

**Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center
Black Law Students Association**

Chapter Constitution:

Article I. INTRODUCTION

Section 1. Name.

This organization shall be known as the Paul M. Hebert, Louisiana State University Chapter of the Black Law Students Association [hereinafter “the organization” or “BLSA”].

Section 2. Mission Statement

The agendas, activities, and policies of the organization shall be consistent with the following mission statement:

We, members of the Black Law Students Association, strive to promote and further the academic achievement and professional needs of our members and the minority student population at the Law Center and to develop and implement programs and activities to instill the minority legal perspective throughout the Law Center and community at large.

Section 3. Five Principles

The organization shall strive to attain the following principles, which derive from the Mission Statement:

- A. Ensuring the academic achievement of members; and
- B. Creating networking opportunities with professionals; and
- C. Giving back to the community through various community service projects; and
- D. Providing an outlet for classroom stress through social events; and
- E. Instilling the minority legal perspective at the Law Center and LSU Community by hosting informative programming.

Section 4. Other Obligations

The organization shall be obligated to:

- A. Maintain a relationship with minority alumni and other interested lawyers from the local area;
- B. Maintain active status as a chapter of the National Black Law Students Association. This obligation may be suspended by a simple majority vote of the paying membership voting in a

general meeting of the organization.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership shall be open to all law students at Paul M. Hebert Law Center and to all others as outlined in this article.

Section 2. Classifications of Membership

There shall be two main categories of members: paying members and participating members:

A. Paying Members

1. Paying members shall consist of those members who pay membership dues for the organization.
2. Paying members shall be subdivided into active membership and inactive membership.

B. Participating Members

1. Participating members shall consist of those members who participate in the organization.
2. Participating members shall be subdivided into active membership, contributing membership, and prospective membership.
3. For a member to be deemed as “participating” he or she must:
 - a. Have served on a committee and implemented an activity while serving on that committee; or
 - b. Have participated in either the planning or implementation of a minimum of two BLSA activities per semester.
4. Definition of “activity” as used in Section 2(C)(3) of this Article
 - a. Attending BLSA general meetings, social events, or tutorial sessions shall not be sufficient to be deemed an “activity” for the purposes of satisfying the requirements of membership.
 - b. The Executive Board shall be empowered to designate activities that will satisfy or not satisfy the “activity” requirements for participating membership. These powers shall not be inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution or any other governing document of the organization.

Section 3. Active Membership

Basic Requirements for Active Membership:

A. Active Membership shall consist of all student members who:

1. Meet the participation requirement as defined in Section 2(C)(3) of this Article; and

2. Have paid his or her membership dues by a date designated by the Executive Board.

B. Rights and privileges of Active Membership

1. Active Members shall be vested with the following rights and privileges:
 - a. Participate in all activities sponsored or funded by BLSA; and
 - b. Vote at general meetings in accordance with Article VII; and
 - c. Vote for the election or removal of officers; and
 - d. Run for and hold a position as an executive officer; and
 - e. Hold a committee chair position; and
 - f. Vote for any expenditure of the organization consistent with provisions prescribed in this document and in the bylaws.

Section 4. Inactive Membership

Basic Requirements for Inactive Membership

- A. Inactive membership shall consist of all student members who:
 1. Have paid their membership dues; and
 2. Have not participated in the organization as defined in Section 2(D) of this Article.
- B. Inactive members shall be vested with the following rights and privileges:
 1. Participate in all activities sponsored or funded by BLSA; and
 2. Vote for the election or removal of officers; and
 3. Vote for any expenditure of the organization consistent with provisions prescribed in this document and in the bylaws.

Section 5. Contributing Membership

Basic Requirements for Contributing Membership:

- A. Contributing Membership shall consist of all student members who:
 1. Meet the participation requirement as defined in Section 2(C)(3) of this Article; and
 2. Have not paid membership dues by a date designated by the Executive Board.
- B. Rights and Privileges of Contributing Membership
 1. The Executive Board shall determine the duties, rights, and privileges, if any, of persons fitting within the qualifications of a Contributing Member. The Executive Board's determination may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of paying members present and

voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization.

