questions, provide support, and build rapport;
    8. Give a report on behalf of their committee at each regularly scheduled Senate meeting;
    9. Update the official forms, templates, applications, and documents pertaining to their committee;
    10. Maintain a Transition Binder, as outlined in Chapter VII §G;
    11. Give presentations at mandatory trainings, as outlined in Chapter XII;
    12. Be responsible for appointing the Vice Chair of the committee
    13. Be responsible for all duties not performed by the Vice Chair; and

1. Additional Duties of the B&A Committee Chair
2. The B&A Committee Chair is responsible for drafting a bill for every Travel Request successfully submitted to the B&A Committee. All Travel Requests will be assigned a Bill Number by the Senate President.
3. The B&A Committee Chair is responsible for updating the official document of the Budget Provisionary Language on the O-Drive to reflect any changes that were made by the Senate within four (4) business days of the passage of that legislation. Once the official updates have been made, the B&A Committee Chair shall notify the Senate Secretary so that they can upload the document onto the SG Website after certification from the ADA Office.
4. The B&A Committee Chair shall maintain a copy of all submitted Travel Requests and Special Requests
5. All fiscal requests must be completed in correct bill format after committee, and given to the Senate President or the Rotunda staff should the Senate President not be in the office prior to leaving for the day.
6. Duties of the Committee Vice-Chair
7. To assume the duties of the committee chair upon the request of the chair, or if the chair of the committee is unable to perform their duties.
8. To assemble voting records and attendance records The Committee Vice-Chair shall immediately forward all of this information to the Committee Chair.
9. Senate Parliamentarian
10. To rule on matters of parliamentary procedure using Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised and Title II: The Parliamentary Authority Statute;
11. To serve as a voting member of the Rules and Oversight Committee;
12. To educate the Senate on Parliamentary procedure at mandatory trainings
13. To assist with PowerPoint presentations during Senate meetings when necessary, and to make live track changes to bills and resolutions during the legislative process; and
14. To collect voting records and attendance records of all Senate meetings and then forward immediately to the Senate President Pro-Tempore.
15. Senate Secretary
16. To prepare and upload accurate minutes of all Senate meetings to the O-Drive within four (4) business days of the Senate meeting;
17. To upload accurate minutes of all Senate meetings to the appropriate digital platform within five (5) business days of Senate approval;
18. To assist the Committee Chairs in the preparation and completion of minutes from committee meetings;
19. To assist the Senate President Pro Tempore in organizing and cleaning the Senate Chambers, as well as distributing/collecting the Senatorial iPads before and after every Senate meeting;
20. To assist the Senate President with filing information relevant to Senate activities;
21. To update the appropriate digital platform with agendas, minutes, voting records, legislative records, schedules, and senator information;
22. To notify the Senate President Pro Tempore upon completion of the official updates of the Constitution, the Statutes, and the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures on the O-Drive, so that the Senate President Pro Tempore can oversee that the proper changes have been made;
23. To post the updated versions of the governing documents to the appropriate digital platform within five (5) business days of receipt of approval from the ADA Compliance Office; and,
24. To serve as supervisor of all Senate social media platforms
25. Senate Sergeant-at-Arms
26. To enforce order and decorum of meetings of the Senate under the direction and discretion of the Senate President;
27. To remove individuals from the Senate meeting at the Senate President’s discretion; and
28. To lead the Pledge of Allegiance at all Senate Meetings.

## Legislative Branch Elections

1. Fall and Spring Senatorial Elections
   1. The Validation Bill of the Fall/Spring General Election shall be adopted by the Senate within twelve (12) business days after the last day of the election if all appeals to the Supreme Court have been resolved.
   2. At the Senate meeting of the validation of either the Fall or Spring General Election, the senator-elects shall be installed into office. Immediately after the new senators are sworn in, the Senate President shall call for the Division of the House and the new senators shall take their seat.
2. Senator-elects, if not sworn in during Installation, must be sworn in before the first Senate Meeting of the next semester. Should a senator-elect not be sworn in by that time, their seat shall be forfeit at the discretion of the Senate President.

b. In the event that the Senate President is named on the validation bill, they must relinquish the chair to the next most tenured senator not on the validation bill for the duration of the validation voting period.

