

Article IV. CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Guiding Principle

The College of Staten Island of The City University of New York hereby establishes the Student Government of the College in accordance with Article XV and Article XVI of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, which enumerates the principles and procedures governing the rights, conduct, and organizations of students. As formulators of this constitution, we impose our intention upon all officers charged with its enforcement: That they shall govern impartially and grant funds and services equitably to all qualified students under the aegis of the College.

Section 2. Name

The responsibility for government shall be entrusted to one body, the Student Government.

Section 3. Eligibility for Franchise and for Office

All students who pay their student activity fee shall be eligible to vote. All voters in good academic standing and with at least a 2.25 grade-point average shall be eligible for nomination and for office. A 3.0 grade-point average is required for the Graduate Seat. For the positions of President and Vice President a 2.5 grade-point average shall be required. If at any time the grade-point average of a student elected to the Student Government falls below 2.25 or 3.0 for Graduate seat, said student will be automatically dropped from the Student Government. If the grade-point average of the President or Vice President falls below 2.5 said student will no longer be eligible to hold the position of President or Vice President and a new election from among the Student Government members will be held to fill the vacancy. In order to serve each semester a student must have completed and earned passing grades in at least 50% of the credits for which they registered the prior semester, but in no event less than 3 credits.

Section 4. Student Government

a) Membership

The Student Government shall be composed of 20 representatives as follows:

- 1) One graduate student;
- 2) Nine students from the junior and senior classes of the college;
- 3) Nine students from the freshman and sophomore classes of the college. Freshmen must have completed a minimum of one full semester completing no less than six matriculated credits to run and serve;
- 4) One at large student representative.

b) Elections

An annual election shall be held during the month of April. A special election to fill vacancies shall be held by the last week in October. Subsequent vacancies shall be filled during the second week of November and the first meeting of March by a majority vote of the senators currently serving on the Student Government after a minimum of one week's appropriate public notice.

c) Terms of Office

Senators elected in the annual election shall hold office beginning June 1 and ending May 31 of the following year.

Senators elected by special election shall hold office for the remainder of the academic year. The term of office for all Senators shall automatically expire upon graduation, withdrawal, or dismissal from the college. Undergraduate students may not serve in Student Government for more than a total of five years. Students shall be permitted to serve in the same office in Student Government for a maximum of two years.

Any Senator absent from a total of four meetings during the fall semester which will include the first two meetings in June, or three meetings during the the spring semester shall be automatically removed from office.

d) Meetings

1) Regular Meetings. The Student Government shall hold regular meetings during the first and second weeks of the fall semester and at least every second week thereafter, and during the first and second weeks of the spring semester and at least every second week thereafter, except upon waiver by two-thirds of the Student Government.

2) Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president of the Student Government, or by a petition signed by one-third of the Student Government, or by a petition signed by 500 members of the student body. Special meetings are defined as ones at which one item of business is discussed. Notification of such meetings must be made in writing to all senators at least three business days prior to such a meeting.

3) Town Hall Meetings. Town Hall meetings shall be held a minimum of one time per semester. The President of the Student Government shall be responsible for convening these meetings.

4) Quorum. One-half of the total senators currently serving shall constitute a quorum.

5) Parliamentary Rules. Procedures shall accord with the latest edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, except when inconsistent with this Constitution, Article XV of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees and the laws of the City, State and Nation.

e) Duties and Responsibilities

The Student Government shall:

1) Elect the President and Vice President of the Student Government and the chairpersons of its commissions;

2) Approve the composition, but not the specific names of commission memberships;

3) Consider disciplinary action against any officer, senator, commission member, or any other person responsible to and under the jurisdiction of the Student Government, on receipt of formal written charges by the Student Government. (The Student Government must act on the charges within ten days of receipt. The latest edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER shall prevail at hearings or trials.);

4) Advise and inform the student body, the faculty, and the administration on pertinent matters; and advocate for the student body;

5) Investigate and act on any matter affecting the general welfare of the student body;

6) Direct the president of the Student Government as to the implementation of any measure enacted by the Student Government;

7) Refer any pertinent matter to a referendum of the student body;

- 8) Call meetings of the student body, pursuant to Section 4(d) of this constitution;
- 9) Remove from office any Senator who has missed a total of four meetings during the fall semester which will include the first two meetings in June, or three meetings during the spring semester;
- 10) Determine the disposition of the earmarked student activity fee where Student Government is designated as the allocating body pursuant to Article XV and Article XVI of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees which provide for a public hearing;
- 11) Charter or otherwise authorize teams (excluding intercollegiate), publications, organizations, associations, clubs or chapters, and refuse, suspend, or revoke any charter or authorization for cause after a hearing;
- 12) Delegate responsibility for the implementation of its specific functions hereunder to any officer or committee it may appoint;
- 13) Interpret this constitution by majority vote of its total currently serving membership.

