

State University of New York at New Paltz

New Paltz Student Association Constitution

Article I: Name

Section 1: Official Title

The official name of this organization shall be the New Paltz Student Association and as such is considered, in any part or its whole, a public body.

Section 2: Shorthand

“The Student Association”, “SA”, “New Paltz SA”, etc. may be used when referring to this organization even as it pertains to official business.

Article II: Purpose

The Student Association is the governance system of the student body of SUNY New Paltz and ensures fair representation of the student body in all college-related matters, and fairly distributes and oversees mandatory activity fees.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Composition

All activity-fee paying students attending SUNY New Paltz shall be members of the Student Association.

Section 2: Rights

Membership in the Student Association guarantees:

1. Participation in general elections (voting is restricted to activity-fee paying students).
2. The opportunity to participate in events sponsored by the Student Association.
3. Attendance in any meeting of the Student Association.
4. The right to petition official members of the Student Association on specific issues.

Section 3: Equality of rights

Equality of rights under the Student Association shall not be denied to any student.

Article IV: Governance

Section 1: Division of Responsibility

The governance of the Student Association shall be vested in the Executive Board, the Senate, the Judicial Board, the Council of Organizations, the Programming Board and the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 2: Voting Rights

1. No individual in the Student Association may hold more than one (1) voting position on binding governance bodies.
2. Voting in governance bodies is strictly limited to the members of those bodies.

Article V: The Executive Board

Section 1: Executive Power

The Executive Board shall function as the executive branch of the Student Association.

Section 2: Composition

1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the following officers:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Vice-President
 - c. Vice-President of Finance
 - d. Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Governance
 - e. Vice-President of Programming
2. The term of office for members of the Executive Board shall be twelve (12) months in length commencing on May 15 and concluding on May 14 of the following year (with the exception of the Vice-President for Finance who shall remain until May 31, with the new Vice-President for Finance having signatory powers commencing on the first of June).

Section 3: Responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board shall include:

1. Serve as the primary representative body to all outside bodies.
2. Nominate a person to fill a vacancy within the Executive Board subject to approval of the Senate.
3. Each member shall present an Executive Board report to the Senate and provide a report for the Council of Organizations meetings.
4. Each member shall hold twelve (12) office hours per week on the fourth floor of the Student Union.
5. Managing and supervising daily administrative operations of the Student Association.
6. Implementing the decisions of the Senate and the Council of Organizations.
7. Managing and supervising the basic administrative functions of Level One operations (such as office supplies, copying, outside communications - phone/mail).

Section 4: Powers

1. Have the power to veto decisions of the Senate by majority vote if the Executive Board believes the decision is not in the best interest of the student body. The Senate must be informed of the Executive Board's veto by the next Senate meeting.
2. Any decision made by the Judicial board can be overturned by a 4/5ths senate vote and an executive board confirmation by majority vote.
3. Serve as non-voting members of all Student Association houses and committees, except as noted elsewhere.

Section 5: Officers

1. The duties of the President shall be to:
 - a. Serve as the principle representative of the Student Association.
 - b. Serve as the chairperson of the Executive Board.
 - c. Complete the duties of any other member of the Executive Board in the event of that individuals absence.

