UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

JUDICIAL COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT BILL (2025)

1. LONG TITLE

A Bill for a Law to Establish a Judicial Council at the Students' Union Level for the Purpose of Ensuring Fair Hearing, Due Process, Orderly Dispute Resolution, and the Promotion of Discipline and Rule of Law within the University Community.

2. PREAMBLE

Conflict is an unavoidable feature of human interaction, arising from differing interests, opinions, and ambitions. Within the context of student governance, such conflicts commonly manifest in electoral processes, disciplinary matters, and the exercise of authority by student leaders across the Students' Union, Halls of Residence, Faculties, and Departments.

In recent times, matters involving the Students' Union Executive Council, the Students' Representative Council, and other executive and legislative bodies have highlighted the absence of a neutral and structured judicial mechanism at the Students' Union level. In many instances, legislative bodies that play a role in approving or confirming executive appointments are also tasked with adjudicating disputes involving those same executives. This overlap of functions raises concerns relating to institutional imbalance, perceived bias, concentration of power, and the denial of fair hearing.

The establishment of a Judicial Council at the Students' Union level is therefore necessary to provide an independent and impartial forum for the resolution of disputes, promote due process, and ensure peaceful and orderly governance within the student community. Such a body will enhance fairness in adjudication, reduce arbitrary sanctions, and contribute to the overall stability and credibility of the Students' Union Government.

A Students' Union Judicial Council will also strengthen the principle of checks and balances by clearly separating executive, legislative, and judicial functions within student governance. In doing so, it will curb excessive legislative dominance in dispute resolution at the Union, Hall, Faculty, and Departmental levels, while ensuring neutrality and consistency in decision-making.

Furthermore, the Judicial Council will serve as an inclusive avenue for students and student bodies that lack established judicial mechanisms at lower levels, thereby guaranteeing access to fair hearing and effective remedies in matters within its jurisdiction.

Beyond governance, the Judicial Council will function as a valuable academic and practical learning platform. It will provide law students with structured exposure to adjudicatory processes while equipping non-law students who may serve as members with foundational legal knowledge, thereby advancing the University's commitment to academic excellence, civic responsibility, and legal awareness.

This Bill is therefore proposed to establish a Judicial Council at the Students' Union level as a mechanism for promoting justice, accountability, institutional balance, and peaceful coexistence among students. The Judicial Council shall operate in full conformity with the University's Senate Regulations, and shall function strictly as a complementary body without prejudice to, or competition with, existing University disciplinary and regulatory organs.

3. PROPOSED PROVISIONS

SECTION 1

1. **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

a. There shall be an Attorney General of the Students' Union who shall either be a 400 or 500 level student from the faculty of law.

b. The Attorney General must have been an active member of any Judicial Council before or at the time of appointment.

c. Notwithstanding the provision (a), the Attorney General shall be nominated by the President of the Students' Union, which is subject to the approval of the Students Representative Council.

d. The Attorney General shall represent the Students' Union officials in Court and advise Students' Union on legal matters.

e. Provided that, the attorney general shall not represent any of the Students' Union officials and arms of the Union where they are parties against one another.

f. The Attorney General shall mediate in the event of dispute between the arms of the Students' Union.

g. The Attorney General shall be eligible to the same terms and conditions of service as a responsible member of the Executive Council.

h. The Attorney General shall be removed on a vote of no confidence moved by a member of the Students Representative Council and supported by two third majority of members present at an Ordinary Sitting of the Students Representative Council.

SECTION 2

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

1. FORMATION AND COMPOSITION

a. The judicial powers of the Students' Union shall be vested in the judicial arm of the Students' Union hereinafter referred to as the University of Ibadan Students' Union Judicial Council.

b. It shall comprise five (5) members from faculty of Law and four (4) other members of proven experience and integrity; who shall be nominated by the President in consultation with the Judicial Council and subject to the ratification by the Students' Representative Council.

c. The members from faculty of Laws shall be two from 400 level and three from 500 levels. A member of the judicial council will not have contested for any political post before his appointment and will not contest for any after his/her tenure in office.

d. Any student to be appointed as a Justice in the Judicial Council must have previously served or currently serving as a Judge in their Faculties, Halls of Residence or Departments.

e. The Judicial Council shall have four (4) principal officers, namely;

i. The Chief Justice.

ii. The Registrar

iii. The Clerk

iv. The Bailiff

f. The appointment of the principal officers from (e) above, shall in the case of the Chief Justice be made by the President subject to the ratification by the Students Representative Council, and in the case of other principal officers, be made by the Chief Justice.

g. Without prejudice to (f) above, the person to be appointed as the Chief Justice must be a returning member of the Judicial Council.

h. Without prejudice to (b), (c), and (f) above, the C.G.P.A. of the Justices and that of the Chief Justice shall be at least 3.0 in the case of 4.0 grading point system, and their equivalent in any other grading point system.

i. The Justices from the 400 level class are to return to the Judicial Council except where there are circumstances to the contrary.

