

Constitution and Bylaws of the UD Student Club: College Democrats

I. Constitution.

Preamble

In order to promote a better America, with equality, opportunity, and freedom within a just and strong society, we dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of the students in the University of Dubuque student club, College Democrats. As college students, we call for action based on principles and for principles based on action. As Democrats, we pledge ourselves to continue the great thoughts of our Party and to bring forth new ideas to keep the tradition alive. As citizens of today and leaders of the future, we shall strive to shape our party, communities, states and nation. In this mission, we call for full participation without regard to sex, race or ethnic origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

Understanding the importance of participation in the Democratic Party to the preservation of our values and principles, we pledge to organize and activate the latent people power of the University of Dubuque students to further the philosophy of the Democratic Party.

For these ends and upon these principles, we, University of Dubuque college students, do hereby associate ourselves and adopt this Constitution.

Article 1: Name and Purpose

A. Name: The name of this organization shall be the University of Dubuque College Democrats.

B. Purpose: To promote political activism, awareness of current political issues, as well as to assist with the campaigns of Democratic candidates on the local, state and national level.

Article 2: Organizational Structure

A. Structure: The Executive Board shall determine the activities of the University of Dubuque College Democrats and run the day-to-day operations of the club. The club members will assist the executive board in deciding on, organizing, and carrying out the activities of the University of Dubuque College Democrats.

Article 3: Executive Board

A. Authority and Responsibility: The Executive Board shall have responsibility for

determining the directions and goals of the University of Dubuque College Democrats.

B. Composition: The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Dubuque County Democratic Party Liaison, Faculty Advisor, and any other officers the President sees necessary to create to successfully carry out the goals of the University of Dubuque College Democrats.

C. Meetings: The Executive Board shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the President or the majority of the Board. General meetings will be called on a regular basis, as determined by the Executive Board. Robert's Rules of Order will be used for all business that comes before the Club.

D. Vacancies: A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board resigns or is removed from office. If the vacancy is the Vice President or another of the student officers, the President shall appoint a successor with the majority consent of the remaining Executive Board. If the vacancy is the President, the automatic replacement is the Vice President.

E. Duties of the President: The President shall:

1. Attend and preside over meetings of the Executive Board and meetings of the entire University of Dubuque College Democrats membership and assist in determining the goals of the University of Dubuque College Democrats.
2. Along with the Vice President, be responsible for the implementation of the goals of the UDCD as set by the Executive Board.

F. Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President shall:

1. Attend and preside over meetings of the Executive Board and meetings of the entire UDCD membership and assist in determining the goals of the University of Dubuque College Democrats.
2. Be responsible for the implementation of the goals of the UDCD as set by the Executive Board.

G. Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall:

1. Draft the annual budget for the UDCD.
2. Keep track of club expenses.
3. When necessary, reimburse club members for expenses incurred on behalf of the University of Dubuque College Democrats and deal with the Appropriations Committee.

H. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall:

1. Take minutes at each general meeting and Executive Board meeting.
2. Be responsible for any publications, lists, and files as decided by the President.

I. Faculty Advisor: It will be the duty of the Faculty Advisor to assist and advise the Executive Board in any decisions that come before them.

1. It will be the responsibility of the Faculty Advisor to, in his or her absence, find a replacement for an upcoming meeting when possible.

J. Duties of the UDCD Liaison: The Liaison shall:

1. Represent the interests of the University of Dubuque College Democrats to the Dubuque County Democratic Party at the Party's monthly meetings
2. If it be the will of the Executive Board, help coordinate events between the Dubuque County Democratic Party and the University of Dubuque College Democrats
3. The Liaison shall not have the power to enter the University of Dubuque College Democrats into binding resolutions except with the prior expressed permission of the President or the executive board.

K. Removal:

1. Causes for removal shall be defined as malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of constitutionally assigned duties or upon other grounds or upon other grounds found by all other members of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.
2. To begin the process for removal, another member of the University of Dubuque College Democrats must charge the member with the reasons for his or her removal at least thirty days prior to the general club meeting at which the member's removal will be voted upon. The member in question must be offered and opportunity at that meeting to present a defense. Three-fourths of the formal voting body must vote to remove the officer in question.

L. Elections:

1. Elections for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be held annually at the first meeting in April for positions of the coming academic year. The candidate who receives the most votes shall win the election.

Article 4: Amendments

A. Specifics: This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the formal members of the University of Dubuque College Democrats.

II. Bylaws.

Section 1: Elections

- Elections shall be conducted by the President, unless the Vice President is running for office opposed, in which case the elections shall be conducted by the highest-ranking officer that is not running for a position.
- Members that intend to run for office must declare their candidacy at the meeting directly preceding the election meeting, which is held during the first meeting in April. At the election meeting, candidates must also present themselves to the voting members.
- Votes shall be tallied by the entire executive board.
- Voting shall be by secret ballot; however, no write-in ballots will be counted.
- If there is a tie, the candidates who did not tie will be struck from the list, and the remaining candidates shall present themselves again to the voting members. Following their presentations, candidates must leave the room and the members will re-examine their qualifications and vote again.

Section 2: Executive Board

- Meetings shall be presided over by the President, or, in absentia, the next highest-ranking officer.
- All elected officials and any ad hoc chairs must attend meetings.
- Only elected officials have voting privileges at executive meetings; ad hoc chairs do not hold voting privileges unless also an elected official.
- At least half of the executive board must be present to vote on an issue.
- Meetings will be held on bi-weekly basis, and are open to the entire University of Dubuque community.
- Meeting minutes will be read within one week of the meeting.

Section 3: General Meetings

- General meetings are open to the entire University of Dubuque community.
- Meetings will be presided over by the President, or, in absentia, the Vice President.
- Only formal members may vote; formal membership is defined as having attended at least 25% of the meetings. Voting rights will be extended to new

members once they have attended three meetings within a 2 months period in the academic year.

- Agenda will be set by President, and shall include any public comments and any reports by ad hoc committee chairs.

Section 4: Amending the Bylaws

Any member in good standing can propose an amendment to the bylaws; for it to pass there must be at least fifty percent of voting members present and it must pass with a two thirds majority.