2. This Section is meant simply to recognize that in some circumstances there are persons who expend great time and energy into the organization, and, for whatever reason, have not, or cannot, pay dues.
 3. Executive Board is permitted to charge Contributing Members a nominal membership dues payment rate not to exceed one-half of the basic membership rate. Members paying a nominal membership due rate shall not be considered “paying members” of the organization.
- C. Provisions in any governing document of the organization requiring the participation or action of “participating members” shall include Contributing Members unless expressly provided otherwise in writing by the Executive Board or by motion of a two-thirds vote of paying members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization.

Section 6. Prospective Membership

A. Basic Requirements for Prospective Membership

1. Prospective Membership shall consist of all student members, typically 1Ls, who meet the qualifications prescribed in Section 6(A)(2), before the membership due payment deadline designated by the Executive Board.
2. Candidates for Prospective Membership must have:
 - a. Signed up for a BLSA Committee; and
 - b. Attended a specified number of general meetings to be set by the Executive Board; and
 - c. At the discretion of the Executive Board, attended a specified number of BLSA sponsored or co-sponsored events.

B. Rights and privileges of Prospective Membership

1. Prospective members shall have the same rights, duties, obligations, and privileges as Contributing Members before the membership due payment deadline.
2. After the membership due payment deadline, prospective members shall have the same rights, duties, obligations, and privileges, if any, as non-members, that is, if such members do not qualify for another type of membership in the organization.

Section 7. Honorary Membership

- A. Honorary Membership shall be extended to any person nominated by any member of the organization, regardless of membership status, and approved by a simple majority vote of members present and voting at a general meeting of the organization.
- B. Honorary Members are not required to maintain their membership status by participating in the organization pursuant to Section 2(C)(3) of this Article.

- C. Honorary Members shall have all of the rights, duties, obligations, and privileges of active, inactive, and contributing members when they meet the requirements of those respective memberships.

Section 8. Non-members

- A. Students that neither participate in the organization pursuant to Section 2(C)(3) of this Article nor pay membership fees shall not be considered members of the organization.
- B. Non-members shall have no voting privileges in the organization.
- C. At the discretion of the Executive Board, non-members may be entitled to participate in any BLSA sponsored or co-sponsored events, programs, or services.

Section 9. Termination of Membership

- A. Any type of membership may be terminated upon the resignation of a particular member.
- B. The termination may be expressed in the form of a written statement from the particular member or implied from the overt actions of the particular member.
- C. Whether the “overt actions” of a particular member is sufficient for termination as prescribed in Subsection B shall be determined by the Executive Board.
- D. Terminated members shall not be reimbursed for their membership dues.

Article III. EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICIALS

Section 1. Eligibility

- A. Any member who has obtained active membership status by a date designated by the Executive Board before an election may hold office. The 1L Representative shall be an exception to this rule.
- B. Only 1L participating members who have paid their membership dues by a date designated by the Executive Board may run for the position of 1L Representative.
- C. Members interested in applying for the position of President and Parliamentarian shall be required to complete a test on this Constitution and all governing documents of the organization. The bylaws shall prescribe the specifics for this test.

Section 2. Nominations

In order to qualify for nominations, all eligible members must submit a statement of intent outlining their respective platforms to the Vice President at a date and time specified by the Executive Board. The statement of intent must state the requested position and any other elements prescribed by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Term of Office

- A. The term of office for each executive officer, with the exception of the 1L Representative, shall not commence until April 5 following the election and shall terminate on April 4 of the following year.
- B. The term of office for the 1L Representative shall commence on the day election results are determined and shall terminate on April 4 of the following year.
- C. Newly elected officers shall preside over the April general meeting following their election, that is, if such a meeting is planned.

Section 4. Removal

A. Permissive Grounds for Removal

- 1. Any executive official may be removed from office for the following reasons:
 - a. Derelict of duty; or
 - b. Poor job performance; or
 - c. Malfeasance in office; or
 - d. Not acting in good faith when it is required; or
 - e. Committing abhorrent or illegal behavior.

