

# Constitution of the State University of New York College at Old Westbury Student Government Association



## *Preamble:*

*We, the students of the State University of New York, College at Old Westbury, desire academic freedom and development. We value the racial, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of our constituency, and we seek to improve the quality of life for all students regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, physical ability, creed, religion, age or sexual orientation. To these ends, we do hereby establish this constitution.*

Date Modified: January 28, 2017

Date Ratified: January 29, 2017

**Article I. Organization Name**

**Section 1.01** The name of this organization shall be the State University of New York College at Old Westbury Student Government Association herein referred to as the SGA.

**Article II. Mission Statement**

**Section 2.01** The Student Government Association is a student run organization that unites and inspires students to succeed in life. We provide an atmosphere where we advocate, educate, and serve all students at SUNY Old Westbury. SGA inspires future student leaders to create organizations for the student body, discover unfound talents and cultivate creative thinking for the betterment of the Old Westbury community. Through student involvement, SGA dedicates its operation to the enhancement of the college experience.

**Article III. Purposes of the Student Government Association**

The SGA at SUNY Old Westbury was created to represent, advocate and protect the welfare of the student body as well as create school spirit and unity, while serving as the direct liaison between the student body, administration, and faculty. To achieve these purposes the SGA shall:

**Section 3.01** Provide and promote educational, cultural and social programming and activities for the student body.

**Section 3.02** Provide information to the student body from all constituents of the College. All SGA material is public information and will be made available upon request to the campus community in a timely manner. **Section 3.03** Help ensure that the quality of education at the College is maintained in order to encourage the development of students' ongoing academic pursuits.

**Section 3.04** Promote active student involvement in the governance of the College.

**Section 3.05** The SGA is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**Article IV. Authority of the SGA**

**Section 4.01** The SGA shall have the power to do anything lawful, everything reasonable, necessary, proper, suitable and convenient for the achievement of the above stated purposes. Its actions must be within the prescribed limits of the constitution and within the rules and regulations set forth by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York.

**Article V. Meetings and Quorum**

**Section 5.01** Floor Rules

- (a) All meetings of the SGA shall run according to the Roberts Rules of Order.
- (b) Members of the student body, faculty, and administration shall have open access to all meetings of the SGA. The SGA reserves the right to call a closed meeting at their discretion in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Revised.
- (c) Meeting dates, times and locations will be made public in a timely manner.

**Section 5.02** Frequency of Meetings

- (a) The Executive Board shall convene bi-weekly.
- (b) The General Assembly consisting of the Executive Board, Student Senate, Student Court and House of Representatives shall convene weekly.

**Section 5.03** Quorum

A Quorum is defined as fifty percent plus one of the voting memberships of those labeled in section 5.02. If quorum is not met after 10 minutes of the meetings start, no official business can occur and the meeting shall be cancelled and rescheduled to a later date.

**Article VI. Student Activity Fee and Budget Section**

**6.01** Student Activity Fee Referendum

SGA shall hold a referendum every two years in accordance with *SUNY's Student Activity Fee Policy (302.14)*. Said referendum shall determine whether student activity programs are to be supported by either voluntary or mandatory fees.

**Section 6.02** SGA Annual Budget

SGA shall prepare and approve an annual budget governing expenditures from student activity fees in accordance with *SUNY Student Activity Fee Policy (302.14)* and the constitution and by-laws of the SGA, and consistent with the principles of equal opportunity and viewpoint neutrality, prior to registration for each academic year. The constitution and by-laws of such SGA shall specify the criteria governing eligibility for funding of and allocations to student organizations from student activity fees.

**Section 6.03** Certification, Review and Approval of SGA Budget

Allocations included in the budget shall fall within programs defined in section (C) (3) (Use of Funds) of this policy. The approved budget shall thereafter be presented to the campus president prior to the registration for each academic year for review and certification that the allocations from the fee and any proposed sources of revenue are in compliance with the provisions of section (C) (3) (Use of Funds) of this policy. Upon determination by the campus president or designee that the approved budget is in compliance with these regulations, he or she shall so certify and such certification shall authorize the collection of the fee at registration.

**Section 6.04** Appeals

In the event that the campus president or designee concludes that a particular proposed allocation included in the budget may not be in compliance with the provisions of this part, he or she shall refer such proposed allocation to a campus review board composed of eight members of whom four shall be appointed by SGA and four appointed by the campus president or designee. The campus review board shall study the proposed allocation and make a recommendation to support or not to support it. The campus president or designee shall thereafter make the final decision. Any proposed allocation, which is determined not to be in compliance with the provisions of these regulations, shall be excluded from the budget.

