

The Constitution of the UAH Debate Society

Adopted: April 11th, 2017

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is the UAH Debate Society. This organization shall be situated at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Article II. Purpose

With the establishment of this organization, this club seeks to: form a Debate Team for committed members, host casual and formal debates to better the logical argumentation and public speaking abilities of its casual members, promote student interest in current affairs, and foster respect between students with different political affiliations and ideological views.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership to this organization is self-nominated and open to any student attending any classes at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Furthermore, all officers must be University of Alabama in Huntsville students in good standing with the University. The only requirement for membership is an agreement to the UAH Debate Society Constitution, regulations, and by-laws of the organization; students must sign the Constitution as proof of their acknowledgement.

Section 2. Membership can be terminated by failing to: follow through on events one has agreed to participate, attend and execute meetings, or conduct oneself in a professional manner. The Executive Board makes recommendations to the Faculty Advisor; and if the Faculty Advisor and Executive Board are in agreement of necessary termination, members will be notified via email.

Section 3. Membership in this organization will not be denied because of race, color, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, disabled veteran or veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation.

Article IV. The Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of, but not limited to, The President, The Vice-President, The Social Media Coordinator, The Student Outreach Officer(s), and The Secretary of Affairs. The aforementioned officers shall constitute the Executive Board. If and when necessary, The Executive Board shall collaborate on and invent new Executive positions to fill unforeseen responsibilities.

Section 2. The terms of office will last from the time they are appointed by the Faculty Advisor in conjunction with the Executive Board through the academic school year. If the appointed officer decides to step down at any point during their active service, they will be responsible for presenting the Executive Board with a recommended officer. If extenuating circumstances occur that prevent the officer from doing so, the listed responsibilities can be differed to another Executive Board member or the organization's Faculty Advisor. In the event of an unforeseen vacancy, the President and Vice-President may fill the position at their discretion.

Section 3. The following list is a description of all Officer responsibilities and duties:

President:

- Presides over all Executive Board meetings and serves as the organization's official representative.
- Communicates all event requests to Faculty Advisor and seeks approval.
- Attends all RSO workshops for the academic year.
- Manages all general correspondence of the organization.
- Manages the official UAH Debate Society email account and all contact lists.
- Preserves all records of the organization.
- Develops and manages agendas and schedules for all Meetings and Debates.
- Chooses debate topics and official Debate style with member consensus.
- Develops discussion questions for each debate in conjunction with the Moderator.
- Responsible for duties in the event that an Executive Board member is unable to attend meetings.
- Coordinates and manages advertising aspects throughout the college.
- Develops and manages all visual media used in Debates and Executive meetings.
- Performs other such duties as may be required by the Bylaws or resolutions of the Executive Board.

Vice-President:

- Presides over all general membership meetings, and presides in the President's absence.
- Shares responsibilities of President and will work closely with the President to insure effective organization of the UAH Debate Society.
- Performs other such duties as may be required by the Bylaws or resolutions of the Executive Board.

Social Media Coordinator

- Maintains and coordinates all social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat.
- Uses “Canva.com” for all graphics that are posted to social media accounts, using approved templates by The President or Vice-President.
- Responsible for updating accounts weekly or more frequently as needed, to convey new information and encourage students participate.
- Responsible for compiling captured footage or photographs to post on UAH Debate Society’s social media outlets.
- Relays information as asked by the Executive Board’s designated timeline or itineraries.
- All information posted on social media outlets must have approval by The President or Vice-President before posting.

Student Outreach Officer(s):

- Responsible for coordinating all weekly recruiting events.
- Must be available to work all events; a suitable member or Executive Board Officer must be chosen 24 hours in advance if the Student Outreach Officer is unable to attend, pending the approval of The President or Vice President.
- Must have access and knowledge of Astra to schedule events.
- Multiple Officers for this position are allowed with the discretion of The President or Vice-President.

Secretary of Affairs:

- Responsible for keeping and maintaining a record of all meetings.
- Must manage Google Drive account so that all documents are organized and viewable by all Executive Board members.
- Surveys members weekly for debate topics and public opinion or club interest and communicates membership needs to the respective Officers of the Executive Board.

Financial Advisor:

- Responsible for overseeing fundraising, financial records, and money management.
- Must keep an available and transparent financial record on Google Drive that is accessible to all Executive Board Members.
- Communicates with the President or Vice-President for instruction.

Moderator

- Resides over all Debates, following official Debate rules to oversee and moderate each Debate.

Section 4. Any student member is eligible for nomination as an officer of the Executive Board. Officer applications will be considered from online applications based on student interest, qualifications, and ability to execute aforementioned duties of officer positions. Approval and appointment of applicants to the Executive Board will be determined by the discretion of the existing Executive Board or Faculty Sponsor.

Section 6. In the event of contested positions, the Executive Board will send out an anonymous survey to elect Officer positions. Members will vote for the candidate(s), and whichever candidate gets the majority vote of votes cast will be appointed to the respective position.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. To retain membership or be considered an active member, students must attend one meeting a month.

Section 2. Meetings will be held weekly every month of the academic year, except for holidays on the academic calendar. Times and days are subject to change based on student interest, which will be considered and determined through surveys. If a member is to miss a general membership meeting they previously agreed to attend, they must notify the President via email 12 hours before the meeting is held to be excused.

Section 3. Debates will be held biweekly each month, with optional prep days in between these weeks dedicated to researching and preparing for Debates. These are all considered meetings and count towards attendance for active membership.

Section 4. Executive Board meetings will be held weekly at the discretion of the Executive Board availability. Excuse regulations are as follows: if an Executive Board member has a UAH class, other organization obligations, or serious extenuating circumstances, it is an excused absence. In the event of excessive absences, which will be considered fifty percent of all available meeting times, The President, Vice President, or Faculty Advisor have the authority, at their discretion, to re-appoint the position if duties are consistently not met.

Article VI. Faculty Sponsor(s)

The sponsor(s) must be a fulltime faculty, staff or a fulltime employee of The University of Alabama in Huntsville. They will approve or deny Executive Board recommendations for membership termination. Approve trips, t-shirt slogans, and events. Attend meetings on an as needed basis. Approve any UAH Debate Society media interaction. Approve large expenditures to ensure the adherence of budget regulations. Give final approval to any changes of bylaws. Intercede on Executive Board's behalf in to upper administration as necessary.

Article VII. Amendments

Amendments may be proposed, by members or Officers, to this Constitution and may be voted upon by the Executive Board. A majority approval of the entire Executive Board is required to pass the amendment.

Article VIII. Bylaws

If any provisions are seen necessary to alter this constitution, the Executive Board has the power to adopt Bylaws as proposed by other members, to be passed by a majority of the entire Executive Board.

Article IX. Ratification

This Constitution for the UAH Debate Society is hereby ratified with the acknowledgement of the Executive Board and active members of the organization.