

# Constitution for the ASPIRE Student Organization

September 16, 2000

## **Preamble**

We, the students at the University of Delaware, do hereby form the organization known as the ASPIRE Student Organization for the purpose of recruitment, retention and successful graduation of minorities in teaching at the elementary and secondary levels. The activity of the organization encourages the professional development of pre-service teachers through the forging of relationships with educational professionals, advisors, professors and fellow students.

## **Articles**

- I. Name of the group -The organization shall be known as the ASPIRE Student Organization.
- II. Object of the organization - The object of the organization is to provide programs that provide information, support and guidelines in successfully becoming a professional teacher. To also create recruitment opportunities to bring more students into the Education field. A network of education professionals will be maintained to provide guidance, support and an outside classroom source.
- III. Affiliation with any other group- ASPIRE Student Organization shall be affiliated with the Delaware teacher Recruitment Program based on the similar goals and program structure. The organization is based off of the ASPIRE scholarship program as a supplement.
- IV. Qualification/Criteria for selecting membership- Full time, matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware who agree with the purpose and object of this group. Some members of ASPIRE have acquired an scholarship, those members must fulfill the monthly meeting requirements and on accepting the scholarship, receive membership automatically into the Student Organization. Those expressing to join ASPIRE student group and have no scholarship, will be considered an active member if they attend two consecutive meetings and/or programs.
- V. Non-Discrimination Clause- The organization agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University of Delaware and all local, state, and federal laws. Members

will become acquainted with policies and procedures in the Official student handbook and other policies and procedures provided by the University. This organization is viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six full time undergraduate students and we do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age religion, national origin, veteran, handicap status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not bound by major classification in the University.

VI. Duties and privileges of membership- As a member of the ASPIRE Student Organization an active member will have the duty of helping plan different programs, recruiting members into the organization and recruitment of students into the Education field. An active member will have the ability to network with the professional education world and have a support system as a student on the campus of University of Delaware.

VII. Other types of non-voting or representing membership- There will be members who will not be classified as active. If a member is not active this means that they have not fulfilled the obligation of two programs and or meetings. The member will receive information for programs and meetings and are welcomed at any time. However, as a non-active member they do not have the privilege of voting.

VIII. Absence Policies - If active members are absent from a program or meeting, it is that member's obligation to inform an officer, advisor or other member. If the absences are excessive, then that active member will be dropped to a non-active member status.

IX. Policies and Procedures for Disciplining/Removing members – Those members found to act against moral or University policies will be asked to disband from the organization.

X. Officers- All officers shall be full-time, matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware. They shall agree to maintain the goal and purpose of this organization and serve as an example for the organization and group at large.

The following are the positions that should be maintained in the Executive Board of ASPIRE Student Organization.

Section 1: President- This organization shall have a President with the duties of calling and running meetings and handling day-to-day affairs. The President shall be responsible for the registration of the Registered Student Organization and all the required paperwork for the continuation of the organization, including the End of the

Year report (Annual Report), Summer Contact Information, Annual Survey, and RSO Questionnaire. The president will help to appoint all standing and special committees. The president will appear as a spokesperson for the organization if necessary or appoint someone to act in this capacity.

Section 2: Vice-President of Elementary Education- The Vice-President shall serve the role of President if the President is absent, unable to serve the duties of President, or if the President resigns. The Vice President should also be responsible for checking the organizations mailbox and for disseminating information about other activities offered by the other Registered Student Organizations and business promotions. The Vice President will monitor the progress of committees established and assigned by the President or established for the Elementary Education field.

Section 3: Vice President of Secondary Education- The Vice President shall serve the role of President if the President is absent, or the role of Vice President of Elementary Education if the Vice President is absent. The Vice president will be responsible for the distributing of flyers, billets, or mailings for the organization. All committees assigned to the Vice President of Secondary Education shall be maintained and monitored for progress.

Section 4: Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The Treasurer shall sign any checks written by the organization or for the purpose of the organization and maintain all group ledgers. The treasurer should also be responsible for requesting allocations from the allocation board. The treasurer will supervise all fundraises and funds obtained.

Section 5: Secretary – The Secretary shall record the events of all meetings of this organization and shall maintain minutes of those meetings. The secretary shall take attendance of those present at group meetings as necessary. The Secretary should also maintain the membership list and email database.

Section 6: At Large – The At Large will be held responsible for maintaining records of what the group has done over the past year and who was involved. The At Large will maintain order during meetings and represent the group in the absence of the President.

Section 7: Committee Head – The Committee head will schedule meetings according to the need of the committee. The Committee Head is responsible for soliciting members, dates, and ideas. A report of the committees' progress should be given at each meeting by the committee head. The committee head is also responsible for attending the Executive Board meetings.

Section 8: Qualifications for Officers- All Officers must be full time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware. Potential officers must be able to complete a full calendar year. Officers must maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

Section 9: Election of Officers- At the last meeting scheduled for ASPIRE there will be elections for the upcoming school year officers. Members may nominate other members or themselves. Only active members will be allowed to vote. The officers will be announced at the Spring Program, where they will take their position officially. The elections will be done by secret ballot; those with the most votes win. If there is a tie between nominees, each nominee will render a 2-minute speech at the meeting, after which another vote will be taken.

Section 10: Procedures for Discipline/Removal of Officers- If it is found to be that an officer is not performing their duties to the satisfaction of their peers, then it can be recommended that officer be placed onto probation, for a period of no less than two weeks, but not to exceed four weeks. If the officer continues to not perform their duties satisfactory, then the executive board may recommend removal of that officer. In order to remove an officer, majority of the board must agree and the advisor must sign off on the removal request.

Section 11: Resignations- If an officer feels that they will be unable to continue in their duty, then they must express this concern to the advisor and president at their earliest convenience. The officer must then submit a formal letter of resignation to the executive board explaining the causes/reasons for their resignation.

Section 12: Officer Transition- Officers shall be elected in the spring semester. At the last formal meeting those nominated for a position will present themselves before the members of ASPIRE. After which a secret vote shall be taken. The results of the election

will be publized at the closing spring ceremony. The advisor shall hold the results of the election until this time, as to ensure that no tampering has occurred.

XI. Meetings – ASPIRE will meet once a month at a place to be announced. The executive board will meet at least twice a month unless otherwise necessary.

XII. By-Laws – A majority vote is needed to approve by-laws or change existing by-laws.

XIII. Procedures for decision- making – If a decision are needed on a point of difference than a vote shall be taken. Majority vote is needed to approve any decisions.

XIV. Establishment of Committees – Committees shall be established for programming, fundraisers, receptions and recruiting. If needs arises for a special committee, it must be approved by the president.

XV. Selection of an Advisor – The selection of an advisor shall be decided by the executive board. If the need for an advisor arises, and the position needs to be filled, the executive board shall hold an interview process to find an advisor. Majority of the executive board is needed to approve an advisor for a position.

XVI. Disbursal of organizational assets should the group become defunct – The University of Delaware shall inherit the assets of any Registered Student Organization should the group become defunct.

XVII. Define a quorum – The minimum number of members who have to be present at a meeting in order for business to be conducted legally, shall be no less than 6.

XVIII. Rules for Ratifying the Constitution – Requires a majority vote of the organization and approval by the Activities and Programs Office.

XIX. Rules for amending the Constitution – Requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership and advance notice to all members of the proposed change.

XX. Signatures -

Leighla - Orant Foster  
President

9 November 2000  
Date

Sybil J. Brauer  
Advisor

11/9/2000  
Date

[Signature]  
Program Coordinator for Leadership Development

11/10/00  
Date