**Section 6.05** Student Activity Fee Expenditure Guidelines

All allocations, expenditures and funds disbursed from the mandatory student activity fee must be in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures and comply with SUNY Policy (302.14). Funds collected from the student activity fee must be used only for support of the programs enumerated in Section C- 3 of SUNY's Policy (302.14).

**Article VII. Advisement and Financial Oversight**

**Section 7.01** Director of Center for Student Leadership Involvement (CSLI) must serve as the advisor of SGA. The Advisor has responsibility to:

- (a) Approve and sign all vouchers for the SGA after co-signing and initial approval of expenditures by the SGA Vice President of Business and Finance or President. It will be the responsibility of the Independent Fiscal Agent to prepare checks and ensure timely payment.
- (b) Co-sign, after attorney review as deemed necessary, all SGA contracts along with one of the following SGA officers: President, Vice President of Business and Finance and/or Vice President of Programming and Operations to ensure their legality. The Advisor reserves the right to refuse to sign any contract s/he feels is not in the best interest of the student body, Student Government Association, conflicts with SUNY policies and/or the mission of the College, or is not received within a reasonable time before the anticipated date of the event in question.

**Section 7.02** Appeal Process

Any member of the SGA reserves the right to appeal the decision of the advisor if they do not approve a particular voucher, contract or planned expenditure. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Dean of Students.

**Section 7.03** Independent Fiscal Agent

The SGA shall designate in accordance with SUNY's Fiscal and Accounting Procedures for Mandatory Student Activity Fee Programs guidelines, an Independent Fiscal Agent approved by the College President or designee, to perform accounting and other agreed-upon services, and assist the SGA in developing internal controls mechanisms to safeguard its assets and ensure that transactions are properly recorded.

**Article VIII. Compensation**

**Section 8.01** Compensation of the members of the SGA will be based upon the annual budget available for distribution and state and federal wage regulations.

**Section 8.02** Compensation will be disbursed by the Independent Fiscal Agent bi-weekly.

**Article IX. Eligibility for Elected Office**

**Section 9.01** All full-time and part-time students currently enrolled within SUNY College at Old Westbury, who

have paid the student activity fee to the College at Old Westbury shall be eligible to be an elected official of SGA.

**Section 9.02** Any student with a minimum of 2.5 cumulative grade point average shall be eligible for office. A minimum of 2.5 cumulative grade point average must be maintained for the duration of the student's term in office. Executive Board members must have at the time of candidacy and election, a 2.75 cumulative grade point average and maintain this cumulative grade point average for the duration of their tenure on the Executive Board of SGA. Any elected student who falls below their minimum grade point average requirement will be removed from office. Furthermore, academic and judicial reviews will be conducted each semester or at the time of application for election/appointment by the SGA adviser.

**Section 9.03** Transfer students shall be eligible to hold office based on their grade point average as calculated for admission to SUNY Old Westbury.

**Section 9.04** First-year students shall be eligible to hold the position of the First Year Representative by election or any position within the senate, student court, or House of Representatives by appointment.

**Section 9.05** Any student receiving a judicial sanction, which prevents his/her participation in co-curricular activities, shall be ineligible to hold office. Inability to serve shall take effect immediately upon notification by the director of student conduct.

If an elected or appointed member of SGA is suspended from the College as a result of a judicial sanction, s/he shall be deemed ineligible to serve in his/her capacity and will be removed from his/her position immediately upon notification from the director of student conduct or designee.

**Section 9.06** An individual cannot hold the same Executive Board position for more than two consecutive terms whether serving by election or appointment. A term of service is determined by service for any duration of the academic year, not by semester or other increment of time. Pro tempore appointments will constitute a full term of service upon ratification by the General Assembly.

**Section 9.07** Members of the Executive Board may not hold an executive level position in any other SGA club or organization.

## **Article X. Responsibilities of General Assembly**

### **Section 10.01** Terms of Newly-Elected Officers

The newly elected officers shall transition into their positions and begin preparations for the upcoming academic year during the time period between elections and May 1. Newly elected officers shall begin their term on May 1, assuming the full responsibilities of their position.

