

Spoke the Thunder Constitution

Article I- NAME

Spoke the Thunder shall be the name used to register the organization with the Department of Student Union and Activities.

Article II- PURPOSE

Spoke the Thunder is an undergraduate literary publication that seeks to provide a creative outlet for the Stony Brook student body. Though individuals other than Stony Brook undergraduates are permitted to submit to *Spoke the Thunder*, the aim of this publication is to highlight the artistic voices of Stony Brook's diverse undergraduate population. *Spoke the Thunder* will publish fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, visual art, literary/art criticism, and any other genres that fall *outside* the realms of journalism and traditional non-fiction. *Membership is limited to undergraduate students of Stony Brook University.*

Article III- MEMBERSHIP

No person shall be denied membership or office because of sexual orientation, nation of origin, race, sex, physical disability, political or religious beliefs. Membership will be limited to current and matriculated students of Stony Brook University and must subscribe to, or be interested in the purpose of this organization. Submissions from individuals not associated with Stony Brook University will be acceptable if a majority of members approve of the submission.

Article IV- OFFICERS, CO-CHAIRS

Section 1

All nominees for organization board positions must have a minimum cumulative index of 2.0 and if elected, must maintain a cumulative index of at least 2.0, and must be registered for the semester(s) during which they are to serve. All officers shall serve for one year and may be re-elected for another year as long as they maintain a cumulative index of 2.0 and are registered each semester.

Section 2

The Executive Editor shall be the official representative of the organization; he/she shall also be a non-voting ex-officio member of all committees of the organization, except the election committee.

The Executive Editor shall have the power to convene and preside over the meetings of the executive board and the general membership and prepare the agenda for the meetings of the executive board and the general membership. The Executive Editor shall further perform such duties as may be necessary and proper in the fulfillment of his/her office, subject to the approval of the executive board. If the Executive Editor is unable to execute these powers at a given time, the Managing Editor shall fulfill such responsibilities.

Any member of the e-board will be able to veto submissions voted on by staff members. However, veto can be overridden by two-thirds of the voting staff.

Section 3

The Managing Editor shall be required to see that standing committee chairpersons are fulfilling their duties. The Managing Editor shall further perform such duties as may be necessary and proper in the fulfillment of his/her office, subject to the approval of the executive board. He or she will assist the Executive Editor in making editorial decisions. If the Executive Editor is unable to perform his/her duties, (due to impeachment, leave of absence, or resignation), the Managing Editor shall assume the position of Executive Editor.

Section 4

The Treasurer shall keep detailed record of all monies allotted to the organization. The Treasurer shall also submit all payment requests.

Each month the Treasurer shall perform such duties as may be necessary and proper in the fulfillment of his/her office, subject to the approval of the executive board. The Treasurer shall assume the position of Managing Editor in the event that the Managing Editor is unable to perform his/her duties (due to leave of absence, resignation, or assumption of Presidency). A new Treasurer will be elected in special election called by the President if a vacancy occurs in this office.

Section 5

The Secretary shall take minutes and attendance of all meetings and maintain an up-to-date active voting membership roster. The secretary will be in charge of all scheduling and deadlines of upcoming issues. A secretary will be elected in a special election called by the Executive Editor if a vacancy occurs in this office.

ARTICLE V – EDITORIAL POSITIONS AND STAFF

Section 1

The member of the executive board shall be the Executive Editor, Managing Editor, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 2

All executive board meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (latest Edition), except where expressly provided for in this constitution.

Section 3

The Executive Editor shall be the chairperson and presiding officer of the executive board.

Section 4

Below the executive board will be the following positions: Public Editor, Fiction and Poetry Editor (F&P Editor), Art Editor, Webmaster, and Managing Editor.

The Public Editor will be the ombudsman, in charge of maintaining *Spoke the Thunder's* relationship with the Stony Brook community. The Public Editor will deliver an objective assessment of each issue, weighing both strengths and flaws. Like other staff members, the Public Editor will be able to vote on submissions. The Public Editor will also be a promotional “voice” for *Spoke the Thunder*, ensuring the community is aware and excited about *Spoke the Thunder's* presence.

