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Sponsor/s:

**A Constitutional Amendment: Creation of A Judicial Branch**

**Be it hereby enacted by the Stevenson University Student**

**Section 1:** Officially, establish the Judicial Branch as a functioning branch of the SGA.

1. The current position of Secretary/ Parliamentarian would become the head of the Judicial Branch.
2. The Secretary/ Parliamentary will be now considered the Chief Justice.
3. The members of the Judicial Branch shall have established organization and term specificities.
   1. The Judicial branch will be composed of a Chief Justice and an even number assistant justice to ensure voting matters will have chance for tiebreak by the Chief Justice.
   2. The President and Vice President will approve the Chief Justice during the appointment process of the directors. The senate will then approve the candidate during the last Senate meeting.
   3. The Assistant Justices shall be appointed by the Chief Justice and approved by a majority vote of the Senate. The justices will be chosen from the pool of club representatives prior to their induction to the Senate.
   4. Each member of the Judicial Council shall serve for a duration of one academic year provided they maintain requirements of the office.
   5. The Chief Justice shall serve for the duration of their academic career provided they maintain requirements of the office.
4. Duties of the Chief Justice are as followed:
   1. Be the presiding officer of the Judicial Council.
   2. Have completed one year of membership as an Associate Justice of the Judicial Council or may be granted an exemption by the Senate.
   3. Hold Position for the entirety of their time in the student government.
   4. Schedule meetings of the Judicial Council.
   5. Administer the oath of office to the officers of the Student Government Association.  In the absence of the Chief Justice, an Assistant Justice or the President may administer the oath of office.
   6. Preside over all impeachment proceedings for members of the executive and legislative branches.
   7. Call special meetings of the Executive Council provided twenty-four (24) hours’ notice be given.
   8. Report to the Senate at least twice a month.
   9. Establish and post set office hours.
5. Duties of the Associate Justice is as followed;
   1. Serve directly under the supervision of the Chief Justice
   2. The Associate Justices are selected from the applicant pool during the senate application period by the Chief justice.
   3. The senior most Assistant Justice may chair meetings of the Judicial Council in the absence of the Chief Justice.
   4. The senior most Assistant Justice may serve as Acting Chief Justice, upon the resignation or impeachment of the Chief Justice, until a new Chief Justice is elected by the Judicial Council and approved by the Senate.
   5. One designated member of the council shall record all minutes of the Judicial Council.
   6. Perform other duties as designated by the Chief Justice.

**Section 2:** Creation of a Judicial Council

1. The Judicial Council will be the governing body of the Judicial Branch.
2. The Judicial Council will be responsible for the following:
   1. Interpret the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association upon request.
   2. Have the power of judicial review over actions of the Executive Cabinet and the Senate upon request
   3. Head and adjudicate all cases of appeal concerning elections and qualifications for candidacy.
   4. Establish general procedural rules and ethical considerations for the Judicial Council.
   5. Act as the elections committee as deemed necessary for elections.
   6. Enact and review the Election Guidelines for candidates.
   7. Review all Constitutional amendments before the Senate’s vote.
   8. Enforce the voting bylaws
   9. Take appropriate action, in accordance with the attendance policy, against those who have been brought up for review.
   10. Meet no less than twice a month.

**Section 3:** This section will establish the term period and election of the Chief Justice.

1. The term of the Chief Justice will begin with the approval of the senate in the final meeting of the Fall Semester. The term will conclude with either the re-approval of that Chief Justice, or the new approval in the following Fall Semester.
   1. The Chief Justice must wait an entire year after leaving the position to be eligible to hold a position in the Executive Cabinet.
2. The Chief justice is appointed by the Executive Cabinet from a pool of applicants, and approved by the Senate.

**Section 4:** Recognition of official establishment of three branches of SGA

1. Following the Creating of the Judicial Branch, the SGA will consist of three equal branches
2. The branches will consist of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branch.
3. The Legislative Branch will continue to consist of the Senate and Speaker of the Senate, as well as retaining all of the duties associated, but will be considered a standalone branch of the SGA.