### **Section 10.02** Composition and Duties of Executive Board

(a) The President shall:

- (i) *Serve as the SGA's chief executive officer vested with the responsibilities of overseeing the activities of the SGA.*
- (ii) *Chair all Executive Board meetings.*
- (iii) *Serve as a voting member of the Budget Committee.*
- (iv) *Execute the duties of Executive Board members who are unable to perform his or her duties or vacant positions.*
- (v) *Represent SUNY Old Westbury at the SUNY Student Assembly.*
- (vi) *Prepare all club charters upon notification of approval from the Vice President for Clubs and Organizations and adviser to the SGA.*
- (vii) *Oversee the responsibilities of the Executive Board.*
- (viii) *Oversee the responsibilities of the Student Court.*
- (ix) *Have authority to veto General Assembly legislation prior to the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting after the passage of the legislation.*
  - 1) ***The veto must be submitted in writing and must include specific justification and recommendations.***
  - 2) ***The General Assembly has the power to override the veto by a two-thirds majority vote of the present voting members at the next regularly scheduled meetings of receiving the veto; otherwise the veto remains in effect.***
- (x) *Make pro tempore appointments to fill vacancies in the Executive and Judicial branch of government as quickly as possible.*
  - 1) ***Pro tempore appointments shall not last more than thirty days without ratification from the voting membership. If ratification is pending beyond 30 days but not for a period to exceed 45 days, voting membership may still conduct ratification vote.***

2) ***If not ratified by affirmative vote, the individual appointed cannot be re-appointed for the same position during the same academic year.***

(b) Executive Vice President shall:

- (a) *In the absence of the President, assume the role of the President with all the rights and responsibilities pertaining thereto.*
- (b) *Prepare the agenda and serve as the chairperson of the General Assembly and only in the case of a tie, be the deciding vote.*
  1. *Make pro tempore appointments to fill vacancies in the Student Senate and House of Representatives.*
    - a. ***Pro tempore appointments shall not last more than thirty days without ratification from the voting membership. If ratification is pending beyond 30 days but not for a period to exceed 45 days, voting membership may still conduct ratification vote.***
    - b. ***If not ratified, the individual appointed cannot be re-appointed for the same position during the same academic year.***
  2. *Serve as an alternate for any Executive Board member unable to attend a Budget Committee meeting.*
  3. *Oversee the responsibilities of the Student Senate and the House of Representatives.*
  4. *Serve on one College-wide committee. Prepare all training and transition programs for the members of the SGA in conjunction with the Director of CSLI.*
  5. *Provide notification of probation or removal of any members. This must be provided to the member in writing by the executive vice president upon review of attendance and completion of responsibilities and must state the reasons for removal.*
  6. *Meet with each senator twice per semester.*

(c) The Vice-President of Programming shall:

- (i) *Establish a Programming Committee consisting of currently-enrolled residential and commuter students to assist in the planning and execution of campus-wide programming.*
- (ii) *Serve on one College-wide committee.*
- (iii) *Co-chair the Council of Clubs & Organizations.*
- (iv) *Has the authority to sign contracts on behalf of the SGA.*

(d) The Vice-President of Clubs & Organizations shall:

- (i) *Have responsibility for the oversight of clubs and organizations under the auspices of the SGA, including adherence to club-specific constitutions and the constitution and operating procedures of the SGA.*
- (ii) *Chair the Council of Campus Organizations (COCO).*
- (iii) *Serve as a voting member of the Budget Committee.*
- (iv) *Serve on one College-wide committee.*

(e) The Vice President of Communications shall:

- (i) *Serve as the chairperson of the Communications Committee.*
- (ii) *Be the primary liaison to the campus community and the campus media keeping the campus community informed of all the activities of the SGA.*
- (iii) *Be the primary contact for alterations of the SUNY Old Westbury SGA website.*
- (iv) *Be responsible for the professional branding of the SGA.*
- (v) *Serve as the Co-Chair of the Elections Committee.*

(f) The Vice President of Business and Finance shall:

- (i) *Be the Chief Financial Officer of the SGA, responsible for timely and proper use, distribution, and collection of student activity fees.*
- (ii) *Prepare and submit the annual budget no later than May 1, to the SGA adviser for review and certification by the President of SUNY Old Westbury.*
- (iii) *Ensure all financial records are maintained in keeping with generally accepted accounting practices and procedures.*
- (iv) *Be the primary SGA signer for all SGA financial documents (contracts, checks, vouchers, etc.) with the College-approved Independent Fiscal Agent.*
- (v) *In conjunction with the College-approved Independent Fiscal Agent, establish and maintain a system of internal controls for disbursement of funds and safeguarding of SGA assets.*

