

**State University of New York Institute of Technology
Student Association**

Constitution

We, the students of the State University of New York Institute of Technology desire to share individually and collectively a responsibility for the conduct of our college life and thus promote a high standard of cooperation with the elements of our campus community; we do hereby organize ourselves into an association and establish this constitution declaring its powers and responsibilities as delegated by the President of this college.

Article I

Name, Purpose and Membership

Section 1.

The name of this association shall be the State University of New York Institute of Technology Student Association, herein called the Student Association. The State University of New York Institute of Technology shall be herein called SUNYIT.

Section 2.

The purpose of the Student Association shall be to advocate for the concerns of the students of SUNYIT and to provide them with a higher quality of campus life.

Section 3.

In fulfilling the purpose stated in Article 1, Section 2 of this document, the Student Association shall be responsible, in compliance with State University of New York Board of Trustees Policies, for the disbursement of the Student Activity Fee from the students of SUNYIT.

Section 4.

The membership of the Student Association shall include all students of SUNYIT who have paid a Student Activity Fee during the current or most recent academic semester except where herein stated.

Article II

Legislative Roles

Section 1.

There shall exist a Senate of the Student Association, with its members elected democratically by the members of the Student Association.

Section 2.

The purpose of the Senate shall be to decide upon the policy and actions of the Student Association in accordance with Article 1, Section 2 of this document.

Section 3.

The Senate shall convene weekly at a time and place articulated in its bylaws in order to hear and vote upon legislation and resolutions that establish policies of the Student Association. A quorum of Senators must be present at these meetings in order to conduct business.

Section 4.

Senate meetings shall be conducted in accordance with articulated by-laws, passed by a two-thirds vote of approval by the Senate. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent official edition of Roberts Rules of Order where the by-laws are not applicable.

Section 5.

The Senate shall consider legislation to be any bill motioned and seconded by Senators or introduced by initiative of the Student Association. Legislation shall not be voted upon during the first meeting in which it is introduced unless the immediate attention of the Senate is called for by the President. Legislation shall be considered policy once it has received a majority vote of approval by the Senate and has been signed as policy by the President. If the President signs the legislation as veto then the legislation shall be considered policy following an additional two-thirds vote of approval by the Senate. If the President fails to either sign as veto or sign as policy within one week of the legislation's approval by the Senate then it shall be considered policy without the President's signature.

Section 6.

The Senate shall consider resolution to be any statement of action motioned and seconded by Senate members or introduced by initiative of the Student association whose action can not be carried out by the Senate due to limitations on the jurisdiction of the Student Association. A resolution shall be considered adopted once it has received a majority vote of approval by the Senate.

Section 7.

The membership of the Senate shall consist of no more than fifteen seats, with three Senators representing each class of undergraduate students, and three Senators representing graduate students. Elections for Senators shall be held after the first week and before the fifth week of each fall academic semester. Senators must be sworn in to office during the first meeting of the Senate following the conclusion of the election. The term of office for a Senator shall expire upon the swearing in of newly elected Senators.

Section 8.

The Senate candidate who receives the fourth highest total of votes for his or her class may serve as an alternate Senator, who may temporarily assume a Senate seat during a meeting where an elected Senator from his or her class is absent.

Section 9.

The Senate shall establish committees of the Student Association, each of whose membership consists of any members of the Student Association who attend a majority of that committee's meetings. The purpose of a committee shall be to investigate any business which is referred to it by the Senate and to make recommendations as to how that business should be addressed based on the results of investigation. A committee is considered established once business has been referred to it and a committee chairperson has been appointed by the Vice President.

Article III Executive Roles

Section 1.

There shall exist an Executive Board of the Student Association, with its members elected democratically by the members of the Student Association.

Section 2.

The membership of the Executive Board shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Elections for Executive Board members shall be held after the ninth week and before the fourteenth week of each spring academic semester. Executive Board members must be sworn in to office during the first meeting of the Senate following the conclusion of the election. The term of office for an Executive Board member shall expire upon the swearing in of newly elected Executive Board members.

Section 3.

