

NYCLSA CONSTITUTION 2021

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the New York College Learning Skills Association (NYCLSA). NYCLSA is a non-profit organization operated exclusively for educational purposes.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

NYCLSA seeks to improve the theory and practice of teaching and learning success in postsecondary education and to foster continuous improvement in professionals' educational research and application.

ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of NYCLSA are:

- Section 1: To advance standards for postsecondary education and the professionals in the field through education, research, advocacy, and public service.
- Section 2: To seek partnerships with educators and professionals who provide a range of academic and support services for students.
- Section 3: To advance principles and standards for establishing, maintaining, and improving student success and learning support programs.
- Section 4: To advance best practices, principles, and standards for the establishment and development of programs that support teaching and learning.
- Section 5: To assist in the professional development of postsecondary educators who support students in their learning and development.
- Section 6: To provide opportunities for the interchange of proven ideas, methods, research, and expertise in service to the theory and practice of teaching and learning in higher education.
- Section 7: To provide information about best practices in learning support for college educators, administrators, and legislators.

ARTICLE IV: ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION

- Section 1: Financial Support
 - a. Primary operational support for NYCLSA is derived from membership dues.
 - b. Secondary operational support for the NYCLSA is derived from the annual Symposium and other educational forums sponsored by NYCLSA.
- Section 2: Publications
- Section 3: Educational Research
- Section 4: Professional Development
 - a. State-wide events

- b. Regional/Hub events
- Section 5: Leadership Development
- Section 6: Political Advocacy
- Section 7: Standing and ad Hoc Committees

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1: Members of NYCLSA shall be of one class and each member shall have the same privileges. As such, each member shall be entitled to originate and take part in any subject that may properly come before any meeting, hold one vote, and hold any office or position to which he/she/they may be elected or appointed.
- Section 2: Membership includes but is not limited to any individual who has interest in learning assistance programs, college developmental education, or support services in higher education. Applications for membership shall be in writing in a form prescribed by the Executive Board in consultation with the Vice President of Membership.
- Section 3: NYCLSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic background, national heritage, religious affiliation, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status, disability, or any other characteristic.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE BODIES

To establish those persons in charge of the organization, and to establish the method of their appointments, the following policies are delineated:

- Section 1: The Executive Board shall be the administrative body of the association. The Board shall conduct the affairs of the association and shall have the power and authority to do and perform all acts and functions consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws.
 - a. The Board shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) members who shall reflect the current By-laws.
 - b. The President shall fill vacancies in the Executive Board, with the approval of a majority of the remaining Board members, until a membership vote can be held.
- Section 2: Committees shall be established, maintained, and disbanded at the purview of the Executive Board.
- Section 3: Non-voting members of the Executive Body may include Hub representatives, committee chairs, and former officers.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCES

- Section 1: Regular members of NYCLSA shall pay annual dues in the procedure(s) specified by the By-Laws.

- Section 2: By a two-thirds (2/3) vote, regular members may levy assessments against themselves, as per Article X: Sec. 2 of this Constitution.
- Section 3: Expenditures of organizational funds shall be governed by policies established by the Executive Board.
- Section 4: Upon dissolution of the New York College Learning Skills Association, such assets as may remain shall be distributed for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as here described: *Upon termination or dissolution of the New York College Learning Skills Association [NYCLSA], any assets lawfully available for distribution shall be distributed to one (1) or more qualifying organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or described in any corresponding provision of any successor statute) which organization or organizations have a charitable purpose which, at least generally, includes a purpose similar to the terminating or dissolving corporation. The organization to receive the assets of the NYCLSA hereunder shall be selected by the discretion of a majority of the managing body of the NYCLSA and if its members cannot so agree, then the recipient organization shall be selected pursuant to a verified petition in equity filed in a court of proper jurisdiction against the NYCLSA by one (1) or more of its managing body which verified petition shall contain such statements as reasonably indicate the applicability of this section. The court upon a finding that this section is applicable shall select the qualifying organization or organizations to receive the assets to be distributed, giving preference if practicable to organizations located within the State of New York. In the event that the court shall find that this section is applicable but that there is no qualifying organization known to it which has a charitable purpose, which, at least generally, includes a purpose similar to this corporation, then the court shall direct the distribution of its assets lawfully available for distribution to the Treasurer of the State of New York to be added to the general fund. Amended 2020.*
- Section 5: Annual review of accounting techniques and procedures shall be conducted by a Certified Public Accountant.

ARTICLE VIII: AFFILIATIONS

The Association may pursue partnership or affiliation with other faculty, teachers, and allied organizations by a majority vote of Executive Board. Any such affiliation may only be approved or revoked by a majority vote of the membership.

ARTICLE IX: INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- Section 1: The Executive Board is tasked with upholding the viability and standards of the organization. In the event that an appointed or elected official acts in a manner contrary to the good of the Association, the Executive Board is empowered to investigate the removal of said officer, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the By Laws of the Association.
- Section 2: Any officer of the Association may be removed from office or reinstated into office; any proposed actions on behalf of the Association may be initiated, or any previous action taken by the Executive Board on behalf of the Association may be rescinded by means of a properly worded petition set forth by one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the Association. Any action or initiative, referendum, or removal from office shall require a regular motion, and a majority vote of the membership through electronic means or majority vote of those members present at any annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE X: PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENTS

- Section 1: The Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the membership of NYCLSA only if the proposed amendment shall have been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the membership by electronic means.
- Section 2: No amendment may be adopted unless it is approved by a majority of the membership in attendance at the meeting where it is proposed at which meeting there is an attendance of at least ten percent (10%) of the entire membership of NYCLSA, or by a majority vote of the membership by electronic means.
- Section 3: The By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Board, at which meeting no fewer than seven five (5) must be present.

NYCLSA Timeline:

First Symposium 1978

NYCLSA established, April 1979

Original Constitution Ratified April 1980

Amended April, 1984

Non-Profit Status established (501-3C NY State tax exempt #181339) August 11, 1986

Revised March, 1996

Revised June, 2010

Revised November 2021