- (vi) *Chair the SGA Budget Committee.*
- (g) Vice President for Advocacy and Support
  - (ii) *Shall conduct surveys when deemed necessary by the executive board to get student opinions.*
  - (iii) *The surveys must be analyzed and broken down into percentages to be brought back to general assembly.*
  - (iv) *Responsible for the student forum.*
  - (v) *Responsible for the draft and submission of resolutions to the SUNY Student Assembly.*
  - (vi) *Responsible for the draft and submission of resolutions to the SUNY College at Old Westbury.*
  - (vii) *Shall serve on the Student Life Committee.*
  - (viii) *Shall chair the SGA Student Advocacy and Support Committee.*
  - (ix) *Shall serve as alternate chairperson for the Elections Committee in the event that an assigned co-chair is actively running for a position.*
- (h) The Executive Secretary shall:
  1. *Be the official secretary of Executive Board meetings.*
    - a. *Be the official secretary of General Assembly meetings.*
    - b. *Be the official secretary of the Budget Committee meetings.*
  3. *Chair the Elections Committee.*
  4. *Be responsible for attendance records for general assembly and budget committee meetings, and reporting to the student court.*
  5. *Responsible for all office operations*
    - a. *Oversight of attendance for reception hours for all SGA members*
    - b. *Maintenance of office supplies, computers, copier, phones*
  6. *Provide for communications with various departments as needed for SGA operations.*
- b. Additional Responsibilities of the Executive Board
  - (a) Each Executive Board member shall designate four hours per week as regular posted office hours.
  - (b) Each Executive Board member shall attend all Executive Board meetings and trainings.
  - (c) Each Executive Board member shall serve on one College-wide committee.
  - (d) Each Executive Board member shall serve on one SGA committee.
  - (e) All Executive Board members must be present at all SGA Student Forum meetings each semester.

**Section 10.03** Composition and Duties of the Student Senate

- (a) Each Senator shall:
  - (i) *Designate four hours per week as regular posted office hours.*
  - (ii) *Attend all General Assembly meetings.*
  - (iii) *Be appointed to one College-wide committee and one SGA committee.*
  - (v) *Provide committee reports and updates 48 hours in advance of General Assembly meetings.*
  - (vi) *Bi-weekly reports are required including summary of meetings attended, future ideas, and upcoming constituent-related activities.*
  - (vii) *Host one program per semester.*
  - (viii) *Required to attend monthly meetings with the dean of the respective school or director of related department.*
  - (ix) *Be advised of the expectations for their position and their role within the greater campus community as a representative of the SGA.*
  - (vi) *Host meetings and events to serve the constituency*
- (b) The Student Senate shall be comprised of the following representatives:
  - (i) *First-Year Class Representative*
  - (ii) *Sophomore Class Representative*
  - (iii) *Junior Class Representative*
  - (iv) *Senior Class Representative*
  - (v) *Graduate and undergraduate academic senators will represent an equal proportionate number of the student population based on enrollment for each of the academic schools.*
  - (vi) *Residential and commuter senators will represent an equal proportionate number of the*

*student population based on enrollment.*

(c) Senators must be a constituent of the demographic they represent.

**Section 10.04** Composition and Duties of the House of Representatives

(a) The House of Representatives shall be voting members of the SGA.

(b) Shall serve on one college-wide committee and one SGA committee.

(c) Members-at-large are to be appointed by the executive vice president and ratified and sworn in by the General Assembly.

(d) Attend all General Assembly meetings.

(e) The House of Representatives shall be comprised of the following:

(a) One Athletics representative selected by director of Athletics or designee.

(b) One Greek Letter Organization Representative selected by the assistant director of CSLI.

(c) A maximum of 5 SGA Representatives (Member-at-Large)

(d) One representative from *the Catalyst* newspaper staff

(e) One representative from Residence Hall Association

(f) One residential representative from NYIT Old Westbury Campus

**Section 10.05** Composition and Duties of the Student Court

(a) The Chief Justice shall:

1 *Preside over any cases of impeachment of SGA officials. If the chief justice is being considered for impeachment the associate chief justice shall preside.*

2 *Shall chair any Student Court hearings.*

3 *Shall determine removal from office at the recommendation of the executive vice president for failure to meet constitutional requirements.*

(b) The Associate Chief Justice shall:

1 *Schedule all Student Court hearings and obtain all necessary and relevant documents pertaining to the hearing.*

