

# The Constitution of the Beren Campus Undergraduate Student Government Association

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## **Article I. INTRODUCTION**

### **Section I. Preamble**

We, the undergraduate students of the Beren Campus, hereby organize a Student Government Association with the mission to facilitate an active, engaged, and inclusive undergraduate campus community and strive to represent the undergraduate student voice in communication between University administration, faculty, staff, and trustees; to foster undergraduate student community through the recognition and financing of undergraduate student organizations, initiatives, and activities; and to address issues of sensitivity, diversity, and awareness in all aspects of undergraduate student campus life. We recognize this Constitution as our governing document intended to make clear the purposes, structures, and powers of this association.

### **Section II. Authority**

The Beren Campus undergraduate student body grants the Student Government Association responsibility and authority through election of the members. The authority of this Constitution is the basis for the conduct of all business of the Student Government Association. The Student Government Association is a permanent and continuously organized body with authority vested in its officers, members and representatives. The

structure by which the Student Government Association exercises its responsibilities is found in this Constitution.

### **Section III. Vision**

It is the vision of Student Government Association to responsibly serve and empower every Beren Campus undergraduate student to be a force for change and improvement while fostering and preserving tradition at Yeshiva University.

## **Article II. NAME AND PURPOSE**

### **Section I. Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association of the Beren Campus, hereafter referred to as the “SGA.”

### **Section II. Purpose**

The following shall be the purpose of the SGA for the Beren Campus undergraduate students:

- A. To gather and express student opinion, actively represent student views, appropriately address student concerns, and ensure that students are informed of all information of impact to their undergraduate experience;
- B. To provide a forum for the communication and expression of student views on campus life;
- C. To articulate student opinions on various issues;
- D. To determine priorities and expenditures of student activity fees assigned to the SGA;
- E. To recognize and constitute campus clubs and organizations;
- F. To share responsibility with University administration in governance concerning all matters of student life;
- G. To ensure diverse and entertaining programming that is accessible to the entire student body;
- H. To address issues of sensitivity, diversity, and awareness in all aspects of student life; and
- I. To promote and ensure responsible self-governance, open dialogue, and action through student representatives selected by fair and transparent election and appointment processes.

## **Article III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I. Representation**

All undergraduate students of the Beren Campus are represented by the SGA.

## **Section II. SGA Governing Bodies**

The SGA shall be composed of the Stern College for Women Student Council (hereafter referred to as the “SCWSC”), the Torah Activities Council (hereafter referred to as the “TAC”), the Sy Syms School of Business Student Council (hereafter referred to as the “SYMSSC”), the Class Councils, the Financial Adviser, and the Constitutional Council.

The members of the SGA are comprised of the members of each of the SCWSC, the TAC, the SYMSSC, the Constitutional Council, the Financial Adviser, and the Class Councils.

## **Section III. SCWSC Membership**

The members of the SCWSC shall be:

- A. President
- B. Vice President of Clubs
- C. Vice President of Academic Affairs
- D. Vice President of Programming
- E. Vice President of Public Relations

## **Section IV. SCWSC Purpose**

The purpose of the SCWSC shall be:

- A. To express the opinions of the undergraduate students of Stern College for Women upon matters affecting them;
- B. To carry out the desires of the Stern College for Women undergraduate student body;
- C. To serve as a liaison between University administration, faculty and staff, and undergraduate students of Stern College for Women; and
- D. To coordinate extra-curricular activities for the undergraduate students of Stern College for Women with the approved student clubs.

## **Section V. TAC Membership**

The members of the TAC shall be:

- A. President
- B. Vice President of Speakers
- C. Vice President of Shabbat
- D. Vice President of Chessed
- E. Vice President of Public Relations

## **Section VI. TAC Purpose**

The purpose of the TAC shall be:

- A. To enhance the religious experience of undergraduate students on the Beren Campus;
- B. To carry out the desires of the Beren Campus undergraduate student body with respect to their religious experience;
- C. To serve as a liaison between University administration, faculty and staff and undergraduate students on the Beren Campus on matters pertaining to Jewish programming; and
- D. To coordinate extra-curricular religious experiences for undergraduate students on the Beren Campus.

**Section VII. SYMSSC Membership**

The members of the SYMSSC shall be:

- A. President
- B. Vice President

**Section VIII. SYMSSC Purpose**

The purpose of the SYMSSC shall be:

- A. To express the opinions of the undergraduate students of Sy Syms School of Business on the Beren Campus upon matters affecting them;
- B. To carry out the desires of the Sy Syms School of Business undergraduate student body on the Beren Campus;
- C. To serve as a liaison between University administration, faculty and staff, and Sy Syms School of Business undergraduate students on the Beren Campus; and
- D. To coordinate extra-curricular activities for the undergraduate students of Sy Syms School of Business on the Beren Campus with the approved student clubs.