1. Legislative Cabinet Elections
2. Immediately after Division of the House in the Spring Semester, the Senate President shall call a new Senate meeting to order, establish quorum, and open the floor for nominations for each respective position of the Legislative Cabinet until a motion is made to close the floor for nominations for that particular position.
3. Within five (5) business days after the Division of the House, the Senate President shall call for a special Senate meeting, in which the only business shall be to conduct Legislative Cabinet elections. At this meeting, the Senate President shall re-open the floor for nominations for each respective position of the Legislative Cabinet, separately. A motion to close the floor for nominations must be made.
4. After the nominations have been closed, the Senate President shall ask each candidate to come forward and speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes in the order they were nominated.
5. After a candidate speaks, the Senate shall have an opportunity to ask the candidate questions. After all candidates, including candidates in a non-contested position have spoken, the Senate President shall open discussion.
6. After open discussion, the Senate shall cast its votes.
   * 1. A candidate must receive a majority vote in order to be elected.
     2. Should a majority not be reached, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates who received the most votes.
     3. If a candidate is not contested, they win by acclamation.
7. Newly elected officers shall be sworn in after all Legislative Cabinet elections are completed.
8. Should the Senate President be a candidate for a particular office, the next person in the line of succession who is not running for the office in question shall assume all duties of the Senate President for the purposes of conducting the election.
9. The outgoing Senate President shall preside over the Senate until the newly elected Senate President is sworn in. Prior to swearing, the outgoing Senate President shall conduct the ceremonial passing of the gavel to indicate the beginning of a new legislative cabinet.

## Legislative Cabinet

1. Legislative Cabinet Meetings
2. The Senate President, at their discretion, may call a meeting of the Legislative Cabinet for information, staff assignment, and personnel work, as well as to discuss issues facing the student body.
3. Legislative Cabinet Vacancies
4. A snap election is defined as an election for a single vacancy in the legislative cabinet in which any senator may run for the vacant legislative cabinet position.
5. In the case of a legislative cabinet vacancy, the Senate President can posit a designee until a snap election occurs at the next Senate meeting
6. Removal from the Legislative Cabinet
7. The Senate President may remove any officer of the Legislative Cabinet at any time if they determine this is within the best interest of the Student Body.
8. The Senate President shall announce at the next Senate meeting the removal of the officer. Only at this time may a motion to override be made. Such a motion requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass.
9. The Senate President shall follow the Legislative Cabinet vacancy process to replace the removed officer.

## Standing Committees of the Senate

1. Standing Committees
2. There shall be three (3) standing committees of the Senate: Budget and Allocations, Rules and Oversight, and University and Student Affairs. Any special or ad hoc committee may be formed at the discretion of the Senate President.
3. Committees must have more than half of its voting membership to establish quorum, excluding senators who are on a leave of absence.
4. The Senate President shall appoint each senator to the standing committees after collecting their preferences for placement. Standing committee appointments are not subject to Senate approval.
5. There shall be two (2) officers of the standing committees: the Chair and the Vice Chair. The officers of each committee must be senators.
6. Budget and Allocations Committee
   * 1. The Budget and Allocations Committee (herein after referred to as the B&A Committee) is responsible for the fiscal management of the Activity and Service Fee Budget.
     2. The B&A Committee shall oversee the fiscal operations of all Activity and Service Fee funded departments, in order to ensure their compliance with the Student Government Financial Code (hereinafter referred to as Title VIII).
     3. The B&A Committee shall hold and conduct Budget hearings and deliberations as outlined in Title VIII.
     4. The B&A Committee shall oversee budgetary amendments as outlined in Chapter 824 of the SG statutes.
     5. The B&A Committee shall recommend allocations from the SG Activity and Service Fee Fund Balance, the Special Request Index, and the Salary Reserve Index, as outlined in Title VIII
     6. The B&A Committee shall entertain requests for allocations from the Travel Request Index pursuant to Title VIII.
     7. The B&A Committee shall review and consider revisions to Title VIII. All revisions passed by the B&A Committee shall be forwarded to Senate
7. University and Student Affairs Committee
   * 1. The purpose of the University and Student Affairs Committee (hereinafter referred to as the USA Committee) is to act as a liaison between the student body and SG, and between SG and the University; to promote programs and activities, locally or nationally, which are in the interests of the University of North Florida students.
     2. The USA Committee shall promote programs and services that benefit the students; review policies regarding student rights, student conduct, recognition, and awards; and recommend improvements to these programs and policies to the Senate.
     3. The USA Committee must plan events during the academic year in accordance with Title XII: University and Student Affairs Committee Statute. Senators that do not participate shall be subject to the senator Absence Policy, as outlined in Chapter IX.
     4. Events include but are not limited to Osprey Voice, Finals Frenzy, and Round Table.
     5. The USA Committee shall review and consider revisions to Title XII. All revisions passed by the USA Committee shall be forwarded to Senate.
     6. The USA Committee shall hear reports from all Student Government members sitting on University-Wide Committees.
     7. The USA Committee shall discuss University-Wide developments and when necessary forward either Joint or Senate Resolutions to Senate.
8. Rules and Oversight Committee
9. The Rules and Oversight Committee (hereinafter referred to as the R&O Committee) is responsible for oversight in all intergovernmental affairs of Student Government.
10. The R&O Committee shall resolve conflicts concerning the Constitution, the Statutes, and the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures.
11. The R&O Committee shall vet and forward all appointments that require Legislative confirmation to the Senate.
12. The R&O Committee shall review the Constitution and Statutes and recommend any change to the Senate when necessary.
13. The R&O Committee shall enforce the senator Absence Policy, as outlined in Chapter VIII.
14. The R&O Committee shall be responsible for maintaining a current Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures manual, and any revisions to this document must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
15. The R&O Committee is responsible, with the final approval of the Senate President, for creating, maintaining, and modifying the Senate Appointment Application.
16. The R&O Committee shall review and consider revisions to Title VI: The Election Code and Title XIII: The Rules and Oversight Committee Statute. All revisions passed by the R&O Committee shall be forwarded to Senate.
17. The R&O Committee shall consider amendments to the Elections Policies and Procedures proposed by the Elections Commissioner, as outlined in Title VI.

