

State University of New York College at Old Westbury **Student Government Association**

The SUNY Old Westbury SGA Code of Ethics outlines the principles and values that guide the conduct of all student members of the SGA and its subsidiary student-led organizations and honors the preservation and protection of the organization and its student-led clubs and organizations.

Underlying the code is a belief that every student has a right to dignity and respect and the responsible use of SGA funds.

By supporting and abiding by this Code, the members of the SGA and student-led clubs will demonstrate by their behavior that they have concern for students and the campus community at large.

CODE

We support the following principles:

1.0 Fairness

In our relationships with others, we strive to be fair and just in our decisions and actions. To provide fair and just treatment, we carefully weigh the circumstances and variables linked with any decision and make the best attempt to be consistent and equitable.

Some of the values emanating from this principle are that:

- All elections and position appointments are fair and just.
- Allocation of budget and available funding is objective.
- Granting of club charters and ongoing registration of clubs is fair and equitable.
- Appropriate support is provided for students and the campus community at large.

2.0 Honesty

We can achieve an open working and learning environment when we feel secure enough to provide honest commentary about the operation and management of the organization. From our work in the classroom to the delivery of administrative and support services, we strive to encourage an honest climate which serves the interests of the organization and institution and protects the well-being of all individuals.

Some of the values emanating from this principle are that:

- Truthfulness with other employees and students is demonstrated.
- Accurate accounts of the organization are given.
- Accurate records of all financial documentation is maintained and provided as necessary.

3.0 Professional Integrity

In educating students, we strive to act in their best interests. As an organization dedicated to providing educational leadership opportunities, we demonstrate professional integrity and exemplary behavior in all that we do in and for the SGA and the College.

Some of the values emanating from this principle are that:

- The [Mission Statement](#) of the College, the SGA and its student-led organizations is supported.
- Conflict of interest is avoided.
- Personal responsibility is assumed.

4.0 Respect

We demonstrate a high regard for the rights and opinions of others. It is our responsibility to establish a climate of mutual respect; to protect the rights and freedoms of others; and to be discreet in dealing with confidential matters.

Some of the values emanating from this principle are that:

- Students, staff, faculty, administration and all organizations with which the SGA works are treated with consideration.
- Collegiality is encouraged.
- The privacy and confidentiality of all students and employees is safeguarded.
- The diversity of all peoples and their uniqueness of culture, ethnicity, religion, race, and sexual orientation is respected.
- A work and study environment free from discrimination and harassment is promoted.

5.0 Trust

A healthy organization is built on trust. The development of trust relies on our ability to recognize threats to the psychological and/or physical safety of others and to eliminate these threats by treating others equitably, fairly, and in a non-exploitive manner. We strive to provide a secure learning and work environment.

Some of the values emanating from this principle are that:

- The power inherent in positions is not exploited.
- The competence and integrity of fellow students and staff is assumed.
- The safety of the SUNY Old Westbury environment is ensured.

6.0 Fiscal Responsibility

The Student Government Association operates using Student Activity Fees collected from students at the College at Old Westbury. It is the intention of the SGA to utilize these funds for the betterment of the campus community and students that we serve. The SGA and its subsidiary student-led organizations will use the funds to promote the mission of the SGA, student clubs and SUNY Old Westbury to provide for the co-curricular engagement of the students.

Some of the values emanating from this principle are that:

- The SAF is to be utilized for the improvement of the student experience.
- The SAF is to be used to provide for and serve the greatest number of students possible.
- Conflict of interest with vendors is avoided.
- No student is to derive a personal financial benefit greater than the SAF amount for a single event, activity, item or purchase.