**Article IV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Membership and actions of the SGA shall not discriminate, including but not limited to: race; ethnicity; nationality; sexual orientation; gender identity; religious, spiritual and humanistic belief or lack thereof; age; disability; health status; political affiliation or ideology; or socioeconomic standing.

**Article V. COMMITTEES**

**Section I. Committees of SCWSC**

The following standing committees shall conduct the designated business of the SCWSC:

- A. Election Committee; and
- B. Student Life Committee.

The SCWSC may constitute ad hoc committees which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the above committees to deal with other matters of interest or concern to the undergraduate students of Stern College for Women.

## **Section II. Committees of TAC**

The following standing committee shall conduct the designated business of the TAC:

### **A. Shabbat Enhancement Committee.**

The TAC may constitute ad hoc committees which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the above committee to deal with other matters of interest or concern to the undergraduate students of the Beren Campus.

## **Section III. Committees of SYMSSC**

The following standing committee shall conduct the designated business of the SYMSSC:

### **A. Leadership Awards Dinner Committee.**

The SYMSSC may constitute ad hoc committees which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the above committee to deal with other matters of interest or concern to the undergraduate students of Sy Syms School of Business on the Beren Campus.

## **Article VI. STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

### **Section I. Membership**

Student Life Committee (hereafter referred to as the “SLC”) membership shall consist of:

- A. Two SLC chairs appointed by the outgoing SLC chairs;**
- B. Members selected by the incoming SLC chairs after an application and interview process;**
- C. At least one representative of each class and a minimum of six students; and**
- D. To the best of the chairs’ ability, members of different majors. However, no major is guaranteed to be represented.**

### **Section II. Responsibilities:**

The SLC shall:

- A. Serve as a permanent committee of the SCWSC;**
- B. Meet regularly as a committee, and the chairs shall meet with the President of the SCWSC on a monthly basis;**
- C. Serve as liaisons between the Stern College for Women student body and several areas of academic life and student life on the Beren Campus; and**
- D. Meet with relevant administrators at least once monthly.**

## **Article VII. CLUBS**

## **Section I. Club Status**

Club status must be obtained from the SCWSC or the SYMSSC or the TAC. The following process shall occur:

- A. Applications for renewal of club status shall be made on an annual basis before finals in the Spring semester or within the first three weeks of the Fall semester, with approval of the SCWSC, the SYMSSC or the TAC, as applicable.
- B. Applications for new club status shall be made during an agreed upon two week period within the first three weeks of each academic semester. (For purposes of this Constitution, references to a semester only mean the Fall or Spring semester, and not any Summer or other semester.)
- C. In the event that this schedule cannot be maintained as a result of religious holiday or emergency, the Student Councils shall have the authority to create a new schedule.
- D. After the application process closes, the applicable council shall hold a “presentation day” within the following two weeks, in which each new club seeking club status shall explain to the council what their request entails and why it should be granted.
- E. In its discretion, the council shall give status to a new club for a period contingent upon compliance with regulations.

## **Section II. Responsibilities**

Clubs shall:

- A. Attend one or more mandatory information sessions held by the applicable council;
- B. Hold at least two events per semester;
- C. Complete and submit event request and speaker forms as well as requested follow-up forms in the appropriate timeframe as indicated by the SGA; and
- D. Otherwise comply with the requirements of the applicable council and the SGA.

## **Article VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL**

### **Section I. Purpose**

The council established by this Article VIII shall be named the Constitutional Council.

The Constitutional Council shall:

- A. Be composed of five Justices and an additional Alternate Justice;
- B. Be headed by a Chief Justice, who shall be one of the five members of the Constitutional Council;

- C. Hear and decide questions of the constitutionality of any actions taken under the provisions and jurisdiction of this Constitution, and have original and appellate jurisdiction over such questions; and
- D. Have the authority to convene special elections to fill all vacant SGA positions, and have such other duties and powers as set forth herein.

## **Section II. Appointments**

Appointments to the Constitutional Council shall be made in accordance with the following:

- A. The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the incoming Presidents of the SCWSC, the TAC and the SYMSSC (each, an “SGA President”) after an interview process shortly following the SGA elections.
- B. Justices, including the Alternate Justice, shall be appointed from a pool of nominees based on a majority vote of the incoming Chief Justice and all incoming SGA Presidents.
  - a. Nominees can be self-nominations or peer-nominations.
  - b. Justices shall have a term of one year that can be renewed the subsequent year upon completion of the nomination process.
- C. Appointments should be made by the end of the Spring semester following the SGA elections.

