



STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Revised Spring 2009/Restructured Spring 2008

The Student Association of the State University of New York College at Oneonta, in order to establish a more workable and responsive student government, protect the rights of its members, promote the social and personal growth, advance the general welfare of the student body, protect and maintain the civil liberties of the student body, and create a government that will have both the respect and trust of the student body as well as those with whom government must partner with, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Association of the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

A. All full and part time students of the State University of New York College at Oneonta who have paid their Student Activity Fee shall be considered members of the Student Association.

B. Rights of membership

- 1.** All members shall share equally in the rights of the Student Association and no members rights shall be abridged without due and legitimate cause.
- 2.** All members may participate in the elections and referenda of the Student Association.
- 3.** All members may participate in and utilize all events, services, and organizations sponsored by the Student Association, provided they meet membership requirements established by said organizations in constitutions duly approved by the Student Association Senate.
- 4.** The Student Association shall not discriminate against any Student Activity Fee-paying member on any basis including but not limited to real or perceived age, race, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, sexual history,

religious orientation, physical or mental disability, veteran status, alienage, citizenship, marital or parental status, legally recognized domestic partnership status, national origin, ancestry, creed, political belief, arrest and/or conviction record, or any other criterion prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

ARTICLE II THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

A. The Executive power of this government shall be vested in the Executive Board of the Student Association which shall consist of: The President, The Executive Vice-President, The Treasurer, The Vice-President of Central Affairs and The Vice-President of Internal Services.

1. No person shall hold more than one Executive Board Office at the same time, nor shall any member of the Executive Board be a member of either the Legislative branch or the Judicial branch.

2. The Executive Board shall have the following powers and duties:

a. Hire and dismiss, with a majority vote, all full or part time Student Association employees, whose primary responsibilities are to aid the operations of The Student Association itself.

b. Shall hold Executive Board meetings when said meetings are found to be needed.

c. Shall be responsible for executing Student Association Policies and actions.

d. Shall be responsible for aiding the Student Association Senate in formulating policies when appropriate.

e. May put forth policy changes to be voted on by the Student Association Senate

f. Shall not have a vote at Student Association Senate meetings.

3. Shall be responsible for seeing that the motions passed by the Student Association Senate are carried out, and for relaying motions, recommendations and resolutions to the proper constituent(s).

4. Shall have all necessary powers to maintain the operations of the Student Association if classes are out of session for more than five business days.

B. The President of the Student Association shall serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Student Association and shall be President to the Student Body as a whole. As Chief

Executive Officer of the Student Association, s/he shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1.** Shall be responsible for coordinating and overseeing the entire student government structure.
- 2.** Shall serve as the primary representative of the Student Association to the faculty, staff, administration, and community.
- 3.** May create any executive or ad hoc committees and appoint chairpersons to these committees as s/he deems necessary.
- 4.** May, upon request or approval of a majority of the members of the Student Association Senate, cancel meetings of the Senate.
- 5.** Shall have the power, upon statement of reason in writing or with explanation at current meeting, to veto any motion passed by the Senate provided that:
 - a.** It is done within 48 hours from adjournment of the Student Association Senate meeting at which the motion was passed.
 - b.** Notifies the Executive Vice-President of said veto within the 48 hour limit.
- 6.** Shall have the power to exercise a line item veto over motions passed by the Student Association Senate, provided that:
 - a.** The section of the motion to be vetoed would stand on its own as a separate motion.
 - b.** The exercise of said veto does not reverse the intent of said motion.
- 7.** Shall have the power to suspend a Student Association organization, with just cause, until the next Student Association Senate meeting. Suspension will be defined as revocation of all rights and privileges of Student Association recognized organizations.
- 8.** Shall call for special meetings of the Student Association Senate when s/he deems them necessary or upon receipt of a petition as outlined in Article III, Section D, Clause 9 of this Constitution.
- 9.** Shall make an interim appointment and/or fill vacancies of any committees needing Student Association representation.
- 10.** Shall appoint students to the College Standing Disciplinary Board.

a. These appointments shall be kept classified.

