

SBU FREETHINKERS

CONSTITUTION

I. PREAMBLE

1. This Constitution establishes a student organization, SBU Freethinkers (“the Organization”), and shall govern the Organization in accordance with the rules and regulations of Stony Brook University (“the University”).

II. NAME & AFFILIATIONS

1. The name of the Organization shall be SBU Freethinkers.
2. The name of the Organization shall be registered with the Department of Student Union and Activities, in accordance with University regulations.
3. The SBU Freethinkers shall be affiliated with the Secular Student Alliance (herein known as SSA), an educational nonprofit whose purpose is to educate high school and college students around the country about the value of scientific reason and the intellectual basis of secularism in its atheistic and humanistic manifestations.
4. The SBU Freethinkers shall be affiliated with the Center For Inquiry (herein known as CFI), a national organization which purpose is to contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of science and reason, and their applications to human conduct.

III. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Organization shall be:
 - A. To organize, unite and educate students at Stony Brook University, by promoting the ideals of rationality, secularism and science.
 - B. To a create a visible campus community of secular or non-religious students at Stony Brook University;
 - C. To provide a venue for students at Stony Brook University to discuss and share their secular or non-religious philosophies and world views;
 - D. To provide a way for students at Stony Brook University to advocate for the rights and interests of secular and non-religious people;
 - E. To provide a way for secular and non-religious students at Stony Brook University to meet each other and interact socially; and
 - F. To provide a venue for events of interest to secular or non-religious students at Stony Brook University and to the secular and non-religious community at large.
2. The Organization’s Statement of Purpose, as stated in this Constitution, shall be filed with the Department of Student Union and Activities, in accordance with University regulations.
3. The Organization shall not engage in any activities in violation of University regulations or federal, state or local laws.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. All members of the Organization shall be currently registered, matriculated undergraduate or graduate students at Stony Brook University.
2. Any person meeting the qualifications for membership who attends a general meeting of the Organization shall be asked to sign a membership roster. Upon signing, he or she shall be considered a member of the organization for the remainder of the semester during which he or she attended the meeting, unless:
 - A. He or she notifies the Secretary in writing of his or her wishes to be removed from the membership roster;
 - B. He or she ceases to be eligible for membership;
 - C. He or she fails to attend three consecutive general meetings.
3. By becoming members of the Organization, members certify that they have an interest in the Purpose of the Organization as stated in this Constitution.
4. The Organization shall not deny membership or office to, or discriminate in any other way against any member because of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, nationality, race, sex, physical disability, political or religious beliefs, or in any other way prohibited by law or by University regulation.
5. To remain active, you must have attended at least 1 of the last (6) meetings.
6. An inactive member is one that has been absent for (6) consecutive meetings.
7. A member is considered “new” if s/he has not yet attended 3 meetings.
8. To become active, you must attend at least (3) of the last (6) meetings.

V. OFFICERS

1. All nominees for officer positions must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0; if elected, must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0; and must be registered for the semester or semesters during which they are to serve.
2. All officers shall serve for one year and may be re-elected to the same position for unlimited additional years as long as they maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and are registered for the semester or semesters during which they are to serve.
3. The officers of the Organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
4. Any officer shall be able to resign his or her position by presenting a signed letter of resignation to the Executive Board.
5. The President shall:
 - A. Be the official representative of the Organization;
 - B. Be a non-voting ex officio member of all committees of the Organization, except the Election Committee;