**See Article XIII, Section V for additional eligibility requirements.**

## **Section III. Duties and Powers of Justices**

The Justices of the Constitutional Council shall:

- A. Convene within five school days of receiving a suit, including the day of filing, to vote whether a case shall be heard.
  - a. Cases shall only be heard upon a majority agreement of the Justices. The five Justices shall constitute a quorum; provided that if a Justice cannot participate for any reason (including due to a conflict), the Alternate Justice can take her place.
- B. Convene for public trial within two weeks following the court’s decision to hear a case, open to the entire student body.
  - a. A defendant may request a private trial, and the Constitutional Council shall decide whether to grant or deny that request.
- C. Have the power to examine evidence, call available witnesses, authorize the issuance of such writs as it shall deem necessary or desirable, and make such rules as it shall deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business.
- D. Decide all cases in which a member of the SGA is involved, and cases between undergraduate councils, committees, and clubs on the Beren Campus.
- E. Try all cases of impeachment of an SGA member.

- F. Hear all cases of discrepancy regarding elections and referenda, and activities of the Election Committee, and such other matters as described herein.
- G. Determine verdict and other matters based on a majority vote.
- H. Publish a verdict within three school days of the end of any trial which shall become effective immediately after publication.
- I. Hold at least one non-trial meeting per semester to review any actions taken by the Constitutional Council since the last meeting, and to produce and make public a Constitutional Council Official Report on an annual basis containing a summation of any actions taken by the Constitutional Council for such year, and any rulings of the Constitutional Council for such year, including the opinions themselves and commentary on them.

#### **Section IV. Duties and Powers of the Chief Justice**

The Chief Justice shall:

- A. Operate as the chair of the Constitutional Council;
- B. Convene and preside over meetings of the Constitutional Council;
- C. Maintain an accurate copy of the SGA Constitution;
- D. Distribute an updated copy of the SGA Constitution to each SGA President and Justice, and redistribute each time it is amended;
- E. Advise the SGA on all legal and constitutional questions after convening with the other Justices;
- F. Distribute a copy of the filed suit to the accused party within one day of receipt; and
- G. Distribute opinions of the Constitutional Council to any party named or referenced in such an opinion.

#### **Section V. Procedural Rights**

A student accused and brought to trial must be guaranteed the following rights:

- A. To receive a copy of the filed suit against them within one day of receipt by the Constitutional Council;
- B. The opportunity to prepare a reasonable defense in advance of the trial;
- C. To confront and question the accuser, or to study and challenge any incriminating statements;
- D. To question witnesses and submit material evidence;
- E. To refuse to testify against themselves;
  - a. Any person offering testimony may refuse to answer questions that would incriminate herself;
  - b. No evidence may be presented against a student that was seized and held unlawfully;



- F. To receive an impartial and open trial, and if convicted, to be subjected to no cruel or unusual punishment; and
- G. To have trials completed with deliberate speed.

## **Article IX. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SGA**

### **Section I. Powers and Duties of SCWSC Positions**

#### **A. President**

The President shall:

- i. Enforce the provisions of this Constitution and the laws of the SGA;
- ii. Represent the undergraduate student body of Stern College for Women as an official spokesperson;
- iii. Have the power to convene the SCWSC, the Constitutional Council, or SCWSC clubs when she shall deem it necessary;
- iv. Preside over all meetings of the SCWSC, keep track of attendance, and appoint note-takers;
- v. Meet with the Presidents of the TAC and the SYMSSC on a weekly basis regarding campus and council issues;
- vi. Coordinate with the Presidents of the undergraduate student governments on the Wilf Campus (“Wilf Campus Presidents”) when necessary;
- vii. Make budgetary decisions, including but not limited to, SCWSC club event funding and allocating funding for SCWSC Beren Campus-wide events; and
- viii. Assist each member of the SCWSC in fulfilling their respective responsibilities.

#### **B. Vice President of Clubs**

The Vice President of Clubs shall:

- i. Perform the duties of the SCWSC President, upon written communication from the SCWSC President, until further notice from the SCWSC President;
  - 1. Such communications shall also be made public to the Beren Campus undergraduate student body and to the Constitutional Council to become effective,
- ii. Act as the SCWSC President under extenuating circumstances upon a determination by a majority of the members of the SCWSC, subject to approval by the Constitutional Council;
- iii. Organize at least one yearly event for all SCWSC club presidents;
- iv. Organize a mandatory information session for all SGA club presidents in the beginning of the academic year as well as a mandatory information

session for all new SGA club presidents in the beginning of the Spring semester;

- v. Assign one member of SCWSC to serve as a liaison to each SCWSC club;
- vi. Oversee all non-academic SCWSC clubs and keep a list of how many events and of what kind each respective non-academic club runs each semester;
- vii. Have the power to give and remove SCWSC club status from any club not adhering to rules and norms; and
- viii. Ensure that the SCWSC event request form is up-to-date and to frequently check it.

C. Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Vice President of Academic Affairs shall:

- i. Oversee all academic SCWSC clubs on campus and keep a list of how many events and of what kind each respective academic club runs each semester;
- ii. Serve as a liaison between the Beren Campus undergraduate student body and the Deans of Stern College for Women to implement student input regarding academic affairs;
- iii. Serve as a liaison to, and meet with, the Beren Campus Undergraduate Career Center, Beren Campus Undergraduate Academic Advisement and the Deans of Stern College for Women at least once per semester; and
- iv. Conduct a Beren Campus undergraduate student survey regarding students' academic experiences at least once per semester.

D. Vice President of Programming

The Vice President of Programming shall:

- i. Oversee the Joint Class Council and meet with them regularly;
- ii. Foster and implement new and diverse SCWSC programming on the Beren Campus;
- iii. Conduct Beren Campus undergraduate student surveys after SCWSC Beren Campus-wide programs;
- iv. Put together committees for annual and new SCWSC programming on the Beren Campus;
- v. Serve as a resource for all programming committees of the SGA; and
- vi. Oversee yearly transition efforts in order to inaugurate new SCWSC members.

E. Vice President of Public Relations

The Vice President of Public Relations shall:

- i. Act as the official public relations director of the SCWSC, including developing and promoting SCWSC publicity, branding and relationship with the media;

- ii. Act as a public relations resource for SCWSC student groups;
- iii. Maintain and update all social media accounts of the SCWSC;
- iv. Be responsible for marketing all SCWSC events, including but not limited to, flyer-making and distribution as well as email circulation;
- v. Write and send weekly emails about SCWSC events to the Beren Campus undergraduate student body; and
- vi. Update the Beren Campus undergraduate student body about weekly SCWSC events through email, whiteboard announcements and/or other means of communication.

## **Section II. General Powers and Duties of all SCWSC Members**

All members of the SCWSC shall:

- A. Be responsible for undergraduate student life on the Beren Campus;
- B. Attend and help prepare for all SCWSC programming;
- C. Serve on committees to organize SCWSC Beren Campus-wide events;
- D. Serve as liaisons for SCWSC clubs;
- E. Be on campus for Shabbat as indicated by the SCWSC rotation;
- F. Help with all SCWSC student leader events such as orientation; and
- G. Attend SCWSC weekly meetings.

## **Section III. Powers and Duties of TAC Positions**

### **A. President**

The President shall:

- i. Enforce the provisions of this Constitution and the laws of the SGA;
- ii. Represent the undergraduate student body of the Beren Campus as an official spokesperson for religious affairs;
- iii. Have the power to convene the TAC, the Constitutional Council, or TAC clubs when she shall deem it necessary;
- iv. Preside over all meetings of the TAC, keep track of attendance, and appoint note-takers;
- v. Meet with the Presidents of the SCWSC and the SYMSSC on a weekly basis regarding campus and council issues;
- vi. Coordinate with the Wilf Campus Presidents when necessary;
- vii. Make budgetary decisions, including but not limited to, TAC club event funding and allocating funding for TAC Beren Campus-wide events; and
- viii. Assist each member of the TAC in fulfilling all of their respective responsibilities.

- ix. Ensure that the TAC event request form is up-to-date and to frequently check it.

**B. Vice President of Speakers**

The Vice President of Speakers shall:

- i. Perform the duties of the TAC President, upon written communication from the TAC President, until further notice from the TAC President;
  - 1. Such communications shall also be made public to the Beren Campus undergraduate student body and to the Constitutional Council to become effective,
- ii. Act as the TAC President under extenuating circumstances upon a determination by a majority of the members of the TAC, subject to approval by the Constitutional Council;
- iii. Bring religious speakers to the Beren Campus to cater to a wide range of undergraduate students and topics;
- iv. Communicate and coordinate logistics with potential speakers for the TAC;
- v. Oversee W9 forms, invoices and signed speakers engagement agreements for speakers for the TAC;
- vi. Coordinate with the University Facilities Department and other applicable departments to ensure proper arrangements are made for speakers for the TAC; and
- vii. Work with the TAC Vice President of Public Relations to provide speaker information to the Beren Campus undergraduates.

**C. Vice President of Shabbat**

The Vice President of Shabbat shall:

- i. Develop an overview of Shabbat programming on the Beren Campus for undergraduate students for the full academic year, prior to the start of the academic year;
- ii. Create a theme for each Shabbat of the academic year and invite related speakers and clubs to participate in programming;
- iii. Attend weekly meetings with the University Office of Student Life and Beren Campus couples to prepare for upcoming and future Shabbatot; and
- iv. Oversee and support the Shabbat Enhancement Committee.

**D. Vice President of Chessed**

The Vice President of Chessed shall:

- i. Provide a medium through which Beren Campus undergraduate students can connect to Judaism outside of a structured learning environment;

- ii. Oversee all TAC Chessed clubs and committees, and meet with these club and committee heads regularly; and
- iii. Develop meaningful Chessed related programming on the Beren Campus for the undergraduate students, including both short and long term events and initiatives.

