

American Sign Language Club

October 9th, 2011

Preamble –

We, the students at the University of Delaware, do hereby, form the organization known as the American Sign Language Club for the purpose of informing the university and local community of deaf culture and offering the practical use of American Sign Language

Article I. Organization Name

The organization shall be known as the American Sign Language Club

Article II. Objective of the Organization

The organization intends to offer the practical use of American Sign Language and spread awareness of deaf culture via offering weekly tutorial sessions and informational meetings about learning various signs and how elements of deaf culture are apparent in the local community. The organization will offer weekly sessions to members and whoever wishes to learn sign language by instructors who have functioning native or near native fluency in American Sign Language. Instructors are preferably students who can assist an audience of diverse needs including those with disabilities. Spreading awareness of deaf culture into the community will come about via information seminars that will be performed on a semester basis.

Article III. Affiliation

Affiliation with any other group will be determined relative to the organizations partnership or use of the respective organization. Official affiliation will be handled through various measures, but must go through the University of Delaware's RSO office.

Article IV. Membership Requirements

Members are fulltime undergraduate students who agree with the purpose and intent of this organization. To become an official member, one must be a fulltime undergraduate and attend at least one of the weekly seminars per month, unless otherwise cleared by the board. There are no restrictions on the size of the group.

Article V. Non-Discrimination Clause

The organization agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University 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 a 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.

Article VI. Membership Duties

Membership primarily entails attending meetings that are offered on a weekly basis. To be an official member of the organization, one must attend at least one meeting per month. Volunteer opportunities will be offered, but member participation is optional. Only official members have an option for voting rights in the elections for electing board members of the organization.

Article VII. Non-voting Representation

Non-voting or representative membership may include graduate students, members of the local community that have an affiliation with or an interest in the deaf community or American Sign Language, part-time students, professors, and University of Delaware' administrative staff.

Article VIII. Absence policies

Members who do not attend at least 1 session (the weekly class) per month are in danger of having their membership revoked in accordance to the board's decision.

Article IX. Policies for Disciplining Members

Any member that becomes disrespectful, unlawful, or violates university code of conduct at a meeting or American Sign Language club event is in danger of losing their membership. Also, anyone who doesn't show up to at least one meeting (weekly session) per semester is in danger of losing their membership.

Article X. Qualifications of Officers

All officers must be full time undergraduate students at the University of Delaware with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.25. Potential officers must be able to fulfill a full academic calendar year.

Article XI. Officers

Officers-

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 required paperwork for the continuation of the organization (*including Start-of-the-Year, Mid-Year and End-of-the-Year packets.*) The President will receive all information from the Activities and Programs Office from an undisclosed email database. The president will help the executive board and should have some leadership experience and/or qualities. Overall, the president should be in charge over overseeing functional operations and support affairs.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The Treasurer shall write all checks and have all checks signed by the Activities and Programs

staff for the purpose of the organization. The treasurer will also maintain all group ledgers. The treasurer should also be responsible for requesting funds from the allocation board.

Vice President: The Vice-President shall work closely with the President to fulfill the duties as described above. The Vice-President will also serve the role of President if the President is absent, unable to serve the duties, 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.

Article XII. Elections

An election will take place at the end of April every year. Candidates must announce their candidacy to the club as well as the executive board in the beginning of April (at least a week in advance of the election). A candidate must attend at least one meeting per month, and only these undergraduate students will be allowed to vote. If there is a tie, the two people will share the office (i.e. Co-Presidents). Officers will assume their new role at the end of May when the semester ends. Throughout May, the new executive board will be trained by the previous executive board to make goals and learn about their position.

- a. If an officer has not attended at least one meeting per month, this is the grounds for removal. If an officer is not meeting the expectations outlined in their description, they will be charged as such. They will be expecting to make an appeal to the executive board, and the executive board will vote on such matters. A majority vote of the executive board is needed for the removal of an officer. After the decision is made, an election will be held the following week by secret ballot, and after the vote, that person will be made an official officer.
- b. If an officer would like to resign from their position, they must email the entire executive board to give two weeks notice. After notice is given, the entire organization will be notified of an upcoming election for the vacant position. A vote will be held the next week, and that person will take the office. The previous officer that resigned is expected to explain their job to the new person before leaving their position.
- c. After the election in April, the executive board will meet with the new officers and discuss expectations of for next year as well as goals for next year. In this group meeting, the executive board will explain the policies of the Activities and Programs Office as well as the constitution. Each new officer is expected to meet with the person who previous held his or her position for training during the first week of May. It will be the responsibility of the new officers to hold the last meeting of the semester, and explain their goals for next year to entire organization.

Article XIII. Meetings.

There will be eight general meetings during a month (two per week), but members are encouraged to only attend one per week. Both meetings will go over the same material and were created because of scheduling conflicts. The meeting will last for at least forty-five minutes. The executive board will meet after the general body meeting twice a month to discuss any upcoming

events, or changes they would like to see in the club. The executive board is also expected to meet with the adviser at least once of month.

Article XIV. Dues.

There will be no dues collected for this organization.

Article XV. By- Laws.

A simple majority of the executive board will be needed to approve by-laws or create changes within the existing by-laws.

Article XVI. Procedures for Decision Making.

Decision-making is will be done by a simple majority.

Article XVII. Selection of an Adviser.

The adviser will be chosen based on the different suggestions made by the members of the organization. The executive board however will decide the adviser based on a simple majority decision. They adviser's expectations will be to help plan event and give suggestions for the future.

Article XIX. 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.

Article XX. Define a quorum.

A minimum of 20 members and a majority of the executive board must be present in order for decisions to be made.


Article XXI. Rules for Ratifying the Constitution

A simple majority by the entire organization will be required for ratifying the constitution, as well as approval by the Activities and Programs Office.

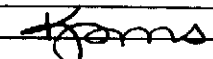
Article XXII. Rules for Amending the Constitution.

Adding articles/sections to the constitution needs a simple majority by the entire membership and advance notice to all members of the proposed change.

Signatures:

President: 

Vice President: _____

Activities & Programs Staff: 

Date: 10/28/11