

Preamble

We, as students of the University of Delaware and as members of the University community, do hereby form the organization known as The Vegetarian Students Association for the purposes of creating an organized community of students with interests in the ethics of Vegetarianism, promoting healthy, ethical, and environmentally conscious lifestyles among the University community through raising awareness of Vegetarianism, calling attention to the inhumane and unethical treatment of animals beings exploited for human consumption, promoting the humane and ethical treatment of all animals whether or not being used for consumption, and functioning as a forum for respectful and meaningful discussion of the purpose, principles, and world view that encompasses the label "Vegetarian".

Articles

I. Name

This organization will be known as The Vegetarian Students Association.

II. Objective

The Vegetarian Students Association will pursue its purpose of creating an organized community of students with interests in the ethics of Vegetarianism, promoting healthy and environmentally conscious lifestyles among the University community, calling attention to the inhumane and unethical treatment of animals exploited for human consumption, promoting the humane and ethical treatment of all animals whether or not being used for consumption, and functioning as forum for respectful and meaningful discussion of the purpose, principles, and world view that encompasses the label "Vegetarian", by doing the following:

1. Organizing and holding social events based around Vegetarian ethics (i.e.: only meat-free and dairy-free foods and items are allowed at group events)
2. Organizing film screenings and discussions of films related to Vegetarianism and/or the Animal Rights Movement
3. Discussing how to maintain a healthy vegetarian diet as a University student and ensuring vegetarian members of the group have the information they need to live a healthy vegetarian lifestyle.
4. Raising problems and issues related to being a vegetarian at the University of Delaware, discussing these issues, and finding peaceful ways to resolve them.

5. Arranging for guest speakers to visit the University to speak on particular topics that pertain to Vegetarianism and/or the Animal Rights Movement.
6. Acting as a forum from which vegetarian students at the University of Delaware can make their opinions known and their concerns heard by the larger University community.

III. Membership Requirements

1. Membership in the Vegetarian Students Association is limited to full-time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware.
2. Members must consent to bring only meat-free food items to group events.
3. Members must be respectful of others and their opinions.
4. Members must not vilify nor seek to vilify non-vegetarian members of the University community or the policies of the University of Delaware.
5. Members may not seek to promote Vegetarianism in a hostile manner.

IV. Non-Discrimination Clause

The Vegetarian Students Association 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.

The Vegetarian Students Association 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.

V. Duties and privileges of membership

1. All members of the Vegetarian Students Association are required to attend at least one group function or meeting during the course of a semester.
2. All members of the Vegetarian Students Association must NOT represent this organization in a manner that would be viewed as hostile or aggressively confrontational.
3. All members of the Vegetarian Students Association are allowed to propose new activities and actively organize these functions with the consent of a vote of at least three-fourths of the eligible

members of the V.S.A. and if the proposed activity is allowed by University policy for Registered Student Organizations.

VI. Other types of non-voting or representing membership

Part time students, graduate students, alumni, community and honorary members, are eligible for membership in the Vegetarian Students Association as "Associate Members". The Officers of the V.S.A. shall decide upon the admittance of these members by way of three-fourths vote. These members are NOT allowed to vote, hold office, count towards the group's membership, nor have any influence upon the decision making of the Vegetarian Students Association.

VII. Absence Policies

1. Members of the Vegetarian Students Association who do not attend at least one group function or meeting during the course of a semester are not eligible to vote in group decisions, nor vote for officers, nor are they eligible to be considered for holding an office.
2. Members of the Vegetarian Students Association who do not attend at least one group function or meeting during the course of an academic year will have their membership revoked.

VIII. Policies and Procedures for Disciplining/Removing members

There are several circumstances under which a member of the Vegetarian Students Association will be disciplined and/or removed. They are as follows:

1. If a member that commits and act that is dangerous to his or her safety, threatens the safety of any human or animal alike, and could be considered a threat to the safety of the University of Delaware as an academic institution and as a community, this member shall be automatically removed.
2. If a member seeks to promote Vegetarianism and/or Animal Rights in a violent, aggressive, or overtly confrontational manner will be disciplined by the Officers of the Vegetarian Students Association and/or the administration of the University and be removed.
3. If a member commits an act that is illegal in accordance with local, state, and/or federal laws this member shall be automatically removed.
4. If member vilifies non-Vegetarian students of the University of Delaware or of the University community or the policies of the University of Delaware this member shall be disciplined by the Officers of the Vegetarian Students Association for the offense and will have membership suspended for the length of three

weeks. If the member commits the offense again, this member shall be automatically removed.

