



College Democrats at Syracuse University Constitution

Preamble

We the student Democrats of Syracuse University in order to forward the progressive agenda, promote a new generation of political activists, and win elections for the Democratic Party do ordain and establish this Constitution for the College Democrats at Syracuse University.

Article I: Membership

Section 1: Membership shall include all Syracuse University and State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry students who have enrolled as recognized volunteers for College Democrats at Syracuse University.

Section 2: Members have the exclusive privileged of voting in elections for club officers or referenda.

Section 3. Expulsion

- A. Members who may be suspect of actively working against the interest of the club may be charged as such by any other member of the club.
- B. A member must complete a petition for expulsion, which must contain the reason(s) for expulsion and five supporting signatures by other members of the club. Once completed the file will be submitted to the Chair for approval.
- C. The chair must approve all properly submitted petitions for expulsion. Once the petition is submitted, the Chair must notify the accused and set aside time at an upcoming meeting for the club to process the petition. An email will be sent to all club members explaining the situation and when the club will discuss it.
- D. At the meeting club members will serve as a jury while both the accused and the accuser present their cases based on a fair agreement reached with facilitation from the chair. The Chair will preside over the proceeding.
- E. After the meeting an email will be sent to all members of the club summarizing both sides of the case. Club members will be given forty-eight hours to vote online whether the accused should be expelled or not. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to expel a member.

Section 4. General membership meetings shall be held weekly on a schedule determined by the Executive Committee based on a schedule convenient to the general membership.

Article II. Leadership of College Democrats at Syracuse University

Section 1. Executive Committee

A. Election

1. The four offices that make up the Executive Committee shall each be elected at large by the general membership of College Democrats at Syracuse University. The offices shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Representative to New York College Democrats.
2. Any enrolled undergraduate student at Syracuse University or SUNY ESF may run for one of the four offices of the Executive Committee. Candidates must hold a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and have no violations of university policy on record with the Office of Judicial Affairs by the date of filing. Candidates cannot seek election for more than one office, and once elected officers may only hold one office. Current office holders may run for another office for a future term.
3. Candidates for office must formally declare their candidacy by the last Tuesday in March. Voting will begin the second Tuesday of April at 8:00PM and cease at 8:00PM the following Thursday.
4. The terms for each office shall begin the third Tuesday of April and shall last one year.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

1. Chair
 - a. Serves as the official representative of the club to university organizations.
 - b. Oversees all functions of the club.
 - c. Serves as the official spokesperson for the club to outside parties.
2. Vice Chair
 - a. Assists the Chair in all of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities.
 - b. Succeeds the Chair in the event the office of Chair becomes vacant.
3. Secretary
 - a. Keeps minutes of all meetings and distributes them to the membership.
4. State Representative
 - a. Represents College Democrats at Syracuse University to all functions of New York State College Democrats.
5. The Executive Committee
 - a. Determine at the beginning of the spring semester whether the number of Dorm Districts needs to be increased due to increased student enrollment, construction of dorms, and/or other factors. Proposed increases to the number of Dorm Districts must be approved by the general membership via referendum by the end of the spring semester, and if passed shall take effect at the beginning of the next academic year. The minimum number of main campus Dorm Districts is five.

C. Impeachment

1. Any member of the Executive Committee believed to have been actively working against the interests of the club or in violation of this constitution may be subject to charges brought by any member of the club.
2. Any member of the Executive Committee found to have violated any federal, state, local, or university law will be removed from office without consideration for appeal.
3. A member must complete a petition for expulsion, which must contain the reason(s) for impeachment and five supporting signatures by other members of the club. Once completed, the file will be submitted to the Chair for approval. If

the Chair is the accused the file will be submitted to the Vice Chair and the Vice Chair will assume responsibilities for the Chair set in this section.

4. The Chair must approve all properly submitted petitions for impeachment. Once the petition is submitted, the Chair must notify the accused and set aside time at an upcoming meeting for the club to process the petition. An email will be sent to all club members explaining the situation and when the club will discuss it.
5. At the meeting club members will serve as a jury while both the accused and the accuser present their cases based on a fair agreement reached with facilitation from the Chair. The Chair will preside over the proceeding.
6. After the meeting an email will be sent to all members of the club summarizing both sides of the case. Club members will be given forty-eight hours to vote online whether the accused should be impeached or not. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to impeach an officer.