**E. Vice President of Public Relations**

The Vice President of Public Relations shall:

- i. Act as the official public relations director of the TAC, including developing and promoting TAC publicity, branding and relationship with the media;
- ii. Maintain and update all social media accounts of the TAC;
- iii. Be responsible for marketing all TAC events, including but not limited to, flyer-making and distribution as well as email circulation;
- iv. Write and send weekly emails about TAC events to the Beren Campus undergraduate student body; and
- v. Update the Beren Campus undergraduate student body about weekly TAC events through email, whiteboard announcements, and/or other means of communication.

**Section IV. General Powers and Duties of all TAC Members**

All members of the TAC shall:

- A. Attend and help prepare for all TAC programming;
- B. Serve on committees to organize TAC Beren Campus-wide events;
- C. Serve as liaisons for TAC clubs;
- D. Be on campus for Shabbat as indicated by the TAC rotation;
- E. Help with all TAC student leader events such as orientation; and
- F. Attend TAC weekly meetings.

**Section V. Powers and Duties of SYMSSC Positions**

**A. President**

The President shall:

- i. Enforce the provisions of this Constitution and the laws of the SGA;
- ii. Represent the Beren Campus undergraduate student body of Sy Syms School of Business as its official spokesperson;
- iii. Have the power to convene the SYMSSC, the Constitutional Councils, or SYMSSC clubs when she shall deem it necessary;
- iv. Preside over all meetings of the SYMSSC, keep track of attendance, and appoint note-takers;
- v. Meet with the Presidents of the TAC and the SCWSC on a weekly basis regarding campus and council issues;

- vi. Coordinate with the Wilf Campus Presidents when necessary;
- vii. Assign one member of the SYMSSC to serve as a liaison to each SYMSSC club;
- viii. Have the power to give and remove club status from any SYMSSC club not adhering to rules and norms;
- ix. Make budgetary decisions, including but not limited to SYMSSC club event funding and allocating funding for SYMSSC Beren Campus-wide events; and
- x. Assist each member of the SYMSSC in fulfilling all of their respective responsibilities.

**B. Vice President**

The Vice President shall:

- i. Succeed to the office of SYMSSC President in the event that the SYMSSC President leaves office;
- ii. Perform the duties of the SYMSSC President, upon written communication from the SYMSSC President, until further notice from the SYMSSC President;
  - 1. Such communications shall also be made public to the Beren Campus undergraduate Sy Syms School of Business student body and to the Constitutional Council to become effective,
- iii. Assist in SYMSSC Beren Campus-wide events;
- iv. Ensure that the SYMSSC event request form is up-to-date and to frequently check it;
- v. Serve as a liaison to the SYMSSC clubs assigned to her; and

**Section VI. Class Councils**

**Section I. Purpose**

The purpose of the Class Councils is to represent and organize extracurricular activities for students of their academic year in conjunction with the SCWSC Vice President of Programming.

**Section II. General Powers and Duties**

- A. There shall be five Class Councils, one for each undergraduate class of Stern College for Women, and one for the undergraduate classes of The Katz School on the Beren Campus;
- B. Each Class Council shall consist of a President and a Vice President;

- C. Election of the members of the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class Council of Stern College for Women shall take place in conjunction with the SGA elections each spring;
- D. Election of the members of the Freshman Class Council of Stern College for Women and The Katz School Class Council shall take place in the Fall semester, not less than ten nor more than twenty-five days after the first day of classes;
  - a. In the event that this schedule cannot be maintained as a result of religious holiday or emergency, the Election Committee shall have the authority to create a new schedule.
- E. All Class Councils shall serve on the Joint Class Council that is advised by the SCWSC Vice President of Programming; and
- F. Class Councils shall meet at least twice monthly, and the Joint Class Council shall meet at least once monthly.

## **Article X. Financial Adviser**

### **Section I. Purpose**

The purpose of the Financial Adviser shall be to oversee the finances of the SCWSC, the TAC, and the SYMSSC.

### **Section II. Appointment**

- A. The Financial Adviser shall be appointed from a pool of nominees based on a majority vote of the incoming SGA Presidents.
  - a. Nominees can be self-nominations or peer-nominations.
  - b. The Financial Adviser shall have a term of one year that can be renewed the subsequent year upon completion of the nomination process.
- B. Appointment of the Financial Adviser must be made by the end of the Spring semester following the SGA elections.

### **Section III. General Powers and Duties of the Financial Adviser**

The Financial Adviser shall:

- A. Be responsible for the finances of the SGA.
- B. Serve as a liaison between the Beren Campus Office of Student Life and the SGA Presidents regarding finances.
- C. Ensure that student fees are appropriately allocated to each of the SCWSC, the TAC and the SYMSSC.
- D. Be a resource for budgeting for each of the councils.
  - i. Present the past years' spending in a meeting with the SGA Presidents at the beginning of the academic year.