The President shall be considered the chief executive officer of the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for carrying out all policies which would require a public or interdepartmental presence of the Student Association. He or she shall preside over any and all meetings of the Executive Board unless his or her permission has been granted to another member of the Executive Board to do so. He or she shall be considered the official spokesperson of the Student Association, whose public word and action shall be considered the will of the Student Association so long as it remains consistent with Student Association policy. He or she shall be capable of utilizing the full resources of the Student Association for matters of urgency in order to protect or enforce Student Association policy.

Section 4.

The Vice President shall be considered the chief of staff of the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for carrying out all policies which would require the internal regulation of the Student Association, primarily relating to the Senate and the Executive Council. He or she shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Council. He or she shall also preside over meetings of the Senate unless policy has revoked his or her ability to do so for a finite period of time. He or she shall be responsible for informing Senators and Executive Council members of their duties, violations of those duties, and the possible penalties involved with those violations. The Vice President shall assume the office of President for the duration of the term should the office become vacant or the President becomes physically or mentally incapable of carrying out his or her duties.

Section 5.

The Treasurer shall be considered the chief fiscal officer of the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for monitoring all financial transactions made by the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for maintaining a budget for the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for preparing a new budget for each academic year to be introduced as a bill during the spring academic semester prior to that academic year. He or she shall be responsible for enforcing fiscal policy by only authorizing financial transactions which are in accordance with fiscal policy.

Section 6.

The Secretary shall be considered the chief clerical officer of the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for maintaining all official documents of the Student Association, including but not limited to bills, policies, resolutions, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, forms required in the execution of policies, this Constitution and any public statements made by members of the Student Association. He or she shall be responsible for preparing the agendas and recording the minutes for meetings of the Senate, Executive Board, Executive Council, and Constitutional Court. If he or she is unable to attend or unable to record minutes at one above mentioned meeting then he or she may appoint a suitable replacement for that meeting.

Section 7.

There shall exist an Executive Council of the Student Association, with its members appointed by the President and requiring a majority vote of approval by the Senate.

Section 8.

The membership of the Executive Council shall consist of all executive offices which the President deems necessary in order to carry out Student Association policy. The President shall be required to establish office positions for members of the Executive Council by stating that office's title, purpose, and conditions in writing before the President may appoint a member of the Student Association to that office.

Section 9.

An Executive Council member may choose to establish a student organization for the purposes of aiding in the execution of his or her duties. The establishment of this organization must remain consistent with Article V.

Article IV Judicial Roles

Section 1.

There shall exist a Constitutional Court of the Student Association, with its members appointed by the President and requiring a majority vote of approval by the Senate.

Section 2.

The Constitutional Court shall convene to hear arguments from members of the Student Association who claim the wrongful execution of policy or the wrongful execution of this Constitution. The Constitutional Court shall only hear arguments which have been deemed valid by a majority vote of approval by the members of the Senate or contain the signatures of at least fifty members of the Student Association. Once deemed valid, the hearing of the argument must take place within two weeks, with the date and time selected by the Chief Justice. If a Justice indicates that he or she will be unable to attend a hearing than that Justice may select a member of the SUNYIT faculty or staff to serve in his or her place as a temporary Justice for that hearing and the following deliberation. A hearing may not take place without the presence of seven Justices, including a Chief Justice.

Section 3.

The Constitutional Court shall convene to deliberate, in private, over their position on an argument within one week following the hearing for that argument. This meeting shall conclude following a majority vote either for or against the argument by the Justices. If the Chief Justice is a member of the majority in this vote than he or she shall be tasked with elaborating in writing as to why the argument was either favored or opposed. If the Chief Justice is not a member of the majority then he or she must select a member of the majority to elaborate in writing.

Section 4.

The membership of the Constitutional Court shall consist of a Chief Justice who shall preside over all hearings of the Constitutional Court, and six Associate Justices. The term of office for a member of the Constitutional Court shall not expire until that member is no longer a member of the Student Association.

Article V

Recognition of Student Organizations

Section 1.

The Student Association may recognize student organizations such that they might use the name of SUNYIT for the purposes of identification and obtain privileges in the use of college facilities and services.

Section 2.