- d. Serve as a representative to the Academic Senate.
 - e. Serve as student representative to the College Council.
 - f. Serve as a member of the CAS board.
 - g. Conduct an educational campus-wide forum each semester with the college President
2. The duties of the Executive Vice President shall be to:
- a. Assume the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence.
 - b. Serve as the student liaison to the College Vice-President for Student Affairs.
 - c. Serve as a member of the CAS Board.
 - d. To maintain a vigilant observation of matters that affects the college at a local, state, and federal level.
 - e. Serve as a Student Association representative to Town Gown.
 - f. Serve as or delegate a student liaison to the following bodies:
 - i. Landlord Tenant Relations Committee
 - ii. Transportation Implementation Committee
 - g. To appoint a delegate as a student liaison to the New Paltz Police Commission
 - h. Serve as an ex officio member of the University Police Committee
3. The duties of the Vice-President of Finance shall be to:
- a. Serve as chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee.
 - i. Oversee the internal election of a Vice-Chair and a Recording Secretary.
 - b. Provide the authorized signature for financial disbursements of the Student Association.
 - c. Prepare and present the Budget and Finance Committee proposals to the Senate, the Executive Board and the Council of Organizations.
 - d. Present an update on the financial status of the Student Association to both the Senate and the Council of Organizations at all meetings.
 - e. Monitoring all approved allocations of Student Association funds in order to ensure that all expenditures are consistent with available funds and adhere to the SUNY Board of Trustees Regulations.
4. The duties of the Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Governance shall be to:
- a. Serve as the student liaison to the Provost/Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
 - b. Serve as the chairperson of the Constitution and Rules Committee.
 - c. Serve as a representative to the Academic Senate and Academic Affairs Committee from the Executive Board
 - d. Act as coordinator of all student seats of the Academic Committees under Faculty Governance
 - e. Develop goals and objectives for academic issues and concerns and report to the Senate on their progress and direction.

5. The duties of the Vice-President of Programming shall include:
 - a. Serve as the chairperson of the Programming Board and of Student Association Productions.
 - i. Oversee the internal election of a Vice-Chair and a Recording Secretary.
 - b. Serve as the student liaison to the College Activities office.
 - c. Be responsible for the completion of duties for any member of the Programming Board in case of his/her absence and nominate a person to fill a vacancy within the Programming Board subject to the approval of the Senate.
 - d. Develop guidelines for program development on campus.

Article VI: The Senate

Section 1: Legislative Power

The Senate shall function as the legislative branch of the Student Association.

Section 2: Composition

1. The Senate shall consist of twenty-five activity fee paying students.
2. The term of office for senators elected for a full term shall be twelve (12) months in length, commencing one day after the end of the semester in which their election took place. The term of office for senators elected for a half term shall be until the following general elections.

Section 3: Responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities of the Senate shall include:

1. Initiating legislation pertaining to representing, advocating, and furthering the interest and welfare of the students of SUNY New Paltz.
2. Identify and develop goals and priorities for the Student Association.
3. Serve as the agency that elects senators to fill standing Student Association Committees including, but not limited to:
 - a. Budget and Finance Committee [(5 members) in conjunction with a member from the Council of Organization for each House/Board.]
 - b. Constitution and Rules Committee [(5 members) in conjunction with a member from the Council of Organizations for each House/Board.]
 - c. Student Concerns Committee [(5 members) in conjunction with five members nominated and approved by Senate.]
4. Review, amend, and approve the Student Association budget as proposed by the Budget and Finance Committee.
5. Initiate amendments to the Constitution.
6. Serve as the agency that confirms students to fill student seats on standing, college-wide committees upon nomination of the Student Association President.

These include, but are not limited to:

 - a. College Auxiliary Services Board (CAS)
 - b. Academic Senate and its committees
7. To elect the Senate Chair from the Senate. That election is to take place in the spring semester and whenever the position becomes vacant.

8. Serve as the agency that confirms presidential nominations to the Judicial Board.
9. Serve as the agency that confirms Executive Board nominations to the Executive Board when a position becomes vacant.
10. Recommend names for consideration by the President of the college for appointment as fiscal designee.
11. Establish and disband ad-hoc committees.
12. Hear appeals, review, and/or approve any event or expenditure that has been disapproved by the Programming Board and the Budget and Finance Committee.
In cases of breaches in procedure or ethical dilemmas, shall hear appeals, review and/or approve any event or expenditure that has been disapproved by the Programming Board and the Budget and Finance Committee, only under the discretion of the Senate Chair and Vice President of Finance.
 - a. In the case of an issue of constitutionality, the appeal will be sent to the Judicial Board

Section 4: Powers

1. Override
 - a. The Senate shall have the power to override Executive Board vetoes by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present.
 - b. Any decision made by the Judicial board can be overturned by a 4/5ths senate vote and an executive board confirmation by majority vote.
2. Impeachment
The Senate shall have the power to impeach any official of the Student Association by a majority vote of those present.
3. **Removal**
The Senate shall have the power to remove impeached officers of the Student Association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present.