11. Shall serve as a student member of the College Council, College Auxiliary Board, and College Senate.

12. Shall be the Chair of the Executive Council.

13. Shall swear in the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

14. In the absence of the Treasurer or when delegated the President has all Temporary powers and duties of the Student Association Treasurer.

15. Be responsible for the execution of whatever additional powers and duties the Constitution may bestow upon the President.

C. The Executive Vice-President of the Student Association shall have the following powers and duties to:

1. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of or when delegated that duty by the President.

2. Preside over all Student Association Senate Meetings.

3. Cast a ballot at said meetings only in order to break a tie vote.

4. Notify the Student Association Senate of Presidential vetoes.

5. Notify the Student Association Senate of all special Student Association Senate Meetings.

6. Set the time and place of the Regular Student Association Senate Meetings upon approval of at least two thirds of the Senate.

7. Chair the Elections Committee.

8. Keep abreast of the workings and actions of all Student Association internal committees and all committees that have Student Association representation.

9. Shall oversee the Directors.

10. Be responsible for the execution of whatever additional powers and duties the Constitution may bestow upon the Executive Vice-President.

D. The Treasurer of the Student Association shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Student Association. s/he shall have the following powers and duties to:

1. Keep and maintain any and all financial records of the Student Association consistent with accepted audit procedures.
2. Present financial reports to the Senate.
3. Execute and direct all financial policies and programs of the Student Association.
4. Chair the Finance Board.
5. Shall have the signing power of all financial matters on behalf of the Student Association.
6. Shall have the power to freeze club allocations in whole or in part of any Student Association organization, with just cause, until the next Senate meeting.
7. Be responsible for the execution of whatever additional powers and responsibilities this Constitution may bestow upon the Treasurer.

E. The Vice-President of Central Affairs shall have the following powers and duties.

1. Act as a resource for all Student Association clubs and organizations.
2. Shall be the primary liaison between Student Association clubs, organizations, and the Student Association as a whole.
3. Chair the Central Affairs Committee
4. Shall attend, or have a representative at, Supreme Court hearings.
5. Be responsible for the execution of whatever additional responsibilities and powers this Constitution may bestow upon the Vice-President of Central Affairs.

F. The Vice-President of Internal Services shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Shall keep, maintain, and update an accurate inventory of all Student Association properties.
2. Execute and direct all transportation programs and policies of the Student Association.
3. Oversee the Student Association Scholarship Program.
4. Be responsible for the execution of whatever additional responsibilities and powers this Constitution may bestow upon the Vice-President of Services.

ARTICLE III

THE LEGISLATURE

- A.** The legislative power of the Student Association shall be vested in the Student Association Senate.
- B.** May submit any question to the student body for referendum.
- C.** The Student Association Senate shall have the powers and duties to:
- 1.** Approve or deny appropriations as permitted by this Constitution.
 - 2.** Shall make, update and maintain policies which are deemed necessary and proper, but do not conflict with this Constitution.
 - 3.** Shall promote and aid in the execution of policies of the Student Association.
 - 4.** Oversee all Student Association organizations.
 - 5.** Approve all new, changed or amended constitutions for Student Association recognized clubs and organizations.
 - 6.** Suspend an Organization with just cause, by a majority vote. The initial suspension shall be no more than fifteen class days from date of suspension. At the conclusion of the fifteen class days or at a date sooner the Student Association Supreme Court shall present a ruling to the Student Association Senate.
 - a.** Organizations may appeal the Student Association Senate's suspension to the Supreme Court within ten days of the original date of suspension under extenuating circumstances.
 - 7.** Revoke the Constitution of any organization for the purpose of dissolving said organization. In event that the Senate wishes to revoke a Constitution and thereby dissolve said organizations, the Senate must:
 - a.** State its reasons for doing so.
 - b.** Publicly announce the Student Association Senate meeting at which the dissolution of said organization will be considered. At this time said organization will have the opportunity to provide a defense.
 - c.** The question to revoke must be approved by a two-third roll call vote of the entire Student Association Senate.
 - 8.** Approve a scheduled meeting time.

