

Minutes from the Supreme Court | October 12th, 2023

Regular Meeting

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association of Tennessee Tech met at 7:07pm on October 12th, 2023, in the Center for Student Engagement Conference room. Chief Justice Bryson Lee was present and presiding with Attorney General Tidwell as Secretary of the Supreme Court. Attorney General Tidwell took the roll, and a quorum was established. As the previous meeting's minutes had been provided in advance to all members, Chief Justice Lee considered them read without objection. The previous meeting's minutes stand approved. The agenda attached as Appendix A was adopted as amended as the orders of the day.

The following members of the Supreme Court were present:

Title	Name	Present/Absent
Chief Justice	Mr. Bryson Lee	Present
Associate Chief Justice	Mr. Dylan Hazard	Present
Associate Justice	Mr. Jacob Dean	Present
Associate Justice	Ms. Lela Gracy	Present
Associate Justice	Mr. Grady Hicks	Present
Associate Justice	Mr. Chandler LeMay	Present
Associate Justice	Ms. Cailey Martin	Present
Associate Justice	Ms. Jasmine Montgomery	Present
Associate Justice	Mr. Cam Williams	Present
Alternate Associate Justice	Mr. Blake Garrett	Absent
Alternate Associate Justice	Ms. Angel Magpayo	Present (No Vote)

Others also present:

Mr. Eli Tidwell – Attorney General of the Student Government Association

Chief Justice Lee opened discussion on how the gold parking pass chance drawing tabling had gone earlier in the day. A consensus was formed to bring a tent next time. Chief Justice Lee reminded the Court that the drawing would be going on until October 19th.

Chief Justice Lee noted that the Instagram video with Secretary of Public Relations, Emma Parson, had already been filmed.

Attorney General Tidwell presented a draft copy of rules for the Court to consider adopting (attached as Appendix B). Chief Justice Lee opened discussion for first consideration of the present rules.

Chief Justice Lee took time to remind everyone of the attendance policies required by the SGA Constitution. Chief Justice Lee described the lenient policy he maintains with excusing absences so long as adequate notice is provided.

Chief Justice Lee noted that university officials in the Office of Parking and Transportation wanted opinions from the Supreme Court on the rates of parking fines. Chief Justice Lee **MOVED** to consider a series of motions to make recommendations on each class of fine via **UNANIMOUS CONSENT** with a special rule as follows:

For each class of fine, Justices may propose ballot options to adopt as the Supreme Court's recommendation with no second needed. There will then be a period of debate. After debate, all Justices will cast one vote for a ballot option; if no ballot option receives a majority, then a runoff of the top two ballot options would be held after another period of debate.

The motion was **ADOPTED** without objection. The Supreme Court then proceeded to consider the different classes of fines under the adopted procedure. A table of recommend changes is attached as Table A.

Fine Class #1 – No Permit/Expired Permit: The following ballot options were submitted: Reduce to \$20 (20), Remain the Same (=), Increase to \$30 (30), Add a Progressive Fine (P). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **8 in favor of recommending option (20)**, 1 for option (=), and 0 for all other ballot options.

Fine Class #2 – Improper Tag Display/Obstructed Permit: The following ballot options were submitted: Reduce to \$20 (20), Remain the Same (=), Increase to \$30 (30), Add a Progressive Fine. The outcome of the ballot was **9 in favor of recommending option (20)** and 0 for all other ballot options.

Fine Class #3 – Displaying Permit Registered to Another Person: The following ballot options were submitted: Remain the Same (=), Increase to \$20 Base Fine with a \$15 Progressive Fine (20/15). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **6 in favor of recommending option (20/15)** and 3 for option (=).

Fine Class #4 – Improper Tag Display/Obstructed Permit: The following ballot options were submitted: Remain the Same (=), Increase to \$45 (45), Increase to \$50 (50). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **9 in favor of recommending option (50)** and 0 for all other ballot options.

