

THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY



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Preamble:

We the Undergraduate Students of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), in order to foster our utmost well-being and happiness, form a union where concerns shall be heard, voice shall be heeded, advice shall be followed, interests shall be conveyed, redistribution shall be made, and respect shall be recognized, do proclaim and institute this Constitution for the Student Association.

Article I: Establishment and General Organization

Section 1: NAME

- 1.1. This organization shall be known as the Syracuse University Student Association, hereinafter referred to as “the Student Association,” “the Association,” or “SA.”

Section 2: MISSION STATEMENT AND OBJECT

- 2.1. The Association shall exist to allocate and designate the Student Activity Fee, legislate for and on the behalf of the student body, to advocate for the rights, needs, and desires of the student body, and to be the voice of the students in university affairs.
- 2.2. The objective of the Association is to promote a democratic form of student government, to provide students a forum for student issues, to offer the opportunity for leadership development in the individual, and to promote social, culture, educational, and recreational activities for all undergraduate students of Syracuse University.

Section 3: MEMBERSHIP OF THE STUDENT BODY

- 3.1. All registered undergraduate students of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) enrolled for academic credit shall be members of the Student Association and entitled to vote in its elections and referendums.

- 3.1.1. Students recognized through University College concurrent with the academic year shall also be entitled to all the benefits of membership within the Association.

Section 4: COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF SA

- 4.1. The Student Association shall be composed of Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches, the Finance Board, and any other independent agencies as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws, or by code.
- 4.2. Students elected or appointed to any position in SA are required to maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA for all courses completed at Syracuse University.
 - 4.2.1. First-year students with no GPA recognized by the University Registrar are exempt from this requirement.

Section 5: JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

- 5.1. The Student Association is the officially recognized undergraduate student government of Syracuse University that represents the undergraduate students of Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF both in the internal and external community and acts as the instrument through which students are able to provide input into the policies of Syracuse University. SA has the authority to represent the undergraduate students of Syracuse University through the election of Student Representatives and Officers.

Section 6: SA SUPREMACY AND EQUAL PROTECTION

- 6.1. The Assembly's actions, not otherwise limited by law, supersede those of all other organizations. No action by the Student Association shall deny to any student the equal protection of the provisions of this Constitution or its Bylaws, or the equality of the student's right to vote. This Constitution shall be subject to the provisions of other University Policies, as interpreted by the Chancellor of the University or his or her designee.

Section 7: NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

- 7.1. Neither Student Association nor its members shall discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical handicap, marital

status, veteran's status, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, religious affiliation or any other discriminatory factor, real or perceived, in any of its policies, procedures, or practices.

Section 8: TERM

- 8.1. A session of the Student Assembly shall commence with the last regular meeting of the Spring Semester. Terms of all Assembly Representatives and all officers of the Association shall run concurrently with sessions of the Assembly, except as otherwise noted in this Constitution or as defined within the Bylaws.

Article II: The Student Body's Rights

1. Within the Association, the Student Body shall have the right to:
 - 1.1. Be informed of the actions and decisions of the Association.
 - 1.2. Be informed of and participate in the expenditure of the Student Activity Fee.
 - 1.3. Address the Student Assembly.
 - 1.4. Author and introduce legislation into the Assembly.
 - 1.5. Participate and be recognized in the committees of the Assembly.
 - 1.6. Challenge the actions of the Association and its officers.
 - 1.7. Vote in any campus-wide election for President, Vice President, Comptroller, and Assembly Representative, and any referenda.
2. Consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, we affirm that students have inherent rights on and off our campus. These include the right to:
 - 2.1. Freedom of speech, expression and press.
 - 2.2. Be free of discrimination and harrassment
 - 2.3. Peacefully assemble and protest.
 - 2.4. Freedom of religion and association.
 - 2.5. Privacy and to be free of unreasonable search or seizure.
 - 2.6. A quality and affordable education.
 - 2.7. An accessible and safe learning and living environment.
 - 2.8. Establish representative governmental bodies and participate in University governance.

- 2.9. Fundamental fairness and equity within their academics and the student conduct process.
- 2.10. Confidentiality, consistent with FERPA regulations.
3. Further, we acknowledge that students have additional rights not listed above.

Article III: Legislative Branch

Section 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

- 1.1. The legislative power of the Association shall be wholly vested in the elected Student Assembly, hereafter referred to as “the Assembly,” and its officers.

Section 2: POWERS OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

- 2.1. The Assembly shall have the power to:
 - 2.1.1. Investigate, develop, and give approval to all policies, programs, commissions, and positions of the Association, unless otherwise stated in this Constitution. The Assembly shall initiate and delegate such actions, policies, and programs as it deems necessary.
 - 2.1.2. Propose referenda, including those involving the Student Activity Fee, verify results on the same, and formally communicate recommendations on the same to the Senior Vice President for Enrollment and Student Experience.
 - 2.1.3. Appropriate funds to and/or review expenditures of all branches and agencies of the Association from the Student Association operating budget, as needed.
 - 2.1.4. Provide a formal means of communication between their constituency and their elected representatives.
 - 2.1.5. Ratify all appointments, by a simple majority of all present and voting Representatives, unless otherwise defined within the Bylaws.
 - 2.1.6. Override a veto by the Student Association President by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of those present and voting.
 - 2.1.7. Establish procedures for the execution of its business.
 - 2.1.8. Establish procedures and regulations governing Student Association elections.
 - 2.1.9. Require reports from all executive officeholders and agencies.

- 2.1.10. Approve the Student Government budget as presented by the Treasurer of Student Association
- 2.1.11. Approve all allocations of the Student Activity Fee as recommended by the Comptroller and the Finance Board.
- 2.2. All responsibilities, powers, and duties not explicitly delegated to any other body, agency, or officer of the Association shall rest with the Assembly.
 - 2.2.1. In the event that any committee, board, or office of the Association, with the exception of the Supreme Court, is entirely vacant, its powers and responsibilities shall be exercised by the Assembly, or its designee.