- 9.** Elect a President Pro-Tempore who shall chair the Senate meetings at the request of or absence of the Executive Vice- President. The President Pro-Tempore of the Student Association Senate shall have all the privileges of Vice-President when he/she takes the Chair.
- 10.** Call special meetings of the Senate upon petition of ten percent of the Student Association or upon the request of a majority of Senators. Such meetings shall be held within forty-eight hours of receipt of these requests by the President of the Student Association.
- 11.** Override a Presidential veto by three-fourths roll call vote of the Student Association Senate.
- 12.** Submit referenda to the Student Association members upon two-thirds vote of the Student Association Senate.
- 13.** Conduct regular Student Association Senate Meetings with the following rules:
- a.** A quorum shall consist of three-fifths of the current voting membership.
 - b.** All meetings shall be open.
 - c.** All meetings shall be based on the procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. Any discrepancy in meeting procedure shall be resolved by using Roberts Rules of Order.
- 14.** Shall approve any and all advisors to the Student Association Government.
- a.** The Student Association Government advisor(s) shall:
 - 1.** Act and advise in the best interest of the Student Association Government and members.
 - 2.** Have signing power on behalf the Student Association when necessary.
 - 3.** Attend meetings and be designated projects as requested.
 - 4.** Hold no voting rights
- 15.** Shall be members of the Standing Senate Committees which shall carry out their specified duties.

a. Each Standing Committee of the Senate shall act as an agent of the Senate and shall have their actions accountable to and reversible by the Senate.

b. The Standing Committees of the Student Association Senate shall be:

1. The Executive Council

The Executive Council shall:

a. Be Chaired by the Student Association President.

b. Be comprised of the Executive Board, the Director of College Operations, the Director of Campus Services, the Director of External Affairs, the Director of Communications & Public Relations, and the Director of Pride & Tradition.

c. Have the powers of a steering committee.

d. Set the agenda by noon the day of a scheduled Senate meeting.

e. Shall hold Executive Council meetings when said meetings are found to be needed.

f. Shall carry out missions and objectives of the Student Association and its committees.

g. Shall set membership of internal committees and student representation of external committees to be approved by Senate.

h. Shall act in place of the Senate if classes are out of session for more than five business days.

i. Shall be responsible for the execution of whatever powers and duties this Constitution may bestow on the Executive Council.

2. The Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee shall:

a. Be chaired by the Student Association Executive Vice-President.

b. In the event that the Executive Vice-President is running in an election, the highest ranking officer of the Student Association who is not running in said election shall chair said committee or designate a Student Association member who is not running, to chair said committee.

i. In order to facilitate the above clause the following rank system is observed: President, Treasurer, Vice President of Central Affairs, Vice President of Internal Services, President Pro-Tempore, the Director of College Operations, the Director of Campus Services, the Director of External Affairs, the Director of Communications & Public Relations, the Director of Pride & Tradition, the Chief Justice, and the Associate Justices.

ii. Any members of said committee running in Student Association election must forfeit their participation on the committee until said election is completed and certified.

c. Review and approve nominating petitions.

d. Establish the eligibility of each candidate for the office s/he seeks.

e. Prepare proper ballots for each election.

f. Supervise all elections and tally votes.

g. Make public the results of elections as soon as possible.

h. Inform all elected officials of their duties.

i. Conduct all special elections and referendums.

3. Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee shall:

a. Be Chaired by the Student Association Vice-President of Internal Services.

b. Coordinate the allocation of the Student Association Scholarships.

c. Coordinate the allocation and selection of the Student Association endowed leadership scholarship with the proper campus officials.

d. Advertise for the Student Association Scholarships throughout the campus community.

4. The Central Affairs Committee:

The Central Affairs Committee shall:

a. Be chaired by the Student Association Vice-President of Central Affairs.

b. Monitor activities of the Student Association organizations and investigate grievances brought to it by the Supreme Court.

c. Approve and submit for approval new, changed or amended Constitutions of organizations to the Student Association Senate.

d. Act as a liaison between Student Association organizations and the Student Association Senate.

e. Request and/or require the attendance of any officers or members of any organization to attend meetings of the committee.

