

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Syracuse University & State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry



CONSTITUTION

Enacted: Sunday, 26 April 1998
Last Revised: Monday, 11 November 2002

PREAMBLE.

We, the students of Syracuse University and State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, firm in our belief that an effective Student Association can best represent the student body, declare this to be our constitution.

The purposes of the Student Association shall be to: participate actively in the formulation of the policies, rules and regulations of Syracuse University; protect students rights; provide a unified student voice; create and maintain an environment where student needs are met; promote an informed and active student body and determine and allocate/designate the Student Activity Fee in a manner which supports one or more of the aforementioned purposes.

The Student Association exists as a right and for the benefit of the student body. It is thus the responsibility of the Association to be conscious of the interests and needs of its constituents and fellow members and to always act in their behalf.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of the organization shall be the “SU and SUNY-ESF Student Association” (SA), herein called the “Association.” The Association shall serve as the primary governing, advocacy and programming organization of all undergraduate students.

ARTICLE II. CONSTITUENCY AND MEMBERSHIP.

All full-time matriculated undergraduate students at Syracuse University (SU) and State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) shall be members and thus represented by the Association, herein called the “student body.”

ARTICLE III. RIGHTS OF THE STUDENT BODY.

All students shall have the right to be informed, recognized and considered.

- Section A. All students have the right to be informed about the actions and decisions of the Association.
- Section B. All students have the right to be informed about and participate in the expenditure of the Student Activity Fee.
- Section C. All students have the right to address the Assembly.
- Section D. All students have the right to author and introduce legislation to the Assembly.
- Section E. All students have the right to be recognized and participate in the committees and the promotions board of the Association.
- Section F. All students have the right to challenge the actions of the Association and its officers.

ARTICLE IV. STUDENT ASSEMBLY.

- Section A. The Student Assembly shall be the primary representative and legislative body of the Association. It shall have the following responsibilities, powers and duties:
 - Part 1. The Assembly shall investigate, develop and give final approval to all policies, programs, commissions and positions of SA, unless otherwise stated in this **Constitution**. The Assembly shall initiate and delegate such actions, policies and programs as it deems necessary.
 - Part 2. The Undergraduate Student Activity Fee shall increase concurrently with SU tuition not to exceed four [4] percent annually. The Fee may also be altered after receiving a majority of those voting in referendum, in which at least ten [10%] of the SA constituency/ membership participates. No portion of the Fee may be allocated/designated without Assembly approval.
 - Part 3. The Assembly, its boards and committees shall be in recess during the summer sessions. They shall all reconvene upon the start of the fall semester.
 - Part 4. All responsibilities, powers and duties not delegated to any other body of the Association shall rest with the Assembly.

Section B. The membership of the Assembly shall be limited to:

- Part 1. One undergraduate Assembly Representative from each school and college as follows: Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering and Computer Sciences, Human Services and Health Professions, Information Studies, Management, Public Communications, Visual and Performing Arts, Environmental Science and Forestry with vote. In addition one undergraduate Assembly Representative for each three-hundred [300] undergraduate students or majority fraction thereof attending the aforementioned schools and colleges with vote.
- Part 2. The President without vote, unless the vote taken is tied.
- Part 3. The Vice President, Director of Public Relations, Comptroller and BEM Chairperson without vote.
- Part 4. The JRB Chairperson, Undergraduate University Senators, Board of Trustees Representatives and all other officers of the Association either elected or appointed, **ex officio** without vote.

Section C. Officers:

- Part 1. All officers of the Association shall propose to the Assembly all programs, policies, commissions and positions, as they deem necessary.
- Part 2. Each voting Assembly Representative, elected by their respective constituencies, shall represent them and the entire student body. A representative's responsibilities and duties shall include acting as a liaison to a specific department, program or office of the SU and SUNY-ESF Administration.
- Part 3. The President elected by the student body shall be the recognized spokesperson for the entire Association. The President shall be an **ex officio** non-voting member of all boards and committees of the Association. The President's responsibilities and duties shall include appointing, with Assembly consent, a Vice President and a Director of Public Relations; presiding at meetings of the Assembly and Cabinet. The President's duties shall extend through the summer. The President shall report to the Assembly, at the first meeting of the fall semester on all actions having occurred over the summer.
- Part 4. The Vice President shall be bound by all policies stated by the Association and shall be an **ex officio** non-voting member of all boards and committees of the Association. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside at meetings of the Assembly and/or Cabinet and also take on all other responsibilities and duties as the President shall deem necessary.
- Part 5. The Director of Public Relations [PR] shall be bound by all policies stated by the President and/or Comptroller, shall represent the Association in all matters as deemed necessary by the President and shall preside at meetings of the Promotions Board. The Director of PR shall take on all other responsibilities and duties as the President and/or Comptroller shall deem necessary.
- Part 6. The Assembly shall elect at its first meeting a Parliamentarian from the Assembly's voting membership. The Parliamentarian shall assist the Assembly's presiding officer in the interpretation of procedure, advise the Association and its officials regarding their responsibilities, according to this **Constitution** and the **Code of Statutes** and chair the Committee on Administrative Operations [AdOp]. The Parliamentarian shall report to the Assembly on all overturned legislation.
- Part 7. The Assembly shall elect at its first meeting a Recorder from the Assembly's voting membership. The Recorder shall maintain records of the Assembly's actions; take minutes and attendance and call all roll call votes for all Assembly and Cabinet meetings.

- Part 8. The Comptroller, elected by the student body shall be the recognized spokesperson for the Student Activity Fee. The Comptroller's responsibilities and duties shall include appointing with Assembly consent by two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote an Assistant Comptroller. The Comptroller shall preside at meetings of the Finance Board and articulate and carry out, the financial programs and policies developed by the Assembly. The Comptroller's duties shall extend through the summer. The Comptroller shall report to the Assembly, at the first meeting of the fall semester on all financial actions, which occurred over the summer.
- Part 9. The Assistant Comptroller(s) shall be nonvoting members of the Finance Board and shall take on all other responsibilities and duties as the Comptroller shall deem necessary.
- Part 10. The Chairperson of the Board of Elections and Membership, elected by the Assembly shall provide oversight for all SA elections and investigations. The Chairperson's responsibilities and duties shall include presiding over meetings of the BEM with vote.
- Part 11. The Assembly may assign other duties, as it sees fit, to any of these officers.

Section D. Committees of the Assembly

- Part 1. The Assembly shall maintain a standing committee on AdOp.
 - Sub-part a. The Assembly shall appoint the membership of this committee. Voting committee membership, to consist of no more than ten [10] members, shall be limited to the Parliamentarian and voting Assembly Representatives.
 - Sub-part b. The committee's primary role shall be to investigate and propose to the Assembly improvements in the structure and daily operations of the Association.
- Part 2. The Assembly may create, as it deems necessary, additional committees to investigate and/or develop solutions for specific areas of concern.
 - Sub-part a. Such committees shall be composed of at least one Assembly Representative and members of the student body who shall each have one vote. Each committee shall elect, at its first meeting from among its members, a chairperson by majority vote.
 - Sub-part b. The Chairperson may be removed by a two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote of the committee's membership. The Chairperson shall be a non-voting member of the Cabinet.

ARTICLE V. CABINET.

The Association shall create and maintain a Cabinet to provide leadership and direction for the SA.

Section A. The following officers shall have voting membership on the Cabinet: President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Assembly Recorder, three [3] at-large seats elected by the Assembly (to be filled by Assembly Representatives), Comptroller and BEM Chairperson. The Director of Public Relations and the JRB Chairperson shall be **ex officio** nonvoting members of the Cabinet. The Cabinet may allow additional individuals to sit on the Cabinet without vote.

Section B. The Cabinet shall propose to the Assembly all programs, policies, commissions and positions as the Cabinet deems necessary.

Section C. The Cabinet shall submit to the Assembly an overall vision for the allocation/designation and programming of all funding of the Student Activity Fee for each Assembly Session. The Assembly may accept or amend this vision and refer it to the Finance Board by majority vote. The Finance Board shall base all financial recommendations off of this vision.