Section 5: Officers

1. The duties of the Senate Chair shall include:
 - a. Serve as the chairperson of the Senate.
 - b. Organize the proposed agenda for the Senate prior to the legislative Senate meetings, which will be approved of by a simple majority of those Senators present.
 - c. Shall hold twelve (12) office hours per week on the fourth floor of the Student Union.
 - d. To make the legislative process more public by informing the student body more thoroughly with:
 - i. Live televised sessions.
 - ii. Posting all relevant Senate information for access by the Internet, via websites on the Student Association Server.
 - e. Serve as a non-voting participant in all Executive Board meetings
 - f. Track and enforce the attendance policy.
 - g. To Inform all Senators when a senator is impeachable.

- h. Appoint a Senator to report on SA activities to the Residence Hall Student Association.
 - 2. The duties of the Senate Vice-Chair shall include:
 - a. Serve as the chairperson of the Senate in the absence of the Chair.
 - b. Attend meetings of complementary or subsidiary bodies on behalf of the Senate Chair in their absence.
 - c. Shall hold six (6) office hours per week on the fourth floor of the Student Union.
 - d. Assist the Chair in making the legislative process more public by informing the Student Body more thoroughly with:
 - i. Live televised sessions.
 - ii. Posting all relevant Senate information for access by the Internet, via websites on the Student Association Server.
 - e. Serve as a non-voting participant in all Executive Board meetings.
 - 3. The duties of Senators shall include:
 - a. Senators must be present for three-quarters (3/4) or seventy-five percent (75%) of all regularly scheduled legislative sessions of the Senate per semester.
 - i. If the minimum attendance requirement is not met, the senator can be impeached with proceedings beginning at the next regularly scheduled legislative session of the Senate.
 - ii. Represent and advocate for the interests of the student body.
 - iii. Attend all legislative and respective committee meetings.
 - iv. Senators shall hold two office hours weekly within any one of the Student Association Offices within the Student Union.
 - v. Be a member of a joint committee or an ad-hoc committee of the Senate.
 - vi. To legislate and oversee the operations of the Student Association on behalf of the Student Body.

Section 6: Legislation

Legislation by the Student Senate shall be handled in the following manner:

1. All legislation will take the form of one of five types, and the type and respective effect will be among these:
 - a. A Declaration shall make a statement on behalf of the Student Body.
 - b. A Resolution shall address an issue and call for a solution, possibly delivering a binding decision.
 - c. A Bill shall change the Student Association policy or make any substantive, binding decisions.
 - i. Bills shall be enacted for a prescribed amount of time not to exceed one calendar year.
 - d. A Bylaw amendment shall make changes to the Student Association Constitutional Bylaws.
 - i. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws will take effect upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the Senate.

- e. A Constitutional Amendment shall propose changes to the Constitution to be placed on a referendum ballot.
- 2. In order to be introduced, legislation must have one and only one main sponsor.
- 3. In order to be introduced, legislation must have a number, unique among those pieces of legislation of the same type.
- 4. Legislation can have any number of co-sponsors amongst the Senate, and they shall be listed as such.
- 5. Legislation will be named as follows: "<Senate Number> Student Senate <Type> <Legislation Number>"

Section 6: Quorum

In order for any official Senate business to be conducted a quorum is required. A quorum shall be defined as fifty percent (50%) plus one of the seated members of the Senate (for Senate business).

Article VII: The Judicial Board

Section 1: Judicial Power

All judicial powers of the Student Association shall be vested in the Judicial Board.