Section 3: COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

- 3.1. The membership of the Assembly shall consist of elected Academic Representatives, Special Population Representatives, and at-large Representatives, elected by the undergraduate population of each constituency as defined below.
 - 3.1.1. Each Assembly Representative shall represent the students of both their respective constituencies and the student body as a whole.
- 3.2. Academic Representatives
 - 3.2.1. Each undergraduate school or college shall be granted one voting Assembly Representative and shall be granted one additional voting Assembly Representative for every one thousand [1000] students, or a majority fraction thereof, enrolled therein, elected by the undergraduate population of each respective school or college.
 - 3.2.2. Any representative who represents an academic constituency, must be a member of the constituency they represent throughout their term in office. If the representative's constituency status changes, they shall be automatically removed from their seat.
 - 3.2.2.1. If there is a vacant seat in said Representative's new constituency, they shall be permitted to serve the remainder of their term in that seat.
- 3.3. First-Year Representatives
 - 3.3.1. Six (6) seats shall be reserved for incoming first-year students, to be elected at-large by the freshman class during the fall special election.

3.4. Unique Population Representatives

3.4.1. Any undergraduate student population, not related to class or school, that is overseen by an official department of the University, or connected to a University cultural or resource center, and demonstrates substantive need shall be entitled to full voting representation on behalf of its constituency in the Assembly, provided said unique population shall follow the procedure set forth within the Bylaws, and shall be included within the Bylaws by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.

3.4.2. One (1) seat shall be reserved for each approved unique population constituency, elected by the student body at-large.

3.5. At-large Representatives

3.5.1. There shall be an additional twelve (12) seats open to and elected by the student body at-large.

3.6. Liaisons to the Assembly

3.6.1. The Assembly shall include Liaisons as follows:

3.6.2. University Senate Liaison

3.6.2.1. The University Senate shall be invited to appoint one (1) liaison immediately following the annual spring semester elections, to serve in the Assembly in an ex-officio capacity for a period of one (1) term. Except for voting in the Assembly and in committee and acting as a committee chair, the University Senate liaison shall have all privileges of the Assembly, including committee membership.

3.6.3. Graduate Student Organization Liaison

3.6.3.1. The President of the Graduate Student Organization shall be invited to appoint one (1) liaison immediately following the annual spring semester elections, to serve in the Assembly in an ex-officio capacity for a period of one (1) term. Except for voting in the Assembly and in committee and acting as a committee chair, the Graduate Student Organization liaison shall have all privileges of the Assembly, including committee membership.

3.6.4. Student Bar Association Liaison

3.6.4.1. The President of the Student Bar Association shall be invited to appoint one (1) liaison immediately following the annual spring semester elections, to serve in the Assembly in an ex-officio capacity for a period of

one (1) term. Except for voting in the Assembly and in committee and acting as a committee chair, the Student Bar Association liaison shall have all privileges of the Assembly, including committee membership.

3.6.5. Shared Governance Liaisons

3.6.5.1. The Undergraduate Student Representative to the Syracuse University Board of Trustees shall be invited to serve in the Assembly in an ex-officio capacity for the duration of their term.

3.6.5.2. The Undergraduate University Senators shall be invited to serve in the Assembly in an ex-officio capacity for the duration of their terms.

3.7. Advisor to the Student Association

3.7.1. There shall be an Advisor to Student Association appointed by the Senior Vice President for Enrollment and Student Experience, to be appointed at the conclusion of the annual spring semester elections. The advisor will have speaking privileges at Assembly meetings, to express advisory opinions, and may attend meetings of any part of the Student Government.

Section 4: ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

4.1. All Assembly Representatives, with the exception of First Year Representatives, shall be elected during the spring semester elections as defined in Article VI of this Constitution and in the Bylaws. First Year Representatives and any Assembly seats declared vacant and open by the Board of Elections shall be elected in the fall semester elections as defined in Article VI of this Constitution and in the Bylaws.

Section 5: APPORTIONMENT

5.1. Academic constituencies shall be reapportioned annually, upon the release of the latest Syracuse University student enrollment data from the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Institutional Research.

5.1.1. Each semester the Board of Elections shall review the most recently available enrollment information to determine the possible vacancies of Assembly Representative seats for that upcoming semester.

5.2. Unique population seats shall be reapportioned as prescribed within the Bylaws.

5.3. Any student whose office is affected by the reapportionment may complete their term.

Section 6: OFFICERS OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

6.1. Speaker of the Assembly

- 6.1.1. The Assembly shall be chaired by a Speaker, selected by the Assembly at the first meeting of the new Assembly after the annual Spring elections.
- 6.1.2. The Speaker of the Assembly shall be elected from among the currently elected student representatives.
 - 6.1.2.1. The Assembly shall elect a Speaker by written ballot, at the first Assembly meeting of the new legislative session. The Speaker shall be elected by a majority of the Assembly seats filled at the time of the election. A quorum shall be required to elect a Speaker.
 - 6.1.2.2. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the two candidates who received the most votes shall participate in a runoff election.
- 6.1.3. The Speaker shall serve a term that coincides with the legislative session.
- 6.1.4. Rights and Duties of the Speaker
 - 6.1.4.1. The Speaker of the Assembly shall:
 - 6.1.4.1.1. Have all the rights of the floor.
 - 6.1.4.1.2. Have no vote except in those cases provided for in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised and in times when the Assembly sits as the High Court of Impeachment.
 - 6.1.4.1.3. Have final authority in the Assembly on the procedure.
 - 6.1.4.1.4. Preside over all Assembly meetings as Chair.
 - 6.1.4.1.5. Serve as an ex officio member of each standing or ad hoc committee of the Assembly.
 - 6.1.4.1.6. Require reports from the committees and commissions that they may deem necessary for the functioning of the Assembly.
 - 6.1.4.1.7. Have the right to request reports from all other branches and agencies of the Student Association.
 - 6.1.4.1.8. Be the administrative head of the Assembly and its appointed staff
 - 6.1.4.1.9. Notify Representatives of meetings, prepare an agenda, and distribute said agenda at least four (4) hours before Assembly meetings.

