

The Civil Discourse Café Constitution

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Civil Discourse Cafe, hereafter referred to as the Organization.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Civil Discourse Cafe Club is to encourage the act of critical thinking and centrist opinion in an open discussion format. The underlying focus of the Civil Discourse Cafe Club is for students and teachers to sit together and discuss the unique perspectives, opinions, and philosophies brought forward by the mixed company of the people from various backgrounds. Like its spiritual cafe predecessor in French 17th and 18th society, this Club hopes to promote critical and abstract thinking on campus by providing a safe environment for individuals to discuss, explore, and expand parameters of understanding on a variety of subjects. Our goal is not to debate or refute anyone's ideas or beliefs; our goal is to expose ourselves to the differing ideologies of our community in order to widen our own viewpoint of the world with the aspiration of validating and obtaining our own individual perspectives. The Civil Discourse Cafe Club will serve as an on-campus think-tank. It will be a place, on a scheduled basis, to meet, get a hot/cold drink at Sylvia's and discuss whatever is on the mind, remembering that Civil Discourse is the operative principle of the club, not only its name.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be open to any full-time University of Dubuque student.

Section 2. Associate membership in this organization shall be open to any part-time student, graduate student, seminary student, faculty member, staff member or administrator at the University of Dubuque.

Section 3. Membership and Associate Membership is granted when an individual has attended at least three Civil Discourse Café Club meetings.

Section 4. Any student, faculty member, or friend of the University may attend any meeting regardless of membership so long as they share a common objective of Civil Discourse.

ARTICLE IV – Presiding Members

Section 1. The president takes responsibility to keep the club running and collaborate with fellow officers to allocate any accumulated funds and make sure weekly meetings run with civil discourse in mind as the operative principle of the club.

Section 2. Should the President fail to adhere to his or her duties, a presiding member should volunteer for the position. After a

member volunteers, the members of the club should approve of the president and the volunteer should receive approval from the club's faculty advisor, Alan Garfield.

Section 2. Anybody who would like to contribute to the running of the club or meetings is more than welcome to help and consider him or herself a presiding member.

Section 3. All organizational decisions will be Civilly Discussed between members until a consenting decision is made.

Section 4 Members can volunteer to voice their opinions and become involved in organizational business.

Section 5. All members are encouraged to promote the club on campus.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. Weekly meetings will be held Wednesdays from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Sylvia's Common Ground.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCES

Section 1. Presiding members will collaborate with Professor Garfield about fundraising and financial issues.

Section 2. Club finances will be utilized to buy drinks or cookies for the club's members during meetings: to create a comfortable atmosphere for potentially provocative or controversial conversation.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any proposed amendments to this constitution should be addressed through civil discourse with the members of the Civil Discourse Café Club until a group consensus or compromise is made.