5. Finance board.

The Finance Board shall:

a. Be chaired by the Student Association Treasurer.

b. Each additional member is an ex-officio of the Finance Board.

c. Review all requests for the allocation, reallocation and transfer of Student Association funds and shall make their recommendations to the Student Association Senate for approval.

d. Shall make recommendations to the Senate concerning all Student Association fiscal policies.

e. Review requests for the following year's budget and present a balanced budget to the Senate, for their approval before the instatement of the following year's Student Association Government officials.

6. The College Operations Committee

The College Operations Committee shall:

- a.** Be chaired by the Director of College Operations.
- b.** Act as a liaison to the State University of New York College at Oneonta on behalf of its students in terms of but not limited to the following college operations: academics, diversity, student life/development, facilities, safety and sustainability.
- c.** Suggest policy and change for operations listed above.

7. The Campus Services Committee

The Campus Services Committee shall:

- a.** Be chaired by the Director of Campus Services.
- b.** Act as a liaison to the State University of New York College at Oneonta on behalf of its students in terms of but not limited to the following college services: Dining, Bookstore, and any other auxiliary services.
- c.** Suggest policy and change for services listed above.

8. The External Affairs Committee

The External Affairs Committee shall:

- a.** Be chaired by the Director of External Affairs.
- b.** Act as a liaison between the Student Association and the SUNY System.
- c.** Act as a liaison between the Student Association and the SUNY Student Assembly.

d. Be in charge of outward political affairs on a State and National level.

e. Appoint the director or a committee member to the only designated seat at the SUNY Student Assembly.

9. The Communications & Public Relations Committee

The Communications & Public Relations Committee shall:

a. Be chaired by the Director of Communications & Public Relations.

b. Act as the public relations agent of the Student Association Senate and shall be responsible for seeing that Student Association information is made public.

c. Serve as a liaison between the Student Association and the campus/local community.

d. Be in charge of advertising and publicity of Student Association operations and services.

10. The Pride & Tradition Committee

The Pride & Tradition Committee shall:

a. Be chaired by the Director of Pride & Tradition.

b. Plan and execute events to promote pride and tradition for the State University College of New York at Oneonta, its students, and the Student Association.

c. Act as a body of historians to the Student Association by acting in terms of record keeping of events and operations, and also maintain records of previous years.

d. Be the chief student advisory committee to the college on student based pride and tradition.

16. No member of the Student Association Senate shall be a member of either the Student Association Executive branch or Judicial branch.

17. At the last meeting of the academic year, The Student Association Senate shall elect directors.

1. Directors of the Student Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- a.** Chair their respective committee.
- b.** Act as the primary liaison between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch on any issues pertaining to said committee.
- c.** Act as the liaison between said committee and the community on any relevant issues when appropriate.
- d.** Assist Senators and Executive Board members on projects relevant to said committee.
- e.** Work in the best interests of students regarding all issues relevant to said committee.

18. The Student Association Senate shall create an Ad-Hoc Committee of the Senate consisting of at least one member from each branch of the Student Association's government to review this Constitution at the beginning of each fall semester.

ARTICLE IV THE JUDICIARY

A. The Judicial power of the Student Association shall be vested in the Student Association Supreme Court.

B. Organization of the Supreme Court.

- 1.** The Supreme Court shall be elected at-large and shall be comprised of four Associate Justices, and one Chief Justice. The Chief Justice will be elected with the Executive Board. The Associate Justices will be elected in a separate election with the Student Association Senate.
- 2.** To be eligible for the Supreme Court, an individual must pass a test based upon The Student Association Constitution, as administered by the Executive Vice President before they are elected.
- 3.** In the event of the Chief Justice's absence, the ranking Associate Justice shall serve as acting Chief Justice. Should the Chief Justice's absence be permanent, the position shall be filled as outlined in Article IV, Section D, Point I of the Constitution.
 - a.** The ranking Associate Justice shall be defined as the Associate Justice receiving the highest score on the administered test.

4. No member of the Student Association Judiciary shall at the same time be a member of either the Legislative branch or Executive branch.