- 6.1.4.1.10. Submit a budget proposal to the Treasurer for the Legislative Branch at the request of the Treasurer.
- 6.1.4.1.11. Serve on the Executive Committee of the Association.
- 6.1.4.1.12. Have other duties as specified within the Bylaws.

6.2. Speaker Pro Tempore

- 6.2.1. There shall be a Speaker Pro Tempore who shall serve a term that coincides with the legislative session.
- 6.2.2. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall be elected from among the currently elected student representatives.
 - 6.2.2.1. The Assembly shall elect a Speaker Pro Tempore by written ballot, at the first Assembly meeting of the new legislative session.
 - 6.2.2.2. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall be elected by a plurality of the Assembly seats filled at the time of the election. A quorum shall be required to elect a Speaker Pro Tempore.
- 6.2.3. Rights and Duties of the Speaker Pro Tempore
 - 6.2.3.1. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall:
 - 6.2.3.1.1. Preside in the Speaker's absence as Chair.
 - 6.2.3.1.2. Maintain all rights as an elected Representative.
 - 6.2.3.1.3. Have speaking rights to the floor ahead of all members of the Assembly, other than the Speaker of the Assembly.

6.3. Clerk

- 6.3.1. There shall be a Clerk of the Assembly who shall serve a term of one (1) academic semester.
- 6.3.2. The Clerk shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. If the Clerk is an elected representative they shall retain all the rights held therein. Otherwise, the clerk shall be an ex officio member of the Assembly.
- 6.3.3. Duties of the Clerk of the Assembly
 - 6.3.3.1. The Clerk of the Assembly shall
 - 6.3.3.1.1. Maintain current records for the use of the Assembly and the Assembly Journal, included but not limited to minutes, attendance rolls, voting records, and records of each branch and agency of the Association, and other materials as needed.
 - 6.3.3.1.2. Record minutes at each Assembly meeting.
 - 6.3.3.1.3. Certify Assembly minutes with the Speaker and Parliamentarian.

- 6.3.3.1.4. Serve as the Executive Archivist for the Student Association.
- 6.3.3.1.5. Perform such additional duties as the Speaker or the Assembly may request.

6.4. Parliamentarian

- 6.4.1. There shall be a Parliamentarian who shall serve a term that coincides with the legislative session.
- 6.4.2. Duties of the Parliamentarian
 - 6.4.2.1. The Parliamentarian shall:
 - 6.4.2.1.1. Act as an advisor to the Assembly and its officers in regards to issues on the constitutionality of Assembly actions and procedure.
 - 6.4.2.1.2. Have such other duties as delegated by the Speaker.
- 6.4.3. The Deputy Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch shall fill the role of the Parliamentarian.
 - 6.4.3.1. In the absence of the Deputy Chief Justice, the Justice filling the role shall act as Parliamentarian.

6.5. Other Officers

- 6.5.1. The Speaker of the Assembly, with the approval or at the request of the Speaker Pro Tempore or the Assembly at-large, may provide for such other offices as the Speaker may deem necessary. Appointment to said offices shall be at their discretion.

Section 7: MEETINGS

- 7.1. The Assembly shall hold weekly meetings at a designated time and place during the regular academic year while classes are in session and, once set for the academic year, may not be changed for any reason without the concurrence of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of those Representatives present and voting.
- 7.2. The Assembly and its committees and boards shall go into recess at the conclusion of the spring semester, and shall reconvene at the beginning of the fall semester. During the summer recess, the Assembly may convene if a special meeting is called for.

Section 8: ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES

- 8.1. The Assembly shall keep a journal of its proceedings and records. All records of the Association shall be available on request at the mutual convenience of the Assembly and any member of the University community requesting access.
- 8.2. QUORUM. A majority of the occupied Assembly seats shall constitute a quorum to do business. A smaller number may meet on the normal meeting day and time and may compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as the Assembly shall provide.
 - 8.2.1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. The Assembly, in the absence of quorum at a formal meeting, may meet as a Committee of the Whole. In such cases, each action taken shall be a nonbinding recommendation and must be ratified by the proportion of the vote required by the nature of the action at the next Assembly meeting when a quorum is present.

Article IV: The Executive Branch

Section 1: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 1.1. The executive and administrative powers of the Association and the undergraduate student body shall be vested in three (3) Chief Executive Officers:
 - 1.1.1. The President
 - 1.1.2. The Vice President
 - 1.1.3. The Comptroller
- 1.2. And in Deputy Executive Officers, who, with the Chief Executive Officers, shall serve on the Cabinet.
- 1.3. The term Executive Officers shall refer to the President, Vice President, and Comptroller, jointly, whenever it is used.

Section 2: ELECTION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- 2.1. The Executive Officers shall be elected from the undergraduate student body at-large, by the undergraduate student body at-large during the annual spring elections. Each shall

meet and maintain the qualifications stated in Article VI, Section 2. No Executive Officer may be removed from office except by impeachment and conviction, recall, resignation, or disqualification.

2.2. The Chief Executive Officers may not serve concurrently as an Assembly Representative or any other position in the Association.

2.3. Selection of Deputy Executive Officers

2.3.1. All Deputy Executive Officer positions shall be available to any undergraduate student who can meet and maintain the qualifications stated in Article VI, Section 2. All those applying shall be subject to an application and interview process of the Chief Executive Officers' making following the annual spring elections and confirmed by the Assembly by a majority of those present and voting.

Section 3: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

3.1. The Student Association President and Vice President shall be the recognized spokespersons for the Association and shall determine the policy goals for the Association as a whole. The President and the Vice President shall be responsible for executing the decisions of the Assembly.