B. Mandatory Grounds for Removal

- 1. Any executive official shall be automatically removed from office for the following reasons:
 - a. Not maintaining active membership status; or
 - b. Upon passage of a vote of no confidence by recall pursuant to Section 5 of this Article; or
 - c. Upon the passage of a vote of censure pursuant to Section 6 of this Article.

Section 5. Votes of No Confidence

- A. A vote of no confidence allows the membership to express disfavor of the Executive Board by recall or resolution.
- B. Vote of No Confidence by recall
 - 1. A vote of no confidence by recall is used to remove executive officials from their respective positions.
 - 2. A vote of no confidence by recall requires the passage of a two-thirds vote of the entire

membership.

3. Upon the successful passage of a vote of no confidence, the line of succession for executive officials prescribed in Section 7(C) of this Article shall be ignored and a new election shall be held seasonably to fill the vacancy.

4. Limitations

- a. Only one vote of no confidence by recall may be held per semester against an individual executive officer; and
- b. Votes of no confidence shall not be held during the summer and no earlier than October 1 of the Fall semester.

- C. Votes of No Confidence by resolution

1. A vote of no confidence by resolution is simply an expression of the membership's disfavor for an executive official.
2. A vote of no confidence by resolution requires the passage of a three-fifths (60%) vote of the entire membership.
3. Votes of No Confidence by resolution shall have no effect except for expressing the opinion of the entire membership and compel the executive official to comply with the demands of the membership. It shall not be used to remove executive officials from office.

- D. No action shall be taken to restrict the right of a active or inactive member to call for a vote of no confidence.

Section 6. Vote of Censure

- A. Vote of Censure is a mechanism for the Executive Board to temporarily relieve a fellow Executive Board member of his or her duties. This measure is meant to recognize that Executive Board members are in a better position than the general membership to see the questionable behavior of a fellow Executive Board official and, accordingly, may pass a vote of censure when that questionable behavior causes or may potentially cause a substantial detriment to the organization.
- B. The grounds for censure shall be pursuant to the grounds of removal as prescribed in Section 4 of this Article.
- C. A censure must be approved by a unanimous vote of the entire Executive Board, with the exception of the candidate for censure. The Parliamentarian is permitted to abstain from voting, without any impunity to the unanimous vote requirement, to ensure the objectivity and neutrality of the office.
- D. A vote of censure is effective immediately, though the censured Executive Board member may seek to overturn the censure by pleading to the general membership. A Censure shall be

overturned upon the passage of a simple majority vote of the entire membership in the censured official's favor by secret ballot.

- E. A vote of censure shall not exceed one calendar month. To exceed a month, other means of removal may be used.
- F. Executive Board officials shall act in good faith and have valid reasons for passing a vote of censure. The Parliamentarian shall ensure the fairness of this process.
- G. Upon the censure of an executive board official, the Executive Board, by unanimous vote, shall appoint any active member to temporarily fill the position of the censured Executive Board member, irrespective of the line of succession prescribed in Section 7(C) of this Article.
- H. A written statement with reasons and grounds for censure shall be given to all members seasonably upon the passage or the attempted passage of a vote of censure.

Section 7. Composition

- A. The executive power of the organization shall be vested in Executive Board, and the Board shall be empowered to pass any rules, policy, or agenda necessary for the efficient administration of the organization. However, this executive power shall be consistent with all governing documents of the organization, and such power may be overruled by a simple majority vote of participating members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization.
- B. The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Historian, and 1L Representative. The bylaws may provide for additional Executive Board officials.
- C. The line of succession for the Executive Board shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Historian, and then 1L Representative. While the bylaws may provide for additional Executive Board officials, such provisions shall not interrupt the order outlined in this subsection.

Section 8. President, Powers and Duties

- A. The President shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
 - 1. Serve as chief executive officer and administrative officer of the organization;
 - 2. Serve as the single voice of the organization to the Law Center administration and student body and to the LSU community as a whole;
 - 3. Preside over all general meetings and Executive Board meetings;
 - 4. Call special meetings of the organization;
 - 5. Appoint ad-hoc committee heads and the Historian;

6. Serve on, appoint, or both serve on and appoint members to any Law Center committee; and
7. Present the financial information of the organization to the membership no later than the third meeting of a given semester.