Section 2: Composition

- 1. The one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices of the Judicial Board shall be nominated by the President of the Student Association and confirmed by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Senate.
- 2. A justice must be a member of the Student Association.
- 3. Each justice shall serve until they resign, or are impeached and removed, or are no longer an activity-fee paying student at SUNY New Paltz.

Section 3: Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the Judicial Board shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1. Serving as student representatives to the Campus Review Board governing fiscal policy disputes with the College President's fiscal Designee over mandatory activity-fee management.
- 2. Hold public hearings in cases of controversy or dispute. Deliberations can be held in private. All decisions shall be handed down in writing to the Senate and concerned parties, and shall be made public. Reasoning behind the decisions shall be included.
- 3. Interpret and review the constitutionality of all actions of the Student Association and its various substructures.
 - a. The constitutionality of any Student Association official binding decision needs to be determined by the Judicial Board. These decisions shall not have a retroactive impact.
- 4. Shall serve as the final mediating body in any disputes related to SA activity.
- 5. The Judicial Board shall meet weekly during the fall and spring semesters and when warranted.

Section 4: Powers

1. Shall have original jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction i. e. first or second party to hear appeals etc.
2. All Judicial Board decisions are binding on any branch of the Student Association.

Section 5: Officers

1. The duties of Chief Justice shall include:
 - a. The Chief Justice shall have the power to convene a Judicial Board hearing.
 - b. The Chief Justice shall be the Chair of all Judicial Board meetings.
 - c. The Chief Justice shall report at each Judicial Board meeting on any information that may be of importance to the Judicial Board, including but not limited to actions of the Senate, actions of the Executive Board, or constitutional changes.
 - d. The Chief Justice shall hold 2 posted office hours a week.
2. The duties of Associate Justice shall include:
 - a. An associate justice shall hold 2 posted office hours a week.
 - b. Participate in the hearing process.
 - c. Attend all Judicial Board meetings.

Section 6: Hearing Process

1. Any member of the Student Association may bring appeals to this board.
2. The charging party must notify the Chief Justice in writing in order to bring about a hearing.
3. Upon receiving notification, the Chief Justice must convene a hearing of the Judicial Board within ten (10) official class days, and notify the involved parties, in writing, of the set hearing date.
4. In the event that a Justice is closely acquainted with either parties or any witnesses, the Justice must excuse him/herself from the hearing.
 - a. If this results in fewer than 2 justices available to vote then a committee of 2 neutral eboard members and 2 neutral senators will be selected to come to a consensus decision. Chosen by the body they are representing and occurring on a case by case basis.
5. Both parties must present all pertinent material to the Judicial Board at least one business day prior to the set hearing date.
6. In the event a witness cannot make a hearing date, a written or recorded statement may be submitted instead.
7. Whoever initiated the hearing process will present their case first, followed by the opposing party. Each group will be given the opportunity for a closing statement.
 - a. Witnesses can be called while a party is presenting their case.
 - b. Cross-examining can happen if necessary. Questioning should be directed towards the chair not the individual receiving the question.
8. After all evidence has been presented, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall have a closed door meeting at which they will deliberate over their final consensus verdict.

- a. A hand-written or typed verdict must be delivered to the SA business office within two business days of the hearing.
 - b. The parties can pick up the verdict during normal business hours in the SA business office.
9. Grounds for retrial
- a. If sufficient new evidence and/or extenuating circumstances affecting the trial can be shown.
 - b. If misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, or a violation of the constitution by any involved party is thought to have effected the outcome of the trial.
10. Procedure for retrial
- a. A retrial may be called by a simply majority vote of the Judicial Board, or a 2/3 vote of the Senate.
 - b. A request for a retrial must be submitted, in writing, to the Chair of the Senate and the Chief Justice.
 - c. If the Judicial Board or the Senate votes in favor of a retrial, the retrial shall occur according to the conditions requested by the party who has asked for the retrial.

