THE CONSTITUTION

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

We, the students of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, firm in our belief that an effective Student Association can best represent the student body, declare this to be our Constitution. The Student Association exists as a right and for the benefit of the student body. It is the highest duty of the Association to consider the interests and needs of the students above all else. To that end, the Student Association shall strive to create a university community where the needs of students are met, the rights of students are respected, and the voice of the students is heard.

Article I

1.1 The matriculated undergraduate students of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry ["the student body"] hereby organize themselves into a collective organization that shall be called the Student Association of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry ["the Association"]. The Association shall exist to allocate and designate the Student Activity Fee, legislate for and on the behalf of the student body, to advocate for the rights, needs, and desires of the student body, and to be the voice of the students in university affairs.

Article II

2.1 All matriculated undergraduate students of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry [SUNY-ESF] shall be members of the Association. Members of the Association shall have the right to:

2.1.1 Be informed of the actions and decisions of the Association.
2.1.2 Be informed of and participate in the expenditure of the Student Activity Fee.
2.1.3 Address the Student Assembly.
2.1.4 Author and introduce legislation into the Assembly.
2.1.5 Participate and be recognized in the committees of the Assembly.
2.1.6 Challenge the actions of the Association and its officers.
2.1.7 Vote in any campus-wide election for President, Vice President, Comptroller, and Assembly Representative, and any referenda.

Article III: The Student Assembly

3.1 The legislative power of the Association shall be wholly vested in the Student Assembly.

3.2 The Assembly shall investigate, develop, and give approval to all policies, programs, commissions, and positions of the Association, unless otherwise stated in this Constitution. The Assembly shall initiate and delegate such actions, policies, and programs as it deems necessary.

3.3 The Undergraduate Student Activity Fee shall increase concurrently with SU tuition not to exceed four [4] percent annually. The Fee may also be altered after receiving a majority of those voting in referendum, in which at least ten [10] percent of the student body participates. No portion of the Student Activity Fee may be allocated or designated without Assembly approval.

3.4 The Assembly and its committees and boards shall go into recess at the end of the spring semester, and shall reconvene at the beginning of the fall semester.

3.5 All responsibilities, powers, and duties not explicitly delegated to any other body, agency, or officer of the Association shall rest with the Assembly.

> 3.5.1 In the event that any committee, board, or office of the Association, with the exception of the JRB, is entirely vacant, its powers and responsibilities shall be exercised by the Assembly.

3.6 The membership of the Assembly shall consist of Assembly Representatives elected by the undergraduate population of each constituent school or college. Each school or college as follows will be granted one voting Assembly Representative: Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering and Computer Sciences, Information Studies, Management, Public Communications, Sport and Human Dynamics, Visual and Performing Arts, University College, and Environmental Science and Forestry. Each of the aforementioned schools and colleges, with the exception of University College, shall be granted one additional voting Assembly Representative for every three hundred [300] students, or majority fraction thereof, enrolled therein.

3.7 All officers of the Association as well as undergraduate University Senators, Board of Trustees representatives, and Alumni Board representatives shall have full speaking rights in the Assembly.

3.8 Each Assembly Representative shall represent the students of their home college and the university as a whole.

3.9 Assembly Representatives may hold other offices in the Association and continue to hold their voting membership in the Assembly, except as otherwise noted in this Constitution.

3.10 A Session of the Student Assembly shall begin on January 1st of every calendar year and conclude on December 31st of the same year. Terms of Assembly Representatives and all officers of

the Assembly shall run concurrently with sessions of the Assembly, except as otherwise noted in this Constitution.

3.11 The Assembly shall elect from its own membership a Speaker of the Assembly. The Speaker shall lead and preside over meetings of the Assembly, set its agenda, and submit every act and decision of the Assembly to the Cabinet of the Association and any other relevant authorities. The Speaker shall not vote except in the case of a tie. The term of the Speaker shall be one academic semester.