## Procedures of the Senate

1. Line of Succession
   1. In the event that the Senate President is removed, resigns, or is unable to carry out their duties, the Senate President Pro Tempore shall act as the Interim Senate President. Following a removal or resignation, there shall be nominations for the position at the next Senate meeting and elections at the following Senate meeting.
   2. In the event that the Senate President Pro-Tempore is unavailable, the Senate Parliamentarian shall assume their duties.
   3. Should neither of these members be able to carry out these duties, the member with the most tenure of the Legislative Cabinet shall assume the duties of the Senate President until an election may be called.
2. Delegation of Legislative Authority
   1. In cases where the Senate President is unavailable or unable to carry out their duties, legislative authority shall follow the line of succession.
   2. The proper procedure for delegating temporary legislative authority shall be as follows:
      1. The Senate President shall draft and sign a formal memorandum stating why they are temporarily delegating their authority and to whom.
      2. The memorandum shall be emailed to the relevant personnel, and printed copies shall be given to the SG Director, SG Advisor, and the person delegated the authority.
      3. The Senate President shall preserve a signed and printed copy in their records.
3. Senate and Standing Committee Meetings
   1. In order to vote on any business, the number of senators attending a meeting must be more than half of the overall membership, with the exception of senators on a leave of absence.
   2. The Senate and committees shall meet no less than twice every thirty-one (31) calendar days during academic session. The Senate President shall determine the time, day, and frequency of the meetings. All Senate meetings shall take place in the Senate Chambers, with the exception of any unforeseen circumstances.
   3. Changing a Senate and committee meeting requires a directive posted by the Senate President no later than two (2) business days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.
   4. Emergency meetings of the Senate may be called by the Senate President or by two-thirds (2/3) of senators. Senators must be given notice two (2) business days prior to the Emergency meeting. Any absences shall be counted unless otherwise directed by the Senate President.
   5. Emergency meetings of the committees may be called by the Committee Chair, or at the request of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the committee, with at least two (2) business days’ prior notice. All agendas must include a designated time-slot for public remarks.
4. The Meeting Notice
   1. The meeting notice shall contain all documents pertinent to any meeting of the Senate or Standing Committees.
   2. The meeting notice shall be distributed by the chair of the meeting. A designee may be allowed to perform this duty provided that a written request is received and approved by the Senate President.
   3. Responsibility for the notice shall remain with the chair of the meeting at all times.
   4. The meeting packet shall be posted online at least two business days before the meeting and contain the following:
5. Meeting Agenda;
6. Legislation, with any supporting material, that shall be considered by the Senate or Committee;
7. Minutes from the preceding meeting; and,
8. Any other relevant business that is to be heard in that meeting.
9. Voting Guidelines
10. At all Senate and Committee meetings, there shall be three (3) ways in which a senator may vote:
11. For (Yes) - In favor of the motion on the floor.
12. Against (No) - Opposed to the motion or legislation.
13. In the event a senator possesses a conflict of interest towards a motion, the senator shall abstain from discussion and the vote by calling for a point of order and shall give their reason for abstaining, subject to approval by the chair of the meeting, as defined in Title X.
14. At all meetings, there shall be two (2) methods of voting. All votes shall be recorded in the voting records and the totals shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.
    * 1. Roll call voting is done by calling out the name of each senator individually. Each senator shall then vote For or Against the motion by saying “Yes” or “No” respectively.
      2. Electronic voting is done through the use of electronic devices assigned to each senator before each meeting.
15. In the event that a senator is absent from the chambers at the time of the vote, they shall not have the ability to vote in absentia, nor shall they be counted towards quorum.
16. Parliamentary Procedure
    1. *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the authority only over those questions that have not been specified by general law, University regulations, the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government of the University of North Florida, or Policies and Procedures of the Legislative Branch.
    2. A Friendly Amendment shall be defined as any amendment proposed by a senator that the presiding officer believes to not change the intention of a piece of legislation. The presiding officer can invite unanimous consent on that amendment by declaring that they believe that amendment to be a Friendly Amendment. In the event of an objection, that amendment shall be subject to standard majority vote.
17. Transition Binder
    1. Over the course of the Legislative Cabinet member’s term, they must continuously maintain a Transition Binder.
    2. The purpose of the Transition Binder is to pass along important knowledge and advice of a specific position in the Legislative Cabinet to the next senator who shall fill that position.
    3. The Transition Binder shall be passed down from the former officer to their successor. The successor is expected to make additions and corrections and continue the tradition of Transition Binder passage.
18. Senate Runoff Elections
    1. In the event of a tie for the last remaining seat(s) during the Fall or Spring Senate Elections, a runoff election within the Senate shall be held on the day of the validation of the election.
    2. The Senate Runoff shall use the following procedure:
       1. Candidates for the contested seat(s) shall provide presentations to the Senate on why they should be chosen for the contested seat(s).
       2. After each candidate speaks, members of the Senate shall have the opportunity to question them.
       3. After the presentations and questioning of candidates is completed, the Senate shall enter discussion.
       4. The Senate Runoff shall be decided by a plurality, with the candidate(s) receiving the most votes winning the contested seat(s).
          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 runoff vote.
          2. Any current Senator who holds a leadership position in a Political Party Organization (PPO) must abstain from the runoff vote.
          3. In the event of a three-way tie, the candidate(s) with the highest number of votes shall be placed into the remaining seat(s).
       5. Following the decision of the Senate, the validation of the election must be amended to reflect the results of the Senate Runoff for the contested seat(s).

