

Resolution 2025-02 in Support of the Stony Brook University Senate's Establishment of a Constitutional Review & Convention¹

October 3, 2024

WHEREAS , the Stony Brook University Senate plays a critical role in promoting shared governance, academic excellence, and the overall well-being of the university community; and

WHEREAS , the effectiveness of the University Senate is contingent upon a clear, comprehensive, and well-structured constitution that outlines its purpose, roles, responsibilities, and procedures; and

WHEREAS , the constitution of the University Senate serves as the foundational document guiding its operations and decision-making processes, ensuring transparency, accountability, and representation for all members of the university community; and

WHEREAS , periodic review of the constitution is essential to ensure that it remains relevant, effective, and reflective of the evolving needs and priorities of the university; and

WHEREAS , establishing a Constitutional Review would provide an organized and collaborative approach to assessing the current constitution, identifying areas for improvement, and proposing necessary amendments; and

WHEREAS , the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, and administration, in the review process is crucial to fostering inclusivity, transparency, and shared ownership of the governing documents of the University Senate; and

WHEREAS , many academic institutions have successfully implemented similar committees to ensure that their governing documents evolve in response to changes in institutional priorities and best practices;

¹ ChatGPT, response to "Draft in Support of the Stony Brook University Senate's Establishment of a Constitutional Review & Convention" OpenAI, October 3, 2024, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arts & Sciences Senate supports the establishment of a Constitutional Review Committee by the Stony Brook University Senate to conduct a comprehensive review of the University Senate's constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Constitutional Review Committee shall be composed of a diverse representation of faculty, staff, students, and administration, ensuring that multiple perspectives are considered throughout the review process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Constitutional Review Committee is tasked with identifying potential revisions and improvements to the constitution, with a focus on enhancing clarity, inclusivity, and the overall effectiveness of the University Senate, and that the Committee complete its findings by the end of the Fall 2025 semester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the findings and recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee be presented to the University Senate for consideration during a meeting to be held in the Spring 2026 semester of the 2025-2026 academic year, ensuring that any proposed amendments to the constitution undergo thorough review and discussion within the university community.

Adopted by the Arts & Sciences Senate on February 10, 2025.

[90%agree/10%abstain/0%reject]