C. The Student Association Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction for the following cases:

- 1.** Ambiguity within the Student Association Constitution.
- 2.** The constitutionality of any action, policy or motion carried out or passed by any member of the Student Association, elected or appointed, or any of its organizations.
- 3.** Any and all grievances, election disputes, breaches in policy and conflicts that may arise within or between organizations, organizations and the Student Association, and within or between branches of the Student Association upon submission of a formal petition.
 - a.** In the case of a financial grievance between the Student Association and its organizations, the Supreme Court shall not accept cases regarding the budget process, with the exception of instances that represent possible discriminatory treatment.

D. Upon acceptance of a case, the Supreme Court shall:

- 1.** Issue a warrant for investigation.
 - a.** Warrants for investigation shall be delegated to the Vice-President of Central Affairs.
 - i.** The Vice-President of Central Affairs shall utilize the Central Affairs committee during investigations when possible.
 - b.** The Supreme Court reserves the right to administer the investigation should it be in the interests of the case upon a unanimous vote of the Supreme Court.
- 2.** Hold a hearing within two weeks upon completion of an investigation.
 - a.** Hearings shall be made public.
 - b.** Hearings must be held with a majority of Supreme Court members.
 - c.** A hearing may be waived in the event of the Supreme Court administering the investigation.

3. Issue a ruling within 48 hours upon completion of a hearing or a Supreme Court administered investigation after considerable deliberation and a majority vote of Supreme Court members.

a. The Supreme Court shall not have the power of dissolution or impeachment, but may require it to be brought to the Senate floor.

b. Decisions shall be binding, but may be overruled by a four-fifths roll call vote of the Senate.

E. In the event of an appeal by a suspended organization the Supreme Court will:

1. Hear the case within 48 hours.

2. Only agree to hear the case if the suspended organization presents clear evidence that shows the Student Association Senate, President or Treasurer suspended them in a discriminatory manner or if the time frame of the suspension conflicts with a vital organization event.

3. Make a ruling within 24 hours of the hearing.

E. The Supreme Court shall have the power, upon written request of the student Association Executive Board or Senate, to give advisory opinions.

F. The Supreme Court shall establish its own rules of procedure based upon Due Process.

G. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall:

1. Attend Student Association meetings, but may delegate the responsibility to an Associate Justice.

2. Swear in all officers and officials of the Student Association.

3. Preside over all hearings of the Supreme Court.

H. The Supreme Court may by a majority vote issue injunctions against any member, organization, officer or official of the Student Association prior to a hearing on a matter. The injunction may be overruled by a three-fifths vote of the Student Association Executive Board within 48 hours of its issuance.

I. Any vacancy on the Supreme Court shall be filled by nomination of the Student Association President and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Association Senate. The nominee must pass the Constitution test before assuming office.

J. All Supreme Court decisions must be made with quorum, which shall be a majority of Supreme Court Justices.

1. Each Associate Justice and the Chief Justice shall have equal voting rights.
2. Every decision made by the Supreme Court shall be made by a majority vote unless otherwise specified herein.

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS, CANDIDACY, APPORTIONMENT, VOTING, TERMS OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES

A. Dates of elections

1. Elections for members of the Student Association Executive Board and Supreme Court Chief Justice shall be held no later than the first Monday of April or that week thereof, unless otherwise specified herein.
2. Elections for all Student Association Senators and Supreme Court Associate Justices shall be held by the fourth Monday of April, unless otherwise specified herein.
3. Elections for first year Student Association Senators shall be held by the Fifth Monday of the Fall Semester, unless otherwise specified herein.
4. Special elections shall be held when necessary.
5. The Senate shall, by a majority vote, certify the elections within two weeks of the specified voting day.

B. Candidacy.

1. Candidates for the Student Association Executive Board, Senate and the Supreme Court shall submit a petition to the Student Association Executive Vice-President.
2. To be a member of the Student Association Senate, the Senator must have a 2.25 or better Cumulative Oneonta State Grade Point Average (G.P.A.). Any Senator who falls below a 2.25 G.P.A. immediately ceases holding Office of Student Association Senator.
3. To be a member of the Student Association Executive Board the Executive Board member must have a 2.50 or better Cumulative Oneonta State G.P.A. Any Executive Board member who falls below a 2.50 G.P.A. immediately ceases holding the office of Student Association Executive Board position.

