
Philosophy and Religious Studies Club

Constitution

Version 1.1 January 2008

ARTICLE I. – Name and Classification Type

The name of the organization shall be Philosophy and Religious Studies Club.
The classification type of the organization shall be Departmental.

ARTICLE II. – Purpose, Objectives, Aims

It shall the purpose of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Club to bring together a network of students who are enrolled in four or more hours from VSU to engage in critical discussions about a wide range of relevant philosophical and religious ideas. Such dialogues will take place in a number of ways, but will always reflect the students' interests and take place in a constructively critical manner.

ARTICLE III. – Membership and Eligibility Criteria

Section A: Membership is open to any regularly enrolled VSU student who is enrolled in four or more credit hours.

Section B: Dues

The fiscal year of the organization shall be the same as that utilized by VSU, currently from July 1 to June 30.

Dues are herewith established at \$5.00 per semester.

The amount of annual dues shall be determined each year by a vote of the membership as deemed necessary by them.

ARTICLE IV. – Voting

Section A: A quorum is defined as fifty percent of the membership plus one . (A quorum is the number or percentage of members that must be present in order for the organization to conduct business.)

Section B: Each member in good standing may vote. By “good standing” we mean being currently enrolled and having paid dues to the Club.

Section C: Proxy voting is allowed by the following process: Members will be allowed to vote by proxy 24 hours before the scheduled voting day provide that they register who the proxy voter is with the Secretary of the Club. The proxy voter has to be a member of good standing.

ARTICLE V. – Officers

Section A: The Philosophy and Religious Studies Club Shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Campus Advisor. These officers comprise the Executive Committee or Board. The Campus Advisor is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

Section B: All officers must be members of the **Philosophy and Religious Studies Club** and have a **G.P.A. greater than 2.00**.

Section C: The term of the officers shall be for one year, from September 30 to the following September 29. If an officer is unable to finish his or her term, elections for that position will be immediately held. In the event that an officer graduates another officer will replace him or her position until a new election is held. If the President graduates the Vice President replaces him or her; if the Vice President graduates then the Secretary will replace his or her position; if the Secretary graduates the Treasurer will replace his or her position; and if the Treasurer graduates the President will replace his or her position. It is acceptable that at certain times an officer can hold more than one position.

Section D: Election of officers shall be held annually at the end of January. At least two weeks notice shall be given before the election meeting. Nominations shall be initiated from the floor and elections done by secret ballot. The person receiving majority vote will be elected.

There will be an open nomination period during which members who have a G.P.A. of greater than 2.00, and who meet the other qualifications of the position as described in Article VI Offices and Duties may be nominated for an officer position; self nomination is permitted. The winner for each office will be the person receiving the greatest number of votes. In the unlikely event that two candidates for the same office receive the same highest number of votes, a run-off election will be held to determine the winner.

Section E: Any officer may be removed from his/her office by two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Any officer removed may appeal to the general membership. Said officer shall be considered reinstated with two-thirds approval of the members.

Section F: Any vacancy which may occur in an office shall be filled by the holding of an election immediately.

ARTICLE VI. – Qualifications and Duties of Officers Defined

Section A: The President

1. The president must be of at least junior standing and can serve for only one term.
2. The president shall be the chief executive officer.
3. The president shall appoint all committee chairpersons.
4. The president, with approval of the executive board, directs the budget.
5. The president serves as the official spokesperson of the organization.
6. The president presides at meetings of the club.
7. The president is responsible for organizing the content of the regular meetings and when it comes to other special events it is understood that other members of the Executive Board will be responsible for organization, reservation, etc.

Section B: The Vice President

1. The Vice-President must be of at least sophomore standing.

2. The vice president shall be the parliamentarian for the organization.
3. The vice president shall assume the duties of the president should the office become vacant, or in the absence of the president.
4. The vice president shall keep and have available current copies of the constitution and bylaws.
5. The vice president shall be responsible for scheduling programs.
6. The vice president shall perform other duties as directed by the president.

Section C: The Secretary

1. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all the meetings of the general membership.
2. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all the meetings of the Executive Board.
3. The secretary shall maintain current and historical copies of the Constitution and By-Laws.
4. The secretary shall provide a copy of the minutes for each officer and the campus advisor and keep a master file.
5. The secretary shall maintain a complete and accurate account of attendance and membership status.
6. The secretary shall be responsible for contacting all members about club functions.

Section D: The Treasurer

1. The treasurer shall keep a current record of all financial transactions.
2. The treasurer shall develop quarterly reports containing a list of all receipts and disbursements.
3. The treasurer shall be responsible for checking the accuracy of all the bills and invoices and paying them correctly and on time.
4. The treasurer shall assist the secretary in maintaining complete and accurate membership records .
5. The treasurer shall perform other duties as directed by the president.

Section E: The Campus Advisor

1. The position of campus advisor(s) may be held by any full-time faculty member selected to do so, regardless of her or his academic field.
2. The advisor shall be selected from willing faculty by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.
3. The advisor may serve multiple times, but may not serve more than three consecutive years.
4. The advisor shall assist the group in their execution of roles and responsibilities.
5. The advisor shall provide feedback to the organization regarding its operations and functions.
6. The advisor shall serve as a resource.
7. The advisor should provide advice upon request and also should share knowledge, expertise, and experiences with the group.
8. The advisor shall be a nonvoting member of the organization.

ARTICLE VII. – Structure of Committees

There will be no committees or committee structure.

ARTICLE VIII. – Notice of Meetings

Section A: The times for regularly scheduled meetings shall be determined by vote of the membership.

Section B: At least two week’s notice shall be given for each regular business meeting. The secretary shall announce the date and time of meetings.

Section C: Special or emergency meetings may be called with not less than 24 hours notice by the Executive Board.

Section D: Order of Meetings: The meetings agenda shall include quorum, order of business, and disposition of the minutes.

ARTICLE IX. – Changes to the Constitution

This Constitution and any subsequently enacted By-Lays may be changed by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present.

ARTICLE X. – Parliamentary Procedures

Section A: Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed by the organization in all cases involving parliamentary procedures when it does not conflict with the constitution.

Section B: The rules may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the present membership.