

CONSTITUTION OF THE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS AT UAH

PREAMBLE

In order to promote a better America and a better Alabama with equality, opportunity, and freedom within a just and strong society, we dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of Democratic College students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. As college students, we call for action based on principles and for principles backed by action. As Democrats, we pledge ourselves to continue the great thoughts of our party and to bring forth new ideas to keep the traditions alive. As Citizens of today and leaders of the future, we shall strive to shape our party, communities, states, and nation. In this mission, we call for full participation without regard to ethnic origin, physical handicap, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. Understanding the importance of participation in the Democratic Party to the preservation of our values and principles, we pledge to help to organize and activate the latent people power of our nation's Democratic students to further the philosophy of the Democratic Party. For these ends and upon these principles, we, Democratic college students, do hereby associate ourselves and adopt this Constitution as the College Democrats at UAH.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the College Democrats at UAH.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the College Democrats at UAH is to stimulate an active interest in governmental affairs, increase the efficiency of popular government to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, to encourage statesmanship, to aid the Democratic Party, to provide through its administration the highest degree of justice and social welfare, and to serve as a voice for the young people of Alabama within the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Eligibility - Meetings shall be open to the public and ALL UAH students. To be a voting member of the general body, one must be in compliance with an attendance policy that will be enacted by the Executive Board at the beginning of every year.

Section 2 - Liability - The College Democrats at UAH shall not be liable for the unauthorized acts of any of its members unless ratified by the College Democrats at UAH Executive Board.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy - Membership in registered student organizations shall be open to all students of The University of Alabama, Huntsville, without regard to race, religion, sex, ability, status, national origin, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, or veteran status, except in cases of designated fraternal organizations, is exempted by federal law from Title IX regulations concerning discrimination on the basis of sex.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1- The Executive Board is composed of the President, Vice President, Social Media Director, Political Director, Finance Chair, Programs Director, and Membership Director.

Section 2- The Executive Board shall have general authority and responsibility for the affairs of the College Democrats at UAH.

Section 3- The Executive Board shall meet at a time and place of the President's choosing, and all members shall be given sufficient notification of meeting arrangements.

Section 4- A quorum of the Executive Council shall be noted when a minimum of four of the Executive Board members are present in person.

Section 5- Elections & Eligibility

5.1 Elections for the new Executive Board shall take place in the Spring Semester at a time determined by the Executive Board.

5.2 Only people who have been in attendance at general meetings for an amount deemed appropriate by the current Executive Board shall be eligible to vote or run for office.

5.3 The President and Vice President both must have been previous members.

5.4 After each candidate for an office has spoken for no more than five minutes, the members who are present will elect the new officer by a simple majority vote. Should no candidate receive a majority, a runoff will be held between the two candidates who received the most votes. The process will be repeated for the election for each office.

Section 6- An Executive Board member may be removed in the following manner.

6.1 Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of assigned duties, being convicted of a felony, or upon other grounds found by all of the members of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.

6.2 To begin the process for removal, another member of the Executive Board must

charge the officer with the reasons for his/her/their removal at a meeting of the Executive Board. The officer in question must be offered an opportunity at that meeting to defend his/her/themselves. At the next meeting of the Executive Board, the issue will be put to a vote. Five of the other seven members of the Executive Council must vote for removal for an officer to be removed.

6.3 No officer shall accumulate three or more reprimands during the course of an executive board term. If an officer accumulates three reprimands, they will immediately be removed from office. To adhere to the administrative goals and visions for the organization, the president shall have the authority to issue formal reprimands to executive board members who have neglected the vice president shall have the authority to issue formal reprimands to executive board members who have neglected the duties either assigned to them by the president or described in the constitution. Every officer has the authority to report the negligence of another officer's duties by completing a formal report that is to be accessible to all executive board officers and submitted to the president. The president would then present the completed report to the Vice President, where an investigation into the reported negligence would be opened. The president and Vice President will then unanimously vote on whether or not to issue a reprimand to the officer called into question. Negligence in an officer's duties includes failure to perform assigned tasks and/or constitutional duties, an unexcused absence from an executive board meeting, and two unexcused absences from general meetings. An unexcused absence shall be defined as a failure to provide forewarning of the absence to the president and a failure to provide an excuse within a week following the absence. Each outlined negligence constitutes one formal reprimand.

Section 7- A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board resigns or is removed from office. If the vacancy occurs in an Executive Board position other than the President, then any member of the Executive Board may nominate a member in accordance with Article IV, Section 5. Once nominated, a simple majority of the Executive Board will confirm the new Executive Board member. If the vacancy is the President, then the Vice President is the automatic replacement.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1- President:

1.1 Shall be the Chief Executive of the College Democrats at UAH.

1.2 Act as the official representative to other groups and the media.

1.3 Define the agenda of the organization for their tenure.

1.4 Carry out the mandates, policies, and directions of the Executive Board.

1.5 Create and appoint the leadership of temporary committees.

1.6 Preside over all official meetings.

1.7 Extend special invitations to non-Executive Board members to view Executive Board business.

1.8 Appoint non-voting advisors and officers.

Section 2 - Vice President:

2.1 Temporarily preside in place of the President at any official events if the President is unavailable.

2.2 Assume the office of President if the President is unable to fulfill their duties.

2.3 Perform such duties as the Executive Council or the President may assign.

2.4 Serve as a senior advisor to the President and Executive Board members.

2.5 Responsible for compliance amongst the other officers and members in accordance to the constitution of the College Democrats at UAH and may issue rulings to clarify this document.