4. To be a Supreme Court Justice of the Student Association the member must have a 2.50 or better Cumulative Oneonta State G.P.A. Any Supreme Court Justice who falls below a 2.50 G.P.A. immediately ceases holding the office of Student Association Supreme Court Justice or Chief Justice.

C. Apportionment.

- 1.** Twenty Five Senators shall be elected before the fourth Monday of April.
- 2.** Five additional Senate seats shall be reserved for first year students at the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

D. Voting.

- 1.** Students shall vote for a maximum of two-fifths of the Student Association Senate positions available.
- 2.** Any Student Association Executive Board member, Senator, or Justice of the Supreme Court must have received at least twenty-five votes.
- 3.** Any candidate may contest the elections. The complaint must be written and made to the Supreme Court within 72 hours of the elections. If a Supreme Court member is running the election s/he may not participate in the hearing. The Supreme Court has four days to respond.

E. Term of Office

1. Executive Board

- a.** Term of office shall begin upon being sworn into office. The term of office shall end with the swearing in of the newly elected officers.
- b.** The swearing in of office shall occur no later than an hour before the last Student Association Senate meeting of the academic year for newly elected Executive Board members.

2. Supreme Court

- a.** Term of office shall begin for newly elected Supreme Court Members within 24 hours of the swearing in of the Student Association Executive Board members.
- b.** The new term shall occur no later than the end of the academic year for the newly elected Supreme Court members.

3. Senate

a. Term of office for members of the Student Association Senate shall begin no later than one hour before the last meeting of the academic year and shall end with the installment of Senators the next academic year.

F. Vacancies

1. Six days after the announcement of a Student Association Senator the President has the option of nominating a student to the position that is vacated. The student nominated must then be approved by a majority vote of the Senate in order to become confirmed. This procedure may be repeated a maximum of 5 times. At the sixth nomination, a special election must be held for all positions not filled.

G. All officers shall be elected by the Student Association members and shall perform such additional duties as designated in this Constitution.

1. Should the President's seat become vacant, the Executive Vice-President shall succeed the President.

2. Should the Executive Vice-President's seat become vacant, the President Pro-Tempore of the Student Association Senate shall succeed the Executive Vice-President, until the next election.

3. Should a vacancy occur in the Executive Board that is not provided for in the succession clauses herein, the Elections committee shall hold a special election to fill the vacancy within two weeks. In the time at which there is a vacancy in the Executive Board before the office can be duly installed, the President shall delegate in writing the responsibilities to the remaining members of the Executive Board.

4. Should a directorship position become vacant, the Student Association Senate shall elect a new director under normal procedures as soon as possible.

ARTICLE VI REFERENDUM

A. The Student Association Senate may, by two-thirds vote, put any question to Student Association membership as a referendum.

B. The Student Association Senate, upon receipt of a petition signed by 15% of the Student Association membership, shall order the question brought before the entire membership of the Student Association as a referendum, within ten working days.

C. The question must be advertised to the entire membership of the Student Association in an official manner prior to voting.

ARTICLE VII IMPEACHMENT

- A.** The Student Association Senate by a majority vote may impeach any Student Association Officer or Official.
- B.** The reason for impeachment shall be announced publicly prior to a hearing before the Student Association Senate. The Student Association Chief Justice shall preside over the hearing at which time the impeached officer will be given the opportunity to present a defense.
- C.** A four-fifths roll call vote of the Student Association Senate is necessary for the removal of an officer or official after an impeachment proceeding.
- D.** When a Director is being impeached or removed they will maintain their Student Association Senate seat.

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

- A.** In the event that the aforesaid Student Association shall duly dissolve, then and in that event upon payment of all outstanding obligations, the remaining assets and surplus monies of the Student Association shall be transferred to the State University College at Oneonta. The State University College at Oneonta shall use said funds for the general benefit of the students at the State University College at Oneonta

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- A.** An amendment to this Constitution shall be first passed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Association Senate and then approved by three-fifths of the Student Association voting membership participating in said vote.