Article IX: Council of Organizations

Section 1: Power of the Council

The Council of Organizations shall be the official representative body of all SUNY New Paltz Student Association organizations.

Section 2: Composition

- 1. The council shall be comprised of one or more representative from each SUNY New Paltz SA organization.
- 2. The House Delegates committee shall be comprised of these officers:
 - a. Council Chair
 - b. House Delegates (7)
 - c. Senator Liason

Section 3: Responsibilities

- 1. The Council of Orgs will elect representatives from each House to the standing boards of the SA (ie: CRC, BFC, Programming, etc).
 - a. In the case of no representative coming forward, The Council of Orgs will elect a willing representative from the entire body.
- 2. Each house will also elect one representative to serve as a member of the House Delegates committee.
- 3. Clubs shall be required to attend all council meetings with a max of 3 absences per semester.
 - a. Clubs and organizations that abide by these rules are in good standing.
 - b. Clubs in poor standing (ie those that miss more than 3 council meetings) will be required to have a meeting/consultation with the Council Chair.
- 4. The Council of Organizations shall provide an open forum to hear concerns of students and organizations.

5. The Council of Organizations shall nominate and confirm a Chair to serve as chief parliamentarian of the body. The nomination and confirmation process shall take place in the last scheduled meeting in April of each academic year, whenever the position becomes vacant, or as the Council opts to recall the standing chair.
 - a. All Council Chair nomination, confirmation, and recall processes shall be coordinated and supervised by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Governance.

Section 4: Powers

1. The Council of Organizations shall have the power to review all Senate legislation and submit a sense of the body to the Executive Board and Senate for further consideration.
2. The Council of Organizations shall have the power to present any issues to senate if they desire.

Section 5: Officers

1. The duties of the Council of Organizations Chair shall be to:
 - a. Serve as the chairperson of the Council of Organizations.
 - b. Organize the agenda for the Council of Organizations meetings.
 - c. Attend all Senate meetings and inform them of the pertinent actions of the Council.
 - d. Shall hold twelve (12) office hours per week on the fourth floor of the SUB.
 - e. Serve as a non-voting participant in all Executive Board meetings.
 - f. Oversee charter forms and contracts once a semester.
2. The duties of the House Delegate Committee shall be to:
 - a. Delegate office space
 - b. Review and approve charters
 - c. Bi-weekly report to senate
 - d. Suggest legislation to the senate
 - e. Hold two office hours a week
 - f. Meet with their appropriate houses and chair discussions at Council meetings
3. The duties of the Senator Liason shall be to:
 - a. Encourage legislative discussion amongst the Houses
 - b. Act as liason between Council of Organizations and Senate

Article X: Joint Committees of the Student Association

Section 1: Constitution and Rules Committee

The duties and responsibilities of the Constitution and Rules Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Assist Senators with proposing legislation.
2. Formulating and proposing amendments to the Constitution and the By-laws for the Senate, Council of Organizations, Executive Board, Programming Board, and Judicial Board.
3. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be presented to the Senate for approval, upon approval these amendments must be presented to the

entire student body and shall take effect once the constitutional requirements are met.

4. Proposed by-laws must be presented to the Senate for approval, upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, these by-laws shall take effect.
5. Conducting, overseeing, documenting and certifying the results of elections.
6. Establishing an ad-hoc committee for the express purpose of conducting and overseeing elections.

