

Constitution

March 2003

Group Name: Prolife Vanguard

Preamble

We, the students at the University of Delaware, do hereby form the organization known as Prolife Vanguard for the purpose of promoting and educating the community of pro-life issues at the University of Delaware.

Articles

- I. **Name** - The organization shall be known as Prolife Vanguard.
- II. **Object** - The object of this organization shall be to: educate and promote the pro-life stand on such issues as abortion and euthanasia in the University community, through the use of guest speakers, special programs, and community service.
- III. **Affiliation** - Prolife Vanguard is the college-age (18 - 24 yrs), associate branch of Vanguard, a non-profit, which is affiliated with Delaware Right to Life.
- IV. **Qualifications for Membership** - Any full-time, matriculated undergraduate student at the University of Delaware who agrees with the purpose and object of Prolife Vanguard may become a member. Full-fledged membership shall be granted to those who have attended more than two meetings in a semester, and/or participated in one activity in a semester.
- V. **Non-Discrimination Clause** - Prolife Vanguard 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. Prolife Vanguard is a viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six full-time undergraduate students who do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, veteran, handicap status, or sexual orientation.
- VI. **Other Representing Membership** - As this is a pre-existing organization, officers elected through Prolife Vanguard at the local chapter level will exercise leadership roles within Prolife Vanguard.
- VII. **Policies and Procedures for Disciplining/Removing members** - If any member is found to be engaged in conduct that puts the organization's mission in jeopardy such as harassment of the members and/or any member of the university community in general, illegal activity, etc., that member shall be immediately suspended from the organization pending review of the circumstances by the executive board members and the University Advisor. If the review finds the member's conduct to be egregious enough, the member shall be expelled from the organization.
- VIII. **Officers and Elections**

Section 1: President – Prolife Vanguard shall have a President who will be in charge of calling and running meetings and handling day-to-day affairs. These affairs include, but are not limited to arranging speakers and events, serving as a spokesperson for the organization, and organizing fundraising activities. The President shall be responsible for the registration of Prolife Vanguard and all 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 receive information from other Registered Student Organizations and the Activities and Programs Office through the Student-Leaders@udel.edu email database and disperse the information as necessary.

Section 2: Vice-President - The Vice-President shall aid the President in executing all the duties of the office, such as the arrangement of speakers and the planning of events. The Vice-President shall serve the role of President if the President is absent, is unable to serve the duties of President, or if the President resigns.

Section 3: Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The Treasurer shall sign any checks written by Prolife Vanguard for the purposes of the organization and maintain all group ledgers. The Treasurer will also be responsible for requesting funds from the allocation board and ensuring that checks are signed by the appropriate administrator. In addition, the Treasurer is also responsible for attending the Treasurers' training meeting held at the beginning of every fall and/or spring semester.

Section 4: Secretary - The Secretary shall record the events of all meetings of Prolife Vanguard, as well as take attendance of members present, and shall maintain minutes of those meetings in a designated folder. The Secretary is responsible for forwarding a copy of the minutes (including attendance records) to the current mentor(s) and local Vanguard chapter advisor.

Section 5: All Members – The success of Prolife Vanguard relies on the activism and help of its members. Therefore, the undertaking and sharing of responsibilities is encouraged, such as helping maintain the website (if existent), promoting the group and their events, making posters, fliers, entering information onto the University Events web page, and submitting press releases to the appropriate media.

Section 6: Qualifications for Officers - All Officers (or Executive Board Members) must be full-time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware.

Section 7: Election of Officers - Elections will be held at least once per academic year during the spring semester. The elections shall consist of a nomination period where each member of the organization may nominate as many as one person for each office, abiding by the following rules: A person may only be nominated for President if they have served on the executive

board of Prolife Vanguard for at least one semester. The election shall then take place by closed ballots. Only full-time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware, who are full-fledged members of Prolife Vanguard (see Article IV), may vote in the elections.

Section 8: Absence Policies – In the event that an officer misses more than three meetings in a given semester (special circumstances excluded) the group may decide to elect a new person for the position.

Section 9: Resignations - If an officer feels that they can no longer execute the duties of their office, they may resign. They should submit a letter of resignation to the executive board. They may remain a member of the organization if they choose to do so. The executive board shall fill the empty officer position from those who are full members of the organization, and they will be the interim officer until the next election.

Section 10: Procedure for Disciplining/Removal of Officers – If any officer is found to be engaged in conduct that puts the organization’s mission in jeopardy such as harassment of the members and/or any member of the university community in general, illegal activity, etc., that officer shall be immediately suspended pending review of the circumstances by the remaining executive board members and the University Advisor. If the review finds the officer’s conduct to be egregious enough, the officer shall be removed from his/her position, and expelled from the organization.

- IX. **Meetings** – Meetings shall be held at least once a month at a specified location, date, and time to be determined by the President and/or the executive board and announced to members over email. It is crucial that the necessary steps be taken to reserve a location for the meetings.
- X. **Dues** - No dues will be collected. Any and all funds will be raised from fundraising, and/or grants made by the local Vanguard chapter, and/or funds dispersed to Prolife Vanguard by the University of Delaware (funds from the University of Delaware will solely be used for events and activities associated with Prolife Vanguard and not for donational/non-profit purposes).
- XI. **The Executive Board and By-Laws**

Section 1: Authority - The executive board shall vote on all decisions of Prolife Vanguard. Only a majority is needed for a decision to be passed. In the case of a tie, the President shall have the final say. The executive board members shall exercise this authority at all regular meetings of the organization, and at executive board meetings that may be scheduled from time to time.

Section 2: Approval of By-Laws – By-Laws and changes in by-laws shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and voting.

- XII. **Procedures** – Simple parliamentary procedure shall govern Prolife Vanguard at all regular meetings, and at any board meetings that may be held from

time to time. Simple decorum is called upon all members present at such meetings.

- XIII. **Selection of an Advisor** – Since the Student Activities Office requires every registered student organization to have a University of Delaware faculty advisor, the executive board shall formally ask any member of the faculty that is known to hold pro-life views to be Prolife Vanguard’s advisor. If the faculty member accepts the advisor position, they may be called upon from time to time for advice and assistance. That stated, the faculty advisor will not have a greater say over the current local Vanguard chapter advisor.
- XIV. **Disbursal of organizational assets should the group become defunct** - The University of Delaware shall inherit the assets of Prolife Vanguard should the group become defunct.
- XV. **Quorum** – In order for business to be conducted legally, it is required that 50% less than that of Prolife Vanguard’s membership be present.
- XVI. **Ratification of the Constitution** – The constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the membership of this organization and approved of this organization’s registration by the Student Activities Office.
- XVII. **Amendments to the Constitution** – Amendments to this constitution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) approval of the entire membership of this organization. Advance notice shall be given to all members of the proposed change(s) to the constitution.
- XVIII. **Signatures**