2. COURT SESSION

a. Court Session shall be in accordance with the Rules of Court drafted by the Chief Justice and in force by the Judicial Council.

d. All court sessions of the Judicial Council shall be within the Students Union Building.

3. QUORUM FOR DECISION

a. For the purposes of arriving at a decision, including rulings, judgments and orders, the quorum of the court shall be at least three (3) justices including the Chief Justice or the presiding justice assigned on that behalf.

b. Provided that the number of justices as envisaged in (a) above shall be in the arrangement of three (3), five (5) or seven (7) justices including the Chief Justice or the presiding justice assigned in that behalf.

c. The leading opinion in the decision shall be delivered and dissenting opinion shall be resolved by simple majority support.

d. Provided that where the decision has been made by the required number of justices, it may be read altogether by the Chief Justice or any Justice assigned on that behalf, indicating the opinions of other justices as expressed in the decision.

4.QUORUM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

a. In any Judicial Council meeting where important administrative decisions are to be taken, five (5) members (Justices) shall form a quorum with the Chief Justice presiding, except if he/she otherwise assigns a member to preside.

b. All administrative activities of the Judicial Council shall be in the Students' Union Building

5. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

a. It shall decide all questions of interpretation of the constitution, any other enactment of the Students Union and/or constitutions and/or enactments of faculties, departments, clubs, associations and societies registered with the appropriate university authority.

b. It shall adjudicate on all matters referred to it by the President, the Speaker, the Students Representative Council or any of its members, the Executive Council or any of its members, halls of residence, faculties, departments and only registered clubs, societies and associations or any Union member.

c. Shall try cases including official corruption, defiance, election malpractice(s), violation of this constitution and appeal against decision of the Students Representative Council, the Executive Council or any Committee of the Union.

d. Shall have appellate jurisdiction in matters of appeals from Judicial Arms of the Halls of Residence and Faculties. Provided that the Judicial Council shall not be a case for first instance in matters that are within the jurisdiction of a Faculty or Hall court, except if it is known that such Faculty or Hall court is unable to try the case.

e. Shall have powers to summon any member of the Union to appear before it either in chambers or open courts and shall in that situation take appropriate sanctions and measures.

f. Shall, where necessary recommend to the appropriate university body, the discipline of any Union member or Union member against whom an allegation has been proved.

g. Shall make Rules of Court that guides the process of adjudication in Court. The Rules shall be drafted by the Chief Justice consultation with the other members of the Judicial Council.

h. Any matter referred to the Judicial Council must cease to be a subject of discussion by any person or body of persons in the Union until the final determination of the matter.

i. All external correspondences of the Judicial Council must be copied to the following:

  i. The office of the Vice-chancellor.

  ii. Dean of Students

iii. The Directorate of information and protocol.

iv. The University legal unit.

v. The Student Affairs Unit and all other appropriate bodies/units.

j. Without prejudice to (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) above, the power of the Judicial Council to hear any other matter shall be subject to the approval of the University Management.

6. OFFICERS AND FUNCTIONS

A. CHIEF JUSTICE

I. Shall be the administrative and judicial head, appointed from the faculty of law.

II. Shall be a 500 level law student who at the time of appointment must be a returning member of the Judicial Council.

III. Provided that where no individual meets the requirement in (II) above, a Chief Justice shall be appointed from among the justices available provided that such a person must be a law student.

IV. Shall co-ordinate the activities of the Chief Judges of faculties, halls of residence or any other judicial arm of an affiliated society, as an administrative forum in an effective and efficient administration of justice.

B. THE REGISTRAR

I. Shall be the secretary to the Judicial Council.

II. Shall perform such other duties as may be incidental to his/her office or assigned to him/her by the Chief Justice.

III. Must have served in any capacity in the Faculty or Hall of Residence Judicial Council prior to appointment into the Judicial Council.