B. Powers and Duties listed in this Section are solely for the President and may not be shared with or delegated to any other executive official or member, with the exception of the Vice President. This provision is meant to ensure that the President is solely accountable for his mandated duties.

Section 9. Vice President, Powers and Duties

- A. The Vice President shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
1. Serve as chief assistant to the President;
 2. Assume the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President;
 3. Administer and oversee all elections of the organization; and
 4. Preside over and manage all standing and special committees of the organization.
- B. For purposes of Subsection A(3) of this Section, “administer” does not include drafting election rules that have not been ratified by the membership. The bylaws may outline an emergency procedure that may deviate from this rule, although such procedures may be overruled by motion of the organization.

Section 10. Secretary, Powers and Duties

- A. The Secretary shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
1. Maintain the records of the chapter;
 2. Draft and dispense, upon request, the minutes of each general and Executive Board meeting;
 3. Maintain and distribute a directory of contact information of BLSA members and all consenting minority students at the Law Center;
 4. Inform the membership of the meeting dates and times of general or special meetings and events;
 5. Schedule rooms and other necessary facilities for activities of the organization; and
 6. Create, whenever necessary, a calendar of events to be distributed to the membership.

Section 11. Treasurer, Powers and Duties

A. The Treasurer shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:

1. Maintain the financial records of the organization in good order;
2. Assist the President in the preparation of a budget;
3. Collect all monies of the organization or members and deposit all monies received in the organizational account within five to ten business days;
4. Dispense money for reimbursement to members;
5. Provide the financial information of the organization, within a reasonable period of time, at the written request of any member;
6. Pay all national and regional organizational dues; and
7. Oversee all standing and special committees pertaining to fiscal matters of the organization including fundraising.

Section 12. Parliamentarian, Powers and Duties

A. The Parliamentarian shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:

1. Serve as the chief judicial officer of the organization;
2. Ensure that all actions of the Executive Board are pursuant to the text and spirit of this Constitution and any other governing documents of the organization;
3. Serve as a liaison between the membership and Executive Board by bringing all complaints and grievances of any member to the attention of the Executive Board;
4. Ensure that the general meeting is operated in accordance with this Constitution and any other procedural rules adopted by the organization;
5. Ensure that each member receives a physical or electronic copy of the Constitution and all governing documents of the organization; and
6. Ensure the ethical and professional practices of the Executive Board.

B. The Parliamentarian shall be the final authority to decide all questions of interpretation and construction of the Constitution, parliamentary procedure, and any other rules of the organization.

C. The Parliamentarian shall act with good faith, objectivity, and neutrality in carrying out his or her duties. Violation of this provision shall make the Parliamentarian susceptible to removal

pursuant to Sections 4, 5, and 6 of this Article.

- D. Although an Executive Board member, the Parliamentarian is not necessarily a subordinate to the President. As chief judicial officer of the organization, the Parliamentarian shall be superior to all other executive officials and may choose not to perform an assigned duty if it may impede on the objectivity, neutrality, or the appearance of good faith in the office of Parliamentarian.
- E. The Parliamentarian is empowered as chief judicial officer to declare null any action of the organization or the Executive Board that is contrary to any governing document of the organization. Upon such a declaration, the Parliamentarian shall provide, seasonably, a written statement of reasons to the entire membership.

Section 13. Historian, Powers and Duties

- A. The Historian shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
 - 1. Ensure that pictures are taken at all BLSA sponsored and co-sponsored events; collect programs, flyers, and hand-outs relating to such events;
 - 2. Update and maintain the files of the chapter with the assistance of the Secretary;
 - 3. Prepare a scrapbook of the year's activities;
 - 4. Oversee the content on the BLSA website;
 - 5. Oversee all standing and special committees pertaining to the publicizing of any service, event, or program of the organization; and
 - 6. Collect submissions to be submitted to the Southern Regional BLSA law journal.

Section 14. Director of Programming

- A. The Director of Programming shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
 - 1. Organize and execute the programming activities of the organization;
 - 2. Appoint the following sub-committees as needed:
 - c. Standing Committees
 - a. The standing committees of the Association shall be as follows:
 - i. Education. The Education Committee shall implement all educational programs of the organization.
 - ii. Community Service. The Community Service Committee shall locate opportunities where the organization can contribute to the

community.

