

This Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities is being presented on 11/30/2015 as an amendment to the Student Government Association constitution. SGA does not act to enforce the policies below, but instead work toward them as we move into the new systems of proposed shared and equitable governance. This document will not be enforceable by the Student Government Association or Ithaca College until it's ratification by the Board of Trustees, but serves to start the dialogue on each of the following topics. There are many pieces of this bill that are already in place, that are already rights that we have, and are things that we do every day. We have decided to put those things into writing, as we do not take them for granted. We have also elected to put many other potentially new initiatives into this amendment. It is not our expectation that this will be adopted today by the college, but instead carefully studied, as myself and other students act to defend our voices, rights, and responsibilities put forth on this day.

I will convene a council of students from across campus to continue work on this document going forward, to be sent to the Board of Trustees by May 2016. This council will assess each point with the relevant college officials. If you are interested, please email sgapresident@ithaca.edu.

See <http://www.ithaca.edu/policies/vol7/general/070102/> for the current conduct code.

Blue sections are adapted from the current conduct code

Green sections are responsibilities.

Black sections have been brought up during the process of reimagining and reframing student rights.

Ithaca College Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities

1. Students have the right to Individual Dignity and Respect.
 - 1.1. As required by law, no student shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, national origin, limited ability, STD/STI status, or handicap.
 - 1.1.1. Students have the responsibility to participate in dialogues, read materials, and/or attend sessions led by offices on campus, as well as student organizations in order to become informed on topics and real life situations of discrimination and bias. Information on these dialogues can be found here -- <http://www.ithaca.edu/sacl/diversity/>
 - 1.2. Students have the right to not be denied housing, use of facilities, employment, activities, or academic programs based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, national origin, disability, STD/STI status or handicap.

- 1.3. Students have the right to formally provide feedback on student services, including but not limited to Counseling and Psychological Services, Residential Life, Student Accessibility Services, etc.
 - 1.3.1. Students have the responsibility to provide consistent feedback on student services that they receive or participate in, and to participate in improving these services.
- 1.4. Students have the right to have their religious holiday calendars recognized by the college. This includes but is not limited to holidays being shown on the college's calendar, and students receiving extensions on class work and allowance to miss class for religious reasons.
- 1.5. Students have the right to be officially acknowledged by the college by the identity that they choose, including gender, name, pronouns, sexuality, etc.
- 1.6. Students have the same rights and freedoms as all citizens of the United States of America.
 - 1.6.1. Students are also held to the standards of civil law as well as campus regulations. If students violate the law off campus, they may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities. Ithaca College may also apply the Student Bill of Rights and the Conduct Code to students whose off-campus conduct is detrimental to the College's interests and poses a significant threat to the health, safety, and/or property of the College and its members.
2. Students have the right to Shared, *Equitable* Governance and Institutional Participation.
 - 2.1. In regards to students' rights to participate in the creation of college priorities and agendas:
 - 2.1.1. Students have the right to voting representation on the college committee that sets the budget and institutional priorities.
 - 2.1.2. Students have the right to contribute or submit legislation passed by Student Government Association to our overseeing governance body or bodies.
 - 2.2. In regards to college policies:
 - 2.2.1. Students have the right to voting representation and active discourse in institutional bodies that recommend new institutional policies and or revisions to existing ones.
 - 2.2.2. Students have the right to participate in Student Government Association, found in section 1.6.5 of Volume 1 of the *ITHACA COLLEGE POLICY MANUAL*.
 - 2.3. In regards to college committees and boards:
 - 2.3.1. Students have the right to a public list of committees/boards that students have seats on and otherwise.
 - 2.3.1.1. Students also have the right to information on individuals appointed to these committees, and directory information for contact purposes.