3.1.1. Powers of the President of the Student Association

3.1.1.1. The President shall have the power to:

3.1.1.1.1. With the Vice President, and after consultation from the Speaker, appoint Deputy Executive Officers, to be approved by the Assembly.

3.1.1.1.2. Make recommendations to the Assembly and transmit reports from executive agencies and officeholders to the Assembly.

3.1.1.1.3. Issue orders to and require reports from officeholders and agencies within the Executive branch.

3.1.1.1.4. Enforce and administer the provisions of this Constitution and actions enacted thereto.

3.1.1.1.5. Call and preside at forums of the undergraduate student body.

3.1.1.1.6. Approve actions of legislative nature under the jurisdiction of the executive and legislative branches, enactments or amendments of the Student Association Bylaws, or resolutions of the Assembly.

- 3.1.1.1.7. Veto actions of legislative nature under the jurisdiction of the executive and legislative branches, enactments or amendments of the Student Association Bylaws, or resolutions of the Assembly. Veto power can only be exercised within ten (10) days after the action is approved by the Assembly and is delivered to the Office of the President of Student Association. Failure by the President of the Student Association to veto or approve the legislation within those ten (10) days shall constitute approval and such actions shall become effective. If an action is vetoed, the President shall transmit to the Assembly such action with the President's signature and a recorded reason for the veto.
 - 3.1.1.1.8. Represent the Syracuse University undergraduate student body in all matters dealing with the faculty, administrative officers, and the Board of Trustees of the University and with individuals or groups from other universities. The President may delegate their authority in whole or in part to designated representatives, who shall be subject to the advice, consent and confirmation of the Assembly. Such representation, however, excludes any financial, legal, contractual or other similar agreements, which would be binding.
 - 3.1.1.1.9. Present to the Assembly, at least once a semester, a State of the Student Body address.
 - 3.1.1.1.10. Submit a budget proposal to the Treasurer for the Executive Branch at the written request of the Treasurer.
 - 3.1.1.1.11. Hold all other such powers as appropriate to execute and administer the provisions of this Constitution, as may be specified elsewhere in this document or defined by statute, and all actions pursuant thereto.
- 3.1.2. Powers of the Vice President of the Student Association
- 3.1.2.1. The Vice President shall have the power to:
 - 3.1.2.1.1. With the President, and after consultation from the Speaker, appoint Deputy Executive Officers, to be approved by the Assembly.

- 3.1.2.1.2. Act as President of the Student Association in the case of the absence or incapacitation of the same, exercising all duties of the Office of the President of the Student Association.
- 3.1.2.1.3. Serve as the designated representative of the President of the Student Association when requested by the President of the Student Association.
- 3.1.2.1.4. Perform such duties for the President of the Student Association as are mutually determined.

Section 4: THE COMPTROLLER AND FINANCE BOARD OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

- 4.1. The Student Association Comptroller shall be the recognized spokesperson for the Student Activity Fee, and shall articulate and carry out the financial programs and policies of the Association.
- 4.2. The power of the Association to make financial decisions regarding the Student Activity Fee and recommend to the Assembly allocations and designations thereof, shall be vesting in the Comptroller and the Finance Board.
 - 4.2.1. The Comptroller shall preside over meetings of the Finance Board, and shall vote only in the case of a tie.
 - 4.2.2. The Comptroller shall report to the Assembly on all financial decisions made by the Finance Board or by the Comptroller.
 - 4.2.3. The Comptroller may appoint up to two Assistant Comptroller(s) from the Finance Board to assist in the carrying out of their duties.
 - 4.2.4. In the temporary absence or incapacity of the Comptroller, the duties of that office shall be exercised by the most senior Assistant Comptroller. In the absence of an Assistant Comptroller, those duties shall be exercised by the most senior member of the Finance Board.
 - 4.2.5. In the event that the office of the Comptroller becomes permanently vacant, the Assembly shall elect a new Comptroller from among the members of the Finance Board within ten [10] days. If no candidate can be elected in ten days, or if no member of the Finance Board is willing or able to fill the office, there shall be a university-wide election to elect a Comptroller within a reasonable time period.

- 4.3. The Finance Board shall consist of twelve (12) members elected by the Assembly, and a chairperson, the Comptroller. Finance Board members must be elected by a simple majority affirmative vote.
 - 4.3.1. No less than two (2) seats, but not more than four (4) seats shall be reserved and filled by elected Assembly Representatives.
 - 4.3.2. Finance Board members shall serve a term of one (1) year and shall serve until the subsequent Finance Board members are elected.
 - 4.3.2.1. In the event that vacancies occur on the Finance Board, special elections may be held to fill such vacancies.
 - 4.3.2.2. If there are vacancies the responsibility to fill the open seats shall go to the Board of Elections.
- 4.4. The Finance Board shall be responsible to the Assembly and the SA Financial Vision.
 - 4.4.1. The Finance Board shall review the funding requests submitted to the Comptroller and shall make recommendations to the Assembly on the allocation and designation of the Student Activity Fee.
 - 4.4.2. The Finance Board shall make recommendations to the Assembly on questions of financial policy.
 - 4.4.3. The Finance Board shall have the authority to review and audit the finances of any account receiving Student Activity Fee funding.