## Legislation

The Senate shall consider five (5) forms of legislation: Senate Bills (SB), Omnibus Bills (OB), Senate Resolutions (SR), Joint Resolutions (JR), and Constitutional Referenda (CR).

1. Requirements of all Legislation
   1. All legislation must be authored by A&S Fee paying students.
   2. All legislation must have a Senate Sponsor.
   3. Any legislation vetoed by the President shall be placed under Unfinished Business at the next Senate meeting.
2. Senate Bills (SB):
   1. Create or terminate Student Government programs.
   2. Affect the internal aspects or structure of SG and cannot be prohibited by the Constitution of the University of North Florida or the Constitution and Statutes of SG.
   3. Statutory amendments that make revisions to the SG System of Statutes.
   4. A majority vote of the Senate shall be required for the final passage of a Senate Bill, except in the case of revisions to the Election Code which require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for approval.
3. Omnibus Bills (OB):
   1. Embraces more than one subject.
   2. A majority vote of the committee shall be required to pass an Omnibus Bill, and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate shall be required for the final passage of an Omnibus Bill.
   3. An Omnibus Bill must be used to make changes to multiple Statutes simultaneously, as outlined in Title IV §403.
4. Senate Resolutions (SR)
5. Senate Resolutions refer to any legislation that:
   * 1. Expresses the will of the Legislative Branch;
     2. Makes changes to the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures;
     3. Supports, opposes, or endorses an action by the University, community organization, or government at the city, state, or federal level; or
     4. Supports or endorses an action by the Executive Branch
6. Senate Resolutions that make changes to the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures shall be referred to the Rules and Oversight Committee and require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate for approval.
7. All other Senate Resolutions shall be referred to the University and Student Affairs Committee and require a majority vote of the Senate for approval. Senate Resolutions are not subject to Presidential Veto.
8. The Senate President, at their discretion, may refer any Senate Resolution directly to the Agenda.
9. Joint Resolutions (JR)
10. Joint Resolutions refer to any legislation that:
    * 1. Expresses the will of both the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch;
      2. Gives Commendations;
      3. Supports, endorses, or opposes an action by the University, community organization, or government at the city, state, or federal level; or
11. All other Joint Resolutions shall be referred to the University and Student Affairs Committee and require a majority vote of the Senate for approval.
12. The Senate President may, at their discretion, refer any Joint Resolution directly to the Agenda.
13. Constitutional Referenda (CR)
    1. Refers to legislation that makes changes to the SG Constitution.
    2. A Constitutional Referendum requires a majority vote of the R&O Committee and a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Senate in order to be placed on the elections ballot. If passed by the Senate, the Constitutional Referendum must be passed by a plurality vote of the students voting in the election in order to be validated by the Senate.
    3. A Constitutional Referendum may, if necessary, amend multiple Articles of the Constitution along with multiple Titles of the Statutes, if and only if:
       1. All of the amendments are encompassed by a single subject specified in the “Whereas” section of the Constitutional Referendum, and
       2. The amendments to the Statutes are direct results of the amendments to the Articles.
14. General Process of Legislation and Business
15. All legislation must be electronically submitted to the Senate President at least three (3) business days before the Senate Packet is posted. At this time, the Senate President shall assign a bill number and place the bill on First Read.