3.12 The Assembly shall elect from its own membership a Parliamentarian who shall assist the Speaker and the Cabinet in matters of parliamentary procedure, Association by-laws and standing rules.

> 3.12.1 The Parliamentarian shall chair a Board of Administrative Operations [AdOp] within the Assembly that shall investigate and propose to the Assembly improvements in the structure and daily operations of the Assembly and the Association as a whole. The Board shall consist of the Parliamentarian, the Recorder, and eight [8] other Assembly Representatives elected to the Board.
> 3.12.2 The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for maintaining proper parliamentary procedure and conduct during meetings as well as adherence to the Constitutions and bylaws.
> 3.12.3 In the event of the absence or temporary incapacity of the Speaker, the Parliamentarian shall assume the responsibilities of the Speaker.

3.13 The Assembly shall elect from its own membership a Recorder who shall record, maintain, and make available the proceedings of every meeting of the Assembly and the Cabinet, call roll at the beginning and ending of every meeting of the Assembly and the Cabinet, and compile and maintain the acts and decisions of the Assembly and the Cabinet, both current and historic. The term of the Recorder shall be one session.

Article IV: The Cabinet

4.1 The executive and administrative powers of the Association shall be vested in the Student Association President and the Cabinet.

4.2 The Student Association President shall be elected by the student body. The President shall be the recognized spokesperson for the Association, and shall determine the policy goals of the Association as a whole. The President shall be responsible for executing the decisions of the Assembly.

> 4.2.1 The President shall appoint the members of the Cabinet, except as otherwise stated in this Constitution. Such appointments must be approved by majority vote of the Assembly.
> 4.2.2 The President shall preside over all meetings of the Cabinet.
> 4.2.3 The President shall draft an annual budget and present it to the Assembly for their approval before being submitted to the Finance Board.

4.2.4 If the President views any non-financial act of the Assembly to be in violation of his or her policy goals, he or she may mandate reconsideration of the act immediately after the passage, or at the next meeting. Upon reconsideration, the Assembly will vote again on the act and must approve it by two-thirds [2/3] in order for it to become effective.
4.2.5 The President may not serve concurrently as an Assembly Representative.

4.3 There shall be a Student Association Vice President, who shall be elected by majority vote of the student body on a single ticket with the President.

4.3.1 The Vice President shall serve as the liaison between the Cabinet and the Assembly.
4.3.2 In the temporary absence or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall assume his or her duties (as defined in section 4.2) as Acting President.
4.3.3 In the event that the Presidency becomes permanently vacant, the Vice President shall become President.
4.3.4 In the event that the Vice Presidency becomes permanently vacant, the President shall appoint a new Vice President with the consent of the Assembly.
4.3.5 The Vice President may not serve concurrently as an Assembly Representative.

4.4 There shall be a Chief of Staff, who shall be appointed solely by the President. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts of the members of Cabinet and the leaders of the various boards and committees.

4.5 The Cabinet of the Association shall consist of the President, without vote except in the case of a tie, and the Comptroller, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Recorder, Director for Academic Affairs, Director for Public Relations, Director for Student Affairs, Director for Student Engagement, and Chief of Staff, all with vote.

4.5.1 The Chair of the Board of Elections and Membership and the Chair of the Judicial Review Board shall serve as non-voting members of Cabinet.
4.5.2 The Cabinet may allow other individuals to serve on Cabinet without vote as it sees fit. Any such appointments shall expire at the end of the session.

4.6 Within two [2] weeks of the start of the session, the Cabinet shall draft a Financial Vision, a statement of how the Association plans to allocate and designate the Student Activity Fee, and what goals the Association has in doing so. The Financial Vision must be approved, and may be amended by, the Assembly.

4.7 Terms of Cabinet members shall run concurrently with Sessions of the Assembly, unless stated otherwise in this Constitution or the bylaws.