C. THE CLERK

I. Assist the justices empaneled at every sitting to effectively carry out the procedure and process of administering justice

II. Be responsible for maintaining order and decorum in court;

III. Must have served in any capacity in Faculty or Hall of Residence Judicial Council prior to appointment into the Judicial Council

IV. Perform such other duties as are necessarily incidental to his office and as may be assigned to him/her by the empaneled justices and the Registrar

C. THE BAILIFF

I. Shall call for court sessions and cause court summons or other court proceedings to be served on concerned parties.

II. Must have served in any capacity in the Faculty or Hall of Residence Judicial Council prior to appointment into the Judicial Council.

III. Shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chief Justice.

7. CONDUCT

a. The judicial council shall regulate its own procedure but must take evidence, give fair hearing to any student appearing before it and that decisions must be supported by more than half of the justices sitting on a case.

b. In line with (a) above, the Chief Justice in consultation with the other members of the Judicial Council may review the Court Rules to ensure effective and efficient dispensation of justice.

c. No member of the Judicial Council shall take any office or appointment of the Union during the period for which he/she serves in the Judicial Council.

d. Members shall be required to be above board in all their conducts with no bias outside the court sessions.

e. The Judicial Council shall have a vote of no confidence approved by two-third (2/3) majority of members to remove any principal officer based on organizational governance and be replaced by another member. Provided that no such removal shall be allowed except after fair hearing has been given to the entire office.

f. Allegation of removal of any error granted over a half be investigated by the Judicial Council through the clerk, which upon investigating shall be approved or disapproved on approval and granting ground. Provided that no such removal shall be allowed except after fair hearing has been given to the entire quarter.

g. Any vacancy due to removal in line with (6) above shall be replaced by the Judicial Council upon completion in a meeting and in line with the provision of this constitution.

h. A member of the Judicial Council who without reasonable cause absents himself/herself from two (2) consecutive meetings and/or sittings of the judicial Council shall be suspended for not more than two weeks as a member or principal officer of the council.

8. **FINANCES**

The funds of the Judicial Council shall be drawn from the Students' Union Account upon the submission of its proposed budget, which shall be subject to the approval of the Students' Representative Council.

9. **TENURE OF OFFICE**

Members of the Judicial Council shall hold office for a term of one academic session and shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term only, provided that no member shall serve for more than two academic sessions in total.

10. DISSOLUTIONS

a. The Judicial Council shall be dissolved at the First Ordinary Sitting of the Students Representative Council that shall be saddled with the function of constituting a new judicial council after necessary appointments by the President.

SECTION 3

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN STUDENT ADVOCATES

1. Establishment

There is hereby established an Association to be known as the Association of University of Ibadan Student Advocates (hereinafter referred to as "the Association").

2. **Formation and Composition**

2.1 Establishment of Chambers

The Association shall comprise three (3) Chambers, under which all Student Advocates of the Association shall be registered and enrolled.

2.2 Membership of Chambers

(a) Each Chamber shall consist of duly admitted Student Advocates eligible to represent parties in disputes before such courts, tribunals, or for a as may be recognized by the Association.

(b) Student Advocates shall comprise:

i. Students of the Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan; and

ii. Other students of the University of Ibadan who demonstrate outstanding advocacy skills and sufficient knowledge of the law, subject to such requirements as may be prescribed by the Association.

3.Principal Officers of a Chamber

Each Chamber shall have the following Principal Officers:

A. Chamber Head
B. Deputy Chamber Head (Solicitor-General)
C. General Secretary
D. Head of Advocacy
E. Public Relations Officer
F. Financial Secretary

Such officers shall perform duties as may be assigned under this Constitution or by regulations made pursuant thereto.

4. Functions and Powers of the Chambers

The functions and powers of each Chamber shall include the following:

a. To regulate the admission, enrollment, discipline, and continued membership of Student Advocates within the Chamber;
b. To promote and enhance the procedural knowledge of the law among Student Advocates for the purpose of honing and developing their advocacy skills;
c. To streamline and regulate the process by which parties may engage the services of Student Advocates in disputes;
d. To conduct entrance interviews and examinations for prospective Student Advocates upon application, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Association;

e. To assign Student Advocates to represent parties to disputes upon application to the Chamber;
f. To ensure that no party to a dispute shall engage the services of any Student Advocate who is not duly registered as a member of one of the Chambers of the Association; and
g. To draft and enforce Rules of Professional and Ethical Conduct binding on all Student Advocates of the Association.