- ii. Suggest a budget plan to the SGA Presidents at the beginning of the academic year based on previous spending. Suggest an updated budget plan at the beginning of the Spring semester.
  - iii. Attend the first meeting of the SGA committee planning inter-council events to present a budget plan. Serve as resource throughout the inter-council event planning process.
- E. Document all SGA spending by council.
- i. Update weekly a document containing each council spending.
  - ii. Send a weekly report of spending per their respective clubs and per their respective council to the SGA Presidents.
  - iii. Present a full report of SGA spending to the next year's Financial Adviser.
- F. Collect all documents verifying the use of all funds.
- G. Attend meetings of the SGA Presidents at the request of a SGA President.

## **Article XI. ACTIVITIES**

### **Section I. SGA Councils**

- A. A term of each member of the SGA Councils shall begin as of the first day of orientation for the Fall semester and last until Commencement in the Spring semester. Pre-planning activities should occur during the summer months.
- B. Each of the SCWSC, the TAC and the SYMSSC shall meet at least weekly.
- C. All meetings of the SCWSC, the TAC and the SYMSSC shall be open to the entire undergraduate Beren Campus student body except for Executive Sessions. There must be at least two open meetings per semester.
- D. The President of each council shall have the right to call meetings at any time.
- E. A council will also hold meetings at the written request of the applicable student body; for this to happen ten percent of the undergraduate Beren Campus student body which the council represents must sign and submit the request to the President of the council.

### **Section II. Attendance Policy**

- A. Members of the SGA councils may not be absent from more than three meetings during the course of a semester.
- B. Council members are expected to attend SGA inter-council programming as well as programming for their specific council.
- C. Council members are expected to attend Beren Campus undergraduate orientation for both semesters.
- D. In the case of extenuating circumstances, this attendance policy can be waived at the discretion of the relevant council president.

### **Section III. Impeachment**



Any SGA member or club president who is negligent in the fulfillment of her duties is subject to impeachment.

- A. A motion to impeach a member must be initiated by a petition signed by the relevant council president, or by a majority of the members of the relevant council, or by ten percent of the Beren Campus undergraduate student body which the member represents, and presented to the Chief Justice; in the case that the impeachment charges are directed at the Chief Justice, the other Justices shall receive and present the petition;
- B. The Constitutional Council shall convene to discuss the charges and determine if a trial is appropriate; in the event that a Justice is the accused, she shall be replaced by the Alternate Justice; and
- C. In the event that they determine a trial is necessary, they shall follow the procedure of Article VIII.

#### **Section IV. Resignation**

In the event that a member of the SGA resigns, a letter of resignation should be submitted by the member in writing to the President of the relevant council. Should an SGA President resign, the resignation letter by the President should be submitted to the Chief Justice. Upon the receipt of the letter of resignation, the resigning member is obligated to distribute a public statement to their constituents and continue fulfilling her duties for two weeks.

### **Article XII. FINANCES**

#### **Section I. SGA Finances**

- A. The SGA shall work with the University Finance Department annually to receive its allotted budget.
- B. The budget of the SGA will be divided among the SCWSC, the TAC and the SYMSSC.
- C. Of the total SGA budget, the SCWCS will receive 52%, the TAC will receive 38% and the SYMSSC will receive 10%.
- D. Class Councils receive funding from the SCWCS as the SCWCS may determine in its discretion.

### **Article XIII. ELECTIONS**

#### **Section I. Election Committee**

There shall be an Election Committee in charge of coordinating the election of the members of the SGA. No one who is running for office is eligible to serve on the Election Committee. Members of the Election Committee shall include:

- A. The SGA Presidents, who shall serve as co-chairs.

- B. A Justice who is in the senior class to be appointed by the Chief Justice (the Chief Justice shall not serve on the Election Committee).
- C. Two seniors collectively selected by the SGA Presidents who are not otherwise members of the SGA.

## **Section II. Election Committee Responsibilities**

The Election Committee shall:

- A. Meet within the first week of the Fall semester to plan the Fall elections for the Freshman Class Council, Katz Class Council, and any vacant positions on the SGA.
- B. Meet within the first month of the Spring Semester to plan the Spring elections.
- C. Run a fair, unbiased election.
- D. Establish and consistently enforce the rules and regulations for campaigning and elections and clearly publicize these rules and regulations prior to the beginning of campaigning.
  - a. All rules must have realistic prospects of being fulfilled.
- E. Determine the eligibility of candidates before the start of campaigning.
- F. Compose and publicize the requirements for the statements of intent due from prospective candidates.
- G. Ensure that the election schedule and events are well-publicized.
- H. Organize one Beren Campus-wide debate that is mandatory for all candidates.
- I. Monitor election events and the full day of student voting.
- J. Create budgets for each candidate and ensure that each candidate's campaign spending is within the spending limit.

