

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS¹
STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the student body of the School of Health Professions, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University, do hereby decree this constitution the official Constitution of the School of Health Professions Student Body.

ARTICLE I

Name and Membership

- 1.01 The name of this organization shall be the student body of the School of Health Professions (SoHP), and shall be referred to as such.
- 1.02 All students duly registered in the School of Health Professions are members of the student body of the School of Health Professions.

ARTICLE II

The Student Council

- 2.01 There shall be a Student Council composed of one representative from each class of each program of the School of Health Professions elected for a term of one year.
 1. The mechanism for nomination will be determined by each class.
 2. Elections will be by majority vote of the members of each class.
 3. All members of the student body of the School of Health Professions in good academic standing are eligible for the elective office of class representative.
 4. Duties and Responsibilities of Representatives;
 - A. Each class representative has one vote in the Student Council.
 - B. Each class representative shall attend all meetings of the Student Council.
 - C. It is the responsibility of each elected class representative to provide an alternate class representative for those times when he/she is unable to attend.

¹ Last adopted by Student Body and Student Council and certified by campus in 5/2004. Updated 9/2019 to reflect ministerial changes in campus name from Health Science Center at Brooklyn to the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and college name from College of Health Professions (CHRP) to School of Health Professions (SoHP). Certified on behalf of campus by Faculty Student Association (FSA) President, Richard Bentley.

- D. The duly appointed alternate of a class representative holds the full office of the class representative, with all responsibilities, duties, and privileges.
- E. The class representative will vote in accordance with the wishes of his/her class. If the Student Council decides by its majority vote that the issue at hand requires a referendum there will be a tally of individual votes of each class.
- F. A student class representative to the Council may be impeached (to include the removal from office) for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. Misrepresentation of the majority of his/her class in an issue before the Council.
 - 2. Unexcused absences of a class representative from two (2) consecutive meetings.

POWERS AND DUTIES

2.02 The Student Council shall:

- A. Prepare and approve the Student Activities Fee budget.
- B. Determine which committees are required to fulfill obligation to the student body. The functions of these offices will be defined by the Student Council.
- C. Enter into such intercollegiate student organizations or associations as will, in its opinion, promote the general interest of the student body.
- D. Undertake or support such projects or activities it deems in the general interest of the student body, or the community.
- E. Adopt with by-laws all necessary rules and regulations for its own conduct and procedures.
- F. Select one representative from the SOHP student body to attend all Faculty-Student Board of Directors meetings.

BY LAWS

- 2.03 A. Student Council shall adopt such by-laws and amendments as seem advisable, provided the original by-laws and all amendments are adopted at a regular meeting of which the notice states that this is an order of business, provided a copy of the by-laws or amendments thereto, are circulated to each member of Student Council at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.
- B. For adoption of each article of the original by-laws and of each amendment thereto a vote of 2/3 of the total voting members are required.

REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

- 2.04 The Student Council shall fix by rule the time of the regular meetings which shall be conducted at least once a month. No meetings of the Student Council may transact business without a quorum being present. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Student Council. Any member the student body may attend a meeting of the Student Council. Any member of student body that attends three (3) consecutive meetings can become a voting member with a maximum of three (3) members per class (including the class representative).

MEETINGS OF THE SOHP STUDENT BODY

- 2.05 The Student Council shall fix by rule, the time of the meetings of the School of Health Professions' student body.

ARTICLE III

The Executive Branch

- 3.01 The executive committee shall consist of the offices of President, Vice president, Treasurer, and Secretary.