Fine Class #5 – Double Parked/Over-the-line: The following ballot options were submitted: Increase to \$20 Base Fine and \$15 Progressive Fine (20/15), Increase to \$25 Base and \$15 Progressive (25/15), and Increase to \$20 Base and \$20 Progressive (20/20). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was 4 in favor of (20/15), 1 in favor of (25/15), and 4 in favor of (20/20). As no option received a majority,

debate was reopened on deciding between the remaining two ballot options, (20/15) and (20/20). After further debate, the outcome of the ballot was **5 in favor of recommending option (20/15)** and 4 in favor of the option (20/20).

Chief Justice Lee sought **UNANIMOUS CONSENT** to consider the next five classes of fines as a slate. The motion was **LOST** after objection by Justice Williams. The Court proceeded to continue considering recommendations.

Fine Class #6 – Parked on Grass: The following ballot options were submitted: Remain the Same (=), Increase to \$30 Base and \$15 Progressive (30/15), Increase to \$25 Base and \$15 Progressive (25/15). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **5 in favor of recommending option (30/15)**, 3 in favor of option (25/15), and 1 in favor of option (=).

Fine Class #7 – Parked on Sidewalk: The following ballot options were submitted: Increase to \$30 Base and \$15 Progressive (30/15), Increase to \$25 Base and \$20 Progressive (25/20), and Increase to \$25 Base and \$15 Progressive (25/15). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **7 in favor of recommending option (30/15)**, 1 in favor of option (25/20), and 1 in favor of option (25/15).

Fine Class #8 – Obstructing Traffic: The following ballot options were submitted: Increase to \$40 Base and \$15 Progressive (40/15), Increase to \$35 Base and \$15 Progressive (35/15), and Increase to \$30 Base and \$15 Progressive (30/15). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **5 in favor of recommending option (40/15)**, 3 in favor of option (35/15), and 1 in favor of option (30/15).

Fine Class #9 – Parked in Loading Zone: The following ballot options were submitted: Increase to \$30 Base and \$15 Progressive (30/15), Increase to \$20 Base and \$15 Progressive (20/15), and Remain the Same (=). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was **5 in favor of recommending option (30/15)**, 3 in favor of option (=), and 1 in favor of option (20/15).

Fine Class #10 – No Parking Zone: The following ballot options were submitted: Increase to \$30 Base and \$15 Progressive (30/15), Increase to \$20 Base and \$10 Progressive (20/10), and Remain the Same (=). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was 4 in favor of recommending option (20/10), 3 in favor of option (30/15), and 3 in favor of option (=). Seeing as no option reached a majority and the bottom two options tied, a period of debate was reopened with the same ballot options being considered. After further debate, another ballot vote occurred with the following results: **6 in favor of recommending option (20/10)**, 2 in favor of option (30/15), and 1 in favor of option (=).

Fine Class #11 – Disabled Area: As these fines are set by state laws and regulations, the Supreme Court can make no recommendations. The Chief Justice sought **UNANIMOUS CONSENT** that consideration of recommendations for

disabled area violations be postponed indefinitely as the Court has no jurisdiction. The motion was **ADOPTED** without objection.

Fine Class #12 – **Time Limit Violation**: Justice Williams raised a **POINT OF INFORMATION** asking how progressive fines were calculated with regards to time violations. Chief Justice Lee answered that he did not know. Justice Williams sought **UNANIMOUS CONSENT** that consideration of recommendations for time limit violations be postponed until the Court could inquire the Office of Parking & Transportation of how such tickets fees were calculated. The motion was **ADOPTED** without objection.

Fine Class #13 – **Fire Lane Parking**: Associate Chief Justice Hazard raised a **POINT OF INFORMATION** asking if fire lanes were a matter of state law that we could not modify. Chief Justice Lee answered that he did not know. Justice Hazard sought **UNANIMOUS CONSENT** that consideration of recommendations for fire lane parking violations be postponed until the Court could inquire the Office of Parking & Transportation of if such tickets were able to be modified by the university. The motion was **ADOPTED** without objection.