    1. If this deadline is missed, a motion to amend the agenda during a Senate meeting in order to add a time-sensitive bill may be heard at the discretion of the Senate President. If the motion is heard and seconded, it shall require a majority vote for approval.
    2. Fiscal Requests do not go on First Read in Senate. They first appear in the Budget and Allocations Committee.
    3. The Senate President, or their designee, has the authority to assign a bill number if the legislation is ready for First Read, and to not assign a bill number if the legislation is not ready for First Read.
16. During First Read, the Senate Sponsor must state the main purpose of the bill, and then make a motion. The motion can be:
17. To forward the bill to the appropriate Committee, which needs a majority approval of the Senate
18. To forward the bill directly to Second Read, which needs a two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Senate.
19. If forwarded to Committee:
    * 1. The author of the bill shall present the details of the bill, and they must abide by the time constraints of the Committee Chair’s discretion.
      2. The bill is then subject to questions, motions, discussion, and it shall need a majority approval of the Committee to be forwarded to Second Read at the next Senate meeting.
20. During Second Read, the author of the bill shall present for up to five (5) minutes. The presiding officer shall then open the floor for questions, before entering discussion and voting.
21. Upon receipt of the vote count for a motion, the presiding officer shall announce the vote count and the passage or non-passage of the motion.
22. If the bill passes through the Senate with the appropriate vote count, the Senate President shall sign, date, time stamp, and forward the bill to the appropriate officer within five (5) business days of the passage of the bill.
    * 1. Senate Bills, Omnibus Bills, and Joint Resolutions shall be forwarded to the President, who has five (5) business days upon receipt of the bill to veto the bill. The bill becomes law upon the President’s approval or lack of veto.
      2. If the President vetoes a Senate Bill or an Omnibus Bill, it shall be placed under Unfinished Business at the next Senate meeting. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is required to override a presidential veto.
      3. If the President vetoes a Joint Resolution, it shall be placed under Unfinished Business as a Senate Resolution and follow the normal legislative process for that type of bill.
      4. Senate Resolutions are effective upon the signature of the Senate President and shall be forwarded to the Senate Secretary.
      5. Constitutional Referenda shall be signed by the Senate President and forwarded to the Elections Commissioner to be placed on the ballot of the next SG general election.
23. Irregular Action Addendums (IR)
    1. An Irregular Action Addendum may be attached to any legislation in order to indicate that the particular legislation has, in some way, deviated from the normal legislative process.
    2. The circumstances in which an Irregular Action Addendum may be used are the following:
       1. If the Senate overrides a presidential veto, then an Irregular Action Addendum must be attached to that legislation, listing the senator who made the motion to override the presidential veto as well as the Senate Action on that motion. Any legislation that is amended requires an “A” to be added behind the bill number to reflect that changes were made.
       2. If any legislation dies in committee, an Irregular Action Addendum may be used to recall the legislation to the Senate for reconsideration. A total of eight (8) senators are required to sign the Irregular Action Addendum in order for the legislation to be reconsidered by the Senate.
       3. If the President fails to sign or veto any legislation within the five (5) business day timeline, the Attorney General must sign an Irregular Action Addendum to indicate that the legislation is now law.