Section 5. President of the Senate

a) Election and Term of Office

The Student Government shall elect, from its number, a President and Vice President who shall serve for a term of one year (June 1 - May 31). The President and Vice President must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. The election process for president and vice president shall begin at the second meeting of the Student Government. A two-thirds vote of those Senators present shall be required for election. If difficulties arise in the election of a president, the chair will rotate on an alphabetical basis until a president is elected. Upon resignation, dismissal, or incapacitation of the president, the vice president shall serve as president and a new election shall be held for vice president with the new president and vice president serving until the end of the elected term.

b) Duties and Responsibilities

The President of the Student Government, or the Vice President of the Student Government should the President be unable to fill his/her duties shall:

- 1) Preside over meetings of the Student Government;
- 2) Give a timely report of all activities undertaken on behalf of the Student Government;
- 3) Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Student Government;
- 4) Implement measures enacted by the Student Government and submit periodic progress reports;
- 5) Preside over meetings of the student body;
- 6) Represent the student body at official functions;
- 7) Represent the student body in the College Council either directly or through a designee.

Section 6. Commissioners I

The Student Government shall elect one of its number as commissioner of each of seven standing commissions charged with drafting legislation for consideration by the Student Government and recommending methods of implementing such legislation. No senator shall hold more than one commissioner position on the Student Government except in the case of a sudden

vacancy whereby a commissioner could hold a temporary commissioner position on another commission until such time as the vacancy can be permanently filled. Each Commissioner shall appoint additional members, which shall be reported to the Student Government prior to members taking their seat on the commission. The Commissions are as follows: Commission on Finances, Commission on Clubs, Commission on Student Center, Commission on Student Services, Commission on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Commission on Elections, Commission on Part-time, Evening and Weekend Students.

a) Election and Term of Office

Only Senators shall be eligible to serve as Commissioners. The election process for commissioners shall begin at the second meeting of the Student Government. Commissioners will be elected by majority vote of the Senators present and shall serve for a term of one year (June 1 - May 31).

b) Duties and Responsibilities

The Commissioners shall:

1) Submit to the Student Government a written description of the commission's organization, budget, and operating procedure, for approval, within two weeks of the election of the Commissioner, and schedule and attend a minimum of one commission meeting per month;

2) Report a minimum of once per month to the Student Government on the operation of the commission;

3) Deposit, record, and maintain the commission's funds in conformity with the accounting procedure of The College of Staten Island Association, Inc.;

4) Report to the Student Government commission membership, which comprise no more than two senators, in addition to the Commissioner, including the appointment of a deputy commissioner who must be a Student Government senator, who will assume the duties of the commissioner should the commissioner be unavailable to fulfill said duties;

5) Submit reports a minimum of once per month on the finances and activities of the commission;

6) The Club Commissioner cannot be an officer of any chartered club; the Election Commissioner cannot serve on the Student Election Review Committee.

Section 7. Meetings of the Student Body

The Student Government may call discretionary meetings of the student body to inform the students of actions taken by the Student Government, to discuss other pertinent matters, and to solicit student opinion. Motions passed at such meetings shall be considered resolutions advising the Student Government, without binding effect.

Section 8. Representatives on Other Bodies

At the annual election student representatives shall be elected to serve on the following bodies:

- a) College Council,
- b) Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee,
- c) Auxiliary Services Corporation,

d) CSI Association, Inc.

Article V. AMENDMENTS

Section 2. Amendments to Article IV.

Amendments to Article IV (Constitution of the Student Government) may be proposed by: a) a majority of the Senators present at a meeting of the Student Government, or b) a petition containing the signatures of 10% of the student body. An amendment shall be adopted when approved by majority vote of the student body in referendum, provided that at least 10% of the student body vote, by the President and by the Board of Trustees.