## **Section III. Election Schedule**

- A. For the Spring elections, the schedule shall be as follows:
  - a. A list of the available positions and the election schedule shall be published two weeks before statements of intent are due from prospective candidates.
  - b. A week before statements of intent are due, there will be an informational meeting led by the Election Committee for the Beren Campus undergraduate student body about the positions of the SGA.
  - c. Statements of intent shall be due at least a week before campaigning begins.
- B. For the Fall elections, the schedule shall be as follows:
  - a. A list of available positions and the election schedule shall be published the first Monday of the second week of the Fall semester.
  - b. On the Tuesday of the second week of the Fall semester, there will be an informational meeting led by the Election Committee for the Beren

Campus undergraduate student body about the vacant positions of the SGA.

- c. Statements of intent shall be due on or prior to the Thursday of the second week of the Fall semester
- C. The list of candidates running shall be published the day before campaigning begins.
- D. All candidates will be required to sign a contract stating the following, when they announce their candidacy and before active campaigning begins: "If elected to the office of (position) of the SGA, I will fulfill all responsibilities of my position as listed in the Constitution of the SGA. I understand that failure to do so will result in my removal from office. During the campaign I will do my best to abide by the tone and spirit of the election regulations."
- E. Campaigning shall take place throughout a full week, ending on the day prior to elections.
- F. The campus-wide debate shall take place during the week of campaigning as determined by the Election Committee.
- G. Spring Elections shall take place on a Thursday approximately one month prior to Commencement.
- H. Fall Elections shall take place on a Thursday approximately three weeks after the beginning of the Fall semester.
- I. In the event that any schedule cannot be maintained as a result of religious holiday or emergency, the Election Committee shall have the authority to create a new schedule.
- J. The candidate receiving the most votes cast in an election shall be considered the winner; candidates running unopposed must receive at least ten percent of potential votes for her position.
- K. Write-in votes shall be a valid means of determining preferences for every position that is empty or in which someone is running unopposed; before a write-in candidate can be declared a winner the Election Committee shall deem her eligible to run, and she must receive the most votes and at least ten percent of potential votes for her position.
- L. In the event that two candidates receive the same number of votes, there will be a runoff to decide the election. The runoff shall take place by the following Wednesday. Candidates participating in the runoff election shall have an additional 48 hours to campaign. If candidates have not exceeded their spending limit, they may spend additional money up to, but not exceeding, that amount.
- M. After the votes have been tallied, the winners of the election shall be announced.
- N. When a new position is created by the SGA, a special election shall be held in order to fill the position if it is created after the election period.

- O. Following elections, outgoing SGA members shall provide orientation to incoming SGA members.
- P. Outgoing SGA members shall meet with their successors consistently before the turnover and the end of the outgoing member's term of office.
- Q. The incoming SGA members shall be responsible for leading at least one meeting following elections and before the end of the Spring semester and to conduct planning until the start of the new academic year.

#### **Section IV. Campaign Guidelines for Election of Members**

- A. The spirit of the elections should be one of open and free speech, where personal responsibility and discretion of all community members is emphasized. The primary reason for election guidelines is to administer a fair election, where candidates have an opportunity to share their views and reasons for running for office with the community.
- B. No candidates may run as a ticket.
- C. No campaign material may be publicly displayed before the first day of campaigning begins.
- D. To limit inequities due to financial situations, candidates must restrict their total budget to the spending limit set by the Election Committee. This includes materials not purchased by the candidates but used to endorse them. All campaign finances must be included in the budget, including advertising, printing, entertainment, and materials used. Community members are encouraged to express their opinions about the election. However, they may not spend money doing so. Receipts of purchases shall not exceed the spending limit and shall be saved, along with an itemized budget, and the Election Committee may request this to be submitted at any point. Throughout the campaign, candidates may continue to purchase campaign materials, but the total amount spent on the election may not exceed the spending limit.
- E. The Election Committee shall not any discuss with third parties matters pertaining to the election beyond what is necessary; all matters pertaining to elections and candidates shall be confidential.
- F. If a candidate does not adhere to these election regulations, the Election Committee reserves the right to disqualify the candidate after meeting with the candidate to discuss the non-compliance. Circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis. If a candidate is disqualified and wishes to appeal the decision, she has the right to appeal the decision to the Constitutional Council.