Section 5: THE CABINET

- 5.1. There shall be a Cabinet consisting of the President, as chair, the Vice President, the Comptroller, and the Deputy Executive Officers. The Cabinet shall also include the Speaker of the Assembly, or the Speaker may designate the Speaker Pro Tempore to serve in their absence, and any other individual, by invitation, at the discretion of the Cabinet.
 - 5.1.1. It shall meet and carry out actions through formal meetings or by informal consultation, such matters delegated by executive authority.
 - 5.1.2. It shall meet no less than once every two (2) weeks.
 - 5.1.3. Minutes of such meetings shall be recorded and made available to all members of the Association.
- 5.2. The Cabinet or its members may advise the President of the Association at the President's request on any matter or duty under their authority. The Cabinet may advise

any individual officer of the Cabinet on matters under their authority as requested. Each Deputy Executive Officer, the Vice President or the Comptroller may recommend to the President such positions required to perform the responsibilities and duties assigned to him or her as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 6: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 6.1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice President, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Chief of Staff, the Speaker Pro Tempore, and the Chief Justice, as well as any other individual the committee deems necessary.
 - 6.1.1. It shall meet formally or informally throughout the year to discuss the organization and for its members to offer advice to one another on matters under their authority.

Article V: The Judicial Branch

Section 1: JUDICIAL SUPREMACY CLAUSE

- 1.1. All judicial power of the Student Association and Registered Student Organizations shall be vested in one Supreme Court. Furthermore, it shall be vested in inferior courts and select commissions as the Association may from time to time decree and establish, by act or by Statute.

Section 2: JUDICIAL STRUCTURE

- 2.1. The Supreme Court shall, at the time of adoption, consist of nine (9) justices and a Clerk of the Court. The nine (9) justices shall include:
 - 2.1.1. A Chief Justice.
 - 2.1.2. A Deputy Chief Justice.
 - 2.1.3. A Senior Associate Justice.
 - 2.1.4. Associate Justices.
- 2.2. Appointment Procedures
 - 2.2.1. The Student Association President shall appoint the Chief Justice.

- 2.2.2. The Deputy Chief Justice shall be appointed at the discretion of the Chief Justice, after consultation of the Student Association President.
- 2.2.3. The Senior Associate Justice shall be the longest, currently-serving Associate Justice.
- 2.2.4. Associate Justices shall be appointed by the Chief Justice, after consultation of the Student Association President.
- 2.2.5. The Clerk of the Court shall be appointed at the discretion of the Chief Justice.
- 2.3. All members of the judiciary shall be confirmed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Assembly.
 - 2.3.1. The Clerk of the Court does not need Assembly consent and serves at the pleasure of the judiciary.
- 2.4. Term of Office
 - 2.4.1. Members of the judiciary shall retain office unless the student is impeached and removed, resigns, is no longer an undergraduate student at Syracuse University, or fails to meet the qualifications set in Section 3 of this Article.
- 2.5. Trial Court
 - 2.5.1. The Trial Court shall be a standing committee of the Supreme Court.
 - 2.5.2. The Trial Court shall be composed of the Deputy Chief Justice, acting as Chair, and three (3) Associate Justices. The Chair shall participate in all hearings of the panel.

Section 3: QUALIFICATIONS

- 3.1. Each Justice of the Supreme Court shall be a full-time undergraduate student, maintaining a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average at the time of nomination to the Court and must maintain the required qualifications throughout their tenure in office, or be automatically removed from office.
- 3.2. Supreme Court Justices shall not concurrently hold any other office of the Association. Accepting or seeking any other office shall be considered an immediate resignation from the judiciary. Justices of the Supreme Court shall resign from office prior to filing a declaration of candidacy for any elected office or prior to nomination to any appointed office under this Constitution.
- 3.3. Members of the judiciary may be members of any Registered Student Organization.

Section 4: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 4.1. If due to position or affiliation, a Justice cannot render a fair and impartial decision, the Justice shall abstain from any judicial participation on such matters being heard.

Section 5: JURISDICTION

- 5.1. The Supreme Court, and its inferior courts and select commissions, shall have judicial responsibility and authority subject to the provisions of all University policies and any local, state, or federal regulations.
- 5.2. The Court shall render judicial decisions enforcing and interpreting the provisions of this Constitution, and any other governing document, and determining those cases and controversies relating to enforcement and interpretation of those governing documents which are referred to it by any member of the Student Association, except as to those cases and controversies arising related to impeachment proceedings, which shall remain under the sole jurisdiction of the Assembly.
- 5.3. The Supreme Court may, at its discretion, issue advisory opinions upon request which involve interpretation of this Constitution and its Bylaws.
- 5.4. The Supreme Court shall have the authority to issue such subpoenas or writs to candidates for and officeholders of the Student Association.
- 5.5. Individual Justices of the Supreme Court shall not have the authority of the entire Supreme Court except as provided in the Bylaws.
- 5.6. Jurisdiction shall also be extended to grant judicial authority over the Trial Court standing committee of the Supreme Court, whose composition shall be determined by statute, and to grant appellate authority over Trial Court decisions to the Supreme Court. The judiciary shall also have jurisdiction over Board of Elections violation hearings.
- 5.7. The decisions of this Court shall be binding upon candidates for and officeholders of the Student Association.
- 5.8. The Supreme Court may mediate conflicts between Registered Student Organizations, or between members of the same Registered Student Organizations, in the event that there is a dispute regarding elections, finances, bylaws, or actions of the organization, its executive board, or any of its members. All parties involved must sign a statement consenting to mediation and agreeing to abide by the ruling of the Supreme Court. Any party who, after seeking mediation, does not abide by the ruling may be denied Student Activity Fee funds for so long as they remain out of compliance.

Section 6: QUORUM

- 6.1. A set quorum of the Supreme Court shall be required to transact any Court business other than the Trial Court. The quorum for all such business shall consist of a minimum of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of current Justices, including the Chief Justice.
- 6.2. Quorum for Trial Court business shall consist of two (2) members of the Trial Court, in addition to the Chair.
- 6.3. In the absence of or when there is a vacancy in the position of Chief Justice, the Deputy Chief Justice shall serve as acting Chief Justice.
- 6.4. In the absence of or when there is a vacancy in the position of Deputy Chief Justice, the Senior Associate Justice shall serve as acting Deputy Chief Justice.
- 6.5. Members of the Judiciary who recuse themselves due to conflict of interest shall not count against quorum.

