



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

PREAMBLE 3

ARTICLE I: GENERAL ORGANIZATION..... 4

 SECTION A: NAME..... 4

 SECTION B: COMPOSITION..... 4

 SECTION C: JURISDICTION & AUTHORITY 4

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE OF THE SENATE 5

ARTICLE IV: THE SENATE 7

 SECTION A: MEETING..... 7

 SECTION B: VOTING..... 7

 SECTION C: ATTENDANCE..... 7

ARTICLE V: THE JUDICIAL BOARD 8

 SECTION A: COMPOSITION 8

 SECTION B: JURISDICTION..... 8

 SECTION C: INTERNAL PROCEDURES 9

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES 10

 SECTION A: CHAIRPERSONS..... 10

 SECTION B: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 10

 SECTION C: STANDING COMMITTEES 10

 SECTION D: AD-HOC COMMITTEES 10

ARTICLE VII: SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS 11

 SECTION A: THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA) REPRESENTATIVE..... 11

 SECTION B: STUDENT PROSECUTORS 11

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS 12

 SECTION A: SCHEDULE..... 12

 SECTION B: ELECTION COMMITTEE..... 12

 SECTION C: CANDIDACY 12

 SECTION D: CANDIDATE DECLARATION..... 12

 SECTION E: VOTING..... 13

 SECTION F: HIEARCHY OF OFFICES 13

 SECTION G: INSTALLATION AND VACANCY 13

 SECTION H: INVALIDATION..... 14

 SECTION I: ELECTION CHALLENGE..... 14



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE IX: REMOVAL 15
SECTION A: EXPULSION NOTICE..... 15
SECTION B: LEGITIMACY 15
SECTION C: MOTION TO EXPEL 15
SECTION D: SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL HEARING 15
SECTION E: SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL DECISION 16
SECTION F: VACANCY..... 16

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS & RATIFICATION..... 17
SECTION A: AMENEDMENTS 17
SECTION B: RATIFICATION 17



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Syracuse University College of Law, prompted by the desire to promote understanding among the students, faculty, administration and alumni, and recognizing the interest in unifying the students of the Syracuse University College of Law, do establish this constitution in accordance with the rules of the Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse University, State of New York, and the United States of America.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE I: GENERAL ORGANIZATION

SECTION A: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Student Senate of the Syracuse University College of Law, hereinafter referred to as the Senate

SECTION B: COMPOSITION

1. The Senate shall be comprised of elected Senators from each class, the officers of each class and the officers of the Senate
2. Each Class shall elect one Senator for every thirty students.
 - a. If the number of students in a class is not evenly divisible by thirty, an additional Senator shall be elected if the remainder exceeds fifteen
3. Each class shall elect a Class President and Class Vice-President.
4. Current first and second year students shall elect a Senate President, Senate Vice-President, Senate Secretary, and Senate Treasurer
5. The Senate President, Senate Vice President, Senate Secretary, and Senate Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Board of the Senate
6. The Senate President, Senate Vice President, Senate Secretary, Senate Treasurer, First Year Class President, Second Year Class President, and Third Year Class President shall constitute the Senate Board of Governors

SECTION C: JURISDICTION & AUTHORITY

1. The Senate shall be the governing body of the Law School student body and student organizations
2. The Senate shall have the power to formulate policies, manage the affairs of the student body, and have all powers prescribed by, and necessary for the proper execution of, those responsibilities as prescribed by this Constitution
3. The Senate shall have no power or jurisdiction over complaints related to discrimination outside of its authority over student organization membership nor, have any power or jurisdiction over matters that are governed specifically under the College of Law Handbook of Academic Rules, Certificate Programs, Code of Student Conduct and Grievance Procedure



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE OF THE SENATE

1. The executive board shall administrate the affairs of the Senate in accordance with the Senate Bylaws.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE OF THE CLASS

1. The presidents of each class shall administrate the affairs of their respective class in accordance with the Senate Bylaws.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE IV: THE SENATE

SECTION A: MEETING

1. The Senate shall meet at the discretion of the President, provided that a meeting is called at least once every three weeks that school is in session
2. Meetings of the Senate shall be open to the entire Law School community.
 - a. The President may close a session at his/her discretion.
 - b. A close session may also be initiated by a two-thirds majority vote after proper motion by any Senator
3. The President shall preside over the Senate. In the absence of the President, the presiding officer shall be the next senior Senate Officer. Seniority is as follows:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
4. The President shall appoint a parliamentarian to give advice and direction to the Senate on procedural matters and the application of Senate rules in accordance with this document, the Senate Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order

