

Constitution of the Student Government  
Florida Institute of Technology  
As Amended January 16, 2013

Purpose

We, the members of the student body of Florida Institute of Technology, desiring to provide an effective and responsive organization for students, establish this Student Government whose purposes are:

- To improve student physical, social, cultural welfare,
- To represent the student perspective of campus life,
- To promote full cooperation between students, faculty, and administration,
- To promote official channels through which student's opinions may be expressed,
- To promote student's rights and responsibilities,
- To promote academic freedom and academic responsibilities,
- To foster awareness of the student's position in the campus, local, state, national, and international communities, and
- To provide training and experience in responsible leadership and community involvement.

Recognizing that a student organization, which embodies these principles, is necessary in order to build and sustain a great university, and that responsibility and authority are vested in a Student Government by the student body, we do hereby ratify this constitution.

Article I- Authority of the Constitution

This Constitution is the governing document for all members of the Student Government. All the provisions, articles, and sections in this Constitution shall be enforced and followed by the members of the Student Body and Student Government of Florida Institute of Technology.

## Article II- Membership and Privileges

**Section 1-** Volunteer, elected, and appointed members must be currently registered students in good academic standing.

**Section 2-** All currently registered students at Florida Institute of Technology shall be represented and entitled to vote in the Student Government elections

**Section 3-** No student may hold more than one elected office in the Student Government. A Student Justice may not hold an elected office in the Student Government.

**Section 4-** Elected officers and Student Justices may not be employed by the University in a role or capacity that conflicts in any way with the expressed duties and responsibilities of office.

## Article III- General Organization

The Student Government shall be organized into three branches, the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial. The Student Government shall be advised by the Dean of Students and may choose additional advisors, as it deems necessary or desirable.

**Section 2-** The Student Senate shall consist of two parts.

1. Senators- there shall be twenty (20) designated seats for senators each Fall term, and twenty five (25) designated seats for senators each Spring term.
2. Twenty Senators shall be elected in the spring election by a plurality of registered students and shall be installed within three (3) weeks of their election. An orientation workshop shall be conducted by the Senate prior to the installation of new senators. The term of office for these senators is one (1) academic year.
3. Five (5) freshman representatives shall join the senate as non-voting members in the Fall term and be considered first for appointment into the five (5) open seats that become available in the Spring term.
4. Five freshman representatives shall be elected during Fall Orientation by a plurality of their incoming freshman peers and shall be installed within three (3) weeks of the start of classes in the Fall term.
  - 4.1 They shall be members of student government, with all rights, privileges, and responsibilities afforded to regular senators, with the exception that they may not vote as senators for the duration of the Fall term or be a member of any funds-granting committee.
  - 4.2 At the first meeting of the Spring term, the presiding officer of the meeting must nominate each of these freshman representatives for appointment into the newly available senate positions. If, for any reason, a freshman representative is denied appointment, the vacant senate position shall be treated as any regular senate vacancy to be filled as defined in this constitution and the Code of Laws.
  - 4.3 The term of office for these representatives is one (1) semester, followed by one (1) semester of full senatorhood.

5. Representatives- every club or organization that is recognized by the Office of Student Activities shall send a representative to Student Government meetings.
6. The number of seats designated to representatives is the number of recognized organizations at Florida Institute of Technology.
7. A student to be qualified for election must meet any requirement as determined in the Code of Laws.

## Article IV- The Legislative Branch

**Section 1-** The Student Senate shall represent the student body with the following powers. It shall protect, amend, and abolish any of the provisions within the Code of Laws. All decisions, actions, and legislation will be approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote unless otherwise stated in the Code of Laws. The Student Senate will represent, be responsible, and be responsive to the needs of the Student Body and shall act on their behalf.

**Section 2-** The Student Senate shall consist of two parts.

1. Senators- there shall be twenty (20) designated seats for senators.
2. Representatives- every club or organization that is recognized by the office of student activities shall send a representative to Student Government.
3. The number of seats designated to representatives is the number of recognized organizations at Florida Institute of Technology.
4. Senators shall be elected in the spring election by a plurality of students registered and shall be installed within three (3) weeks of their election. An orientation workshop shall be conducted by the Senate prior to the installation of new senators. The term of office is one (1) year.
5. A student to be qualified for election must meet any requirement as determined in the Code of Laws.

**Section 3-** Powers and Duties of the Student Senate.

1. To determine its own rules and procedures, compel the attendance of its members, and provide regular meetings.
2. To elect its own officers, except the President, Vice-president, and Treasurer.
3. To establish or amend by majority vote the Student Government Code of Laws. The laws shall be sent to the Student Government President for approval or veto.
4. To approve a budget submitted by the Student Government President for all funds for which the Student Government is responsible.
5. To override a Student Government Presidential veto by two-thirds (2/3) vote.
6. All other powers, duties and responsibilities can be referred to in the Code of Laws under the Legislative branch.