Section 7: RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 7.1. The Judicial Branch is authorized to make and amend rules of procedure for the Court, provided such rules shall not conflict with any provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.
- 7.2. Said rules may govern areas such as, but not limited to, the filing, processing, and acceptances of hearings, hearing calendaring, deliberation and decisions of cases and controversies brought before the Court, for notice of the same, for regular and special meetings of the Court, and for the administration of the Judicial Branch.
- 7.3. Such rules shall require the concurrence of six (6) Justices for adoption, shall be entered into the Court Journal, and shall be transmitted to the Assembly following adoption.
- 7.4. The Court may recommend amendments to the Bylaws which affect or govern Court procedures.

Section 8: ATTENDANCE

- 8.1. All Supreme Court Justices shall attend all meetings of the Court. Any Justice who accumulates a certain amount of absences, as defined in the Bylaws, within the period of a semester shall be disqualified and removed automatically from office.

Section 9: COURT JOURNAL

- 9.1. The Supreme Court shall keep written copies of all decisions rendered. The Court shall transmit written copies of all decisions rendered, actions taken or ordered, and writs issued to the Clerk of the Assembly for transmittal as provided in the Bylaws.

Article VI: Elections, Qualifications for Office, and Vacancies

Section 1: BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- 1.1. The Assembly shall establish an independent Board of Elections (BOE) with its composition and authority determined by the Bylaws.
- 1.2. Jurisdiction
 - 1.2.1. Its jurisdiction shall include all elections conducted under this Constitution, in addition to the jurisdiction established by the Bylaws.
 - 1.2.2. It shall be charged with supervising all elections and referenda provided for in this Constitution or in the Bylaws.
 - 1.2.2.1. It shall have the sole authority to determine the validity of the results of any election or referendum.
- 1.3. Composition
 - 1.3.1. There shall be a Board of Elections Chair. The Chair shall be appointed by the President of the Student Association, dependent upon the advice, consent, and confirmation by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the Assembly.
- 1.4. Term of Office
 - 1.4.1. The Board of Elections Commissioners, including the Chair, shall serve an annual term, from the beginning of one spring semester to the next. Members of the Board of Elections shall not be removed from office except by disqualification or by conviction on Articles of Impeachment.
 - 1.4.2. Should an Elections Commissioner begin their term midway through the calendar year, their term shall only last until the end of the existing term.

1.5. Elections Code

- 1.5.1. The Board of Elections shall draft and submit to the Assembly an election code for the annual spring and fall elections which shall, with Assembly approval, be added within the Bylaws. The Board of Elections shall review and recommend any revisions of said code to the Assembly on a regular basis.
- 1.5.2. The Board of Elections shall possess original jurisdiction arising from election disputes.

Section 2: QUALIFICATIONS

- 2.1. In order to file for candidacy, students must have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average, except those who have no cumulative grade-point average recognized by the University Registrar. Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing, or have complied with any prescribed sanctions, with their Home College and the University. Other than University College candidates, candidates must be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of candidacy. Graduating seniors completing their annual tenure in their final semester may remain in office while taking only the credits necessary to complete graduation requirements, which shall be considered full-time status.
- 2.2. Candidates shall obtain written verification from their respective school or college and from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities to affirm their eligibility.
- 2.3. Failure to meet any of these requirements shall result in an automatic disqualification.
- 2.4. The Board of Elections may recommend other qualifications necessary to declare candidacy which shall be included in the Election Codes with approval from the Assembly.
- 2.5. By the process of formally declaring candidacy, each candidate authorizes the Board of Elections or its duly authorized representatives to inspect the academic records and credentials of said candidate. Each office holder of the Student Association, by the student's installation in an office, authorizes the public disclosure of such records as to verify the office holder's continued qualification to hold office. Verification may be requested by the officers of the Executive and Legislative branches, or by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to the Board of Elections Chair.

Section 3: ELECTION DATES

- 3.1. There shall be at least two university-wide elections each session.

- 3.2. An election shall be held in the spring semester to elect the Chief Executive Officers, elect Assembly members for the upcoming legislative session, and any other positions declared vacant and open by the Board of Elections.
- 3.3. An election shall be held in the fall semester to elect first-year representatives and to fill any vacant positions declared open by the Board of Elections.
- 3.4. Elections shall take place at least four (4) weeks prior to the beginning of that semester's final examination period, and no earlier than four (4) weeks after the start of the semester.
- 3.5. The Board of Elections shall approve specific dates at least four (4) weeks prior to the proposed dates for a given election.

Section 4: PROPORTION OF VOTES REQUIRED TO ELECT

- 4.1. All elected officials shall be elected by a majority vote of the entire student body.
- 4.2. The Board of Elections shall determine the method of voting, polling locations, and the design of any ballot.

Section 5: VACANCIES

- 5.1. In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the President of the Student Association, the Vice President of the Student Association shall assume the role of President, to serve until a successor is regularly elected at the next spring election.
- 5.2. In the event of a simultaneous vacancy in both the Office of the President and the Vice President of the Student Association, the Speaker of the Assembly shall become President of the Student Association.
- 5.3. In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Vice President of the Student Association, the President shall nominate a new Vice President with the consent and approval of a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the Assembly. The Vice President shall serve until a successor is regularly elected at the next spring election.
- 5.4. In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Comptroller of the Student Association, the President shall nominate a new Comptroller with the consent and approval of a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the Assembly. The Comptroller shall serve until a successor is regularly elected at the next spring election.

- 5.5. In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker of the Assembly, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall assume the position of Speaker, to serve until a successor is regularly elected.
- 5.6. In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly, the Assembly shall elect a new Speaker Pro Tempore.
- 5.7. In the case of a vacancy of an Assembly seat, the Assembly shall provide in the Bylaws a procedure to fill such vacancy.
- 5.8. In the case of a vacancy in any other office or position, such vacancy shall be filled in the same manner used to fill such vacancy originally, of the remainder of such term. A vacancy in any other elected office shall be filled as the Assembly shall provide in the Bylaws.