Section 2: Budget and Finance Committee

1. Duties and responsibilities of the Budget and Finance Committee:
 - a. Conducting an initial review of requests prior to the formulation of the Student Association budget.
 - b. Preparing a budget for review and approval by the Student Association Senate.
 - c. Meet weekly for review and for approval of appropriate fund requests.
2. Special considerations
 - a. Moneyed Referenda
 - i. Moneyed referenda are advisory and non-binding upon the Student Association and its Budget and Finance Committee.
 - ii. Moneyed referenda shall take place via constitutionally mandated processes.
 - b. Reserve Account
 - i. A constant sum of \$50,000 shall be held in an interest bearing account, to be made available in the event of a delay in the activity fee collection process.
 - ii. Excess funds not required for current budgeted expenditures may be invested, but such investments shall be limited to those that guarantee the preservation of principal, in accordance with SUNY Board of Trustees Guidelines.
 - iii. Dues
 1. Organizations funded by the Student Association may not charge dues to their members, nor require them to pay dues to affiliated organizations.
 2. Voluntary donations to the organization are acceptable.
3. The Budgetary Process
 - a. Fiscal Calendar
 - i. The Student Association Budget shall run yearly from July to June of the following year. The Budget and Finance Committee will prepare a budget for Senate review no later than the third (3rd) week in April.
 - b. Structure
 - i. The structure of the budget shall be as follows: The total sum of the budget shall be allocated into these three areas:

1. Level One: Operations
 2. Level Two: Services Board (The Services Board shall include S.A. services as determined by the Executive Board.)
 3. Level Three: Council of Organizations
- c. Approval
- i. The Budget shall be approved by the Senate and then sent to the President of the college for review and approval.
4. Unappropriated Monies
 - a. Unappropriated monies within the budget shall be under the purview of the Senate. Motions to spend such monies may be referred to other bodies for recommendations.

Article XI: Meetings

Section 1

The Executive Board shall meet at least once every week and as conditions warrant

Section 2

The Senate shall meet legislatively at least once every week, unless conditions warrant otherwise.

Section 3

The Judicial Board shall meet at least once a week and as conditions warrant.

Section 4

The Council of Organizations shall meet at least once every two weeks and as conditions warrant.

Section 5

The Constitution and Rules Committee shall meet at least once every week, unless conditions warrant otherwise.

Section 6

The Budget and Finance Committee shall meet at least once every week and as conditions warrant.

Section 7

The Programming Board shall meet at least once a week and as conditions warrant.

Article XII Open Meetings

1. Definitions: The Executive Board, Student Senate, Council of Organizations, Judicial Board, the Programming Board, as well as all Committees of the aforementioned bodies shall be herein referred to as Governing Bodies.
2. All meetings of Governing Bodies in which substantive decisions are made must take place on the Campus of the State University of New York at New Paltz
3. Public notice of the time and place of a meeting of a Governing Body in which substantive decisions are made must be scheduled at least forty-eight (48) hours prior thereto shall be given to the student body and shall be conspicuously posted in multiple public locations at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting
4. Emergency Meetings: In the event that a Governing Body must meet to make a substantive decision without being able to give twenty-four (24) hours prior notice to the student body, the Student Senate must approve the minutes of this

meeting by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote or all substantive decisions that were made become null and void.

5. Executive Session: Executive Session may be called for by a majority vote of a Governing Body, only in the event of circumstances pertaining to:
 - a. Matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed.
 - b. Any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer.
 - c. Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed.
 - d. Proposed, pending, or current litigation.
 - e. Collective bargaining negotiations.
 - f. Personnel.
 - g. Preparation, grading, review, or administration of examinations.
 - h. Proposed acquisitions, sale or lease of real property, or the proposed acquisition or sale of securities held by a public body.

Article XIII: General Elections

Section 1

The General Election of officials shall occur in the following manner:

1. All positions on the Executive Board shall be elected at large.
2. All positions on the Programming Board shall be elected at large with the exception of the five (5) members elected from the Council of Organizations.
3. All Senators shall be elected at-large.

Section 2

Requirements for elected positions:

1. All elected officials must be in good academic standing throughout the duration of their term in office or be subject to forfeiture of their position.