2 *Assume the office of the Chief Justice in the event that they are unable perform said duties and will serve until the appointment of a Chief Justice by the SGA president.*

3 *Shall be the appeal agent for removal from office for failure to fulfill responsibilities of the SGA membership. Should the chief justice be removed from office, then the associate chief justice would hear the appeal.*

4 *Be the appeal agent for decisions of the Student Court.*

(c) The Court Justice shall:

1 *Oversee the adherence to SGA constitutional requirements of all SGA members to include, but not limited to office hours, committee attendance, serving the needs of the constituency and attendance at SGA meetings/trainings.*

2 *The court justice provides records to the executive vice president for review, the executive vice president recommends removal from office to the chief justice for any member who fails to meet their constitutional responsibilities.*

3 *The president is responsible for review and oversight of the Student Court adherence to the constitutional requirements, to include, but not limited to office hours, committee attendance, serving the needs of the constituency and attendance at SGA meetings/trainings.*

c. Additional Responsibilities of the Student Court

(a) Designate two hours per week as regular posted office hours.

(b) Attend all General Assembly meetings and trainings.

(c) Serve on one College-wide committee.

(d) Serve on one SGA committee.

(e) Must be present at all SGA Student Forum meetings each semester.

(f) Provide committee reports and updates 48 hours in advance of General Assembly meetings.

d. The Student Court shall serve as voting members of the SGA in both the General Assembly and SGA committees.

**Article XI. Absences**

**Section 11.01** Absences from meetings/trainings, SGA committees, or College-wide committees will be reviewed by the executive secretary on a case-by-case basis. It is at the discretion of the executive secretary to

approve or deny absences and must provide justification for their decision.

- (a) Written warning for first unexcused absence within 48 hours of absence.
- (b) Probation for second unexcused absence within 48 hours of absence.
- (c) Court Justice issues notification of removal from position for third unexcused absence within 48 hours of absence.
- (d) Appeals to the notifications may be submitted in writing to the Chief Justice for review within 48 hours.

## **Article XII. Senate Hearings**

**Section 12.01** All currently-registered SUNY Old Westbury students reserve the right to voice their opinion and concerns to the SGA via an official hearing. A hearing may only be convened after a written petition of at least 10% of the student body is submitted to the Executive Board in protest of a decision made by any branch of the Student Government Association.

**Section 12.02** The hearing shall be chaired by the SGA President.

**Section 12.03** The hearing shall consist of the entire memberships of the entire SGA.

**Section 12.04** Quorum shall be calculated as fifty percent plus one of the combined total voting membership the entire SGA.

**Section 12.05** A decision to overturn the action of any branch of the Student Government Association may only be obtained by two-thirds vote of the quorum of the hearing.

**Section 12.06** The petitioner retains the right to appeal to the Student Court if there is a question of the Senate Hearing outcome being unconstitutional.

## **Article XIII. Impeachment of Officers**

**Section 13.01** Executive Board Members

- (a) An Executive Board member may only be impeached by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the General Assembly.
- (b) An Executive Board member who has been impeached shall be tried in the Student Court. The Student Court can remove the Executive Board member by a two-thirds of its voting constituency.
- (c) An Executive Board member may be impeached and removed for material violations of this constitution, legislation, policies or procedures of SGA or a wrongful act of substance.
- (d) Grounds for impeachment may include acts of malfeasance.
- (e) Any member of the SGA may move for a vote of no confidence in an Executive Board Member. This motion is to be seconded for consideration by the General Assembly. Member making the motion is responsible for presenting rationale for the motion. Upon closed vote, the results will be shared by the Executive Vice President with the members of the General Assembly. If the motion and subsequent vote are no confidence for the Executive Vice President, the President will conduct the closed vote. Upon affirmative vote, the Executive Board Member may opt to resign from their position or the matter becomes an impeachment review by the Student Court. If the vote determines that the General Assembly retains confidence in the Executive Board Member, another motion for no confidence for the same member cannot take place within (90) days.

**Section 13.02** Senators

- (a) A Senator may only be impeached by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the General Assembly.
- (b) A Senator who has been impeached shall be tried in the Student Court. The Student Court can remove the Senator by a two-thirds vote of its filled seats.
- (c) A Senator may be impeached and removed for material violations of this constitution, legislation, policies or procedures of SGA, or a wrongful act of substance.
- (d) Grounds for impeachment may include acts of malfeasance.