## Senator Absence Policy

1. Required Attendance
   1. Each senator must attend all Senate meetings and all committee, board, and council meetings on which they serve.
   2. Each senator is required to work at least one (1) shift of every event hosted by the University and Student Affairs Committee. The mandatory events are outlined in Title XII: The University and Student Affairs Committee Statute.
   3. Each senator is required to fulfill the shift(s) assigned by the Elections Commissioner at the polls in the recurring SG elections during their term, unless they are seeking an elected position.
2. Absence Point Assessment
   1. All senators absent from a meeting or event with required attendance may fill out an Absence Form. The form must be time stamped and submitted to the Senate President within five (5) business days of the absence, or the absence shall automatically be considered unexcused.
   2. The Senate President approves or denies the Absence Form. If approved, the senator shall receive an excused absence, and be assessed points at the discretion of the Senate President. If denied, full points shall be assessed. The Senate President shall forward their decision to the Senate Pro Tempore for their records within five (5) business days of appeal submission.
   3. The Senate President shall have full discretion over the evaluation and forgiveness of absence points.
   4. Absence Points shall be tallied as follows:
   5. An excused absence shall include, but not be limited to: a serious illness, travel associated with a student organization, a class conflict, or engagement in compensated work, or any other absence as determined by the Senate President.
   6. Unexcused absences shall result in full points being assessed.
   7. One (1) absence point shall be assessed if the senator misses either Initial Roll Call or Final Roll Call at a regular Senate or Committee meeting. Two (2) absence points shall be assessed if the senator misses both Initial Roll Call and Final Roll Call.
   8. Two (2) absence points shall be assessed if the senator misses their elections polling shift. These points will not be eligible to be removed through redemption, except at the discretion of the Senate President.
   9. One (1) absence point shall be assessed if the senator misses either a Senate Orientation or an R&O training session.
   10. One (1) absence point shall be assessed if the senator misses a University Wide Committee meeting of which they are assigned.
   11. Members of the Budget and Allocations Committee, during the time of Budget hearings, shall only receive half (1/2) the allotted points per absence for missing Budget hearing meetings at the discretion of the Senate President.
3. Absence Point Appeal Hearings
   1. Every senator has the right to appeal any absence points to the Rules and Oversight Committee once per their year term. Once a senator reaches four (4) or more absence points they shall be placed on the agenda, for an appeal hearing at the next Rules and Oversight Committee meeting.
   2. The Rules and Oversight Committee has the ability, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, to reduce a senator’s absence points. If the Committee chooses to not reduce the senator’s points or if the reduced points are still at four (4) or more, the senator shall be subject to the removal process. The senator may choose to avoid removal by submitting a letter of resignation prior to their absence appeal.
   3. The Rules and Oversight Committee may decide by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to suspend the Absence Policy for an individual when extenuating circumstances arise.
   4. A senator shall be subject to the removal process if they fail to attend their scheduled appeal hearing. The senator may choose to avoid removal by submitting a letter of resignation prior to the next Senate meeting.
   5. A senator who accumulates four (4) or more absence points after exhausting their only opportunity to appeal these points to the Rules and Oversight Committee shall be subject to the removal process.
   6. Motions to remove Absence Point(s) must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the R&O Committee in order to pass.
4. Redemption Process
5. All senators are eligible to reduce their total absence points by:
   * 1. Volunteering for an executive agency;
     2. Volunteering additional hours for a USA event;
     3. Volunteering additional hours for elections polling; or
     4. Volunteering for an additional Student Government event, outside of the foundational senatorial requirements.
6. Senators may remove one (1) absence point from their record by volunteering for two (2) hours at any of the events described above.
7. Volunteer hours that a senator uses in the Redemption Process may not be used in the Celeste Watkins Distinguished Leader Scholarship application.
8. Absence points shall only be removed upon the successful completion of the Redemption Form, as illustrated in XV. Appendix D.
9. The process of successfully completing the Redemption Form is as follows:
10. Contact the Event Supervisor, discuss the volunteer work that is expected, and agree on a specific timeframe for the senator to volunteer. The Event Supervisor may be a Director, Assistant Director, or Coordinator of an Executive Agency who oversees an Agency event, or another SG Officer who oversees a Student Government event.
11. Inform the Senate President Pro Tempore before performing the volunteer work.
12. Perform the volunteer work exactly as indicated on the upper portion of the Redemption Form.
13. Obtain confirmation through the signature of the Event Supervisor after performing the volunteer work.
14. Submit the completed Redemption Form to the Senate President.
15. Leave of Absence
    1. A Leave of Absence is a temporary dismissal from everything related to the Senate.
    2. It is a senator’s responsibility to request a Leave of Absence from the Senate President.
    3. A Leave of Absence request must be submitted in writing at least three (3) business days prior to the beginning of the absence.
    4. The Senate President may grant any senator a Leave of Absence under appropriate circumstances.
    5. Senators are allowed to participate during a leave of absence at the expressed discretion of the Senate President.
    6. The Senate President Pro Tempore shall log all Leave of Absences for the purpose of quorum.