SECTION B: VOTING

1. All Senate members in attendance, with the exception of the presiding officer, shall be entitled to vote on all business coming before the Senate for its decision.
 - a. The presiding officer shall only vote to break a tie.
 - b. No Senate member shall vote by proxy.
2. A quorum shall consist of one-half plus one of the voting members of the Senate

SECTION C: ATTENDANCE

1. Attendance by Senate members is mandatory for all official meetings
2. Prior written notice of non-attendance shall be delivered to the President or Secretary as per his or her direction
3. Any member missing more than one meeting a semester, without written notice approved by the President or Secretary, may be subject to an expulsion notice



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE V: THE JUDICIAL BOARD

SECTION A: COMPOSITION

1. Entering first year class members shall elect two Student Panelist to serve on the College of Law Judicial Board pursuant to Article IX of this constitution
 - a. The election of entering first year judicial board members shall be conducted concurrently with the election of first year class officers
 - b. The term of office will expire on the last day of April of the following year
2. First Year class shall elect three Student Panelist **in the spring** to serve on the College of Law Judicial Board pursuant to Article IX of this constitution
 - a. The election of first year judicial board members shall be conducted concurrently with the election of Senate Officers and other Senate and Class offices
 - b. The term of office will expire upon graduation of the panelist or two academic years after election
 - c. A student panelist of the judicial board may not server in any other elected Senate office
3. In April, the board shall elect one of its members to serve as Chief Judge in accordance with the procedures established by the board
 - a. Upon vacancy of the officer prior to the end of the academic year, the board shall select one of its members to serve as Chief Judge in accordance with the internal procedures established by the board

SECTION B: JURISDICTION

1. The Student Panelist of the Judicial Board shall constitute the Senate Constitutional Council
2. The Student Panelist of the Judicial Board shall also serve as the student members of Syracuse University College of Law Academic Integrity Panel, pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct
3. The President of the Senate shall make initial rulings on the interpretation of this Constitution and Senate Bylaws
 - a. The Senate, by a two-thirds majority, may override or amend the decision of the President
 - b. If the dispute continues, the president or simply majority of Senators may refer the issue to the Senate Constitutional Council
4. The President or a simple majority of the Senate may request an advisory opinion of the Constitutional Council on the constitutionality of a proposed amendment to the Senate Bylaws or any action of the Senate in relation to the Constitution or Bylaws.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW LAW STUDENT SENATE

5. The Senate Constitutional Council shall be the final arbiter of the interpretation of this Constitution and the Senate Bylaws in accordance with the internal procedures established by the Council
6. Pursuant to the procedures established in Section B of this article, any member of the College of Law student body may file a complaint of a Constitutional violation in accordance with the internal procedures established by the Constitutional Council.
7. The Constitutional Council shall hear all complaints no more than ten school days after filing
8. The Constitutional Council shall report its findings on all constitutional matters within five school days of hearing the dispute (or ten days after receiving a request for an advisory opinion)

SECTION C: INTERNAL PROCEDURES

1. The internal procedures of the Senate Constitutional Council are to be promulgated by the Chief Judge and filed with the Senate Secretary each fall
2. The Internal Procedures of the Senate Constitutional Council are to include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Election of Chief Judge
 - b. Rulings on Constitutional disputes
 - c. Response to Advisory Opinion Request
 - d. Filings of complaints
 - e. Meeting and Attendance of Senate Constitutional Council sessions



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

SECTION A: CHAIRPERSONS

1. The President shall name all chairs of Senate Standing and ad-hoc committees
2. All chair appointments **and dismissals** shall require the approval by a majority vote of the Board of Governors

SECTION B: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Any member of the College of Law student body may be a member of any standing or ad-hoc committee, except the Senate Affairs Committee, which may only be open to Senate members
2. Class Presidents and Senate Officers are not required to serve on any standing or ad-hoc committee unless otherwise stipulated in the Senate Bylaws

SECTION C: STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Senate shall have 6 permanent standing committees
 - a. The Senate Service Committee
 - b. The Senate Social Committee
 - c. The Senate Diversity Affairs Committee
 - d. The Senate Community Service Committee
 - e. The Senate Affairs Committee
 - f. The Senate University Affairs Committee
2. The duties and responsibilities of these committees shall be delineated in the Bylaws of the Student Senate