F&P Editor- The F&P Editor will initially read all fiction and poetry submissions and will, before final voting takes place, present to the staff the pieces he or she believes to be worthy of publication. The F&P Editor will be in charge of editorial decisions within the F&P section, including layout and design and will, with assistance from the staff, copy-edit all fiction and poetry submissions.

Art Editor- The Art Editor will evaluate all visual art work and photography submitted. Like the F&P editor, the Art Editor will speak to the staff about which pieces he or she believes are worthy of publication before the final vote takes place. The Art Editor will be in charge of editorial decisions within the Art section, including layout and design.

Webmaster- The Webmaster will design and manage the website, laying out prose, poetry, and artwork, and ensuring *Spoke the Thunder* has a strong internet presence.

Managing Editor- The Managing Editor will manage the layout and design of *Spoke the Thunder* print incarnation. He or she will preside over the visual essence of *Spoke the Thunder*, ensuring the print publication will have a pleasurable and engrossing aesthetic.

Copy Editing will be carried out by everyone on staff. At least two members of staff must copy-edit each submission that is approved for publication.

Section 5

Contributors to *Spoke the Thunder* will become staff after attending at least *three meetings* during a semester. Once a contributor becomes a staff member, they will be able to vote on submissions and run for editorial positions.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1

Spoke the Thunder shall hold one general membership meeting each week. During these meetings, if there are unread submissions, staff members will read submissions and share their opinions. The name of the submitter shall not be known to the staff with the exception of the e-board. If there are particular submissions that the F&P editor or Art Editor favor or disfavor, they shall share their views with the staff. After a discussion, every member of the staff and editorial board will vote on the submission. A majority must approve of the submission for it to be accepted for publication. At least 75% (3/4th) of staff members must be present for a vote on a submission to take place.

Section 2

A quorum consisting of a majority of the total active voting membership is necessary for the transaction of any business at all meetings.

Section 3

All meetings must have an agenda and five (5) school days prior notice of the meetings must be given to all organization members

Section 4

The Executive Editor must convene a meeting within a reasonable amount of time if such a meeting is initiated:

- a. by a majority vote of the voting members present at a regular or special meeting; or
- b. upon a petition signed by (1/3) of the active voting membership.

ARTICLE VII- ELECTIONS

All members of the editorial board must be elected by majority vote. Elections must be held no later than May 1st . New editors will assume their positions after the elections .

- a. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor at a meeting prior to the election.
- b. Election shall be by majority vote of the active voting members present whose names appear on the membership roster. Only staff members can vote and run for editorial positions. Groups may apply for a provision of exception if they choose not to submit.

ARTICLE VIII – IMPEACHMENT

Section 1

Any officers of the club may be brought up on impeachment charges if he/she is acting detrimentally to the organization or he/she has significantly disregarded the major responsibilities of his/her office.

Section 2

If a list of charges signed by three-quarters (3/4) of the officers is submitted to the Executive Editor, he/she must call for an impeachment proceeding. If the Executive Editor is being brought up on charges, the petition shall be submitted to the Managing Editor. Upon receipt of the petition, the Executive Editor shall suspend the officer and prevent him/her from exercising all powers and voting rights pending the outcome of the impeachment proceedings.

Section 3

If a list of charges signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the active members is submitted to the Executive Editor, he/she must call for impeachment proceedings (see Section 2 for remaining steps).

Section 4

After the proper impeachment proceedings, the officer(s) so charged may be impeached by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of group members. If impeachment passes, the officer shall be removed from his/her position.

Section 5

Special elections:

a. Upon Impeachment of

1. Executive Editor, the Managing Editor assumes the Executive Editor position and a special election is held for Managing Editor within a one month period.
2. Other officers, a special election will be held within a one month period.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Amendments to this constitution may be introduced from the floor and must be submitted to the Manager of the Agenda in writing at a general body membership meeting.

Section 2

The entire voting membership shall be notified in writing at least five (5) school days prior to vote on a proposed amendment.

Section 3

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active voting membership is necessary for the passage of an amendment.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this group, all accrued funds and assets shall revert to the Undergraduate Student Government.