## Senate Chambers

1. Responsibility over the Senate Chambers
   1. Full responsibility of the upkeep and maintenance over the Senate Chambers shall be held in the Office of the Senate President.
2. In the Case of Decorum
   1. The Senate President has the authority to have any person removed from the Chambers at any time for reasons including: breach of decorum and order, misconduct, or inappropriateness at their sole discretion.
   2. In the case of a disturbance, the Senate President may, at their discretion, have the Sergeant-at-Arms remove individuals from the Senate meeting.
3. Senate Chambers Seating
   1. The Senate President shall determine a seating arrangement for senators, students, and invited guests.
   2. The Senate President shall properly display the seating arrangement.
   3. Each attendee must adhere to the predetermined seating arrangement.
   4. All students shall be allowed to view a Senate meeting in seats designated by the Senate President. Students may be asked to leave if the Senate President deems it necessary.
   5. All non-student guests shall be designated in a certain seating area as seen fit by the Senate President.
4. Senate Dress Code
   1. The dress code for every Senate meeting shall be business professional attire as defined by the Senate President.
   2. The dress code for every Committee meeting shall be defined at the discretion of the Committee Chair.
   3. If the dress code is not adhered to, the presiding officer may request to have the individual removed. This removal shall amount to an unexcused absence, as outlined in the Senator Absence Policy.
   4. Senators must wear the senator Polo or other Student Government attire, as provided by the Senate President, at every USA outreach event.
5. Electronics Usage Policy
   1. Electronics usage is not permitted for anyone in attendance at Senate or Committee meetings. This includes but shall not limited to smartphones, personal tablets, laptops, etc.
      1. Exceptions to the policy include the Senate President, Senate President Pro Tempore and committee chairs using their phone to communicate with the SG Advisor for the purpose of running meetings; Senators using Senatorial iPads to reference materials for meetings; presenters using laptops for reference during their presentation(s); and any other circumstance deemed appropriate by the Senate President or committee chairs.
      2. In the event of an emergency which necessitates an attendee to use their personal electronics, they must step out of the meeting area to handle their circumstance.
      3. If a Senator or any other meeting attendee requires the use of their personal electronics during a meeting for any reason not previously listed, they must get permission from the Senate President or committee chair prior to said meeting.
   2. Senators and/or meeting participants who fail to abide by the electronics usage policy shall be addressed via the following steps:
      1. A verbal warning from the Senate President, Senate President Pro Tempore or committee chair to end usage.
      2. Failure to comply will result in removal of the attendee who is using electronics without permission. Senators who are removed will be considered absent from the meeting and assessed absence points for each role call missed.
      3. Persistent violations of the policy will result in punitive action being taken against the offending participant.

## Official Seal of the Student Senate

1. There shall be a seal, as outlined in SR-03SA-1672, circular in shape with the words “Seal of the Student Senate” and “University of North Florida” (or a derivation thereof) outlining, inside of which shall be a design of 52 stars, a compass rose in the middle, as well as a representation of the State of Florida, and a gavel.
2. Only the Senate President, their designee, or the Senate Secretary, under the direction of the Senate President, may use the Official Seal of the Student Senate, as illustrated in Chapter XII §B.

## Senator Orientation

1. Introduction
   1. The Legislative Cabinet shall be responsible for training new senators.
   2. At least two (2) orientations shall be held per year, once in the fall and spring.
   3. Senator orientations must contain all workshops outlined in Chapter XI §C and §D.
2. Timeline
3. The Senate President shall call for a mandatory orientation at least once in the fall and spring.
   * 1. The Senate President shall determine, at their discretion, if an additional orientation be held during the summer semester.
4. A mandatory orientation shall be scheduled no more than four (4) weeks after the validation of the General Election.
5. The Senate President shall reserve the right to call additional Orientations as deemed necessary. The Senate President shall reserve the right to make said Orientations mandatory.
6. Committee Workshops
   1. The Budget Workshop shall be conducted by the B&A Committee Chair. The B&A Committee Chair shall provide a detailed overview of Title VIII: The Finance Code, the Activity and Service Fee Budget, and how to allocate funds responsibly. The B&A Committee Chair may cover any additional topics that they deem necessary.
   2. The Governing Documents Workshop shall be conducted by the Senate President Pro Tempore. The Pro Tempore shall provide a broad overview of the Constitution, each Title of the Statutes (with exception to Titles VIII and XII), and the Legislative Branch Policies and Procedures. This workshop may also cover Sunshine State Laws. The Pro Tempore may conduct the workshop in conjunction with the Attorney General. As the chair of the R&O Committee, the Pro Tempore is also responsible for explaining how the different branches and agencies work together and the Committee’s power of Senate Subpoena.
   3. The University and Student Affairs Workshop shall be conducted by the USA Committee Chair. The USA Committee Chair shall provide an overview of Title XII: The University and Student Affairs Committee Statute. The USA Committee Chair shall provide a comprehensive overview on how to properly survey individual students for Osprey Voice Surveys. The USA Committee Chair shall also provide an extensive overview of the structure of University-Wide Committee systems, specifically, the individual committees and their relationship to the University Administration and its policies. The USA Committee Chair may cover additional topics that they deem necessary.
7. Skill Workshops
   1. The Bill-Writing Workshop shall be conducted by the Senate President or their designee. The Senate President shall teach newly elected senators the processes of bill-writing and provide a reference form of the structure and components of a bill.
   2. The Roberts Rules and Parliamentary Procedure Workshop shall be conducted by the Parliamentarian and/or SG Advisor. The Parliamentarian and/or SG Advisor shall provide an extensive overview of Roberts Rules.
8. Requirements
   1. Each senator must complete all skill workshops
   2. If a senator is unable to attend a workshop, they must arrange a make-up session with the appropriate instructor.