- iii. Social/Hospitality. The Social/Hospitality Committee shall plan all the social events of the organization and express the good will of the organization through issuing cards or other mechanisms, to members of the Law Center community experiencing personal hardships or celebrations.
- iv. Professional Linkage. The Professional Linkage Committee shall host and develop programs and activities to foster the creation of relationships with other professionals in the area; and

3. Serve as an ex-officio member of said committees

Section 15. 1L Representative, Powers and Duties

- A. The 1L Representative shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
 1. Represent the 1L class on the Executive Board;
 2. Ensure 1L input in the programming of the Education Committee; and
 3. Oversee a special 1L project, as required by the Executive Board.

Section 16. Dues Obligations

Executive officials must have fulfilled their due obligations to the Treasurer by a date designated by the Executive Board. Failure to meet the due obligations shall make the official ineligible for his or her respective position.

Section 17. Vacancies

The following rules shall apply when an executive official position is vacant.

- A. Should a position become vacant because of the removal or resignation of an officer, a special election shall be held seasonably to fill the vacancy.
- B. Should a position become vacant because no one ever applied for the position or chose to be elected to the position, the President shall be empowered to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. Such appointees are not required to meet the eligibility requirements prescribed in Article III, Section One.
- C. The line of succession prescribed in Article III, Section 7(C) shall be used in the incapacity or absence of an executive officer and shall not be used when an officer has been removed or has resigned.
- D. The position of Vice President shall be an exception to the rule prescribed in Subsection A of

this Section. In the event of the removal, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall assume the position of the President. An election shall then be held to fill the position of the Vice President.

Article IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Special (Ad-hoc) Committees

- A. The President or twenty-percent of the entire membership shall be empowered to create special committees as deemed necessary.
- B. Special (Ad-hoc) Committees may be created by the President or twenty-percent of the entire membership for any reason, especially to address fundraising, special events, and informative programming.

Section 2. Committee Heads

- A. Committee heads shall be appointed by the President.
- B. Removal
 - 1. Committee heads shall be automatically removed from office by not maintaining participating membership status.
 - 2. Committee heads shall be removed from office with just cause at the discretion of the President.
- C. Committee heads shall be called “Chair” of their respective committees.
- D. The term of the committee head shall expire April 4. Any project that has not yet been completed shall be carried out by the former committee head unless the incoming Executive Board states otherwise.
- E. Committee heads shall have the following powers in the performance of the following duties:
 - 1. Act as the chief operating officer of the committee by managing all activities of the committee; and
 - 2. Serve as presiding officer of the committee.
 - 3. May appoint vice chairs of their respective committee to assist in the duties of office. In the absence or incapacity of the committee head, the vice chair shall assume the duties of the committee head.

Section 3. Dues Obligations of Committee Heads

All committee heads of the organization shall have paid their dues obligations to the Treasurer by a date designated by the Executive Board.

Article V. MEETINGS

Section 1. General Meetings

- A. Meetings of the membership shall be called by the President or by twenty-percent of the participating membership.
- B. Notice of Meetings
 - 1. All members, regardless of membership status, are to be notified of a general meeting one week in advance. In the case of an emergency meeting, notice requirements are to be determined at the President's discretion.
 - 2. If improper notice is given, any action or measure determined at the meeting shall be invalid. However, if the improper notice is due to some unforeseen event beyond the control of the person or persons calling the general meeting, the Parliamentarian's approval must be obtained, and, upon such approval, an explanation as to the improper notice must be included in the meeting notification.
- C. The recognized form of parliamentary procedure governing the orderly transaction of business at each meeting is Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. Such procedure may be temporarily modified at any meeting by a simple majority vote of participating members present and voting at a general meeting as long as the modification is consistent with all the governing documents of the organization.
- D. Quorum necessary to conduct official business at a meeting shall consist of one-third (33%) of the entire participating membership of the organization.

Section 2. Agenda

- A. The President shall set the agenda for each meeting and shall distribute a tentative agenda to the entire membership, preferably concurrently with the meeting notification, before a general meeting
- B. Any item of business to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the President at least 24 hours before the general meeting at which the item is to be discussed.

