WHEREAS: The Northern Iowa Student Government is governed by its constitution and by-laws; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution require occasional updates to improve the operation of student government; and

RECOGNIZING: This amendment provides the Judicial branch with new responsibilities;

RECOGNIZING: This amendment provides structure to Supreme Court meetings and trials;

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED: That the Northern Iowa Student Government Constitution is amended as follows:

**Proposed additions**

**Proposed deletions**

**ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS**

The power to hold elections and establish an Election Commission shall be vested in the Student Government.

**Section 1. Dates**
The Northern Iowa Student Government General Election shall be held each year on the date(s) determined by the Election Rules.

**ARTICLE V. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

The power to review the activities of the Student Government shall be vested in the Supreme Court and such lower courts as may be established by the Senate.

Section 1. Supreme Court

The Supreme Court shall consist of five students currently registered at the University. The justices shall be appointed by the President and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Justices shall serve for the duration of their enrollment at the University, or until they resign. The Supreme Court shall meet as necessary to dispose of its business and shall have exclusive domain over its rules of conduct.

Section 2. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction in all matters relating to the constitutionality of actions by the executive and legislative branches of Student Government and of actions over disputes between the Student Government Constitution and constitutions of other student organizations, over violations by student organizations of University policies, over other questionable actions of organizations recognized by the Student Government, and shall conduct all Student Government elections. The Supreme Court shall also establish rules for all general and special elections, providing that such rules do not conflict with the Student Government Constitution or By-Laws. Rules are to be provided in the Northern Iowa Student Government Election Rules document. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction over all election contests. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for the certification of all Student Government Elections. If an election is not certified, the Supreme Court shall hold a new election. The Supreme Court shall have the power to suspend organizations from University recognition. Any ruling of the Supreme Court must be observed and enforced by the Executive Officers and the Senate unless four-fifths of the Senate, with the concurrence of the President, objects to such rulings.

**ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

The power to review the activities of the Student Government shall be vested in the Supreme Court and such lower courts as may be established by the Senate.

1. Supreme Court
   a. The Supreme Court shall consist of nine students currently registered at the University. The Justices shall be appointed by the president and approved by a
two thirds vote of the Senate. Justices shall serve for the duration of their
enrollment at the University, or until they resign. The Supreme Court shall meet
as necessary to dispose of its business and shall have domain over its rules of
conduct.

2. Jurisdiction

   a. The Supreme Court shall have Jurisdiction in all matters relating to the
   constitutionality of actions by the executive and legislative branches of Student
   Government and of actions over disputes between the Student Government
   Constitution and constitutions of other student organizations, over violations by
   student organizations of University policies over questionable actions of
   organizations recognized by the Student Government, and shall conduct all
   Student Government elections. The Supreme Court shall also establish rules for
   all general and special elections, providing that such rules do not conflict with the
   Student Government Constitution or Bylaws. Rules are to be provided in the
   Northern Iowa Student Government Election Rules Document. The Supreme
   Court shall have original jurisdiction over all election contests and certification of
   the election.

3. Term

   a. The Court
      i. The court holds a continuous annual term that commences the first day of
         classes in fall semester and ends the last day of classes of the spring
         semester.
   b. Member of the court
      i. A member of the court will hold their position until graduation, no longer
         being enrolled at the University or removed by the President with approval
         of the Senate.

4. Meetings and quorum

   a. All meetings of the court are open, unless a meeting is voted to be closed.
   b. Seven voting members of the court would constitute a quorum. In the absence of a
      quorum, the clerk may announce that the court will not meet until there is a
      quorum.

5. Positions

   a. Chief Justice
      i. The Chief Justice shall be the presiding officer of the court.
      ii. The Chief Justice shall be the official representative of the court.
      iii. The Chief Justice, along with the Clerk, shall maintain the informational
           affairs of the court.
iv. The Chief Justice shall act as the Election Commissioner and fulfill their election duties.

v. The Chief Justice shall sit on at least one university committee, and arrange for each Associate Justice to sit on a university committee with the Vice President of Student Affairs.

vi. The Chief Justice shall serve as a non-voting member of the Governmental and Legislative Affairs Committee.

b. Associate Justices

i. Act as delegates of the court in meetings with student organizations and with individual students.

ii. Sit on University committees as assigned by the Chief Justice.

iii. Sit on the court and listen to trials in disputes within student organizations as well as between student organizations and NISG.

iv. Will serve as members of the Election Commission and shall fulfill their election duties.

c. Clerk of the Court

i. The clerk shall maintain the files of the court. The clerk shall maintain the documents of the current term and the two previous terms in the NISG office. The clerk shall archive all other documents.

ii. The clerk shall ensure all documents are publicly available.

iii. The clerk shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of all formal proceedings of the court.

iv. The clerk shall make readily available meeting highlights prior to the next meeting.

6. Voting Procedure

a. Non-controversial logistic decisions will be passed by a simple majority.

   i. Including but not limited to

      1. Changing of Meeting times or Locations
      2. Agenda topics for the next meeting

b. All other matters will be passed by a ⅔ vote of the court.

c. All Justices have the opportunity to state their views and raise any questions or concerns they may have.

   i. Each Justice speaks without interruptions

d. When each Justice is finished speaking, the votes will be cast.

7. Trials and Appellate Action

a. In the event that a student organization(s) violates the rules laid out by NISG:

   i. A claim must be officially filed and submitted to the Chief Justice.
1. Print off the form and bring it to the NISG office and delivered personally to the Chief Justice.

ii. Evidence must be compiled by the student(s) or student organization(s); the Supreme Court shall not serve as an investigative body.

iii. The Supreme Court reserves the right to not hear a case if there is not sufficient evidence or they do not believe the claim has standing.
   1. This shall be determined by a majority vote of the court.

iv. If the Justices decide not to hear a case, you will be notified via email by the Chief Justice within 24 hours of the decision.

vi. If the Justices decide to hear a case, the parties involved have the right to an informal pre-trial conference with the Chief Justice to inform them on how the trial shall work.
   1. Each party has the right to amateur legal counsel; if you do not know anyone, the Supreme Court can assist you in finding someone.
   2. Both parties shall submit a written brief in person to the Chief Justice located in the NISG Office.
   3. Each party will be allowed to introduce a recommended maximum of (2) witnesses.

b. The trial will take place in the appropriate room as reserved by the Chief Justice no later than two weeks after the decision to take a case.

c. The petitioner shall present their case first, and limit their comments during this time to (15) minutes.

d. The defendants will present their case second, and limit their comments during this time to (15) minutes.

e. Each party will have (5) minutes to respond, with the petitioner going first and the defendant going last.

f. The Justices may interrupt to ask a question at any time

g. Following the trial, the Supreme Court will go into closed session to discuss the case.
   i. Each Justice will have the chance to give their opinion, uninterrupted
   ii. The Chief Justice shall speak first, and then the Associate Justices shall speak in order of tenure on the court.
   iii. No Justice shall speak twice until each Justice has spoken once.
   iv. After opinions are given, the Justices shall debate.
v. After the close of debate, the majority opinion will be formed by a majority vote of the Supreme Court.

vi. The majority will collaborate on the writing of the opinion, the Chief Justice will assigned the majority opinion. Concurring and dissenting opinions may be written, as well.

h. The Supreme Court shall release their ruling within one week of the close of the trial.

i. The Supreme Court shall have the power to suspend a student organization from university recognition.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

The power to hold elections and establish an Election Commission shall be vested in the Student Government.

Section 1. Dates

The Northern Iowa Student Government General Election shall be held each year on the date(s) determined by the Election Rules.