

# SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Undergraduate Student Association Constitution

Founded September 1, 1912

Approved April 2001

Amended February 3, 2003

Approved April 18, 2003

Amended March 19, 2007

Approved April 2, 2007

Approved October 2, 2009

Amended December 2, 2009

Amended March 31, 2010

Approved April 9, 2010

Amended September 9, 2013

Approved September 30, 2013

Amended February 29, 2016

*Approved April 1, 2016*

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Undergraduate Student Association, hereafter referred to as the Association, of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, hereafter referred to as the College, will: unite in strong community those students who wish to promote the social, academic, cultural, and professional interests of the members; build a close, secure unity of action and cooperation in matters of mutual interest; maintain a close relationship between students, faculty, and administration; and make the Association a vital factor in College activities.

The Association shall not discriminate, or promote any form of discrimination, on basis of race, gender or perceived identity or expression, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, handicap, known or perceived sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, marital or veteran's status in any program, activity, or service.

To meet its goals, the Association seeks to foster a true professional spirit among the student body, promote the individual welfare of every member, promote the interests of the College through its activities, and use its collective resources and organizational power to assure that the student body is allowed both the privilege of, and the responsibility for, involvement in all aspects of the College that are relevant to the students.

To this end, the following constitution of the Association of the College is hereby ordained and established.

## **ARTICLE ONE**

### Membership

**SECTION 1.** The Association shall include all undergraduate, matriculated, fee-paying students of the College registered at the Syracuse campus as members.

**SECTION 2.** Voting privileges at Association meetings shall be reserved for Governing Body members.

## **ARTICLE TWO**

### Association Officers

**SECTION 1.** The Governing Body shall consist of an Executive body and a Senate body.

**SECTION 2.**

1. The Executive Body shall consist of a:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Chief Financial Officer
- 4) Chief Communications Officer

- 5) Additional members as defined by the By-Laws
2. The Senate Body shall be defined as:
  - 1) Five senators representing each class level
    - i. Class Affiliation will be determined by year of graduation.  
Matriculated students in their fifth or above year will be classified as seniors.
  - 2) Two senators representing each Department regardless of class affiliation.
    - i. The number of Department-specific senators will be determined by the number of official departments endorsed by the College Registrar.
  - 3) Members of Oakie's Activity Council, as defined by the By-Laws, appointed by the Director of Programming, and approved by the Governing Body.
  - 4) Senators-At-Large.

**SECTION 3.** The Executive and Senate body will individually meet two times per semester to set and review Association goals.

**SECTION 4.** Executive Officer Nominees shall:

1. Be matriculated undergraduate students
2. Have a College cumulative and semester grade point average of at least a 2.500 and must not be on academic or disciplinary probation at the end of the semester preceding elections for Presidential candidates.
3. Have a College cumulative and semester grade point average of at least a 2.200 and must not be on academic or disciplinary probation at the end of the semester preceding elections for the remaining officers of the Association.
4. Have their GPA eligibility evaluated upon completion of their first semester for first semester students (First Year or Transfers).

**SECTION 5.** Senate Member Nominees shall:

1. Be matriculated undergraduate students

2. Have a College cumulative and semester grade point average of at least a 2.000 and must not be on academic or disciplinary probation at the end of the semester preceding elections.
3. Only run for a position in the curriculum and/ or class standing in which they are enrolled.
4. Have their GPA eligibility evaluated upon completion of their first semester for first semester students (First Year or Transfers).

## **ARTICLE THREE**

### Association Meeting Protocols

#### **SECTION 1.** Association meetings shall be:

1. Held weekly, except during vacation or examination periods. Special or emergency meetings may be called at the discretion of the President.

#### **SECTION 2.** Association meetings shall be:

1. Guided by the rules of Parliamentary Law. A copy of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER shall be kept by the parliamentarian of the Association, and all business not otherwise governed by this Constitution and By-Laws shall be guided by the rules established.

#### **SECTION 3.** Association meetings shall be:

1. Open to any member of the Association. Said attendance does not include the right to vote (See Article One, Section 2). The gallery/spectators may be cleared at the discretion of the President.
2. Attended by recognized clubs and organizations, at a minimum of five times each semester.
3. Attended by the governing body of the Association at all Association meetings, including any special or emergency meetings as called by the President.
  - 1) Three unexcused absences, from any of these responsibilities, during an academic year shall constitute a violation of ARTICLE THREE, SECTION 3,

NUMBER 3. With a two-thirds approval of the voting Association members present, the violating member may be relieved of their position in the Association.

- i. Excuses for absence must be submitted in written form and presented to the President or Secretary of the Association prior to the meeting for which the excuse is requested, unless the absence is due to illness.
- ii. Officers in violation of attendance rules and facing dismissal shall be given the opportunity to present mitigating circumstances to Association one week following the third absence.

## **ARTICLE FOUR**

### **Adoption and Amendments**

**SECTION 1.** A simple majority vote of at least one third of the student body, as defined by ARTICLE ONE, SECTION 1, is needed to adopt the constitution.

**SECTION 2.** Amendments shall be defined as changes which alter the meaning of any portion of the Constitution. Changes in grammar, structure, or format that do not alter the direct or indirect meaning of this document will be not be governed by the following procedures.

#### **SECTION 3.** Amendment Procedure

1. A motion to propose an amendment can be made by any Association member present during an Association meeting.
2. A two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Body present during an Association meeting will be required for the motion to pass and to become an official amendment proposal.
  - 1) If a proposed Constitutional amendment(s) does not receive a two-thirds majority vote, a petition, signed by at least 150 members of the Association

may be written. A qualified signed petition will become an official amendment proposal.

3. Official amendment proposals will be framed by the Constitution Review Committee.
4. All proposed amendments to this Constitution must, at minimum, be posted on the Association bulletin board, student online portal, student activity emails, and on the College website at least two weeks prior to voting on the amendments.
5. Following the two-week period of publicity, approval of proposed amendments occurs by a simple majority vote of one third of the full Association student body, as defined by ARTICLE ONE SECTION 1.