

# **The Students for Academic Freedom Constitution**

## **Preamble**

This constitution is intended to serve as the governing document for Students for Academic Freedom. Organizational actions and decisions related to: purpose, membership, officers, removal of officers, replacement of officers, meetings, affiliation and amendments must be consistent with this constitution.

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be Students for Academic Freedom, hereafter referred to as the Organization.

## **Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote intellectual diversity on campus, to defend the right of students to be treated with respect by faculty and administrators, regardless of their political or religious beliefs, to promote fairness, civility and inclusion in student affairs and to secure the adoption of an “Academic Bill of Rights” as official university policy.

All members of the student body can reasonably have an interest in joining this organization. The target population of this organization will include members who value: diversity, fairness, civility, inclusion and respect for intellectual difference.

The Organization will plan the following programs and events to further in expressed purposes, mentioned above:

- Invite speakers to address the issue of campus bias.
- Set up debates between liberals and conservatives on campus bias and other topics.
- Research political bias on campus by interviewing students and making a record of specific incidents, including unprofessional faculty behavior in the classroom and on campus, obstruction of campus speakers, and destruction of student literature.
- Note and object to events that abuse the academic nature of the university. These include: one-sided faculty political teach-ins, one-sided faculty conferences and one-sided faculty lecture series that are inappropriately partisan events in an academic setting.
- Note and object to one-sided reading lists, one-sided speakers programs, and lopsided funding of student organizations.
- Note and object to the absence of diversity among faculty in a particular department, in class curricula, and in classes offered.
- Create and disseminate a newsletter or pamphlet that documents any abuses.

- Encourage vigorous, reasoned and civil debate, which is respectful of serious intellectual diversity.

### **Article III: Membership**

- Section 1: Regular membership shall be open to any full time Marquette University undergraduate student.
- Section 2: Associate membership shall be open to any part time student, graduate student, professional student, faculty member, staff member, or administrator at Marquette University.
- Section 3: Non-discrimination Clause. Consistent with all applicable federal and state laws and University policies, this organization and its subordinate bodies and officers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sexual orientation, religion, veteran's status, sex, national origin, or disability in its selection of members, educational programs or activities.

### **Article IV: Officers**

- Section 1: Officers of the organization shall be as follows:
- President
  - Vice-President
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
- Section 2: Election of officers
- Officers shall serve term lengths of one calendar year.
  - Elections will be held at the final official meeting of each spring semester.
  - All four officer positions will be up for election during the abovementioned final official meeting of each spring semester.
  - Candidates wishing to run for an officer position must first be nominated but may nominate themselves, if they so choose.
  - All nominated candidates will be granted two minutes to speak to members in attendance at the final official meeting of the spring semester.
  - After every candidate has spoken, all members in attendance at the final official meeting of the spring semester will complete anonymous written ballots to vote for the candidate of their choosing.
  - Whichever candidate receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

- In the event of a tie, a repeat vote will be conducted between the candidates receiving equal vote totals to decide the result for the particular officer position.
- Should the repeat vote also result in a tie, a tiebreaking vote will be cast by the serving President of the current semester to decide the winner.

Section 3: Officers shall take office on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and shall serve for a period of one calendar year.

Section 4: Officers shall not be on academic or university probation at the time of their elections and throughout their terms of office.

Section 5: Duties of Officers

- The President is responsible for conducting organization business.
- Checks must be co-signed by the Treasurer and by either the President or Vice-President.
- The officer responsible for conducting meetings is the President.
- The officer responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings is the Secretary.
- The Treasurer is responsible for accounting for all money entering and leaving the organization.
- The Vice-President is responsible for aiding with defining the course(s) of action that organization should take.

#### **Article V: Removal of Officers**

Section 1: Officers failing to fulfill the given responsibilities and duties may be removed by the regular members of the organization.

Section 2: The removal of an officer requires a 2/3 vote of a quorum following the notification of the officer in question. Such notification shall be provided in writing no less than seven working days prior to the vote.

#### **Article VI: Replacement of Officers**

Section 1: In the case where the presidential office is vacant, the vice president will immediately fill the position.

Section 2: All other executive board positions found to be vacant shall be filled by election immediately.

Section 3: All other officers should be filled through appointment or election.

### **Article VII: Meetings**

Section 1: A regularly scheduled general meeting shall be held at least once per semester (except summer). Additional meetings may be called by the officers when the need arises.

Section 2: A quorum shall consist of 50% of the regular members.

Section 3: A quorum shall be present in order for any official business to be conducted. Official business shall include elections of officers, setting of dues and any other major decisions effecting the organization.

Section 4: The parliamentary authority shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Article VIII: Affiliation**

This organization shall be affiliated with the *Students for Academic Freedom Information Center*, a coalition of student organizations, which does not have dues, by-laws, or other requirements of local affiliates. The Organization shall abide by this constitution, and/or the rules, regulations, or policies of Marquette University.

### **Article IX: Amendments**

Section 1: All amendments to this constitution require notice of one week prior to being discussed and voted upon.

Section 2: All amendments require a 2/3 vote of a quorum for adoption.

Section 3: Amendments become effective only after approval by both the Office of Student Development and the Student Senate of the Marquette University Student Government (MUSG).