- 2.3.1.1.1. The Student Body President and his or her executive board has the responsibility to volunteer for the positions on these committees/boards, and or recommend students for those positions to be approved by a majority of the Student Government Senate.
 - 2.3.2. Students have the right to make formal requests to sit on any currently functioning committees/boards to the Student Body President to bring to the Senate.
 - 2.4. In regards to this Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities:
 - 2.4.1. Students have the right to be involved in the process of amending this document through the Student Government Association and the shared governance body.
 - 2.4.2. Students have the right to voting seats at the table on a shared governance body that will interpret this bill of rights and responsibilities.
 - 2.5. In regards to Student Governance:
 - 2.5.1. Students have the right to an administrative response to all legislation passed in general body Student Government Association meetings within 2 weeks of the recommendation or resolution introduced by the senate.
 - 2.5.1.1. Students have the responsibility to respond to legislation, proposals, etc. provided to them by the faculty, staff, or administration to the Student Government Association within 2 weeks.
- 3. Students have the right to Institutional Transparency.
 - 3.1. In regards to campus safety:
 - 3.1.1. Students have the right and the responsibility to report injustices to the *campus community review board*.
 - 3.2. In Regards to College Financial Information:
 - 3.2.1. Students have the right to the college's yearly budget available online within one month of its passing by the Board of Trustees.
 - 3.2.1.1. Students have the responsibility to read materials and training information before accessing the budget information in order to become financially literate and to understand the process and document.
 - 3.2.2. Students have the right to a publicly posted and annually updated percentage of the college's operations that are tuition driven.
 - 3.3. In regards to college enrollment:
 - 3.3.1. Students have the right to publicly posted retention rates of the college broken down by race, gender, and school.
 - 3.4. In regards to Student Governance:

- 3.4.1. Students have the right to publicly available information on how Student Government allocates funds to student clubs and information, as well as how much funding is allocated to each club/organization weekly. This will be posted to the Student Government website by the VP of Business and Finance.
 - 3.4.2. Student Government has the responsibility to the following:
 - 3.4.2.1. Post the minutes of each general body session online within one week of the meeting.
 - 3.4.2.2. Post all bills online immediately following the meeting that they are passed in.
 - 3.4.2.3. Speak with students, administrators, staff, and/or the press during the creation of a bill, and after its passing by the senate.
- 4. Students have the responsibility to be stewards of place, and the right to an environmentally conscious campus.
 - 4.1. Students have the right to be involved in discussions of and decisions on the creation of new buildings and infrastructure being planned for the institution.
 - 4.2. Students have the right to be provided recycling and compost bins alongside each trashcan on campus.
 - 4.2.1. Students have the responsibility, whenever possible, to recycle materials on campus, including paper, plastics, and metals.
 - 4.3. Students have the right to resources to help them engage in community service and service learning, as well as cultural competency training and staff support.
- 5. Students have the right to Academic Excellence and Integrity.
 - 5.1. In regards to evaluating the college's academic excellence:
 - 5.1.1. Students have the right to provide anonymous academic evaluations of their instructors/professors.
 - 5.1.1.1. Students have the responsibility to evaluate each professor or instructor fairly and respectfully.
 - 5.1.2. Students have the right to challenge Ithaca College's academic quality and effectiveness by referencing their experiences in and out of the classroom.
 - 5.1.2.1. Students have the responsibility to learn the content of their courses of study.
 - 5.1.3. Students have the right to expect that course content will match the course descriptions given to them.
 - 5.1.4. Students have the right to be informed of the standards on which evaluation in each course will be based, and to be fairly and justly evaluated based only on performance in the course.
 - 5.1.4.1. Students have the right to appeal a grade on the basis of criteria established in the course syllabus.

- 5.2. Students have the right to pursue and receive a liberal arts education at Ithaca College.
- 5.3. Students have the right to a posted list of all classes made available by subject, open to the larger community existing beyond Homerconnect.
- 5.4. In regards to exploring intellectual curiosities:
 - 5.4.1. Students have the right to be respected as scholars.
 - 5.4.2. Students have the right to intellectual property that they create while at the college or otherwise. This extends to work done as an employee of the college as long as the student was not paid directly to create that intellectual property.
- 5.5. Students have the right to report instructors and/or officials for discrimination including but not limited to biases toward race, gender, sexuality, class, etc.
 - 5.5.1. These reports must go to the designated office or space that the college has yet to create or address. See ithaca.edu/diversity for progress on creating this system.
- 5.6. Students have the right to initiate a formal student-wide vote to assess confidence in any Ithaca College administrator through the Student Government Senate by majority vote.
- 5.7. Students have the right to free speech across campus and are not limited to free speech zones.
- ~~5.8. Students have the right to free speech on campus.
 - ~~5.8.1.1. Students have the responsibility to be mindful of the speech they use in order to create a safe and inclusive environment.~~
 - ~~5.8.1.2. Students have the responsibility to be mindful that the use of fighting words is not constitutionally protected and can lead to punitive action.~~~~
- 6. Students have the right to feel safe and be safe.
 - 6.1. In regards to mental health resources:
 - 6.1.1. Students have the right to free counseling on campus.
 - 6.1.1.1. Students have the right for this counseling to include resources and spaces available for people of diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to race, gender, sexuality, class, varied ability, identity/expression, etc.
 - 6.1.1.2. Students have the right to be seen by a counselor within two weeks of inquiry.
 - 6.1.1.3. Students have the right to be matched with a mental health professional off campus who may better serve their specific needs and accept their insurance if CAPS becomes overwhelmed with student clients. Officials at CAPS will take on the responsibility to

match students with the best counselor for students' particular issues.
If a student cannot pay for a mental health professional, one will be appointed to them free of charge.