5. Offices and Functions of the Principal Officers of a Chamber

1.Chamber Head

i. Shall be responsible for the administrative management of all Chamber Activities
ii. Shall be the Chairman of Electoral Panel for the election of new Chamber Principal Officers

iii. Shall refer Student Advocates who breach professional conduct of Advocates to the Chamber Disciplinary Committee headed by the Chamber Head for appropriate Sanctions.
iv. Shall be a co-signatory to the Chamber Account
v. Shall summon and preside over all meetings of the Principal Officers and the members.
vi. Shall represent the Chambers on various committees or appoint delegates to do so.
vii. Shall coordinate all committees of the Chambers.
viii. Shall have the power to delegate duties to any member of the Chambers.
ix. Shall give a report on his administration at the end of his tenure.
x. Shall perform any other function as may be conferred on him or her by this Constitution.
xi. Shall carry out any duty reasonably incidental to his or her office.

2.Deputy Chamber Head

i. Shall act on behalf of the Chamber Head in his or her absence.
ii. Shall the Solicitor General of the Chamber
iii. Shall assist the Chamber Head in his or her duties.
iv. Shall carry out any other duty that may be assigned to him/her by the Chamber Head.
v. Shall carry out any other function as may be conferred on him or her by this Constitution.
vi. Shall carry out any duty reasonably incidental to his or her office.

3. General Secretary

i. Shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Chambers meetings and Executive meetings.
ii. Shall make available and read at every scheduled meeting, vital aspects of the minutes of the previous meeting and effect amendments where necessary.
iii. Shall when directed by the Chamber Head summon meetings of the Chambers.
iv. Shall be a co-signatory to the Chamber Account
v. Shall be in charge of conducting examination, interviews and registering of new Student Advocates
vi. Shall carry out any other duty that may be assigned to him/her by the Executives and the members.

vii. Shall perform any other function as may be conferred on him or her by this Constitution.
viii. Shall carry out any duty reasonably incidental to his or her office.

4.Head of Advocacy

i. Shall be in charge of the Moot and Mock Society of the Chamber
ii. Shall be in charge of Pre-trial Conference of the Chamber
iii. Shall be in charge of the legal and procedural grooming of Student Advocates in Chamber

5.Public Relations Officer

i. Shall co-ordinate all the publicity activities of the Chambers.
ii. Shall notify members at least three days before any scheduled meeting.
iii. Shall be in charge of the management of social media platforms created for the Chambers.
iv. Shall ensure that new members are added to the aforementioned platforms immediately.
v. Shall carry out any other duty that may be assigned to him/her by the Executives and the members.
vi. Shall perform any other function as may be conferred on him or her by this Constitution.
vii. Shall carry out any duty reasonably incidental to his or her office.

6.Financial Secretary

i. Shall keep records of all financial transactions of the Chambers
ii. Shall be a co-signatory to the Chambers' account(s).
iii. Shall furnish the Executives with reports about the Chambers' finances and submit an Annual Financial Report to Congress before the end of an academic session.
iv. Shall keep a cash movement register, as well as record of evidence of authorisation of all expenses.
v. Shall be responsible for receiving monies and the safekeeping of such.
vi. Shall deposit all monies received on behalf of the Chambers with 3 days of such receipt.
vii. Shall be held responsible prima facie for any misappropriation and/or mismanagement of the Chambers' funds.
viii. Shall devise new means of fundraising as well as improving upon existing ones.
ix. Shall carry out any other duty that may be assigned to him/her by the Executives and the members.
x. Shall perform any other function as may be conferred on him or her by this Constitution.
xi. Shall carry out any duty reasonably incidental to his or her office.

6. Duties of Student Advocates

1. A Student Advocate shall have the primary role of representing the interests of any such party instituting legal action before the University of Ibadan Student Union Judicial Council.

2. In the course of performing his role, a Student Advocate shall uphold and observe the rule of law, promote and Foster the cause of justice, maintain a high standard of professional conduct, and Shall not engage in any conduct which is unbecoming of a legal practitioner.