5. If a member advocates violence against other people in any form, or violent action against the University of Delaware and the University community, this member shall be automatically removed.
6. If a member does not attend at least one meeting or group activity during the course of a year, their membership will be revoked.
7. If a member of the Vegetarian Students Association raises a complaint against another member for inappropriate, disorderly, hostile, or unethical conduct, the member must follow the following procedure to file the complaint to the Executive Board of Officers:
 - i. The member must notify in person or by e-mail the President of the Vegetarian Students Association that he or she wishes to file an official complaint against the member in question.
 - ii. An Officer of the V.S.A. will provide the member filing the complaint with the proper "File Complaint" form, which the member must then complete and return to the V.S.A. President.
 - iii. The Officers of the V.S.A. will conduct a meeting and consider the complaint. If the Officers agree by a three-fourths vote to formally hear the complaint, the member filing the complaint and the accused member will be called to come before a meeting of all Officers to hear both sides of the issue, in the meantime the accused member shall be on probation from all V.S.A. activities.
 - iv. Upon considering the testimony of the accused member and of the complaints of the other member towards the accused, the Officers of the V.S.A. shall make a decision on the appropriate action to take.

IX. Qualifications for Officers

All Officers of the Vegetarian Students Association must meet the following criteria:

1. Officers of the Vegetarian Students Association must be full time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware with a minimum GPA of 2.25.
2. Any potential officer must be able to serve for a full academic year. This excludes second semester seniors, students studying

abroad, or any member who might have some obligation that would impede with serving a full academic year.

3. Members who have been members of the Vegetarian Students Association for at least one semester, who have attended at least one meeting or group event during the course of that semester, and have paid dues, will be eligible to become an Officer.

X. Officers

1. **President** – The Vegetarian Students Association 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 to appoint all standing and special committees. The President must have served as an officer of the V.S.A. for at least one academic year.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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 will also serve as the group historian, keeping track of what the group has done and posting a “year-in-review” section to V.S.A. web page at some point before the close of each academic year. The Secretary should also maintain the membership list and email database.
5. **Public Relations Chair** - The Public Relations Chair shall be responsible for promotion of the group and their events. This would

include making posters, flyers, and brochures, entering information on to the University Events web page, submitting press releases to the appropriate media, and ensuring the group is represented at events designed to help promote the organization and build membership.

6. **Web Master** - The Web Master shall be responsible for the monthly upkeep of the Registered Student Organization web site and have it approved by the executive board.

XI. Election of Officers

1. Members of the Vegetarian Students Association who have been members in good standing for at least one academic year and who have attended at least two V.S.A. group events or meetings during the past academic year will be eligible to hold office. A member desiring to run for an office must complete the following procedure:
 - i. Apply to be an officer by informing the Secretary of the V.S.A. that he or she wishes to run for office.
 - ii. If the member applying to be an officer meets eligibility requirements, then he or she will be put on the ballot by the Secretary of the V.S.A. .
2. Election Procedure:
 - i. An electronic ballot will be sent by e-mail to all voting members of the V.S.A. .
 - ii. Members of the V.S.A. will make their selection by sending an e-mail to the Secretary with the names of their chosen candidates next to the office for which they are up for election.
 - iii. In the result of a tied outcome, a random drawing of three names of members in good standing of the V.S.A. will be done. These three members will vote to break the tie.

XII. Procedure for Disciplining/Removal of Officers

1. Officers of the Vegetarian Students Association who become unqualified to hold office will be notified by the President that they are no longer qualified, for whatever reason. The officer accused of being unqualified, if he or she so wishes, has the right to appeal his or her case before a special meeting of the other qualified officers; if the President is the accused, the Vice-President shall act in the President's role.
 - i. In this special meeting of Officers, the accused Officer will plead his or her case.

- ii. After hearing the case, the Officers shall decide by at least three fourths vote whether the Officer should be considered qualified or unqualified.
 - iii. If the Officer is found to be unqualified, he or she will be immediately removed from office and temporarily replaced by a member of the Election Committee which the remaining officers will be at liberty to choose.
 - iv. This "temporary officer" will then select another member to serve in his or her place on the Election Committee.
 - v. The temporary officer will remain in their position until the next scheduled V.S.A. election, upon which a new officer will be elected to take the office. At which time, the temporary officer has the choice of either going back to being a member of the Election Committee, or permanently ceding his or her position on that committee to the member which he or she had appointed.
 - vi. The temporary officer may not run for election in the particular election during which they are "filling in"
2. Officers who wish to resign from office must complete the following steps:
 - i. Four weeks before the Officer wishes to officially leave office, the Officer must obtain, complete, and return the "Resignation from Office Form" to a V.S.A. Officer.
 - ii. The V.S.A. Officers will convene a special meeting to discuss the resignation with the resigning Officer, and to ensure that the resigning Officer is firm in their decision.
 - iii. After four weeks, the Officer is officially allowed to resign from the position of Officer

Following this procedure, V.S.A. members will be notified of the Officer's resignation and the Election Committee, with the approval of candidates by the Officers, will convene a special election to select a new officer.