Section 3. Executive Board Meetings

- A. The Executive Board shall meet regularly throughout the school year.
- B. The Executive Board may pass rules, with the approval of the membership, in the bylaws concerning who may attend Executive Board meetings. In the absence of such rules, Executive Board meetings shall be open to all members, that is, when the Executive Board is not in Executive Session.

Section 4. Committee Meetings

- A. The various standing and special committees shall meet at a time designated by the committee head, Vice President, or President.
- B. Committee heads shall also prepare an oral or written report of their respective planned

activities at each general meeting.

- C. Each committee head shall provide a written report or progress report on their respective planned activities to the Vice President at a time designated by the Vice President.

Article VI. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Section 1. Membership dues

- A. All members shall pay dues at a time designated by the Executive Board, although failure to pay dues may affect a member's membership status.
- B. The Executive Board is permitted to offer payment plans, subscription plans, and nominal membership dues amounts to members of the organization.
 - 1. Payment Plans are plans that either defer the payment of membership dues until a predetermined date or that allow a member to make installments for the payment of dues at predetermined dates.
 - 2. Subscription Plans are plans that allow for members to pay for membership for a given amount of time (i.e. years), presumably at some discount of the membership rate.
 - 3. Nominal Membership Dues Amounts are any dues that not to exceed one-half of the cost the basic membership dues rate of the organization. Persons paying a nominal membership dues amount shall be considered contributing members of the organization.
- C. The amount for membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Board.
 - 1. However, an increase in membership dues of \$6 or more must be approved by a simple majority vote of the paying membership of the organization.
 - 2. Before any proposed membership due increase, the Executive Board shall notify all members and allow them to comment on the proposed increase.

Section 2. Budget

The President, with the assistance of the Treasurer, shall present a budget to the membership at the next general meeting following the due date for the payment of membership dues, at the second meeting of the spring semester, and at the written request of any member, regardless of membership status.

Section 3. Expenditures

- A. The President shall approve all expenditures of the organization that does not exceed \$500. An itemized list of such expenditures shall be signed by the President and submitted, seasonably, to the entire membership for their information.
- B. Expenditures exceeding \$500.01 shall be approved by a simple majority vote of paying members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization. Payment of National and Regional Dues shall be an exception to this rule.

- C. The paying membership may veto any expenditure approved by the President by a two-thirds vote of the entire paying membership. Expenditures may only be vetoed as long as the organization has not been legally or contractually bound to perform the object of the expenditure.
- D. Even though the President or paying membership may approve of an expenditure, the Treasurer shall be empowered to actually provide money for or issue checks for the expenditure. The Treasurer shall also be empowered to overrule, amend, or revoke any approved expenditure when the expenditure is not financially prudent for the organization.
- E. The checking account for the organization shall require the dual signature of the President and Treasurer.

Article VII. VOTING

Section 1. General Rules

- A. Each member shall have only one vote.
- B. Only participating 1L members may vote for the position of 1L Representative. This rule shall be an exception to the rule prescribed in Subsection A of this Section.
- C. Executive officials are members of the organization and shall maintain all voting privileges in the organization.
- D. Voting may be conducted by ballot, by general consent, by electronic means, by voice, by show of hands, by rising, or by any combination of the aforementioned voting procedures. The presiding officer shall determine the voting procedure when one is not specified by any governing document of the organization.
- E. Proxy votes shall not be allowed.
- F. Voting rules and procedures found in Robert's Rules of Order shall be applicable to the organization as long as they are supplementary or complementary to the rules prescribed in this Constitution or any other governing document of the organization.

Section 2. Elections

- A. Elections for executive officials shall be held on or before March 31 of each academic year.
- B. All officers, unless provided otherwise, shall be elected by simple majority vote of the paying membership voting in an election. Where no candidate receives a simple majority of the votes, a run-off election shall be held among the candidates with the two highest vote totals.

Section 3. Other Types of Votes

- A. Any other votes taken by the organization that may occur for any reason shall be approved by a

simple majority of members present and voting in a meeting or voting in an election or any other voting procedures.