## Article V- The Executive Branch

**Section 1-** The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Cabinet, and such other assistants as the President shall appoint and approval is subject to two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate vote as stated in the Code of Laws.

**Section 2-** The President of the Student Government

1. By virtue of office, the President of the Student Government is the President of the Student Body of Florida Institute of Technology. The primary duty of the Student Body President is to foster a deep commitment to, and actively represent, each of the Student Government purposes defined in the Student Government's Constitution.
2. The President has the power to veto only legislative materials.
3. All other powers, duties, and responsibilities are more explicitly defined in the Code of Laws- Section 1.1.2.

**Section 3-** The Vice President of the Student Government

1. The Vice President of the Student Government performs and assists the President with the duties of the office and presides over the Senate meetings.
2. All other powers, duties and responsibilities are more explicitly defined in the Code of Laws- Section 1.2.2.

**Section 4-** The treasurer of the Student Government shall be responsible for the administration, execution of all Student Government funds and report status and finances every meeting. All other powers, duties and responsibilities are more explicitly defined in the Code of Laws- Section 1.3.2.

**Section 5-** Election of Executive Officers

1. Each candidate for President, Vice President, and Treasurer must:
  - a. Be interviewed and approved by the Dean of Students.
  - b. Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

- c. Have never been sanctioned by the University for a major disciplinary infraction, which can be overruled by the Judicial Branch.
2. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected in the Spring General Election and serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors are installed.
3. All executive officers shall be elected by a plurality vote.
4. Elected Executive Officers shall be installed the last general meeting of the current academic year.

#### **Section 6-** Vacancies

1. The President, Vice President, or Treasurer of the Student Government shall automatically forfeit office if the officer should fail to meet any of the requirements listed in the Code of Laws- Sections 1.1.1, 1.2.1, and 1.3.1 respectively.
2. If the office of President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President.
3. If the Offices of Vice President or Treasurer shall become vacant, the President shall appoint replacement with approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Student Senate.

### **Article VI- The Judicial Branch**

**Section 1-** The Judicial Branch shall adhere to and enforce the Student Government Constitution and the laws, regulations, and provisions covering the Student Government and the Student Body.

**Section 2-** All judicial powers granted herein shall be vested in a Student Court composed of six (6) Student Justices who shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government with approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate. The Student Court is also members of the University Disciplinary Committee and shall support process established by the University. All other powers, duties and responsibilities of the Student Court are more explicitly defined in the Code of Laws- Section 3.2.

**Section 3-** All Student Justices shall serve for one (1) academic year, except in cases of resignation, or failure to meet the requirements stated in Section 3.1.1 of the Code of Laws.

**Section 4-** All matters concerning implications of this constitution shall be reviewed and interpreted by the Judicial Branch.

### **Article VII- Impeachment**

Elected Executive Officers, Student Senators, or Student Justices may be impeached for negligence in office or for violating the provisions of this Constitution, the Student

Government Code of Laws, or approved provisions regulating their conduct in office as stated in the Code of Laws.

## Article VIII- Initiative and Referendum

### **Section 1- Initiative**

The Student Body may place on a general election ballot any amendment to the Student Government Constitution or Code of Laws or any proposal, which is accompanied by a petition containing the signatures of five percent (5%) of the Student Body. The petition must set forth the exact and precise wording of the amendment or proposal, as it would appear on the ballot. The petition must be presented to the Student Government President at least two (2) weeks before the general election. An initiative shall be binding on the Student Government when majorities of votes cast in the general election are in favor of the initiative.

### **Section 2- Referendum**

The Student Government may refer a decision to the Student Body by referendum. Two-thirds (2/3) of the total Senate may place a referendum on a general election ballot. A referendum shall be enacted when majorities of votes are cast in favor of the referendum.

## Article IX- Bylaws

Each branch, agency, or subsidiary organization of Student Government may establish and maintain bylaws, which will be considered a supplement to this Constitution and the Code of Laws. Student Government branches may set their own rules for amending bylaws. The bylaws shall consist of organizational, operational, and/or procedural guidelines that do not warrant being placed in the student Government Constitution or Code of Laws. In any case where established bylaws conflict with this Constitution or the Code of Laws, the Constitution, then the Code of Laws shall take precedence.

## Article X- Constitutional Amendments

1. This constitution may be amended by action per Article VIII, sections 1 or 2.
2. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Student Government President or any Senate member. Format and procedures for amending the Constitution is defined in statute 2.4.5.1 of the Code of Laws.

## Article XI- Ratification and Re-certification

When this Constitution has been amended per Article X, an update copy will be placed in the Student Government office, where it will be made available to all students. If a student has any concerns regarding the amendments, he/she may present them to the Senate.