3. Officers who commit any of the actions described in Article VIII, Sections one through six of this Constitution will be subject to the procedures as stated in each of those particular sections.

XIII. Officer Transition

1. Newly elected Officers will be notified at least five weeks prior to the last day of classes.
2. Newly elected officers will attend all Officer-only meetings of the V.S.A. as part of their training.

3. Newly elected Officers will be trained during a three week period by shadowing and working with the former Officer who held their particular position.
4. Newly elected officers will be supplied with a copy of the V.S.A.'s constitution which they are expected to make themselves familiar with.
5. Newly elected Officers will officially take office on the last day of classes.

XIV. Meetings

1. Meetings of the V.S.A. will be held at least twice a month, on a date and at a time that is most convenient to most members.
2. The President of V.S.A. will meet once a month with the advisor.

XV. Dues

1. Dues for the V.S.A. will be fifteen dollars per semester.
2. Dues will be collected each semester beginning Fall 2011. Dues for the Fall will be collected by **October 7th**; dues for the Spring will be collected by **March 1st**.
3. Dues are not required for membership in the V.S.A. however members who do not pay dues will pay full-price for V.S.A. events.
4. Reduced priced events will only be available to V.S.A. members who pay dues; free events will be available to all V.S.A. members regardless of whether or not they pay dues.
5. If group apparel is purchased (t-shirts, bags, mugs, etc.), V.S.A. members who pay dues will pay a reduced price on these orders; V.S.A. members who have not paid dues will pay the full price. The amount of price-deduction for V.S.A. members will be dependent on the price of the apparel, but the price-reduction must not exceed ten dollars.

XVI. Establishment of Committees

1. New committees shall be established if either a member or officer of the Vegetarian Students Association makes a legitimate case for the need of establishing this committee as a necessity to make the V.S.A. function most efficiently, and if their case is heard and deemed acceptable by the President of the V.S.A.

Committees:

- i. Public Relations Committee: An assembly of members of the Vegetarian Students Association who are interested in helping the

Public Relations Chair fulfill his or her duty. These members will be appointed by the Public Relations Chair as needed. There may be as many members of the Public Relations Committee as is necessary for the Public Relations Chair to get his or her job done efficiently.

XVII. Selection of an Advisor

1. The advisor must be a full time professional faculty or staff person, no part-time/salaried staff or graduate students may serve as an advisor.
2. The advisor **does not have to be a vegetarian** but it is suggested that he or she be a vegetarian because of the useful information he or she may impart from their experiences.
3. The advisor must be an individual whom is approved to be an advisor by at three-fourths vote of the Officers of the V.S.A.
4. The advisor is not obligated to attend V.S.A. events or meetings, but they are always invited to attend any V.S.A. gathering
5. The advisor is obligated to meet with the President of V.S.A. at least once a month.

XVIII. Disbursal of organizational assets should the group become defunct.

1. The University of Delaware shall inherit the assets of any Registered Student Organization should the group become defunct.

XIX. Definition of a Quorum

1. At a general meeting of the Vegetarian Students Association, at least four members must be present in order for major group decisions to be made and either the Vice-President or President must also be present.
2. At Executive meetings of the Vegetarian Students Association, the presence of the Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President or President, is required for group decisions to be made.

XX. Rules for ratifying the constitution

1. Approval of changes to this constitution requires a three-fourths vote of the Executive Board of the V.S.A. (including all V.S.A. Committee Members) and approval by the Activities and Programs Office.

XXI. Rules for amending the constitution

1. Adding articles/sections to this constitution requires a three-fourths vote of the Executive Board of the V.S.A. (including all V.S.A. Committee Members) and notice must be given to all members of the proposed change.
2. Individual members of V.S.A. may propose amendments to this constitution by presenting their case before a special meeting of the Executive Board (including all Committee Members). The Executive Board will then hold a separate meeting in which they will vote by a three- fourths vote to add articles/sections to this constitution.

Signatures:

President: Chelsie M. Johnson

Vice-President: Allison Moore

Activities and Programs Staff: [Signature]

Date: 10/28/2010

OFFICE OF
ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

OCT 28 2010

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