Section 6: OATHS OF OFFICE

- 6.1. All officers of the Executive, legislative and Judicial branches, including all Representatives and Justices, shall be administered the oath of office. The oath may be administered by the Speaker, Speaker Pro Tempore, Chief Justice, or an Associate Justice.
- 6.2. Oath of Office - President
 - 6.2.1. Do you (name of individual), in taking the oath of office, affirm your belief in an effective Student Association? (I do.)
 - 6.2.2. Will you uphold and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and its inherent goals of serving the student body? (I will.)
 - 6.2.3. As the students of Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF have elected you, will you be responsible to them in word and in deed? (I will.)
 - 6.2.4. As you are their chosen spokesperson, will you promote the interests of the student body as a whole? (I will.)
 - 6.2.5. Will you, during your term of office, actively work towards making this Association reflect and meet the needs of its constituency and membership? (I will.)
 - 6.2.6. Do you accept the office of Student Association President with full knowledge of your duties and responsibilities? (I do.)
- 6.3. Oath of Office - Vice President
 - 6.3.1. Do you (name of individual), in taking the oath of office, affirm your belief in an effective Student Association? (I do.)

- 6.3.2. Will you uphold and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and its inherent goals of serving the student body? (I will.)
- 6.3.3. As the students of Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF have elected you, will you be responsible to them in word and in deed? (I will.)
- 6.3.4. Do you accept the office of Student Association Vice President with full knowledge of your duties and responsibilities, including that of acting as President should the need arise? (I do.)
- 6.4. Oath of Office - Comptroller
 - 6.4.1. Do you (name of individual), in taking the oath of office, affirm your belief in an effective Student Association? (I do.)
 - 6.4.2. Will you uphold and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and its inherent goals of serving the student body? (I will.)
 - 6.4.3. As the students of Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF have elected you, will you be responsible to them in word and in deed? (I will.)
 - 6.4.4. As you are the chosen spokesperson and administrator for the Student Activity Fee, will you oversee the allocation of this fee objectively and with the best interests of the students in mind? (I will.)
 - 6.4.5. Will you diligently and honestly report on all financial matters to the Assembly and the student body? (I will.)
 - 6.4.6. Do you accept the office of Student Association Comptroller with full knowledge of your duties and responsibilities? (I do.)
- 6.5. Oath of Office - Speaker of the Assembly
 - 6.5.1. Do you (name of individual), in taking the oath of office, affirm your belief in an effective Student Association? (I do)
 - 6.5.2. Will you uphold and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and its inherent goals of serving the student body? (I will.)
 - 6.5.3. As the members of the Student Assembly have elected you, will you be responsible to them in word and in deed? (I will.)
 - 6.5.4. Will you preside over and lead the Student Assembly impartially and fairly, allowing all voices to be heard? (I will.)
- 6.6. Oath of Office - All Other Offices
 - 6.6.1. I, (name of individual), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I shall preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Syracuse University Student Association and that I shall execute the duties of my office to the best of my abilities. I accept the

office of (title or role) with full knowledge of my duties and responsibilities, and shall be responsible to the student body in word and in deed.

Article VII: Impeachment, Recall, and Removal

Section 1: IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

- 1.1. All persons holding an office or position in the Student Association, by virtue of this Constitution, or other actions enacted in pursuance thereof, shall be removed from their office and forever disqualified thereafter from holding any office or position within the Association upon adoption of Articles of Impeachment and conviction by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of Representatives voting in concurrence thereto in trial, with the Assembly sitting as the High Court of Impeachment.
- 1.2. Said judgment or conviction shall not extend further than removal and disqualification, but the respondent so charged shall be liable and subject to legal proceedings or University disciplinary action.
- 1.3. A resignation by a respondent shall not automatically terminate impeachment proceedings in the inquiry or trial stage.
- 1.4. Grounds for Charges in Articles of Impeachment
 - 1.4.1. Articles of Impeachment shall be presented to the Assembly upon adoption by the Select Commission on Impeachment. The articles shall charge such action or conduct which is detrimental in nature to the office or position held or to the Association including, but not limited to, bribery; misappropriation or misuse of funds or property; negligence of duty; abuse of authority; malfeasance; misfeasance or nonfeasance of office or position; conduct or actions unbecoming of such person holding such office or position within the Association.
- 1.5. Initiation of Proceedings
 - 1.5.1. Impeachment proceedings may be initiated on the written request of twenty-five percent (25%) of elected Assembly Representatives, ten percent (10%) of the officer in question's constituency, or the Deputy Executive Officers as defined in the Bylaws. This written request shall be delivered to the Speaker of the Assembly, or the Speaker Pro Tempore if the Speaker is named as a respondent, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or the Deputy Chief

Justice if the Chief Justice is named as a respondent. Such a request shall be based on a reasonable belief that a person or persons holding an office or position has engaged in conduct or actions as specified in Article VII, Section 1 of this Constitution.

Section 2: SELECT COMMISSION ON IMPEACHMENT

- 2.1. Upon receipt of a petition for impeachment, a Select Commission on Impeachment shall convene, the composition which shall be defined within the Bylaws.
- 2.2. The Select Commission shall open an inquiry into the conduct and actions of the person(s) in question and shall investigate and collect evidence and written statements and testimonies from all parties related to the case.
 - 2.2.1. Such an inquiry shall be completed within fifteen (15) class days following the date the Commission is convened.
- 2.3. Adoption of Articles of Impeachment against any respondent named in the request shall be constituted by a majority vote of the Select Commission. The Select Commission shall then transmit the adopted Articles of Impeachment to the Assembly immediately following such a vote.