4.8 In the absence, incapacity, or vacancy of the office of both the President and Vice President, the duties of the Presidency as defined in section 4.2 shall be assumed by members of Cabinet in the order listed in section 4.5, excluding the Comptroller, who shall not be eligible to become Acting President.

4.8.1 In the event that no Cabinet officer is willing, eligible, or available to become Acting President, there shall be a campus-wide election to fill the vacancy within ten [10] days.
4.8.2 If an individual has become Acting President in the absence of both President and Vice President, and the Vice President returns, the Vice President shall immediately become Acting President.

Article V: The Finance Board

5.1 The power of the Association to make financial decisions regarding the Student Activity Fee and recommend to the Assembly allocations and designations thereof shall be vested in the Finance Board and the Comptroller.

5.2 The Student Association Comptroller shall be elected by the student body. The Comptroller shall be the recognized spokesperson for the Student Activity Fee, and shall articulate and carry out the financial programs and policies of the Association.

5.2.1 The Comptroller shall preside over meetings of the Finance Board, and shall vote only in the case of a tie.
5.2.2. The Comptroller shall report to the Assembly on all financial decisions made by the Finance Board or by the Comptroller.

5.3. The Comptroller may appoint up to two Assistant Comptroller(s) to assist in the carrying out of his or her duties. The Assembly must approve such appointments by two-thirds vote.
5.3.1. The Assistant Comptroller(s) shall be non-voting members of the Finance Board.

5.4 The Finance Board shall consist of twelve [12] members elected by the Assembly and a Chairperson, the Comptroller. Finance Board members must be elected by a two-thirds affirmative vote. Up to four [4] seats may be filled by Assembly Representatives, and two [2] seats shall be reserved explicitly for Assembly Representatives.

5.4.1 The Finance Board shall be responsible to the Assembly and to the financial vision.
5.4.2 The Finance Board shall review the funding requests submitted to the Comptroller and shall make recommendations to the Assembly on the allocation and designation of the Student Activity Fee.
5.4.3 The Finance Board shall make recommendations to the Assembly on questions of financial policy.
5.4.4 The Finance Board shall have the authority to review and audit the finances of any account receiving Student Activity Fee funding.
5.4.5 Terms of the Finance Board shall be one year. Finance Board elections shall be held in February and members shall serve until the next election in the following February. Special elections may be held at other times to fill any vacancies as they occur.

5.5 In the temporary absence or incapacity of the Comptroller, the duties of that office shall be exercised by the most senior Assistant Comptroller. In the absence of an Assistant Comptroller, those duties shall be exercised by the most senior member of the Finance Board.

5.6 In the event that the office of the Comptroller becomes permanently vacant, the Assembly shall elect a new Comptroller from among the members of the Finance Board within ten [10] days. If no candidate can be elected in ten days, or if no member of the Finance Board is willing or able to fill the office, there shall be a university-wide election to elect a Comptroller within ten [10] days.

Article VI: The Judicial Review Board

6.1 The judicial power of the Student Association shall be vested in the Judicial Review Board.

6.2 The Judicial Review Board [JRB] shall consist of five members with vote, all nominated by Cabinet and confirmed by a two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote of the Assembly.

> 6.2.1 Members of the JRB shall serve from their election to their graduation, resignation, removal, or vacancy. For the purposes of this section, vacancy shall be defined as not enrolling in classes on the main SU or SUNY-ESF campuses for either the Spring or Fall term. The seat shall be declared vacant upon the commencement of the respective term.

6.3 Members of the JRB may not concurrently hold any other office of the Association, including Assembly Representative. Accepting or seeking any other office shall be considered an immediate resignation from the Board.

6.4 The JRB shall elect from its membership at the beginning of each semester a Chairperson. No Chairperson may serve more than two terms consecutively.

6.5 The JRB shall review all reported violations of Association policy and enforce any penalties as decided.

> 6.5.1 Upon receiving official notification from the Board of Elections and Membership that an individual has committed gross violation of elections regulations, the JRB shall hold a hearing and shall have the ultimate authority to enforce penalties, including but not limited to removal from the ballot.