SECTION D: AD-HOC COMMITTEES

1. The President may appoint ad-hoc committees as he/she may see fit
2. Ad-hoc committees will exist for the duration of the term office for the appointing President



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE VII: SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

SECTION A: THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA) REPRESENTATIVE

1. In April, the President-elect shall appoint a student ABA representative, subject to the approval of the a majority vote of the Board of Governors
2. The student selected as the ABA representative must be from the first year class

SECTION B: STUDENT PROSECUTORS

1. In April, the President-elect shall appoint a Student Prosecutor and an Assistant Student Prosecutor, subject to a majority vote of the Board of Governors.
2. The students selected must be from the second year class



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

SECTION A: SCHEDULE

1. Elections for Senate Officer, Class Officers, Class Senators, and First year class Judicial Board panel members, shall be held annually during April, on a date to be determined by the Board of Governors
2. Elections for Class Officers, Class Senators, and Judicial Board panel members for the entering first year class shall be scheduled during the first six weeks of the fall semester

SECTION B: ELECTION COMMITTEE

1. An election committee, chaired by the Senate President, will be composed of five Third year members of the Senate.
2. **The election committee shall have authority and control over the elections process**
 - a. The committee shall schedule a date for **candidate declarations**.
 - b. The committee shall make petitions available at least two weeks before elections.
 - c. The committee shall circulate, collect and validate petitions, disseminate information regarding elections and conduct the elections.
 - d. The committee may void a suspect petition by a unanimous vote of the committee.

SECTION C: CANDIDACY

1. Any member of the first or second year class shall be eligible for Senate Office positions, with the exception that the Senate President must be elected from the second year class.
2. Any member of each respective class shall be eligible to be elected as a Class officer, Class Senator, or Judicial Board panelist as defined in Article I of this constitution
3. Any person running for a Senate Officer position is not eligible to run for a Class officer position concurrently

SECTION D: CANDIDATE DECLARATION

1. **Declaration of candidacy for Senate Officers requires petition**
 - a. **Petitions must be signed by ten members of each voting class**
 - b. **A signature of one individual may appear on the petition of more than one person for the same office**
 - c. **Petitions must be submitted in a timely fashion consistent with the instructions and guidelines authorized by the elections committee**
2. **Declaration of candidacy for Class Officer, Class Senator, and Judicial Board panelist requires petition**
 - a. **Petitions must be signed by fifteen members of that particular class**
 - b. **A signature of one individual may appear on the petition of more than one person for the same office**



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW LAW STUDENT SENATE

- c. Petitions must be submitted in a timely fashion consistent with the instructions and guidelines authorized by the elections committee

SECTION E: VOTING

1. Only members of the First and Second year class shall vote in the election for any Senate Officer
2. All members of any particular class are eligible to vote in any class election
3. Voting shall be done by secret ballot, consistent with the procedures and guidelines authorized by the elections committee
4. A plurality of votes cast shall be sufficient to elect members to their respective offices

SECTION F: HIEARCHY OF OFFICES

1. Officer candidates (both Senate and Class) may run concurrently for an officer position and Class senator.
2. Candidates elected to more than one position shall be seated in the highest office position
3. The hierarchy of offices shall be as follows
 - a. Senate or Class Officer
 - b. Class Senator
 - c. Judicial Panel Member
4. No Officer or Senator may serve as a College of Law Judicial Board Panelist. Subsequently, if a student is elected to two positions they must accept election to one and/or resign from one position, consistent with Section E of this article

SECTION G: INSTALLATION AND VACANCY

1. All elected members shall take office by the last week of April in a concurrent meeting with all members of the prior Senate
2. Presidential Succession
 - a. In the event that a vacancy should occur in the office of Senate President, the Senate Vice President shall immediately succeed to that office
 - b. In the event that a vacancy should occur in the office of Class President, the Class Vice-President shall immediately succeed to that office
3. Non-Presidential vacancy
 - a. Any vacancy in the position of Senate Vice-President, Senate Treasurer, Senate Secretary, Class Vice-President, Class Senator or Judicial Board Panelist shall be filled by the candidate who received the next highest vote total in the previous election
 - b. In the event that any Senate or Class Officer vacancies still exist, these positions shall be filled by nomination of the Senate President and confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW LAW STUDENT SENATE

