

## **Students' Bill of Rights**

### PREAMBLE:

We, the students of Skidmore College, recognize that this academic institution exists for the pursuit of knowledge, truth, and individual development. Free inquiry and free speech are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the Skidmore community, we have the responsibility to contribute to an environment of trust that protects the freedom of all to exchange and develop ideas; only in such trust and freedom is it possible for students to live together and learn from the faculty and one another.

Any violation of the principles embodied in this document, the Student/College Handbooks, the Skidmore Catalogue, or other documents pertaining to student rights that have been ratified by the student body, should be handled in a manner that protects the rights of all parties involved. The following rights are inalienable and belong to the students of Skidmore College:

### I. Rights of Citizenship

As members of the Skidmore community, students enjoy freedom of speech, of peaceful assembly, of the press, and of religion, and the right to petition, limited only by protection of property safety and mutual respect. Students' personal mail or electronic mail cannot be opened or read without their expressed permission. Students expect to be treated fairly and with respect by all members of the Skidmore community.

### II. Rights in Academic Affairs

Skidmore College affirms the following principles outlined in the American Association of University Professors' Statement of Professional Ethics:

As teachers, professors encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students.  
They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline.  
Professors dem

### III. Rights in Student Affairs

#### A. Freedom of Association

1. Students have the right to participate in the formulation of college policy by serving as members of appropriate committees as described in the Faculty Handbook, SGA Constitution, and Student Handbook.
2. Students are free to organize and join associations to promote their common interests.
3. Membership in all SGA clubs and organization

## V. Community Accountability

Students may pursue appropriate recourse as outlined in Skidmore College Policy, utilizing the appropriate judicial body or officer, if administrators, faculty, students, or other community members violate the Skidmore College Honor Code and/or other College regulations, including this Student Bill of Rights.

## VI. Amendments and Changes

The procedure for the amendment of this Students' Bill of Rights shall be:

Any matters deemed to affect the faculty, the administration, and the students, or any grouping of the above, will be referred to the All College Council (ACC). Any matters deemed to affect solely SGA will be handled by steps 1-5 below.

1. A recommendation from any member or division of the SGA to the Senate.
2. The study and approval of two-thirds of the Senate.
3. The presentation of the proposed amendment to the student body.