- C. Have the power to convene and preside over the meetings of the Executive Board and of the General Membership and prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Executive Board and the General Membership; and
 - D. Further perform any duties that may be necessary and proper in fulfillment of his or her office, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
6. In the event of a vacancy of the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume all responsibilities of the President for the remainder of the year.
7. The Vice President shall:
- A. Assist the President in any way that may be necessary and proper in fulfillment of his or her office, subject to the approval of the Executive Board;
 - B. Further perform any duties that may be necessary and proper in fulfillment of his or her office, subject to the approval of the Executive Board; and
 - C. Assume the office of President in the event of a vacancy in that office.
8. In the event of a vacancy of this office, a new Vice President shall be elected in a special election called by the President, which shall take place no less than one (1) month after the vacancy occurs.
9. The Secretary shall:
- A. Take minutes and attendance of all meetings and maintain a correct and up-to-date active voting membership roster; and
 - B. Further perform any duties that may be necessary and proper in fulfillment of his or her office, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
 - C. Post all approved minutes on the club website
 - D. Keep a record of all SBU Freethinkers accomplishments and activities for the year. Collect items such as pictures and news clippings about the group and its members.
 - E. Keep attendance records and member status electronically and available upon request by a member.
10. In the event of a vacancy of this office, a new Secretary shall be elected in a special election called by the President, which shall take place no less than one (1) month after the vacancy occurs.
11. The Treasurer shall:
- A. Maintain accurate and current financial records for SBU Freethinkers
 - B. Perform any duties that may be necessary and proper in fulfillment of his or her office, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
 - C. Serve as liaison to all affiliations of SBU Freethinkers
 - D. Plan and coordinate all fundraising activities

12. In the event of a vacancy of this office, a new Treasurer shall be elected in a special election called by the president, which shall take place no less than one (1) month after the vacancy occurs.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The total membership of the Executive Board shall not exceed the total membership of the Organization.
3. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all meetings of the Executive Board except where they conflict with this Constitution.
4. The President shall be the chairperson and presiding officer of the Executive Board.
5. The Executive Board shall hold at least one meeting during the fall and spring semesters.
6. Each officer shall serve a one (1) year term.

VII. MEETINGS

1. The Organization shall hold at least five general meetings each month during the fall and spring semesters.
2. A quorum consisting of a simple majority of the Organization's members is necessary for the transaction of any business at all meetings.
3. All meetings shall have an agenda.
4. All members shall be notified at least five (5) days before a meeting.

VIII. ELECTIONS

1. A special election committee shall be created by the executive board in March of each academic year. It shall consist of four (4) members.
 - A. The chairperson of the election committee shall be selected by a majority vote of the executive board
2. No person shall seek the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary unless he or she has been a member of the Organization for two semesters prior to the semester when he or she would assume office.
3. Election shall be by majority vote of the active members.
4. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor at a general meeting prior to the election.
5. All members shall be notified at least five (5) days before an election.
6. In order to vote in an election, a member must have been considered an active member at the time of the general body meeting prior to the election. "New" members and "inactive" members will be excluded from the vote.
7. If there is no candidate running specifically for the position of vice president, the candidate who receives the second most votes for position of president will assume the office of vice president.

IX. IMPEACHMENT

1. Any officer of the Organization may be impeached if he or she acts to the detriment of the Organization or significantly disregards the duties of his or her office as stated in this Constitution.
2. If a list of charges signed by three-quarters (3/4) of the officers is submitted to the President, he or she must call for an impeachment proceeding. If the President is being brought up on charges, the petition shall be submitted to the Vice President. Upon receipt of the petition, the President or Vice President shall suspend the officer and prevent him/her from exercising all powers and voting rights pending the outcome of the impeachment proceedings.
3. If a list of charges signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members is submitted to the President, he or she must call for an impeachment proceeding. If the President is being brought up on charges, the petition shall be submitted to the Vice President. Upon receipt of the petition, the President or Vice President shall suspend the officer and prevent him/her from exercising all powers and voting rights pending the outcome of the impeachment proceedings.
4. After the proper impeachment proceedings, the officer or officers so charged may be impeached by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of group members. If impeachment passes, the officer shall be removed from his or her position.
5. An impeached officer or officers shall be replaced in the manner described in Section V of this Constitution.

X. AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be introduced from the floor, and must be submitted to the Secretary in writing, by any member at any general body membership meeting.
2. Upon receipt of a proposed amendment by the Secretary, the President shall call a referendum on the proposed amendment. The entire voting membership shall be notified in writing at least five (5) days before the referendum.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership is necessary for the passage of an amendment.

XI. DISSOLUTION

1. The Organization may be dissolved by the Executive Board with the approval of three-quarters (3/4) of the officers.
2. In the event of the dissolution of the Organization, all accrued funds and assets shall revert to the Undergraduate Student Government.