- c. In the event that any Class Senator or Judicial Board panel vacancies still exist these positions shall be filled by the nomination by the appropriate Class President and confirmed by the majority vote of the appropriate Class Officers and Senators
- d. After all previous subsections have been exhausted, in the event that any vacancy still exist in any position, a special election shall be held within fifteen school days (excluding all reading and final exam periods) of the date of such vacancies occurs

SECTION H: INVALIDATION

1. If the election committee shall determine, by unanimous vote of the committee, that an election is invalid due to procedural defect or other reasons, it shall hold a new election within four school weeks (excluding reason and final examination periods) of the date such election was deemed invalid
2. The election committee shall make a determination of validity within five school days after the election.
 - a. The committee must post written notice within one day after determination, stating the reasons for the new election
 - b. If such a new election is held, only those candidates who were eligible at the time of the first election shall be eligible to be elected in the new election

SECTION I: ELECTION CHALLENGE

1. Any student may challenge election committee determinations
 - a. Such challenges must be made in writing to the election committee, within five school days
 - b. While such a challenge or an appeal is pending, no newly elected officer may be installed
2. If the election committee deems it necessary to make a determination on the challenge, it must do so within five school days of the challenge
 - a. Any student shall be competent to appeal to the Senate any determination of the election committee based on a challenge
 - b. Such an appeal must be made in writing to the currently installed Senate President within five school days following the election committee determination
3. **If the election committee makes no determination within the five day period after the challenge, an appeal may be taken to the outgoing Board of Governors and its decision shall be final**



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE IX: REMOVAL

SECTION A: EXPULSION NOTICE

1. A member of Senate can only be removed from his/her position after the issuance of an expulsion notice pursuant to a procedure set forth in this Constitution and/or Bylaws
2. The expulsion notice must list the charges against the Senate member.

SECTION B: LEGITIMACY

1. When deciding on expulsion in the Senate the legitimacy of the basis for the charges and what is alleged must be considered
2. When deciding on expulsion in the Senate Constitutional Council the legitimacy of the basis for the charges and what is alleged must be considered

SECTION C: MOTION TO EXPEL

1. At the next Senate meeting after the issuance of an expulsion notice, the Senate may entertain a motion to expel the member.
 - a. A two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass.
 - b. Failing a two-thirds vote, the matter shall end and the motion can not be tabled
2. Should the motion to expel the member be based on a violation of the attendance policy and pass by a two-thirds majority, unless appealed, the position shall be considered vacant
 - a. An expulsion based on a violation of the attendance policy may be appealed to the Senate Constitutional Council
 - b. **If upheld, the position will be filled consistent with the provisions of this constitution that cover vacancies**
3. **Should the motion to expel the member not be based on a violation of the attendance policy, upon a two-thirds majority of the Senate approving the expulsion, the matter must be referred to the Senate Constitutional Council for adjudication.**

SECTION D: SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL HEARING

1. The Senate Constitutional council, upon notification that the Senate has voted to expel a member by two-thirds majority for reasons other than a violation of the attendance policy or that an expulsion based on a violation of the attendance policy has been appealed, shall hold a hearing regarding the expulsion.
2. During adjudication or appeal, the member remains in his/her officer
3. The hearing shall be held within 10 days of the approval of the motion to expel the member.
4. A decision must be rendered within five days after the hearing.
5. **All interested parties shall be afforded the opportunity to speak subject to the approval of the Chief Judge**



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

SECTION E: SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL DECISION

1. Following a hearing, a majority vote of the Senate Constitutional Council shall sustain the expulsion and the member's position shall be considered vacant.
2. Failing a majority vote, the expulsion shall be deemed invalid, the member shall not be expelled on that basis, and the matter shall end
3. Any ruling of the Senate Constitutional Council on matters of expulsion is final

SECTION F: VACANCY

1. Vacancies created by an expulsion shall be filled pursuant to VIII



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS & RATIFICATION

SECTION A: AMENEDMENTS

1. Amendments to this constitution may be initiated by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or by petition to the Senate signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the Student Body. There shall be adequate publication of the proposed amendments for a period of two-weeks before a referendum
2. This Constitutions is amended by a two-thirds vote of those members of the student body who vote on the referendum

SECTION B: RATIFICATION

1. This constitution shall become effective upon its ratification by a two-thirds majority of the ballots cast in a general election
2. Upon ratification of this constitution, all prior constitutions shall be null and void