

The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Grievance Process- Dispute Resolution

As of November 2025

I. Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Disputable Matters

- a. Constitutional Dispute
 - i. Regarding an action that allegedly violates the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution (USGC), including the USG Bylaws
- b. Election Dispute
 - i. Regarding an action that allegedly violates the Judicial Branch Election Rules

II. Role of the Justices

- a. The Judicial Branch will hear all case in accordance with USGC(F)(4)(b) The Chief Justice, or the Executive Justice as designated, will preside impartially over all Hearings, in accordance with the USG Bylaws IV(E)(2)(a). This excludes the Chief Justice from writing of any reasoning or opinion related to a Dispute.
- b. In the event of an Election Dispute when the Chief Justice is serving as the Elections Chair, they must designate the Executive Justice to preside over the Hearing.
 - i. The Elections Chair cannot be present during discussions regarding an Election Dispute.

III. Dispute Resolution Form

- a. The Dispute Resolution Form will include:
 - i. Name of Complainant
 - ii. Name of Defending Party
 - iii. List of possible witnesses
 - iv. Description of specific alleged violation
 - 1. Dispute Resolution Forms may only include one violation per form.
- b. The Dispute Resolution Form must be submitted to the Chief Justice within five (5) business days from the time that the disputed event occurred, unless otherwise ruled upon by the Chief Justice;
- c. A business day is defined as Monday-Friday, exempting University recognized holidays. The Chief Justice, or the Executive Justice as designated, will provide the Dispute Resolution Form to the Judicial Branch via email within one business day upon receiving the Form.

IV. Agreeing to Hear the Dispute Resolution

- a. After the Dispute Resolution Form has been submitted, the Chief Justice, or the Executive Justice as designated, will bring forth the Dispute Resolution Form to the Judicial Branch at the next weekly branch meeting;
 - i. For the dispute to move forward, at least three (3) seated Justices must vote in favor of hearing the dispute;
 - ii. Without three (3) Justices' vote, the dispute will be dismissed and both parties will be notified by the Chief Justice. Reasoning will be provided for the dispute not moving forward;
 - iii. With three (3) Justices' vote, the dispute will move forward;
- b. Both parties will be notified that the Judicial Branch has agreed to hear the case
 - i. Statements and evidence from each party will be requested at this time and must be submitted by the date set by the Chief Justice;
 - ii. Witnesses will be contacted and asked to provide a statement regarding the events that occurred.
 - iii. The Judicial Branch has the authority to request a statement from any additional witnesses that they deem relevant to the dispute.
 - iv. The Judicial Branch has the authority to request any additional information from either party or the witnesses that they deem relevant to the dispute.

V. Hearing Dispute Procedure

- a. Hearings are to be conducted in executive session;
 - i. The Chief Justice, or the Executive Justice as designated , will preside over the hearing and will bring forth the Dispute Resolution Form, statements and evidence submitted from both parties, including statements from witnesses;
- b. The Judicial Branch will remain in executive session to discuss the dispute and will exit when they have reached a decision.
- c. Hearings can be conducted in a special session at the discretion of the Chief Justice in accordance with USGC(F)(3)(a)(iii)

VI. Judicial Branch Decision

- a. All decisions made by the Judicial Branch are final.
- b. Constitutional Dispute Decision
 - i. Once the Judicial Branch has exited executive session, a formal vote will be held on the dispute;
 - 1. A dispute will be upheld with a majority of Justices voting “in favor”, holding that the disputed action violated the USGC;
 - 2. A dispute is dismissed with a majority of Justices voting “opposed”, holding that the disputed action was not in violation of the USGC.
 - ii. Once the vote is recorded, the Judicial Branch will issue a majority opinion
 - iii. Each Justice in the majority will write their individual opinions which will be compiled into a single majority opinion by the Chief Justice or their designee;

1. Any Justice may write their own minority or concurring opinion in addition to the majority opinion.
 - a. All opinions will provide reasoning as to why they voted in favor or opposed and may include recommendations for further action.
 - b. The majority opinion will provide a summary of the alleged violation.
 - c. If the dispute is upheld, The Defending Party's information and all opinions will be forwarded to the DLT and the USG Advisor for appropriate action, which may include sanctions
 - d. If a member of the DLT is a party in the dispute, they will be required to recuse themselves from any discussion regarding the dispute.
 - e. If the dispute is dismissed, the opinion will give reasoning as to why the Judicial Branch found that the action did not violate the USGC;
 2. The Judicial Branch will forward all decisions to both parties and the DLT.
 3. The Judicial Branch will present the original Dispute Resolution Form, not including the descriptions of specific alleged violation, alongside all decisions to the Senate. All information not directly relevant to the decision will be kept confidential.
- c. Election Dispute Decision
- i. Once the Judicial Branch has exited executive session, a formal vote will be held on the dispute;
 1. A dispute will be upheld with a majority of Justices voting "in favor", holding that the disputed action violated the Judicial Branch Election Rules;
 2. A dispute is dismissed with a majority of Justices voting "opposed", holding that the disputed action was not in violation of the Judicial Branch Election Rules.
 - ii. Once the vote is recorded, the Judicial Branch will issue a majority opinion,
Each Justice in the majority will write their individual opinions which will be compiled into a single majority opinion by the presiding Justice or their designee;
 1. Any Justice may write their own minority or concurring opinion in addition to the majority opinion.

- a. All opinions will provide reasoning as to why they voted in favor or opposed and may include recommendations for further action.
 - b. The majority opinion will provide a summary of the alleged violation.
2. If the dispute is upheld, the Judicial Branch will issue sanctions in accordance with the Judicial Branch Election Rules.
3. The Judicial Branch will present the original Dispute Resolution Form, not including the descriptions of specific alleged violation, alongside all decisions to the Senate. All information not directly relevant to the decision will be kept confidential.
 - a. In the event that the Judicial Branch deems a Grievance detrimental to the integrity of the Election Cycle they may, by a 3/4ths majority vote, elect to not present the original Dispute Resolution Form to the Senate until the conclusion of the current Election Cycle.