Justice Gracy brought forth a **REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY** seeking to have all recommendations that had been agreed to for the 13 fine classes be stated allow^{*1}. Attorney General Tidwell, at the discretion of the Chief Justice, announced all agreed to recommendations.

Justice Williams having voted with the original prevailing recommendation **MOVED TO RECONSIDER** the recommendation adopted for Fine Class #10 – No Parking Zone. Seconded. After debate, the motion to reconsider was adopted by a showing of hands with **6 AYES, 0 NAYS, and 3 ABSTENTIONS**.

After adopting the motion to reconsider, the now pending motion was the recommendation for Fine Class #10 – No Parking Zone. The following ballot options were submitted: Increase to \$20 Base and \$15 Progressive (20/15), Increase to \$20 Base and \$10 Progressive (20/10), and Remain the Same (=). After debate, the outcome of the ballot was as follows: **7 in favor of recommending option (20/15)**, 1 in favor of option (20/10), 0 in favor of option (=), and 1 abstention.

Chief Justice Lee recognized Justice Martin for her to speak on the agenda item she had proposed. Justice Martin encouraged someone who voted with original prevailing side to move to reconsider the standing order that the Supreme Court first meet as the Student Citation Appeals Committee and then as the Supreme Court. Justice Montgomery **MOVED TO RECONSDIER** the adopted standing order of the meeting times of the Student Citation Appeals Committee and the Supreme Court adopted at the September 14th, 2023, Regular Meeting. Seconded. Associate Chief Justice Hazard **OBJECTED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF**

*1: Corrected to read "aloud" at November 2nd, 2023 meeting

THE MOTION. Justice Hazard's objection **FAILED** due to the lack of a second. Chief Justice Lee opened the floor for debate on the motion to reconsider. After debate, the motion to reconsider was **ADOPTED** with a show of hands with **5 AYES** and **4 NAYS**.

The motion now pending was a motion to have all Supreme Court meetings begin only after the adjournment of the Student Citation Appeals Committee should the committee be meeting that day. After debate, Chief Justice Lee directed Attorney General Tidwell to take a roll call vote. The outcome of the vote was **5 AYES** and **0 NAYS** with the motion thus being **ADOPTED**. Chief Justice Lee, Associate Chief Justice Hazard, Justice Dean, Justice Hicks, and Justice Williams voted in favor with Justice Gracy, Justice LeMay, Justice Martin, and Justice Montgomery voted against.

Chief Justice Lee opened the floor for announcements. There were no announcements.

In accordance with the orders of the day, Chief Justice Lee declared the Supreme Court **ADJOURNED** until October 26th, 2023, after the adjournment of the Student Citation Appeals Committee without objection at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eli Tidwell

Attorney General, Eli Tidwell
(Secretary of the Supreme Court)

ET
Approved
10/26/23

I sign and certify that these minutes have been properly approved by the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association on 10-26-23.

Robert B. Lee

Chief Justice, Bryson Lee

*² Corrected to read "4 NAYS" at November 2nd, 2023 meeting

Table A
Fine Recommendations

FINE CLASS	CURRENT	RECOMMENDED
NO PERMIT/EXPIRED PERMIT	\$25	\$20
IMPROPER TAG DISPLAY/OBSTRUCTED PERMIT	\$25	\$20
PARKING IN UNASSIGNED AREA DISPLAYING PERMIT	\$20, plus \$10 progressively	\$20, plus \$15 progressively
REGISTERED TO ANOTHER PERSON	\$35	\$50
DOUBLE PARKED/OVER-THE-LINE	\$15, plus \$10 progressively	\$20, plus \$15 progressively
PARKED ON GRASS	\$15, plus \$10 progressively	\$30, plus \$15 progressively
PARKED ON SIDEWALK	\$15, plus \$10 progressively	\$30, plus \$15 progressively
OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC	\$15, plus \$10 progressively	\$40, plus \$15 progressively
PARKING IN LOADING ZONE	\$15, plus \$10 progressively	\$30, plus \$15 progressively
NO PARKING ZONE	\$15, plus \$10 progressively	\$20, plus \$15 progressively
DISABLED AREA	\$200	N/A
TIME LIMIT VIOLATION	\$5, plus \$5 progressive	(Set by State at \$200) Postponed for further discussion
FIRE LANE PARKING	\$25 for first violation, \$50 for each successive violation	Postponed for further discussion