## Senator Trainings

1. Procedures
2. The Senate President shall be responsible for organizing at least one (1) mandatory training per semester for senators in their first year and one (1) mandatory training per semester for all senators on the Constitution and Statutes.
   1. The Senate President and the Legislative Cabinet shall be responsible for approving the trainings as determined by the Senate President Pro-Tempore.
   2. These trainings must be focused on improving senators understanding of the functions and procedures of the Senate.
   3. The Senate President shall reserve the right to call additional trainings as deemed necessary. The Senate President shall reserve the right to make said trainings mandatory.

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## Appendix

### History

SR-2000S-1311 (February 25, 2000)

SR-02SA-1561 (May 31, 2002)

SR-02SB-1569 (July 26, 2002)

SR-04F-1830 (November 22, 2004)

SR-04F-1848 (December 6, 2004)

SR-05S-1875 (February 21, 2005)

SR-08S-2220 (April 4, 2008)

SR-08SA-2233 (July 1, 2008)

SR-09F-2357 (September 28, 2009)

SR-10S-2378 (January 4, 2010)

SR-11F-2550 (October 24, 2011)

SR-12S-2593 (April 2, 2012)

SR-13SA-2696 (July 23, 2013)

SR-14SB-2777 (July 25, 2014)

SR-15S-2844 (March 2, 2015)

SR-15SB-2876 (July 20, 2015)

SR-16S-2935 (March 7, 2016)

SR-16SA-3007 (July 20, 2016)

SR-17F-3215 (September 29, 2017)

SR-18S-3268 (February 23, 2018)

SR-18SB-3306 (July 13, 2018)

SR-19S-3386 (April 12, 2019)

SR-20S-3470 (February 21, 2020)

SR-20S-3496 (March 13, 2020)

SR-21S-3539 (July 1, 2021)

SB-21F-3574 (October 8, 2021)

JD-22S-001 (June 9, 2022)

SR-23S-3657 (February 10, 2023)

SR-24F-3768 (November 6, 2024)

### The Official Seal of the Student Senate



Figure 1.1

Official Seal of the Student Senate

### Absence Form



#### ABSENCE FORM

Senator Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date of Absence: Click or tap here to enter text.

Type of Absence:  Senate Committee Other (i.e. Osprey Voice, etc.)

2 points 1 point

Justification:

Click or tap here to enter text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senator Signature: |  |

**Place Time Stamp Here:**

Senate President Decision: Excused Unexcused

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senate President Signature: |  |

\*You will be notified of the decision via email within five business days

### Redemption Form



#### REDEMPTION FORM

To remove one (1) Absence Point a Senator must volunteer two (2) hours.

Senator Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

SG Entity: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date(s) of Volunteer Work: Click or tap here to enter text.

Description of Volunteer Work (Including exact hours):

Click or tap here to enter text.

**I have upheld my responsibility exactly as I indicated above.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senator Signature: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature of Event Supervisor: |  |

Place Time Stamp Here:

Number of Absence Points removed: Click or tap here to enter text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senate President Signature: |  |

### Leave of Absence Form



#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM

Senator Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Duration of Absence: Click or tap here to enter text. to Click or tap here to enter text.

Will you be attending summer classes on campus? (check one)  Yes  No

Reason for Absence:

Click or tap here to enter text.

\*Senators may attach substantiating documentation to support the reasoning above\*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senator Signature: |  |

Senator Time Stamp: Click or tap here to enter text.

Senate President Decision:  Approved  Unapproved

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senate President Signature: |  |