- 6.2. Students have the right to have a safe and non violent protest.
 - 6.2.1. A safe protest requires but is not limited to the following student responsibilities:
 - 6.2.1.1. Not blocking posted fire exits.
 - 6.2.1.2. Not physically endangering bystanders.
 - 6.2.1.3. Respect of personal differences, including but not limited to religious freedoms, race, gender, sexual orientation, and disability..
 - 6.2.2. Students have the right to this safe protest without the use of force by officials associated with the college or otherwise.
 - 6.2.3. Students have the right to not be physically attacked with malice by other students, or anyone associated with the college during protests.
- 6.3. Students have the right to periodic assessments of the campus climate and culture through an outside consultant chosen by members of the administration and the Student Government Association.
 - 6.3.1.1. Students have the responsibility to participate in each campus climate survey during their time at Ithaca College.
7. Students have the right to create, as well as participate in organizations recognized by the college and to be funded by student government association.
 - 7.1. Students have the right to explore any area and points of view that interest them in their student organizations.
 - 7.2. Student organizations have the right to invite anyone to speak on campus, receive funding from student government, and reserve space from Campus Center and Event Services regardless of that person's point of view.
 - 7.3. Students have the right to create and participate in communications media free of censorship and advance approval of copy from any faculty or staff member.
 - 7.3.1. Students have the right to create editorial policies and news coverage, with the understanding that students and student organizations speak only for themselves.
 - 7.4. Students have the right to organize and join associations for educational, political, social, religious, or cultural purposes.
8. Students have the right to privacy.
 - 8.1. Students have the right to be protected from arbitrary and capricious invasions of privacy and entry into their residences.
 - 8.1.1.1. Students have the responsibility to allow personnel acting in the performance of their duties to enter student rooms, apartments, and suites in order to ensure that all health, safety, and fire codes are

being followed, provide maintenance and repairs, respond to emergencies, and to locate missing property and/or prohibited articles.

8.1.1.1.1. Such entries may reveal violations of the student conduct code or the residential life rules and regulations, which may result in fines and/or disciplinary action being taken against the student(s). Ithaca College cannot interfere with any sworn law enforcement official in conducting room searches if such a search is legal under state or federal law and is within the authorized performance of the official's duty.

8.1.1.1.1.1. Students have the right to not be deceived or pressured into self incrimination once public safety or other college officials enter their rooms for performance of their duties.

9. Students have the right to a hearing on campus.

9.1. All students accused of violations of the "Statement of Responsibilities" (below) will be guaranteed written notice of charges and have the right to a hearing. This right includes adequate notice of hearing, information concerning the evidence against them, the opportunity to present evidence in their own behalf, and written notice of the decision. Students should be aware that the judicial process is different from criminal and civil court proceedings. Procedures and rights in the judicial process are conducted with fairness to all, but may not include the same protections of due process accorded by a court of law. Decisions will be made based on preponderance of evidence showing that it is more likely than not that a student was responsible for a violation. If a student with a disability needs a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in any aspect of the judicial process, including an individual judicial hearing or a Conduct Review Board, then the student must submit a request through the Office of Student Accessibility Services.¹

10. Jurisdiction

10.1. Ithaca College retains jurisdiction over students who elect to take a leave of absence, withdrawal or have graduated for any misconduct that occurred prior to the leave, withdrawal, or graduation. If a student is sanctioned a hold may be placed on the student's ability to re-enroll and/or obtain official transcripts and/or graduate, and all sanction requirements must be satisfied prior to re-enrollment eligibility. In the event of a serious misconduct committed while the student is still enrolled but reported after the accused student has graduated, Ithaca College may invoke these procedures and should the former student be found responsible, the College revoke the student's degree. In addition, a student facing an alleged violation of the Student Conduct Code that may result in a sanction that includes removal from on-campus

housing, suspension or expulsion, may not be permitted to withdraw or take a leave of absence from the College until a hearing has been conducted.

- 10.2. The Ithaca College Student Conduct Code may also be applied to behavior conducted online, via e-mail or other electronic medium. A student may be in alleged violation of policy for online postings such as blogs, web postings, chats and social networking sites that are in the public sphere and are not private. Ithaca College does not regularly search for this information but could conduct an investigation if and when such information is brought to the attention of College officials.¹