D. Vacancies

1. The line of succession of the Executive Committee shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and State Representative.
2. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair the Vice Chair will permanently replace the Chair.
3. When a vacancy occurs in the offices of Vice Chair or Secretary the office directly below in the line of succession shall temporarily assume the responsibilities of that office until a special election is held. When a vacancy occurs in the office of State Representative the Secretary will temporarily assume responsibilities for that office.
4. When a vacancy occurs in the offices of Vice Chair, Secretary, and/or State Representative the Chair shall order a special election to fill the vacancy.

Section 2. Dorm District Council

A. Election

1. The Dorm District Council shall be composed of one Captain from each designated dorm district. The Captains shall be elected from their districts by the members of their district.
2. Any enrolled undergraduate student at Syracuse University or SUNY ESF may run for Dorm District Captain of their district. Candidates must hold a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and have no violations of university policy on record with the Office of Judicial Affairs by the date of filing. Dorm District Captains that are elected to the Executive Committee in the general election in the spring semester may hold both offices until the term of Dorm District Captain expires. Current members of the Executive Committee cannot seek a position on the Dorm District Council.
3. Candidates for Dorm District Captain must formally declare their candidacy by the Tuesday before the first day of classes of the academic year. Voting will begin the second Tuesday of the academic year at 8:00PM and cease at 8:00PM the following Thursday. Members may only vote for the Dorm District Captain that represents the district where they live.
4. The terms for each Captain shall begin immediately after the election results are tabulated and made public. Terms for the Dorm District Council expire at the end of the following year.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

1. Dorm District Captains
 - a. Responsible for volunteer and field activities in their district.
 - b. Build a thorough and accurate voter file for their district.

- c. Responsible for distribution of club material in their district.
 - d. Maintain contact and camaraderie with volunteers in their district.
 - 2. Dorm District Council
 - a. Responsible for scheduling canvassing events on campus.
- C. Impeachment
 - 1. Any member of the Dorm District Council believed to have been actively working against the interests of the club or in violation of this constitution may be subject to charges brought by any member of the club.
 - 2. Any member of the Dorm District Council found to have violated any federal, state, local, or university law will be removed from office without consideration for appeal.
 - 3. A member must complete a petition for expulsion, which must contain the reason(s) for impeachment and five supporting signatures by other members of the club. Once completed, the file will be submitted to the Chair for approval.
 - 4. The Chair must approve all properly submitted petitions for impeachment. Once the petition is submitted, the Chair must notify the accused and set aside time at an upcoming meeting for the club to process the petition. An email will be sent to all club members explaining the situation and when the club will discuss it.
 - 7. At the meeting club members will serve as a jury while both the accused and the accuser present their cases based on a fair agreement reached with facilitation from the Chair. The Chair will preside over the proceeding.
 - 8. After the meeting an email will be sent to all members of the club summarizing both sides of the case. Club members will be given forty-eight hours to vote online whether the accused should be impeached or not. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to impeach an officer.
- D. Vacancies
 - 1. When a vacancy occurs in the office of a Dorm District Captain, the other Dorm District Captains will collectively assume responsibility of that district's activities until the vacancy is filled.
 - 2. When a vacancy occurs in the office of a Dorm District Captain, the chair will order a special election for that office.

Article III. By-laws

Section 1. Bylaws

- A. The laws set in this constitution shall supersede all others passed by the organization.
- B. The club may enact its own procedures for situations not specified in this document.

Section 2. Statement of Non-Discrimination

Members, Executive Officers, and the Dorm District Council have the right not to be discriminated against by any other member, Executive Officer, and/or members of the Dorm District Council for reasons of age, creed, ethnic or normal origin, gender, disability, marital status, political or social affiliation, race, religion, or sexual orientation. This policy will include but not be limited to, recruiting, membership organization activities, or opportunities to hold office.

Section 3. Not-for-profit-statement

This is a non-profit organization.

Article IV. Amendments and Ratification

Section 1. Amendments

- A. Proposed amendments may be made by any member through an amendment proposal form.
- B. Once completed, the form must be submitted to the Chair. The amendment will be announced at a meeting, on the website, and through an email in order to give all members ample time to consider the amendment before voting.
- C. Voting will take place for forty-eight hours at a time specified by the Chair and a two-thirds majority is required for the amendment to pass.

Section 2. Ratification

- A. All members of the club will have a minimum of five days to review this document online before voting.
- B. Voting will take place for forty-eight hours at a date specified by the Chair and a simple majority is required for ratification.