POWERS AND DUTIES

- 3.02 A. The President shall:
1. Be the executive head of the student body and the Student Council, and shall represent the members of the body and Council at all official functions.
 2. Upon assuming the office of the President, be required to have his/her class select a new representative. The President no longer acts as his/her class's representative, but rather as a representative at large of the student body.
 3. Preside over all meetings of the Council and shall exercise a vote only in the event of a tie.
 4. Appoint, initiate, terminate, and except as otherwise provided, all executive committees and shall be a ex-officio member of each.
 5. Have the power to call special meetings of the student body and Council whenever necessary in conformity with the rules.
 6. Make such reports on the state of the student body and Council as he/she may deem necessary or as the said body may require.
 7. Be a co-signer, with the Treasurer, for authorizations of funds.

8. The President will attend 80% to 90% of the University Council Meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice President will perform the above.
- B. The Vice President shall:
1. Assume the power of the office of the President when the President is absent.
 2. Assume the position of parliamentarian and Sergeant-At-Arms.
 3. Maintain the records of attendance of representatives at the meetings of the Council.
 4. The Vice President will attend the University Council meeting in the absence of the President.
- C. The Treasurer shall:
1. Maintain the financial records and correspondence as necessary to meet needs of the Council.
 2. Sign all requisition forms already signed by the President.
- D. The Secretary shall:
1. Is responsible for maintaining minutes of all Council meetings, maintain files and such correspondence as necessary to meet the needs of the Council.

ARTICLE IV

- 4.01 Interpretation of the Constitution and settlement of disputes regarding the interpretation of this Constitution or of the by-laws shall be the function of the Student Council.
- 4.02 The decision of the Council in matters outlined above shall be respected by all parties.

ARTICLE V

IMPEACHMENT OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- 5.01 Impeachment or removal from office of Officers of the Council will be decided by at least a simple majority vote of a Council meeting, attended by no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the number representative of the entire council.

ARTICLE VI

PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT

- 6.01 Before this constitution may be amended, the following steps must be completed:

1. The proposed amendment or amendments must be introduced at a regular meeting of the Council by one of the representatives.
2. For ratification of the proposed amendment or amendments a referendum vote of the student body shall be taken in each class.
3. At the next regular meeting of the Council, after the introduction of the proposed amendment or amendments, the representatives shall give the ballots of the referendum vote of his/her class.

ARTICLE VII
ADVISORS TO THE COUNCIL

- 7.01 There shall be a Faculty Advisor to the Council subject to approval by the Student Council of the student body.

ARTICLE VIII
PROCEDURES FOR DISSOLVING THE STUDENT COUNCIL

- 8.01
1. A petition must be signed by at least one-third (1/3) of the student body.
 2. Petition must be addressed to the Dean of the School of Health Professions, with copies to the President of the Medical Center, Assistant of the School of Health Professions, Bursar, and the Student Council. Upon receipt of a valid petition, the Dean of the School of Health Professions will freeze all funds of the Council.
 3. Petition must state:
 - a) Grievances
 - b) Declares a request for dissolving the Student Council.
 4. Within seven (7) days of receipt of the petition, an emergency meeting must be held, of the student body, to debate the issues and to decide whether or not to dissolve Student Government. A simple majority of the student body will dissolve the government.
 5. Within seven (7) days, a new government will be elected in the prescribed manner. Representatives from old council may be reelected to the new government by their class.
 6. The new council must sent a letter to the Dean of the School of Health Professions to release funds.

ARTICLE IX

9.01 All meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X

PROCEDURES FOR RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

10.01 The Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the student body of the School of Health Professions.

ARTICLE XI

CHRP YEARBOOK

11.01 Effective September 1990 and here in, all Junior SOHP classes will be represented in the SOHP yearbook, if said classes so desire.

Junior SOHP representation in the yearbook will be determined by the Student Council but shall never be less than two printed pages per Junior class. Upon determining the Junior SOHP representation (in page numbers), the Council will pass these boundaries down to the current yearbook committee.

ARTICLE XII

CLUB REPRESENTATION

12.01 Each club that are receiving funds from SOHP Council, are required to have a club representative at each SOHP Council meeting and each University Council meeting (not necessarily the same individual) in order to be eligible to receive funds.