- B. The following actions shall require a simple majority vote of members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization:
 - 1. Expenditures over \$500.01 (vote by the paying membership); or
 - 2. Participation in any community service project (vote by the participating membership); or
 - 3. Co-sponsoring or participating in an event, program or project with another organization (vote by the participating membership); or
 - 4. Any other activity that may impact the goodwill of the organization (vote by the participating membership).
- C. A vote is not necessary for:
 - 1. Hosting social events, although funding of such events may require a vote; or
 - 2. Conducting fundraising efforts.

Section 4. Role of Vice President

- A. The Vice President shall set the dates of elections and set the dates for the submission of electronic votes and absentee ballots.
- B. All aspects of elections and voting procedures shall be administered by the Vice President, with the exception of voting procedures at meetings. Voting procedures that may arise in the normal operations of meetings shall be administered by the presiding officer of the meeting, typically the President. However, any elections that may occur at a meeting shall be administered by the Vice President.
- C. In the event the Vice President is a candidate for office, elections shall be administered by an executive official, as long as the official is not a candidate, in accordance to the following order: Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, IL Representative, and then the appointment of a participating member by members present and voting at a general meeting.
- D. The Vice President shall be empowered to create a committee of members to assist in the administration of elections.
- E. The Vice President shall act in good faith and confidentiality throughout the election process.

Section 5. Electronic Voting

- A. Electronic votes shall consist of the submission of an e-mail from qualified voting members to an e-mail account designated by the Vice President.

- B. E-mails must be submitted from an e-mail account with the school's official domain name (i.e. @lsu.edu).
- C. The Vice President shall submit a confirmation to all members who submit electronic votes.

Section 6. Proxy Voting

- A. In the event that a member is unable to attend the election, voting by proxy is allowed.
- B. A proxy, in regards to this section, is defined as "a person authorized to vote on behalf of a dues paying member".
- C. Persons eligible to be delegated as proxy:
 - 1. Dues paying members
 - 2. Honorary members
 - 3. Non-members
- D. In order to vote by proxy, the dues-paying member who is unable to attend the election must inform the President or Vice President of his/her inability to attend, prior to the election. Furthermore, the member must also inform the President or Vice President of the proxy voter's identity.
- E. Failure to inform the President or Vice President of an inability to attend the election, or failure to inform the President or Vice President of the proxy voter's identity, will result in a loss of the member's voting privileges for that election.

Section 7. Verification of Election Results, Election Commission

- A. All elections shall be verified by an Election Commission before the announcement of the election results.
- B. Complaints concerning the results or administration of elections shall be submitted to the Parliamentarian for resolution through the Election Commission.
- C. The Election Commission shall be chaired by the Parliamentarian.
- D. In the event the Parliamentarian is a candidate for office, the Election Commission shall be chaired by an executive official, as long as the official is not a candidate or serving as an administrator of elections, in accordance to the following order: Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, IL Representative, and then the appointment of a general member by members present and voting at a general meeting.
- E. The composition, rules, and procedures of the Election Commission shall be outlined in the bylaws.

- F. The role of the Election Commission in the election process shall differ from the role of the Vice President as administrator of elections in that the Election Commission shall act as the entity to review the actions of the Vice President and ensure the election procedures were performed pursuant to this Constitution and any rules governing the organization.

Article VIII. BYLAWS and AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Creation of Bylaws

The organization may adopt bylaws to increase the efficiency of the organization. Bylaws shall be created by a two-thirds vote of participating members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization.

Section 2. Amendments

- A. Constitutional amendments may be proposed for consideration by twenty-percent of the entire paying membership or by the Executive Board.
- B. Proposed amendments shall become part of the Constitution after ratification by a two-thirds vote of paying members voting in an election.
- C. Bylaw amendments shall be made by a simple majority vote of participating members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the organization.

Section 3. Redrafting the Constitution

The organization may rewrite, substantially revise, or reorganize this Constitution upon the passage of three-fourths votes of paying members voting in an election.

Section 4. Effective Date

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, or any amendment thereof, shall become effective immediately upon adoption, except where an alternative date is specified therein.

Bylaws:

None at this time.