The Student Association may establish criteria for recognizing and providing financial support for student organizations consistent with Article I Section 2 and Article I Section 3.

Section 3.

Student organizations may only be recognized by way of legislation containing a governing document for the organization. This document must state the name, purpose, and criteria for membership of the organization.

Section 4.

All student organizations must be able to provide for public file a list of current officers with valid contact information as well as the name and contact information of an adviser who is a member of the SUNYIT faculty or staff.

Section 5.

An already existing student organization may additionally request the recognition of one or more subsidiary organizations by way of Section 3 of this Article.

Article VI

Actions Taken by the Student Association

Section 1.

An initiative shall be considered any bill which contains the signatures of fifty or more members of the Student Association. The Vice President shall be tasked with introducing any initiative which is submitted to him or her to the Senate during its next meeting. Once introduced, an initiative is considered to be the business at hand; it does not need to be motioned or seconded. The Senate shall consider an initiative, once introduced, to be the same as legislation, with the exception that an initiative must be voted upon; it can not, under any circumstances, be postponed indefinitely. An initiative may be further designated as a referendum.

Section 2.

A referendum shall be considered any bill which is designated as such. Once a referendum has received a one-third vote of approval by the Senate it must then be voted upon by the members of the Student Association. This vote must take place in the form of a secret ballot and must be conducted at public polling stations. The vote must be open for at least eighteen hours over a three day period. If after this three day period the polling stations have not collected votes from at least ten percent of the members of the Student Association then the vote must remain open until this number of votes has been achieved. The referendum shall require a majority vote of approval by these voters to become policy.

Section 3.

Elections shall be held only as stated in Section 2 of this Article except in the case of special elections as stated in Section 4 of this article. Candidates for elections shall be selected by initiative. Election of candidates shall be done by referendum. If an office contains sufficient seats to accommodate all candidates then the election shall be called uncontested and the referendum for that election shall offer only votes of approval or dismissal for each candidate for the office. If an office does not contain sufficient seats then the election shall be called contested and the referendum shall offer a vote for each candidate, and allow each voter one vote for each seat in the office without voting for the same candidate more than once.

Section 4.

In the event that seven or more Senate seats are vacant, or any Executive Board office is vacant, the President may propose a special election. If this proposal receives a majority vote of approval by the Senate than an election shall be held as stated in Section 3 of this article, following a grace period of at least one week in which to accept initiatives for candidacy.

Section 5.

Impeachment shall be considered any argument which is presented to the Constitutional Court that contains the signatures of at least 100 students of the Student Association and claims excessive or grievous violations of policy of this Constitution by an individual officer or group of officers of the Student Association. Impeachment shall not require a majority vote of approval by the Senate. Senators shall serve as Justices, in addition to the other Justices, during hearings and deliberations on impeachment except for any Senators or Justices who are named as being considered for impeachment. If the deliberation results in a two-thirds vote in favor of impeachment than the violating officer or officers shall immediately be removed from office and the office shall be considered vacant.

Section 6.

This Constitution may only be amended by policy introduced as an initiative which has also been designated as a referendum. Amendments to this Constitution shall supersede any policy, elaboration by the Constitutional Court, or other amendment which was previously accepted.

Article VII Stipulations of Office

Section 1.

Any member of the Student Association who additionally is a member of the Senate, Executive Board, Executive Council, or Constitutional Court shall be considered an official officer of the Student Association.

Section 2.

Only members of the Student Association may serve as members of the Senate, Executive Board, Executive Council, or Constitutional Court except where otherwise mentioned in this Constitution.

Section 3.

No member of the Student Association may serve as a member of more than one official office as named in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 4.

Any officer of the Student Association may resign his or her office by sending notice of the resignation to all members of the Executive Board. Upon the time in which the resignation is stated to become effective, that office shall be considered vacant.

Article VIII
Ratification

Section 1.

This Constitution shall become effective upon its approval by referendum. Once approved it shall nullify and make ineffective any previous constitution of the Student Association.

Section 2.

All recognized by-laws and policies in place at the time of the ratification of this Constitution shall remain in effect except where they would fail to be in compliance with this Constitution.