APPENDIX A

The Agenda

Agenda of the Supreme Court | October 12th, 2023 Regular Meeting

Time: After the Adjournment of the Student Citation Appeals Committee

Location: Center for Student Engagement Conference Room

Dress code: Casual

- I. Call to Order following adjournment of the Student Citation Appeals Committee
- II. Roll Call
- III. Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
 - a. Tabling
 - b. Instagram Video
 - c. Court Rules
 - d. Attendance Tracking
 - e. Parking Fines
 - f. Discussion on Meeting Order
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment
 - a. Next meeting on October 26th

APPENDIX B

Proposed Rules

Tennessee Tech Student Government Association

Supreme Court Rules

of

Judicial Procedure

Effective on [date of adoption]

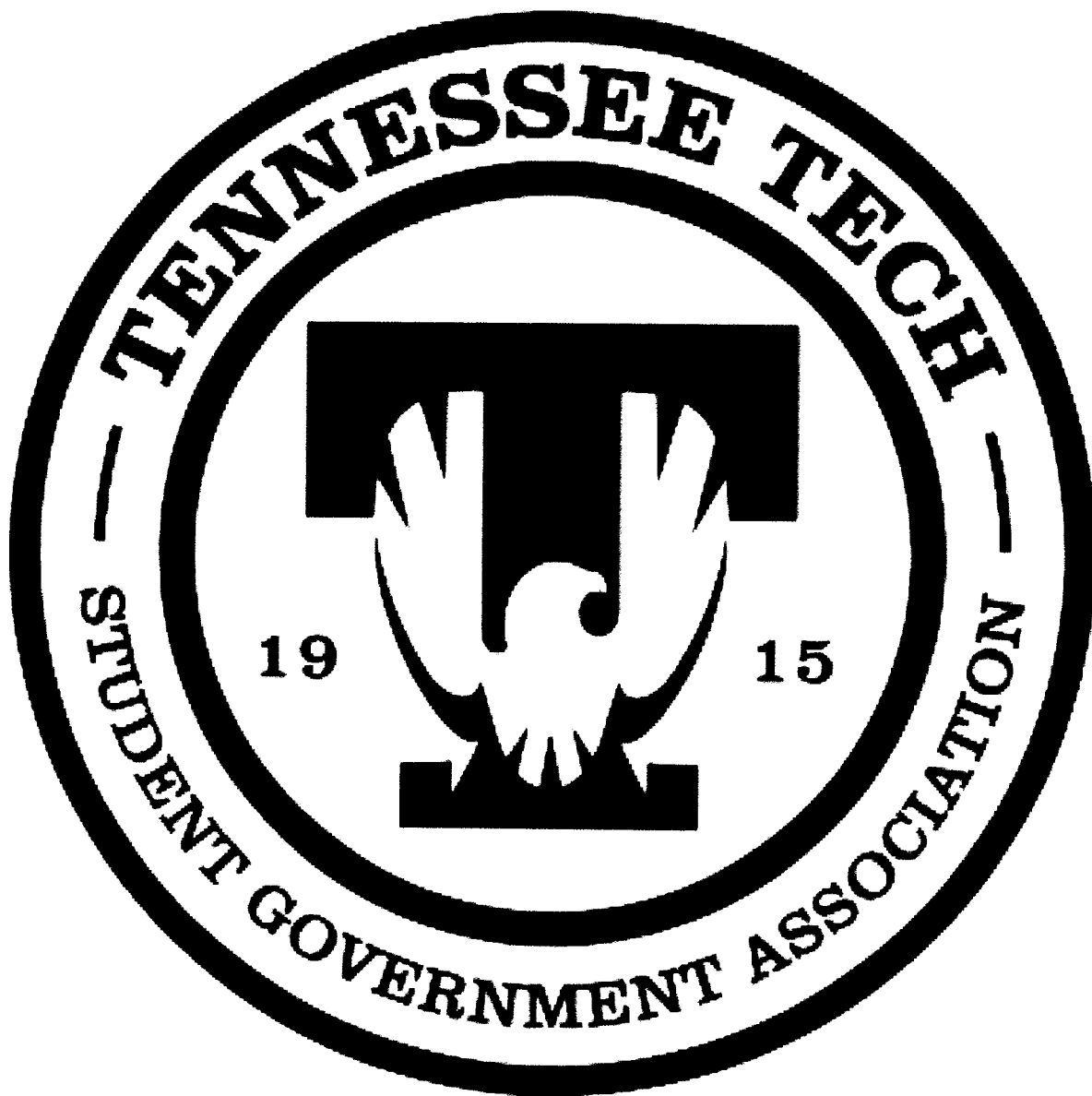


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General Provisions

Rule 1 – Title

These rules may be known and cited as the Supreme Court Rules of Judicial Procedure.

Rule 2 – Scope

The Rules of Judicial Procedure are solely limited to the operations of the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association of Tennessee Tech and any subsidiary bodies. The authority for the Supreme Court's adoption of these rules is granted by Article VI, Section 2, Subsection A, Clause 2 which mandates that the Supreme Court "[a]dopt its own rules and regulations under which to function."

These rules are to be treated as the By-laws of the Supreme Court for the purpose of parliamentary questions.

Rule 3 – Student Citation Appeals Committee

For the purpose of carrying out the constitutional duty of "[r]ender[ing] decisions on all cases involving appeals of traffic tickets by members of the student body" (VI.2.A.1), the Supreme Court shall from time to time sit as the Student Citation Appeals Committee. The Supreme Court sitting as the Student Citation Appeals Committee may adopt its own rules under which to function and is not bound by the rules set forth here. The Student Citation Appeals Committee is to be considered a distinct body from the Supreme Court that may have different officers, rules, and regulations.

