

**RESOLUTION REVISING THE POLICY
GOVERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CLUBS**

Student Government Association at SUNY Cortland
Executive Committee Meeting – July 10, 2024

WHEREAS, in March of 2024, the Student Government Association at SUNY Cortland (the “SGA”) voted to revise its policy governing the establishment of new clubs (the “Policy”); and

WHEREAS, as part of the March 2024 revisions to the Policy, the SGA voted to vest the Review Committee with the sole authority to vote to approve or deny a proposal/application to establish a new club; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the March 2024 revisions, the Policy currently does not include an appeal mechanism for a prospective club whose application is denied; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the revisions, SGA leaders noted that they would continue to refine, streamline, and improve the Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Policy is currently at issue in litigation filed by Turning Point USA at SUNY Cortland; and

WHEREAS, at the close of the 2023-2024 school year, the SGA—by a majority vote on April 30, 2024—vested its Executive Committee with the authority to amend the Policy, as needed, during the 2024 summer semester break; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee, in consultation with SGA’s legal counsel, has carefully reviewed the Policy and identified prudent revisions, including the addition of an appeal mechanism, as well as other revisions designed to ensure its Constitutionality, all of which are reflected in **Exhibit A**;

IT IS DETERMINED:

THAT, the Policy is hereby amended as reflected in **Exhibit A**.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Executive Committee on the 10th day of July, 2024.

FINAL VOTE:

 3 to 0

EXHIBIT A



ESTABLISHING A NEW CLUB

Students who are interested in starting a new club should be aware that significant administrative and organizational responsibilities accompany the acceptance of a leadership role within a club. Students are advised to perform an honest assessment of their own time management skills and their commitment to establishing a club for long-term success prior to beginning the application process described below. There is no guarantee that every group that applies for recognition as a Student Government Association (SGA) club will be accepted unless it meets the specific criteria set forth below. Each submitted application is given serious consideration, under the criteria; the viewpoint(s) of the applicant(s) shall not be considered during the application process. As such, and to improve your chances for successfully establishing a new club, please give this application the attention and careful consideration that it demands. This is not and cannot be the type of application you fill out in one night; it is meant to be a semester-long process to gather information, find others willing to assist you in the creation of the club, and to ensure long-term success.

Criteria for Admission and Recognition

In order to be recognized by SGA, the group must complete the following tasks/meet the following criteria:

1. The Club cannot be identical to a currently recognized SGA club. This provision does not prohibit the establishment of clubs that are similar to or partially overlapping with existing clubs.
2. The club must be open to all Student Activity Fee (SAF) paying SUNY Cortland students.
3. Engage in an activity that is not competitive and/or sports related. Please refer to the Recreational Sports website for the sport club process.
4. Prove that a minimum of 15 SUNY Cortland students support the establishment of this club. They do not need to be members themselves.
5. The group must not have an excessive amount of risk involved with the proposed activity. This shall be determined by the SGA Review Committee with input from the SGA insurance provider. Under this policy, risk cannot be based on the group's viewpoints, beliefs, associations with other groups, or speakers or potential reactions thereto.
6. The club must have a faculty/staff advisor and at least 3 students to fill officer roles (President, Treasurer, and SGA Representative/Club Senator).
7. The club must follow all university and SGA policies.

Application Process

1. Schedule an initial meeting with the SGA Vice President to discuss the purpose/objectives of the proposed new club.
2. Schedule and host an interest meeting for interested students to learn more information about the proposed club and your plans for establishing it. (SGA can assist by reserving a room and advertising the interest meeting.)
3. Collect a petition of at least 15 current SUNY Cortland students who support recognizing the club.
4. Develop a constitution and submit it along with the petition to the SGA Vice President.
5. The SGA Review Committee will review the petition and proposed constitution and may request changes only to ensure compliance with all university and SGA policies and procedures.
6. Once the Review Committee approves the proposed constitution, the Review Committee will vote to determine whether the applicant has met all the criteria for the establishment of a new club. If all criteria are met, the application to create a new club shall be approved. If the Review Committee denies the application, it shall provide written notice of the reason for the denial.



7. SGA Vice President, at the next Student Senate meeting, will present to the Student Senate any determinations that the Review Committee has made regarding an application to create a new club.
8. If a new club's application is approved, then all the officers of the new club must complete required training/tasks prior to the start of club activities.
9. If the Review Committee denies the application, the applicant may appeal that decision within 10 business days to the SGA President, who shall act in consultation with the SGA's legal counsel. If the applicant meets the criteria for admission and recognition, the President shall reverse the Review Committee's decision and shall grant the applicant recognized status. If the President denies the appeal, the President shall give the reasons in writing. The President shall render the decision within 10 business days of receiving the appeal.