

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF MISSOURI

CONSTITUTION GUIDE

2019-20



**COLLEGE DEMOCRATS
OF MISSOURI**

A constitution is required in order to be a recognized organization on your college campus. Follow this example guide to create the 7 separate articles that your constitution needs.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

- a. Section 1- What will the name of your organization be? Include other appropriate references that may be used like MU College Democrats or Mizzou Democrats.
- b. Section 2- Purpose and Activities: In this section, include the goals of your organization and what you want to be able to help your members accomplish.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

- a. Section 1- Executive Council: Include the positions that will be in your Executive Council and how the voting system within the Council will function.
- b. Section 2- Officers: List out the role and task that each position will be required to perform. Positions can include a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Communications Director, Campus Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and Chief of Staff, based on the size of your organization.
- c. Section 3- Non-Executive Offices and Departments: Your organization may have the option of adding additional positions that are not a part of the Executive Council. These positions may be added and dissolved as seen fit each year.
- d. Section 4- Affiliation: In this section specify that you are not endorsing specific candidates through your organization and will not affiliate yourself with specific organizations that could hurt your chapter. The organization should endorse College Democrats of Missouri, College Democrats of America, and Young Democrats of America.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Section 1- Regular Members: Membership should be open to enrolled students at your university or employees of the university.
- b. Section 2- Honorary Members: An honorary member is a non voting member of the organization who has devoted significant time, effort, and/or resources to the chapter.
- c. Section 3- Liaison: The president of the chapter will be the liaison for your chapter. The liaison will plan fundraisers between College Democrats of Missouri and your chapter. They will also organize and coordinate campaign events and other relevant activities.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

- a. Section 1- Elections: Elections for Executive Council positions shall be held in the month of April with unanimous approval from the Council. Order of speeches will be chosen by the Council. The minimum GPA requirement of an officer is a 2.2 GPA. All voting members must have attended at least 50% of meetings over the course of the school year. All new officers will take their office immediately following the election. The Executive Council may also hold special elections for non executive positions. The time of these elections and when the winner will take office are determined by the Council.

- b. Section 2- Vacancies: Upon the permanent absence of the President, the Vice President shall be the first in line of succession, then the Treasurer, then the Outreach Director and then the Communications Director. Upon the permanent absence of any other officer, the Chief of Staff will hold the office until such time as an election can be held to fill the vacancy. The President may, upon the temporary absence of an officer and the approval of the other members of the Executive Council, appoint the Chief of Staff to fill that position until such a time as the officer can return. a. If, after a full semester, the absent officer has not returned, an election will be held and the Chief of Staff will return to his or her original position.
- c. Section 3- Removal of Officers: 1. The Executive Council can vote to remove one of its own members if every Executive Council member except the individual in question supports removal. a. Executive Council members must notify the individual they wish to remove at least seven (7) days prior to a voting meeting. b. The Chief of Staff may vote in Executive removal proceedings. 2. The Executive Council holds the authority to appoint and remove any individual non-Executive office holder with a unanimous vote on the council. 3. In all instances of removal, reasonable time shall be allotted for the individual in question and others to express grievances and maintain a defense. 4. Grounds for removal include the inadequate fulfillment of aforementioned duties or the violation of regulations described in your universities guidelines.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENT PROCESS

- a. Section 1- Rules: The constitution may be amended by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of regular members at a meeting. Amendments may not occur within 24 hours of the proposal.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISOR

- a. Section 1- Discrimination: This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law.

ARTICLE VII. COMPLIANCE

- a. We agree to abide by all regulations described in the M-Book, all University policies, in addition to all federal, state and local laws.



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