Rule 4 – Compliance

Pursuant to Article XVII of the SGA Constitution and the principles of checks and balances, the Supreme Court shall be bound by all laws of SGA, the SGA Constitution, all Tennessee Tech University policies and procedures, and all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Rule 5 – Severability

If any provision of these rules or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of these rules which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of these rules are declared to be severable.

Rule 6 – Citations Not Binding

Citations in these Rules of Order to the SGA Constitution, to laws of SGA, or to other rules are for the convenience of the user. Errors in citations are inconsequential.

Rule 7 – Parliamentary Authority

The Supreme Court adopts *Robert's Rules of Order: Newly Revised 12th Edition* as its parliamentary manual and shall be used to resolve all matters not addressed in these rules. These rules shall prevail in all cases of contradiction between these rules and *Robert's Rules of Order*. The Secretary of the Supreme Court shall serve as the Parliamentarian of the Supreme Court.

Administration

Rule 8 – Officers of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court shall have three officers responsible for the administration of the Supreme Court. The officers shall consist of the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, and a Secretary of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice shall be appointed in the manner described by the SGA Constitution.

The Secretary of the Supreme Court shall be nominated by the Chief Justice subject to the confirmation of the Supreme Court. The Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Supreme Court. The Secretary need not be a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Rule 9 – Responsibilities of the Chief Justice

The Chief Justice shall “[s]upervise the functioning of the Judicial Branch and its members” and “[a]dminister the Oath of Office to newly elected or appointed officers and [J]ustices of the Student Government Association” (VI.7).