ARTICLE VI. BOARDS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

- Section A. The Association shall establish and maintain a Promotions Board to publicize the actions and programs of the Association.
- Section B. The Association shall establish and maintain a Finance Board of ten [10] members with vote and a chairperson (Comptroller) with vote in case of tie. The ten [10] members are to be elected with two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote of the Assembly. The Finance Board shall have the following responsibilities, powers and duties:
- Part 1. The Finance Board shall be responsible to the Assembly and their overall vision for the allocation/designation of the Student Activity Fee.
 - Part 2. The Finance Board shall review the funding requests/proposals submitted to the Comptroller and shall make recommendations to the Assembly on the allocation/designation of the Student Activity Fee.
 - Part 3. The Finance Board shall make recommendations to the Assembly on questions of financial policy.
 - Part 4. The Finance Board shall have the authority to review and audit the financial records of any account receiving Student Activity Fee Funding.
- Section C. The Association shall establish and maintain a Board of Elections and Membership of eight [8] members with vote and a chairperson, all nominated by the Cabinet and elected with two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote of the Assembly. The Board of Elections shall have the following responsibilities, powers and duties:
- Part 1. The BEM shall determine the dates of all campus elections and the locations of the polling places.
 - Part 2. The BEM shall supervise all elections and referenda provided for by this **Constitution**.
 - Part 3. The BEM shall review all campaign practices and shall report any violations of the **Elections Code** to the JRB.
 - Part 4. The BEM shall investigate all charges of impeachment made against officers of the Association.
- Section D. The Association shall establish a Judicial Review Board of five [5] members with vote, all nominated by the Cabinet and elected with four-fifths [4/5] affirmative vote of the Assembly. The term of office for members of the JRB shall be from election until either removal, resignation, vacancy or graduation. Vacancy shall be defined as not enrolling in the main SU or SUNY-ESF campus for either of the two regular terms (Fall or Spring). The seat shall be declared vacant upon the commencement of the respective term. No individual holding a voting seat on the JRB may hold any other office position in the Association. The JRB shall have the following responsibilities, powers and duties:
- Part 1. The JRB shall elect at its first meeting of each semester a chairperson.
 - Part 2. The JRB shall review all reported violations of SA law and enforce any penalties as decided. The JRB shall hear and rule on all charges impeachment for Assembly Representatives, President, Comptroller and undergraduate University Senators.
 - Part 3. The JRB with written rationale may refer any action of the Assembly back to the Assembly for reconsideration vote; by majority vote the Assembly shall rehear the issue.

ARTICLE VII. CODE OF STATUTES.

- Section A. The **Elections Code** shall contain rules and regulations for all campus wide elections and replacement procedures. Elections for Assembly, Comptroller and President shall be held for at least three [3] consecutive days in the month of November. Terms of office for Assembly Representatives, Comptroller and President shall be from January first [1st] to December thirty-first [31st] of the same calendar year. The Assembly session shall correspond to these terms of office.
- Section B. The **Ethics and Conduct Code** shall contain standards for the ethics, conduct and morals of all elected and appointed officers of the Association
- Section C. The **Operations Code** shall further define procedure for all Association meetings and shall further detail officer responsibility.
- Section D. The **Financial Code** shall contain financial policies and guidelines for the purpose, request, allocation/designation and expenditure of Student Activity Fee funds.
- Section E. The **Judicial Code** shall contain judicial policies and guidelines for hearing and removal procedures for all Association officers.

ARTICLE VIII. REVISIONS.

For a Constitutional revision to be approved by the student body, the proposal must receive a majority of those voting in referendum, in which at least ten percent [10%] of the SA constituency/ membership participates. A proposal for revising this **Constitution** shall be placed on referendum ballot through one of the following methods:

- Section A. A Constitutional revision may be proposed to the Assembly by the Committee on AdOp. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote of Assembly members present and voting at any Assembly meeting to be placed before the student body in referendum.
- Section B. A Constitutional revision may be placed in front of the student body for a referendum vote without approval from the Committee on AdOp or the Assembly by presenting the President the Constitutional revision at any meeting of the Assembly with a petition of at least one-half of the student body.

ARTICLE IX. REPLACEMENT.

This **Constitution** shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 26, 1998. This **Constitution** shall void, supersede and overrule any previous **Association Constitution**, as revised November 19, 1999, April 27, 2000, and:

(Bill 45-01: 02/16/01); (Bill 46-008: 2/11/02)