2.6 Training of Executive Board members in any technical aspects of their office.

2.7 Seated on every committee to provide oversight and guidance in the accomplishment of committee goals.

Section 3 – Finance Chair

3.1 Direct fund-raising activities.

3.2 Maintain complete records of all expenditures and receipts.

3.3 Perform such duties as the Executive Board or the President may assign or are customarily performed by a Treasurer and a Secretary.

3.4 Maintain a record of dues-paying members.

3.5 Establish a dues policy, if deemed necessary, at the beginning of the year to be approved by the rest of the Executive Board.

Section 4 – Political Director

4.1 Serve as an official liaison between the College Democrats at UAH, any other associated College Democrats and the Alabama College Democrats.

4.2 Serve as an official liaison between the College Democrats at UAH and other student organizations.

4.3 Maintain good relations with other organizations and local political campaigns.

4.4 Report any communication with other organizations and political campaigns to the Executive Board.

4.5 Compile a record with the Membership Director of affiliated student organizations and their contact information.

Section 5 – Social Media Director

5.1 Develop any messaging and media for the College Democrats at UAH.

5.2 Act as a representative to any media outlets.

5.3 Develop a plan for advertisement and recruitment.

5.4 Maintain the social media and email list of the organization.

5.5 Craft and send any messages to the general membership as directed by the President.

Section 6 – Programs Director

6.1 Be primarily responsible for planning of events scheduled by the Executive Board, including the Week of Welcome.

6.2 Coordinate outreach and recruitment efforts with the Membership Director.

6.3 Perform such duties as the Executive Board or the President may assign.

Section 7 - Membership Director:

7.1 Coordinate all membership drives.

7.2 Maintain an accurate list of all members with the Development Director.

7.3 Coordinate any outreach or recruitment efforts to maintain diversity within the group.

7.4 Perform such duties as the Executive Board or the President may assign.

7.5 Encourage the proper collection and payment of dues with the Finance Chair.

7.6 Coordinate activities of an unofficial and social nature and foster goodwill amongst members.

7.7 Make all necessary preparations for organizational meetings and record and distribute all minutes of meetings in a neat and timely fashion.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The President may create any committee they see fit to accomplish organizational goals not met. Each committee of a temporary nature will have a chair to be appointed by the President.

Section 2 - Committee Chairs

2.1 Committee chairs may grow the committee to their desired size and will be assisted by the Membership Director any needed info to communicate meeting place and times.

2.2 Committee chairs will also reserve committee space for the Vice President and prepare regular reports to the Executive Board and to general membership.

Section 3 - Permanent Committees

3.1 Permanent committees will be as follows: Finance, Political, Communications, Programs, and Membership.

3.2 Finance Committee is to be chaired at all times by the Finance Chair and to utilize members in raising revenue.

3.3 Political Committee is to be chaired at all times by the Political Director to assist in

communications with organizations and political campaigns on and off campus.

3.4 Communications Committee is to be chaired at all times by the Communications Director and to utilize members in expanding the College Democrats at UAH brand through management of social media and the press.

3.5 Membership Committee is to be chaired at all times by the Membership Director and utilize membership in the planning of recruitment events.

3.6 Programs Committee is to be chaired at all times by the Programs Director and will be responsible for the planning of social and educational events to benefit the membership.

ARTICLE VII: HONORS AND TITLES

Section 1 - Distribution

1.1 The Executive Board may award any former members or office holders with ex officio (non-voting) honors.

1.2 Honors will be awarded unanimously by the Executive Board members. In the case of recognition of a current Executive Board member, that member's vote is not needed for honorific recognition.

1.3 Stylizations will follow as the recipient's highest received office: emeritus. For example: President-Emeritus, Membership Director-Emeritus, Member-Emeritus, etc.

1.4 Honored College Democrats should be considered on the merits of leadership, organizational sacrifice, and patronage to fellow College Democrats.

ARTICLE VIII: FACULTY ADVISOR

1.1 The Faculty Advisor(s) shall be a current faculty member of the University of Alabama in Huntsville responsible for the general independent advising of SHC.

1.2 The Faculty Advisor(s) shall hold ultimate discretionary authority over this document, membership to SHC, and the activities of SHC.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS/ Additional By-Laws

This Constitution can be amended only after an amendment has been proposed by a member of the Executive Board and cleared by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board or two-thirds of the College Democrats at UAH body.