The Chief Justice, or their designee, shall represent the Supreme Court in all matters except as designated by the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice shall be responsible for enforcing all rules and regulations of the Supreme Court.

Rule 10 – Responsibilities of the Associate Chief Justice

The Associate Chief Justice shall perform all duties of the Chief Justice should they be incapable of doing so (VI.7.C). In the event of vacancy of the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice shall become the Acting Chief Justice.

The Associate Chief Justice shall assist the Chief Justice in their duties as requested.

Rule 11 – Responsibilities of the Secretary

The Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the Supreme Court and as such shall maintain all records of the Supreme Court, prepare and distribute the minutes of all Supreme Court meetings, notify all Justices of meetings of the Supreme Court, receive all papers for the Supreme Court not specified to be received by someone else, and other duties as may arise to ensure the proper functioning of the Supreme Court as directed by the Chief Justice.

Rule 12 – Management of Records

The Secretary of the Supreme Court shall be responsible for maintaining all records of the Supreme Court and furnishing them upon a valid request of any Justice, the SGA Secretary, the SGA President, the SGA Advisor, or any entity as may be required by an applicable law of SGA, the SGA Constitution, Tennessee Tech University policies and procedures, and any local, state, or federal regulations.

In compliance with the SGA Constitution, the Secretary shall work with the SGA Secretary to ensure they are able to fulfill their duties of “[m]aintain[ing] all Student Government Association records, documents, and correspondence” (IV.1.D.1) on matters related to the Supreme Court.

Rule 13 – Membership of the Supreme Court

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 4 of the SGA Constitution, the membership of the Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, the seven Associate Justices, and the two Alternate Associate Justices. The term of membership shall take place immediately upon the Justice taking the Oath of Office.

At any one time there can be at most nine voting members of the Supreme Court. The Alternate Associate Justices are only entitled to a vote in the absence of an Associate Justice. However, Alternate Associate Justices retain the right to attend and participate in all meetings. Unless acting as a voting member, the Alternate Associate Justice may not make motions.

Meetings

Rule 14 – Chairperson

The Chief Justice shall preside at all Supreme Court meetings. Should the Chief Justice not be present, the Associate Chief Justice shall serve as Chair for the meeting. Should neither the Chief Justice nor Associate Chief Justice be present, the Secretary shall preside until the Supreme Court elects a temporary Chair. Only a Justice may chair except as provided in the need to elect a temporary Chair.

The Chairperson is responsible for calling all meetings of the Supreme Court to order.

Rule 15 – Regular Meeting Schedule

The Chief Justice shall propose a regular schedule of meetings within the first two meetings of the Supreme Court after the SGA Senate's first meeting in the fall semester. The regular schedule will only become binding upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Supreme Court.

Rule 16 – Special Meetings

For important matters that require urgent consideration by the Supreme Court, a special meeting may be called by the Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice, or Secretary with the lattermost only upon the request of 4 Associate Justices.

The notice for a special meeting must be provided at least forty-eight hours in advance of such a meeting. The notice shall include the agenda for the meeting and the reason for the call. Only items described in the call may be considered at a special meeting.

Rule 17 – Executive Session

From time to time, the Supreme Court may need to consider matters of grave importance in secrecy. In such cases, the Supreme Court may adjourn and enter executive session upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting membership present.

Rule 18 – Quorum

Six voting members are required to establish quorum at a regular meeting of the Supreme Court. Only five members shall be needed to establish quorum of a

specially called meeting. However, from time to time, the Supreme Court may recess or adjourn with fewer.

Rule 19 – Notice of Absence and Appointment of Proxy

Justices should at their earliest possible convenience notify the Chief Justice and Secretary if they must be absent for a meeting. An Associate Justice should specify which Alternate Associate Justice they wish to give their voting power to in the notice of their absence. Should that Alternate Associate Justice be unable to attend, the other Alternate Associate Justice shall be granted the Associate Justice's voting rights for that meeting. The Alternate Associate Justices may only ever hold the voting rights of one Associate Justice.