6.6 The JRB shall hear and rule on charges of impeachment for Assembly Representatives and all other officers of the Association.

6.7 The JRB shall review every action of the Assembly and may refer any action of the Assembly back to the Assembly for reconsideration before the next meeting, with a written statement of why the action was found inconsistent with Association or University regulations. Any act referred back to the Assembly shall be held unenforceable and void until it is reconsidered. Upon reconsideration, the

Assembly will vote again on the act and must approve it by two-thirds [2/3] in order for it to become effective.

6.8 The JRB may mediate conflicts between Registered Student Organizations, or between members of the same Registered Student Organizations, in the event that there is a dispute regarding elections, finances, bylaws, or actions of the organization, its executive board, or any of its members.

Article VII: Elections

7.1 The body of the Association charged with coordinating elections for members of the Assembly and officers of the Association shall be the Student Association Board of Elections and Membership.

7.2 The Board of Elections and Membership shall consist of eight [8] members and a Chairperson nominated by the Cabinet and confirmed by the Assembly

> 7.2.1 Terms of the Board of Elections and Membership shall last one year. Members must be nominated and confirmed in September, and shall serve until the confirmation of the next Board. Special elections may be held at any time to fill any vacancies as they occur.

7.3 The Board of Elections and Membership shall supervise all elections and referenda provided for in this Constitution.

> 7.3.1 The Board of Elections and Membership shall have the sole authority to determine the validity of the results of any election or referendum.

7.4 The Board of Elections and Membership shall determine the dates of all campus elections, the methods of voting, and the location of polling places.

> 7.4.1 The Board of Elections and Membership shall hold at least one election annually, during the Fall Semester, in which the President, Vice President, Comptroller, and Assembly shall be elected.

7.5 Each year, before the fall elections, the Board of Elections and Membership shall review the most recently available enrollment information to determine the number of Assembly Representative seats for that election.

7.6 The Board of Elections and Membership shall review all campaign practices and activities. In the event that a violation is discovered or reported to them, the Board shall investigate the matter and present their findings to the JRB.

> 7.6.1 The BEM shall immediately inform the relevant parties of the investigation, and must inform the Assembly and Cabinet at their next scheduled meetings. The findings shall be reported to the relevant parties, the Assembly, and Cabinet no more than seven [7] days after concluding the investigation.

7.7 The Board of Elections and Membership shall be responsible for developing and applying a disciplinary system of demerits, which must be approved by the Assembly.

Article VIII: Bylaws and Standing Rules

8.1 Further binding Association law shall be compiled in the Bylaws of the Student Association. Such Bylaws must be compiled and available for easy public access.

8.2 In any case where the Constitution and Bylaws are in direct conflict, the Constitution shall prevail, without invalidating any further portion of the Bylaws.

8.3 The Student Assembly may adopt a system of standing rules to regulate the course of its own affairs. Such standing rules must be compiled and available for easy public access. Standing rules shall be binding upon members of the Assembly but may not overrule, counteract, or interfere with any existing provision of the Constitution or Bylaws.

Article IX: Revision

9.1 For any revision of the Constitution to be valid, it must receive a majority of those voting in a referendum in which at least ten [10] percent of the student body participates.

9.2 To place a Constitutional revision on the ballot of a referendum, it must be approved by AdOp and then by a two thirds vote of the Assembly.

> 9.2.1 Alternately, a Constitutional revision may be placed on the ballot by presenting the President with a proposal and a petition signed by at least five hundred [500] students.

> 9.3 The Parliamentarian, with the approval of the Board of Administrative Operations, may make minor changes to the Constitution or Bylaws to correct typographical errors or create, expand, or clarify any abbreviations or unclear or irrelevant terms, as determined by AdOp.

Article X: Replacement

10.1 This Constitution shall take effect on Wednesday, January 1st, 2014 at 12:00 midnight. It shall void, overrule, and supersede any previous Association Constitution.