7. Finances

i. Any client who seeks legal services of a Chamber will be required to pay a sum of Seven thousand Naira only to the specific Chamber he seeks legal service
ii. A sum of Three thousand Naira of the Seven thousand Naira paid will be used to compensate the Student Advocate
iii. A sum of Two thousand Naira of the Seven thousand Naira paid will be utilized for filings and front loadings.

iv. A sum of Two thousand Naira of the Seven thousand Naira paid will be sent to the Chamber Account for Chamber's management.

8. Electoral and Allied Matters

1. Electoral Committee

a. The incumbent Executives shall set up an independent electoral committee subject to the ratification by a simple majority of the members.
b. Shall be constituted of five members which includes the Chamber Head as Chairman, General Secretary as Vice Chairman and three other members who will be selected from the Chamber by simple majority
c. Members of the committee shall be active members of the Chambers.
d. Members shall be on their penultimate levels or final year.
e. Shall have power to make electoral guidelines for free and fair elections.

2. Electoral Process

a. Shall be conducted sessionally.
b. The electoral committee shall be in charge of the sale of forms for interested candidates.
c. There shall be forms for all the offices.
d. Where an aspirant is unopposed, he shall win by simple majority vote of the members.
e. The swearing-in and administration of oath of office of the newly elected officers shall be conducted by the Chairman of the Electoral Committee in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

3. Eligibility

A member is only eligible to be nominated and elected as an Principal Officers of the Chambers if he or she:

I. Is an active member of the Chambers.
II. Has no outstanding or unpaid levy certified by the Principal Officers.
III. Does not have any pending disciplinary issues with the school management and or the faculty.
IV. Is on a grade point average of 3.0 /4.0 (Second Class Upper) or its equivalent and above.

V. Is in 400 Level and above

4. Tenure of Office

The tenure of office shall be for a period of one academic session.

5. Removal

I. An Executive shall be removed by a vote of no confidence by members of the Chambers, if found wanting for dereliction of duty, gross misconduct or mismanagement

II. Insofar, as he or she has been warned formerly and formally by the Executives and or the members.

6. Bye-Elections

Bye-elections shall be conducted within five working days after a general election and or the resignation or removal of any member of the Principal Officers.

4. SHORT TITLE

This bill may be cited as The Judicial Council Establishment Bill (2025)

5. COMMENCEMENT

This Bill shall come into force upon its passage by the Students' Representative Council and approval by the University Senate.

6. INTERPRETATION

In this Bill—

"Students' Union" means the officially recognised Students' Union of the University of Ibadan established in accordance with the University statutes and Senate Regulations.

"Legislative Council" means any legislative body operating within the Students' Union, including the SRC and legislative councils at Hall, Faculty, or Departmental levels.

“Jurisdiction” means he authority of the Judicial Council to hear, determine, or adjudicate on matters assigned to it under this Constitution, subject to University approval where applicable.

“Appellate Jurisdiction” means the authority of the Judicial Council to hear appeals from decisions of Judicial Arms of Halls of Residence and Faculties.

“Matter” / “Case” means dispute, complaint, allegation, or question submitted to the Judicial Council for determination.

“Official Corruption” means any act of abuse of office, misuse of authority, or dishonest conduct by a Students’ Union official in the performance of official duties.

“Election Malpractice” means any act or omission that contravenes electoral laws or regulations of the Students’ Union, including rigging, intimidation, falsification of results, or abuse of electoral process.

“Court Session” means a formal sitting of the Judicial Council convened for the hearing and determination of matters before it.

“Quorum” means the minimum number of Justices required to be present for valid judicial or administrative proceedings of the Judicial Council.

“Rules of Court” means the procedural rules governing the conduct of proceedings before the Judicial Council, made pursuant to this Constitution.

“Vote of No Confidence” means a resolution passed by the required majority to remove an officer from office due to misconduct, incompetence, or breach of duty.

“Removal” means the permanent termination of a member’s appointment from the Judicial Council following due process and fair hearing.

“Active Member” means a student who has participated consistently in the activities of a recognised Judicial Council prior to appointment.

“Returning Member” means a member who has previously served on the Judicial Council and is reappointed for a subsequent term.

“Proven Experience and Integrity” means a demonstrable prior service in judicial, or administrative roles, coupled with a record free from disciplinary sanctions.

SPONSORS:

- Hon. OLUWATUYI Solomon Tobiloba - Sponsor
- Hon. OLADELE Samuel - Co- Sponsor

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE: THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE

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