Rule 20 – Agendas

Regular Meetings

The Secretary shall prepare and distribute the agenda of all regular meetings on the advice of the Chief Justice at least three days in advance of the next regular meeting.

Special Meetings

The agenda for a specially called meeting shall be prepared and distributed by the person calling the special meeting in the notice of said meeting.

Rule 21 – Minutes

The Secretary is responsible for the preparation and distribution of all minutes. The minutes, upon approval, shall become the official record of actions taken and decisions reached by the Supreme Court. Should the Secretary be unable to attend a meeting or is otherwise incapable of taking minutes, the Court shall elect an Acting Recording Secretary nominated by the Chief Justice. Minutes from meetings in executive session shall be kept separately from other minutes.

Minutes from regular and special meetings shall be approved at the next regular meeting of the Supreme Court. Should more than one-half of the Justice's terms expire before the next regular meeting, the Chief Justice, after consultation with the Associate Chief Justice, is empowered to declare minutes approved. Minutes from an executive session may only be approved in executive session. Justices, the Secretary, and the SGA Advisor may inspect the minutes of an executive session even if they were not present for that meeting.

All approved minutes shall be transmitted by the Secretary to the SGA Secretary so that they may be publicly inspected unless such minutes are from a meeting of the Supreme Court in executive session.

Rule 22 – Right to Motion, Attend, and Debate

Only voting members of the Supreme Court may make motions and cast votes. The Chair is not barred nor discouraged from making motions or voting on matters before the Supreme Court.

The following people have the right to attend all meetings of the Supreme Court: the members of the Supreme Court, the Secretary of the Supreme Court, the SGA Advisor, and the university's Dean of Students. Otherwise, attendance is only permitted by invitation of the Chief Justice or a majority of the Supreme Court. No one may be invited to attend an executive session without the unanimous consent of the Supreme Court.

All Justices and the Secretary of the Supreme Court retain the right to speak during debate on items of business. Any attendee may speak with the consent of the Chair provided the Supreme Court has not voted to bar them from speaking.

Cases Before the Supreme Court

Rule 23 – Types of Cases

The Supreme Court may consider three types of cases: Constitutional Interpretation, Appeals on the Constitutionality of Legislation, and Impeachment Proceedings. The Supreme Court is granted the authority to hear such cases under Article VI of the SGA Constitution.

All cases accepted by the Court shall be considered items of business before the Court that qualify as pending main motions. Once a case is accepted, the only way to dispose of the case is through the adoption of an opinion.

Rule 24 – Case Submission

The Secretary of the Supreme Court shall maintain a system for the submission of cases to the Supreme Court unless the SGA Constitution provides otherwise. Case submission details should, at a minimum, include questions for the Supreme Court to answer, necessary documentation for the Supreme Court to reach its decision, and sections of the SGA Constitution the submitter believes supports the need for the case.

In cases where the Chief Justice receives a petition of Senators requesting an appeal on the constitutionality of legislation, the Chief Justice shall forward such petition to the Secretary of the Supreme Court. All other cases and papers to be

submitted to the Supreme Court should be done through the Secretary of the Supreme Court.

Rule 25 – Acceptance of Cases

As the Supreme Court's time is valuable, the Supreme Court reserves the right to reject cases or specific questions of a case in its sole discretion unless otherwise provided by the SGA Constitution. Upon the acceptance of a case, the Secretary shall assign it a case number in increasing order and a case name.

Cases on impeachment proceedings are automatically accepted as required by the SGA Constitution Article VI, Section 2, Subsection A, Clause 3.

For appeals of the constitutionality of legislation, the Supreme Court must issue a writ of certiorari within five days of the appeal being submitted if it wishes to hear the case, and such writ of certiorari will only be granted upon the signature of four Justices (VI.3.B).