**Section 13.03** Judiciary Members

- (a) A Judiciary member may only be impeached by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the General Assembly.
- (b) A Judiciary member may be impeached and removed for material violations of this constitution, legislation, policies or procedures of SGA, or a wrongful act of substance.
- (c) Grounds for impeachment may include acts of malfeasance.



## **Article XIV. Standing Committees**

### **Section 14.01 Budget Committee**

- (a) The Vice President of Business and Finance shall preside over the Budget Committee but shall have no voting privileges.
- (b) Meet bi-weekly to review budget requests.
- (c) The members of the Budget Committee shall include:
  - (i) *The President.*
  - (ii) *The Vice President of Clubs and Organizations.*
  - (iii) *Five members of the General Assembly are to be selected at the first official meeting of the General Assembly.*

### **Section 14.02 Elections Committee**

- (a) The Elections Committee shall establish bylaws to ensure that ethical and just measures of elections are followed; subject to Senate review and ratification.
- (b) The Elections Committee must conduct annual general body elections no later than March 31 and First-Year Class Representative Election no later than October 3.
- (c) Any SGA member running for office is ineligible to serve on the Elections Committee.
- (d) The members of the Elections Committee shall include:
  - (i) *Executive Secretary will serve as the Chairperson*
  - (ii) *Vice President of Communications will serve as the Co-Chair.*
  - (iii) *Five members of the General Assembly.*
- (e) In the event that any of these seats are vacant during the formation of the Elections Committee, the President may appoint members of any branch of the SGA to serve on the Elections Committee.
  - (i) *In the event that the Chair or Co-Chair is running for a position in the election, the Vice President for Advocacy and Support will Co-Chair. In the event this person is ineligible or unable to serve in this capacity, the president will appoint a chair and/or co-chair as needed within the SGA.*
  - (ii) The members of the Elections Committee must be determined at the first General Assembly meeting.

### **Section 14.03 The Council of Campus Organizations (COCO)**

- (a) COCO is responsible for overseeing the operations of campus clubs and organizations. All SGA chartered clubs and organizations shall participate in COCO.
- (b) COCO shall be chaired by the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations.
- (c) The Vice President of Clubs and Organizations shall create a set of bylaws; subject to Senate review and ratification.
- (d) All clubs and organizations are required to have at least one representative at COCO meetings.

### **Section 14.04 Communications Committee**

- (a) The Communications Committee shall create a standing set of operating procedures subject to General Assembly review and ratification.
- (b) The Vice President of Communications shall chair the Communications Committee.
- (c) Shall consist of a minimum of four members from the General Assembly.

## **Article XV. Ad-hoc Committees**

Any branch of the SGA can establish an Ad-hoc Committee to address a specific concern or complete a designated task or project for the SGA. Each Ad-hoc Committee shall have authority to implement procedures necessary to carry out their purposes as long as such procedures are consistent with the purposes of the SGA as mentioned in Article II of this Constitution. Ad-hoc Committees are usually formed for a limited period and cease to exist after accomplishing their specific task.

## **Article XVI. Student Media – *The Catalyst***

The SGA will fund and promote the student news media at Old Westbury and make no attempt to censor the news media. The *Catalyst* student newspaper will be funded as an item of the annual SGA budget to be approved by the *Catalyst* advisor, SGA Budget Committee, and the Independent Fiscal Agent. A *Catalyst* budget for the following academic year must be submitted to the SGA no later than March 15. The *Division of Academic Affairs and the Department of Media and Communications* will appoint the *Catalyst* advisor. The advisor will promote and maintain the standards and practices of professional journalism at the *Catalyst*. It is the responsibility of the *Catalyst* chief editor and the *Catalyst* advisor to

ensure that the *Catalyst* serves the campus community by practicing objective and ethical journalism and maintaining a clear distinction between the reporting of news and the publishing of editorial opinions. The *Catalyst* must publish campus news and information according to a regular schedule approved by the *Catalyst* advisor in order to maintain funding by the SGA.

**Article XVII. Dissolution Clause**

**Section 17.01** In cases of dissolution of the State University of New York College at Old Westbury SGA, the assets remaining after payment of its just debts and obligations shall be transferred to the State University of New York College at Old Westbury or to such other College-approved entity.

**Section 17.02** Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Article XVIII. Constitution Adoption & Amendment**

**Section 18.01** Adoption

Upon ratification by the General Assembly, this Constitution shall immediately take effect and supersede all previous constitutions of the SGA.

**Section 18.02** Amendments

To amend this Constitution a two-thirds vote of the Student Government Association by the General Assembly shall be required.