
THE CONSTITUTION
of the
COLLEGE DEMOCRATS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Adopted
OCTOBER 1978

Amended:
MAY 2009

Preamble

In order to promote a better America, with equality, opportunity, and freedom within a just and strong society, we dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of Democratic college students at University of Delaware. In this mission, we call for full participation of all Delaware students, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

Understanding the importance of participation in the Democratic Party to the preservation of our values and principles, we, Democratic college students, do hereby associate ourselves and adopt this Constitution as the Delaware College Democrats.

Article 1: Name and Purpose

A. Name. The name of this organization shall be the College Democrats at the University of Delaware, hereafter referred to in this document as the College Democrats.

B. Purpose. The College Democrats pledges itself to support the philosophy and candidates of the Democratic Party. Furthermore, the College Democrats declares its intention to support all efforts to increase the participation of college students in Democratic affairs. To these ends, the College Democrats shall educate and train its members so that they may be better able to:

1. Educate students about the philosophy of the Democratic Party;
2. Assist in the election of local, state, and national Democratic candidates.
3. Affect political change on the local, state, and national level.

Article 2: General Membership

A. General Members. Membership in the College Democrats shall be open to any college student currently enrolled at the University of Delaware who wishes to be known as a College Democrat and who has the best interests of the College Democrats and the Democratic Party at heart, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

B. Members in good standing. Members in good standing shall be defined as any member, as defined in Article 2 Section A, who has paid their yearly dues as determined by the Executive Board pursuant to Article 3, Section C.

Article 3: The Executive Board

A. Composition. The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Communication, Director of Political Affairs and the Director of Development. All positions will be elected once yearly in a General Election.

B. Meetings. The Executive Board shall meet regularly when school is in session. Meetings shall be opened to all interested members.

C. Membership fees. The Executive Board shall determine if an annual membership fee should be required for University of Delaware students to join the College Democrats, and shall adjust the amount required for membership annually.

D. Events planning. The entire Executive Board shall plan events and/or delegate responsibility for those events to the individuals or committees it deems fit.

Article 4. Campaign Committees

A. After consulting with the Executive Board, any member may form a campaign committee of the College Democrats if a majority of the Executive Board agrees that the following conditions have been met:

1. The purpose of the campaign committee is (i) to advocate for a Democratic candidate in a contested primary, or (ii) to advocate for an issue or the passage of legislation.
2. The member has presented to the Executive Board a plan outlining the group's goals and how it will work to achieve them.
3. The mission of the group shares the spirit and principles of the Democratic party, and can best be carried out through the campaign committee.

B. Authorization of a campaign committee does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of a particular candidate, legislation, or position by the University of Delaware College Democrats.

C. If the purpose of the committee is to advocate for a Democratic candidate in a contested primary and that candidate wins the Democratic nomination, the group must reapply for committee status with approval from the Executive Board.

D. Committees may apply for, but are not entitled to, funding from the College Democrats general budget. If more than one committee working on the same race applies for funding from the general budget, each group must receive equal funding.

E. The College Democrats Executive Board may dissolve any committee by a 2/3 vote if it deems it to be acting in ways contrary to the interest of the College Democrats as a whole.

F. Campaign committees may not get funding that comes directly from the University of Delaware's standard budget allocation. All funds must come directly from the College Democrats budget.

Article 5: Endorsements

1. Definition. (i) "Endorsement" shall be defined as, but not limited to, adopting policy statements and platforms, supporting candidates in local, state, and national elections, and local or statewide referenda. (ii) "Policies" shall be defined as a stance on an issue that the College Democrats officially make.

2. Endorsements of Candidates. The College Democrats shall endorse candidates by a vote of 2/3 of the General Membership. In races where the College Democrats does not endorse a candidate, the organization shall facilitate the dissemination of information for all Democratic candidates in that race.

3. Endorsements of Policies. Policy statements shall be adopted by a simple majority of the General Membership.

Article 6: Duties of the Executive Board Positions

A. All Executive Board members must maintain active involvement in all of the College Democrats activities and endeavors. Failure to maintain active involvement qualifies for removal action pursuant to Article 8 of this Constitution.

B. Duties of the President. The President shall:

1. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the College Democrats;
2. Define the agenda of the College Democrats during his or her tenure;
3. Carry out the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Board;
4. Preside over all meetings of the College Democrats.

C. Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President shall:

1. Assist the President in the performance of his or her duties; including brainstorming ideas and evaluating the progress of the Executive Board and organization as a whole;
2. Act as President when the President is unable to perform his or her duties;
3. Assume the office of the President upon the President's death, resignation, removal, or inability to perform duties;
4. Take on projects of his or her choosing.

D. Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall:

1. Work with the Director of Development to maintain the College Democrats website;
2. Take minutes, or ensure that minutes are taken, at all meetings of the College Democrats, including but not limited to board meetings, membership meetings, campaign committee meetings, and events, and make the minutes of open meetings available to the General Membership;
3. Send out announcement emails to the General Membership, and seek out other ways of publicizing College Democrats activities to the full membership and campus;
4. Work with the president on creating meeting agendas for both general and Executive Board meetings;
5. Assist the President and Vice-President in administrative matters;
6. Keep alumni aware of and connected to the organization;
7. Seek out internship opportunities for members and provide them with information about securing internships.

E. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

1. Direct fundraising activities and prepare all grants;
2. Manage the bank account, the receipts and paper work in case of an audit, and the dues paying membership;
3. Perform such duties as the President may assign, as well as such duties that are customarily performed by a treasure.

F. Duties of the Director of Communications. The Director of Communications shall:

1. Act as the official representative and spokesperson of the College Democrats to the media;
2. Approve or deny all media interview requests.
3. Keep and maintain all media contacts;
4. Draft and release all press releases with approval of the Executive Board;
5. Write op-eds and letters-to-the-editor, and see that they are placed in campus and off-campus publications;
6. In consultation with the Secretary and Director of Political Affairs, seek out new ways of publicizing the Democratic message on campus;
7. Produce content for the College Democrats online presence.

G. Duties of the Director of Political Affairs. The Director of Political Affairs shall:

1. Keep abreast of campus politics and organize on-campus activism around campus issues;
2. Organize on-campus activism around national issues;
3. Represent the College Democrats at other University of Delaware registered student organizations (RSOs) and report back RSO activity to the Executive Board;
4. Build RSO coalitions around common interests to network College Democrats into campus life. Specifically identify political and/or advocacy-based RSOs on campus, and build strong relationships with those campus organizations;
5. Act as the liaison between RSOs and the College Democrats.

H. Duties of the Director of Development. The Director of Development shall:

1. Maintain the College Democrats website and Smart Blue Hens blog;
2. Work with the Directors of Communications and Political Affairs to create new content for the College Democrats website;
3. Create social opportunities for the General Membership and the Executive Board.

Article 7: General Elections

A. Elections shall take place annually in the beginning or middle of May on a date the Executive Board deems fit.

B. Eligibility to run for a position and vote. To run for a position and vote in the College Democrats General Election a person must (i) meet the requirements to be designated a member in Article 2, and (ii) have attended at least one designated event or general meeting of the College Democrats. Individuals classified by the University of Delaware as a "senior" may vote.

C. Closed-door election. Once elections begin no one may enter and vote. Once a voter leaves the room he is not permitted to return to vote. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis as determined by the election administrators.

D. Secret ballots. One vote per person per election.

E. Election administrators. The Executive Board shall appoint the administrators of the General Election. Administrators are responsible for facilitating the election process, counting ballots and announcing the winners. Administrators may not vote.

F. Procedure.

1. Nominations. Each candidate must be nominated by another member, accept the nomination and have their name visibly displayed for the membership to see.
2. Speech length: All candidates are entitled a speech of length determined by the Executive Board. Each candidate's allocated time must be of equal length, regardless of the office they are seeking.
3. Vote counting and declaration of winner will occur directly after the election by the administrators.
4. The election winner is determined by simple majority.
5. If no candidate prevails in winning a plurality to constitute a simple majority, the Executive Board shall vote to determine the winner, with the secretary acting as the administrator and not casting a vote. If the secretary is the candidate, the Executive Board must appoint an administrator from within the Executive Board with a simple majority vote of approval.

Article 8: Removal

A. Cause for removal. Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties assigned by the Executive Board or delineated within this document, or as ineligibility for Executive Board membership pursuant to Article 2. Cause for removal shall also include grounds found by a simple majority of the members of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.

B. Process for removal. To begin the process for removal, another member of the Executive Board must charge the officer with the reasons for his or her removal publicly at a meeting of the Executive Board. The officer in question must be offered an opportunity to defend himself or herself at that meeting. After a period of one week the issue shall be put to a vote. A simple majority of the Executive Board must vote for removal.

Article 9: Vacancies

A. Declaration of vacancy. A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board dies, resigns, or is removed from office. If the vacancy occurs in an Executive Board position other than the President, the President shall appoint a successor with a 2/3 majority consent of the remaining Executive Board. If the vacancy is the President, then the Vice-President shall assume the position of President and appoint his or her Vice President.

Article 10: Amendments

A. Procedure. The Constitution can be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board with 2/3 approval of the General Membership.