In all other cases, the Supreme Court shall have no time limit to accept or deny a case. Any case upon reaching the signatures of at least four Justices shall be accepted and added to the docket of cases before the Supreme Court.

Rule 26 – The Docket

The Secretary of the Supreme Court shall maintain the official docket of cases before the Supreme Court. The order of the docket shall be as follows:

1. Impeachment Proceedings
2. Appeals of the Constitutionality of Legislation
3. All other cases

Within each rank, cases of a lower case number shall be considered first.

When there is no current pending business before the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court shall proceed with the next item on the docket.

Decisions and Opinions

Rule 27 – Types of Decisions

The Supreme Court may issue two types of decisions: Memorandums and Full Opinions.

Memorandum decisions are to be used in cases where the Supreme Court wishes to quickly issue a decision without an explanation of their reasoning. Memorandum decisions may be further explained by a full opinion decided and published at a later date. Justices may file dissenting or concurring opinions with the release of a memorandum decision.

Full opinions will be issued by the Supreme Court when it feels the need to explain the reasoning for its decision. When issuing a full opinion, the Majority Opinion shall be issued as the Opinion of the Court with any concurring or dissenting opinions attached.

Rule 28 – Adopting Decisions and Opinions

Memorandum decisions shall be adopted upon the affirmative vote of a majority of those present and voting at any meeting, regular or special.

A full opinion shall only be adopted upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members that the Supreme Court is entitled to [currently five per Article VI, Section 4 of the SGA Constitution].

Upon the adoption of any decision or opinion, the Secretary of the Supreme Court shall publish it after providing at least three days for the submission of concurring or dissenting opinions unless the Supreme Court shall decide by a two-thirds affirmative vote that the release of such a decision is an emergency and needing of immediate publication. Should an emergency decision be published, Justices shall have up to five days to file dissenting or concurring opinions for publishing.

Rule 29 – Filing of Dissenting and Concurring Opinions

Any Justice may file a dissenting or concurring opinion to be released with any decision of the Supreme Court. All dissents and concurrences must be filed before the Secretary of the Supreme Court publishes the Decision of the Court except as provided in Rule 28.

Dissents and Concurrences shall be of no legal effect, but they may provide insight into a Justice's thoughts on a case. Any Justice may sign onto another Justice's dissent or concurrence.

Rule 30 – The Majority Opinion

After consideration of the questions of a case before the Supreme Court, the Court may adopt a Majority Opinion to become the Opinion of the Court to render a

full opinion. The author of the Majority Opinion shall be decided by the senior most member of the Supreme Court in agreeance with the majority.

The seniority of the Court is as follows:

1. The Chief Justice
2. The Associate Chief Justice
3. The Associate Justices
4. The Alternate Associate Justices

The seniority of the Associate and Alternate Associate Justices shall be determined by their length of service on the Supreme Court. Should it still be unclear who the senior most justice is, credit hours taken will be the final decider of seniority.

Rule 31 – Formats of Opinions

The Chief Justice, or their designee, shall promulgate the format of all majority, dissenting, and concurring opinions.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Rule 32 – Suspension of the Rules

These rules, as the By-laws of the Supreme Court, shall not be able to be suspended without a unanimous vote of the voting membership of the Supreme Court [currently nine per Article VI, Section 4 of the SGA Constitution].

Rule 33 – Amendments to these Rules

Any amendments to these rules shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Supreme Court at least five days prior to any regular meeting of the Supreme Court. All amendments shall be read and considered for at least two regular meetings before a vote to adopt the amendments may be considered. These rules may only be amended upon a vote of two-thirds of the voting membership that the Supreme Court is entitled to [currently six per Article VI, Section 4 of the SGA Constitution].

Rule 34 – Adoption of these Rules

These rules shall become effective upon a two-thirds vote of the Supreme Court after consideration during at least two regular meetings of the Supreme Court.