Section 3: HIGH COURT OF IMPEACHMENT AND TRIAL

- 3.1. Upon adoption of the Articles of Impeachment, the Assembly shall convene on a timely and prompt basis as the High Court of Impeachment, and shall sit as such until a final determination is reached unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.
- 3.2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall act as Presiding Officer of the High Court at trial, unless the respondent named is the Chief Justice, in which case the Speaker of the Assembly shall act as Presiding Officer.
 - 3.2.1. The Presiding Officer shall have no vote in the final judgement.
- 3.3. Trial Procedures
 - 3.3.1. The Assembly shall determine either by Bylaws or by order when convened as the High Court of Impeachment, such forms, procedures, regulations, and authority to be used in trial proceedings when sitting at trial. The Assembly shall possess the power of subpoena, which it may delegate as necessary to the Presiding Officer of the Clerk of the Assembly.

3.4. Verdict and Judgement

- 3.4.1. Upon completion of the presentation of all testimony and evidence, and of all arguments and of final debate in trial, a roll call vote shall be taken on each Article presented, with each Article on each respondent being voted on separately.
- 3.4.2. A judgment of acquittal shall be entered if an insufficient number of Representatives votes to find the respondent guilty.
- 3.4.3. A judgment of guilty shall be entered if a sufficient number of Representatives votes to find the respondent guilty, and a declaration of vacancy and permanent disqualification shall be made.
 - 3.4.3.1. Any vote on any remaining Articles shall be waived and the proceedings for said respondent terminated.

3.5. Impeachment Proceedings Excluded from Jurisdiction of Supreme Court

- 3.5.1. Any and all actions or issues in controversy which are related to impeachment proceedings shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Student Association, nor to the jurisdiction of any body other than the Assembly.

Article VIII: Bylaws and Standing Rules

- VIII.1. Further binding Association law, rules and regulations shall be compiled in the Bylaws of the Student Association. Such Bylaws shall be compiled and available for easy public access along with the Student Association Constitution.
- VIII.2. In any case in which the Constitution and Bylaws are in direct conflict, the Constitution shall prevail, without invalidating any further portion of the Bylaws.
- VIII.3. The Assembly may adopt a system of standing rules to regulate the course of its own affairs. Such standing rules must be compiled and available for easy public access. Standing rules shall be binding upon members of the Assembly but may not overrule, counteract, or interfere with any existing provision of the Constitution or Bylaws.
 - VIII.3.1. Standing Rules shall expire after each legislative session and must be reintroduced and approved by the Assembly during each new legislative session.

Article IX: Amendments and Revisions

Section 1: INITIATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS

- 1.1. Amendments or revisions to the Student Association Constitution may be initiated only by the following methods:
- 1.2. Assembly Action and Referral for Referendum
 - 1.2.1. The Assembly may, by a vote of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of Representatives present and voting, approve proposed amendments or revisions of this Constitution. The vote shall come after a second reading of the title of the proposed amendment or revisions, the first having been in the presence of a quorum at a previous meeting at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting at which action is taken.
 - 1.2.2. After the initial submission of the proposed amendment or revision, the Speaker of the Assembly must submit the written bill to the Chief Justice. The Supreme Court has the option of issuing an advisory opinion regarding the constitutional merits of the draft legislation. If the Court chooses to issue such an opinion, the Speaker shall be required to attach the written opinion to the Assembly agenda for the meeting when the second reading of the bill will occur.
 - 1.2.3. If the proposed amendment or revision is approved by the required vote, the Officers of the Assembly shall sign the original copy and transmit it to the Board of Elections in preparation of a referendum vote, which shall be determined by the Board of Elections unless voted on by the Assembly and shall be no later than the next regular election.
- 1.3. Initiative Referendum
 - 1.3.1. An amendment or revision of this Constitution may be initiated by a petition signed by at least five percent (5%) of the undergraduate student body and submitted to and filed with the Board of Elections, which shall be responsible for verifying said petition within ten (10) class days of receipt of said petition.
 - 1.3.2. If the Board of Elections declares the petition valid, the Speaker of the Assembly shall notify the Assembly of the proposed action and the Assembly shall determine a date for the referendum, which shall be no later than the next regular election.

- 1.4. Commission for Constitutional Review
 - 1.4.1. A review of this Constitution and any other governing documents may be initiated by petition by the two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the President, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Chief Justice, or a majority of the Justices, or the Advisor of the Student Association.
 - 1.4.2. Upon initiation of a review, the Commission for Constitutional Review shall be formed, consisting of the Chief Justice or Depute Chief Justice, serving as a non-voting chair; a voting representative from the Executive branch selected by the President of the Student Association; a voting representative from the Legislative branch selected by the Speaker of the Assembly; and, a voting representative selected by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
 - 1.4.3. The Commission's purpose shall be to review the Constitution and other governing documents and propose edits and revisions that may clarify text or clauses that are overly broad or vague, eliminate any redundancies within the Constitution, ensure the Constitution and any other governing documents do not conflict or contradict one another, ensure the Student Association's purpose and practices are upheld through the language in said documents, or rearrange the structure of the documents, among other things. It shall be the duty of the Chair to ensure that any proposed revisions or amendments fit into the above criteria.
 - 1.4.4. Should the Commission unanimously approve any revisions or amendments, they shall be referred to the Assembly for approval under the procedure within Article IX, Section 1.2.
 - 1.4.5. Such a commission may not be formed if the Constitution was amended under this procedure in the previous three years.
- 1.5. For any revision of the Constitution to be valid, it must receive approval from a majority of those voting in a referendum in which at least ten (10) percent of the student body participates.
- 1.6. The Parliamentarian, with the approval of the Supreme Court, may make minor changes to the Constitution or Bylaws to correct typographical errors or create, expand, or clarify any abbreviations or unclear or irrelevant terms, as long as said changes don't alter any practices or procedures of the Association, nor the rights and engagement of the student body.

Article X: Enactment and Replacement

- A. This Constitution shall take effect on May 10th, 2021 at 12:00:01am. It shall void, overrule, and supersede any previous Student Association Constitution.

(introduced 3/1/21)