Section 3

The timetable for elections shall be as follows:

1. Election of the Executive board shall take place in the Spring semester on or about April 30.
2. Elections for 15 seats of the Student Senate shall occur on or around December 10th; elections for 10 seats of the Student Senate shall occur on or around April 30 (in conjunction with the Executive Board elections). Students who received the top 10 most votes will receive a full-year seat, and the remaining elected students will receive a half-year seat. Elections in the Fall semester shall occur on or around December 10th; elections in the Spring semester shall occur on or around April 30th (in conjunction with the Executive Board elections).
3. Elections for the Programming Board shall take place in the Spring semester on or about April 30 (in conjunction with the Executive Board elections).

Article XIV: Election, Candidate and Campaign Guidelines

Section 1: Candidacy Requirements

1. All candidates must obtain and return a Student Association Candidacy form to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Governance a minimum of ten business days prior to the election.
2. Candidates must be in good academic standing.
3. Candidates must not partake in the planning or coordination of the Student Association elections.

Section 2: Election Guidelines

1. Violation of this guideline will result in the removal of candidacy or the elected position.
2. All candidates shall have the right to receive 100 black and white 8 1/2" x 11" copies or the monetary value equivalent in color copies from the Print Shop free of charge for campaign use.
3. All candidates are required to take down their posters after elections.

Section 3: Special Case Scenarios

1. In the event that any general election results in a tie, the candidates shall present themselves before Senate, and the Senate shall vote and approve a candidate based on the candidates' presentations.
2. In the event that a senator resigns within the first three legislative sessions of his or her term, the candidate with the next highest vote count originating in the same general election as the resigning senator, shall take the seat of the resigned senator until the following general election.

Article XV: Amending the Constitution

Section 1

1. Amendments to the Constitution proposed for ratification by a vote of the activity-fee paying student body may be placed on a special election ballot by either of the following methods:
 - a. A petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the total student body may be submitted to the Student Association Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Governance.
 - b. Any member of the Senate may submit an amendment to the Constitution for review by the Senate. It shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present in order to be placed in a constitutional election.
2. Legislation may be passed pending Amendments to the Constitution in the event that the legislation requires the constitutional amendment to be enacted.

Section 2

1. All constitutional amendments shall be placed before the student body by the following General Elections. It must be within receipt of the Student Association Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Governance one week before said elections.

Section 3

1. For any proposed constitutional amendment to be ratified, at least ten percent (12.5%) of the activity-fee paying students must cast ballots on the constitutional proposition. Of the ballots cast, a simple majority will ratify the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Article XVI: Altering the Activity Fee

In order to alter the student activity fee, the entire student body must have the opportunity to vote in favor or against the proposed changes. The majority vote of the students will be held binding on the Student Association. The Student Association will honor the reasons for which the students changed the activity fee.

Article XVII: Referenda

Section 1

In order for a referenda to be placed before the student body for a vote, a petition with the signatories from ten percent (12.5%) of the total student body must be submitted to the Student Association Vice-President for Student and Academic Affairs.

Section 2

The election for a referendum must be held within twenty-one (21) days of receipt by the Student Association Vice-President for Student and Academic Affairs and Governance of the petition calling for the referenda while classes are in session.

Section 3

Referenda may only reallocate funds which were previously allocated by referenda.

Section 4

To be held binding by the Student Association, 12.5% of the student population must cast a vote on the referendum, and a majority of the votes cast shall bind the Student Association.

Section 5

No referenda can be run that can have the effect of allocating funds for more than two (2) years.

Article XVIII: Constitutional Review

Constitutional Review shall occur at least every two years and at the end of the academic year whenever a constitutional or bylaw amendment occurred that previous semester.

1. Entailing review for consistencies across and within the documents of SA.
2. Considering possible large scale changes.

Article XIX: Historical Reference

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Governance shall be responsible for keeping a physical and digital record of all changes to the Constitution and Bylaws including a copy of the document before the changes and a copy of the document after the changes.

Article XX: Ratifications

1. Five hundred (500) activity-fee paying students must vote in the constitutional election for this constitutional election to be valid. This Constitution shall be ratified by a simple majority of the votes cast. From this point on this information has been drawn from the Bylaws to place in the Constitution.