#### **Section V. Eligibility of SGA Members**

- A. In order to be eligible for an SGA position, a student must:

1. Be a full-time student at the time of the election and throughout her term of office.
  2. Have a GPA of at least 3.0 in the semester prior to the election and in every semester throughout her term, and have no grade of a D or below in the semester prior to the election.
    - a. Eligibility with regard to academic standing will be approved by the University's Academic Advisement or the applicable Dean.
  3. Have a record of service or leadership, including but not limited to: club head, class board member, resident advisor or captain of any athletic team.
  4. Not be, throughout her term of office, a president of any club under her own council's jurisdiction, a resident advisor, an editor-in-chief of any publication for the University or its students, or a secretary general of the Yeshiva University National Model United Nations.
  5. Live in University housing on the Beren Campus, unless the Election Committee approves an off-campus living arrangement within the tri-state area.
  6. Not hold more than one SGA office at the same time.
- B. Candidates for President must be rising seniors with record of prior leadership in the University.
- C. Candidates for Vice-Presidents must be rising juniors or rising seniors.
- D. Candidates for a Class President and Vice President for an undergraduate class of Stern College for Women must be rising academically into that class. If a candidate becomes a member of another class while serving her term, she shall complete her elected term, pursuant to approval of the SCWSC President.
- E. Candidates for Katz School Class President must be from either academic class in the Katz School.
- F. Candidates for Justices must have at least one year of experience on the Beren Campus.
- G. In making appointments of Justices, the Chief Justice and the SGA Presidents shall, to the best of their ability, ensure representation from among the various academic divisions of the Beren Campus, provided that no division is guaranteed representation on the Constitutional Council and that Justices shall be selected primarily on the basis of ability and experience.
- H. The Chief Justice must:
1. Be a rising senior.
  2. Be appointed by the SGA Presidents by a two-thirds majority vote.
  3. Have at least one year of experience as a Justice on the Constitutional Council.

If a suitable candidate is not found who is a rising senior on the

Constitutional Council, notwithstanding clause (1) a special appointment shall be made and eligibility shall be extended to all rising juniors on the Constitutional Council; and if a suitable candidate is not found who is a rising junior on the Constitutional Council, notwithstanding clause (2) a special appointment shall be made and eligibility shall be extended to all full-time rising seniors with a record of prior leadership in the University.

### **Section VII. Special Elections**

- A. In the event that an SGA member resigns, is impeached, or is otherwise removed from office or if the SGA member position is otherwise vacant for any reason including without limitation if nobody is elected during the regular election, the Constitutional Council shall decide whether or not a special election should be held to fill the position.
- B. In the case that an election is held, the relevant council shall act as the Election Committee.
- C. Nomination shall close on a date set by the council.
- D. For a nomination to be valid, the candidate must be eligible as provided in Section V of this Article XIII.
- E. Six days of campaigning shall follow the close of nominations.
- F. The Election Committee shall host an open forum for debate and speeches.
- G. The election shall take place on the scheduled day of voting as determined by the Election Committee. All other procedures regarding elections as set forth above shall apply as applicable, including campaign guidelines as provided in Section IV of this Article XIII.

### **Article XIV. EFFECTIVE**

This Constitution shall be effective when:

- A. Approved by a majority of votes cast by the undergraduate students of the Beren Campus and
- B. A copy has been signed by all of the SGA Presidents then in office.

### **Article XV. AMENDMENT**

#### **Section I. Constitutional Review**

- A. Once every three years, this Constitution shall be reviewed by a special ad hoc committee chaired by the Chief Justice.
- B. This committee shall be called the Constitutional Review Committee (hereafter referred to as the "CRC").

- C. The CRC shall be composed of the Chief Justice, up to two graduating members of the Constitutional Council, up to two graduating members of the SCWSC, up to two graduating members of the TAC, up to two graduating members of the SYMSSC, and up to two graduating undergraduate students on the Beren Campus who are not members of the SGA.
- D. The report of the CRC shall be considered at a meeting of all SGA members. If the report proposes amendments, then the procedures of Section II of this Article XV below shall be followed.

#### **Section II. Amendment Procedures**

- A. A majority vote of all of the SCWSC, TAC, SYMSSC, and Class Council members shall be required for this Constitution to be amended. A student body vote of the undergraduates on the Beren Campus can be called at the discretion of the Chief Justice, in which case a majority of votes cast shall be required for this Constitution to be amended.
- B. A vote to amend the Constitution may not be taken until the proposed amendment has been reviewed by the Constitutional Council.
- C. No amendment shall be retroactive.
- D. The amendment shall take effect two weeks after it has been approved.

### **Article XVI. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Section I. Wilf Campus Councils and Governing Boards**

- A. The SGA shall honor all partnership agreements made with other University organizations, such as the Student Organization of Yeshiva, the Yeshiva Student Union, the Yeshiva College Student Association, the Syms Student Council on the Wilf Campus, and other governing boards.
- B. In the event that an SGA member feels that the terms of an agreement have been breached, the relevant parties shall convene a meeting together.

#### **Section II. Office of Student Life**

- A. The SGA shall work in conjunction with the University's Office of Student Life to provide support for student activities.

EFFECTIVE AS OF: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

SIGNED:

Shoshana Marder

Name: Shoshana Marder  
SCWSC President

Adina Cohen

Name: Adina Cohen  
TAC President

Shirel Swissa

Name: Shirel Swissa  
SYMSSC President