

## Registered Student Organization Constitution

### **Article I: ORGANIZATION NAME**

The name of the organization shall be Latinx & Indigenous Future Educators (L&IFE)

### **Article II: PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The L&IFE club purpose is to build professional acumen, facilitate career development opportunities, and foster a sense of community among future Latinx educator students at the undergraduate levels at Valdosta State University.

### **Article III: MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Statement of Anti-Hazing.

This organization will not conspire to engage in hazing or commit any act which endangers the health or safety of a person, or subject him or her to onerous, degrading, or hazardous tasks, for the purpose of admission into, or affiliation with any Organization. Said acts are considered hazing regardless of an individual's willingness to participate in the activity. This organization is in accordance with all university policies regarding hazing, including the Valdosta State University Student Code of Conduct and the Georgia Hazing Law Statute 16-5-61.

Statement of Nondiscrimination in Educational Programs and Activities.

Valdosta State University is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, working, and studying. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents' policy, and University policy, the University prohibits any member of the faculty, staff, administration, or student body from discriminating against any other member of the University community because of that person's race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin, religion, age, disabled status, or status as a veteran.

**Section A: Membership** is open to any enrolled VSU student who:

1. are Latinx or Indigenous Future Educators (L&IFE) and/or currently enrolled student at Valdosta State University.
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B:** Dues and collection procedures:

1. The fiscal year of the organization shall be from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 31<sup>st</sup>
2. The number of annual dues shall be determined each year by September.
3. Dues shall not exceed \$10 per year (\$5 per semester).
4. The disbursement of dues shall not be based on of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation, status as a veteran, genetic information, or disability

**Section C:** A member may be removed:

1. The organization and its members agree to adhere to city, state, and federal laws, to the Student Code of Conduct and the RSO Handbook – any member found violating this may be removed from the organization.

**Section D:** Removal of membership procedures:

1. Any member may have their membership revoked by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board. Any member removed may appeal to the general membership. Said member shall be considered reinstated with 2/3 approval to the members.
- 2.

**Article IV: OFFICERS**

**Section A:** The **Latinx & Indigenous Future Educators (L&IFE)** shall have a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Event Planner and Advisor. These officers comprise the Executive Committee or Board.

**Section B:** All officers must be members of Latinx & Indigenous Future Educators (L&IFE) and currently enrolled at Valdosta State University.

**Section C:** The Advisor must be a full-time faculty or staff member at Valdosta State University.

**Section D:** The term of office shall be in terms of semester, from September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Section E:** Election of officers shall be held before the end of every May and will start the position on July 1st. At least 2 weeks' notice shall be given before the election meeting. Nominations shall be initiated from the floor and elections done by ballot. The person receiving the majority vote will be elected.

**Section F:** Any officer may be removed from membership by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board. Any officer removed may appeal to the general membership. Said officer shall be considered reinstated with 2/3 approval of the members.

**Section G:** Any vacancy which may occur in an office shall be filled by appointment by the President pending ratification at the next group business meeting.

**Article V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section A:** The President

1. The President shall be the chief executive officer
2. The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons
3. The President, with approval of the executive board, directs the budget
4. Vacancies in offices will be filled by appointment of the President with approval of the general membership

**Section B:** The Vice President

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

**Section C: The Secretary**

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all general body meetings and executive board meetings.
2. The Secretary will provide a copy of the minutes for each officer and keep a master on file
3. The Secretary shall maintain a complete and accurate account of attendance and membership status
4. The Secretary will perform other duties as directed by the President

**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 and distribute them among the membership
3. The Treasurer will be responsible for checking the accuracy of all bills and invoices and paying them correctly and on time
4. The Treasurer will perform other duties as directed by the President

**Section E: The Event Planner**

1. The Event Planner will reserve meeting rooms for the term and year
2. The Event Planner will maintain a calendar of events
3. The Event Planner will plan and execute events
4. The Event Planner will register all events for the organization on BlazerLink
5. The Event Planner will perform other duties as directed by the President

**Section F: The Advisor – The University Faculty/Staff Advisor**

1. The Advisor shall assist the group in the execution of roles and responsibilities
2. The Advisor shall sign off on all necessary paperwork, forms, and spending
3. The Advisor shall provide feedback to the organization regarding its operation and functioning
4. The Advisor shall serve as a resource
5. The Advisor should provide advice upon request and should share knowledge and expertise
6. The Advisor shall be a full-time faculty or staff member of Valdosta State University
7. The Advisor will be a non-voting member of the organization

**Article VII: VOTING**

**Section A:** A quorum will be 40% of members.

**Section B:** Each member in good standing may vote. Good standing is a paid fee, active member who misses no more than two meetings a semester.

**Section C:** Proxy voting is allowed by the following process: Proxy voting is a form of voting whereby a member of the L&IFE decision-making body may delegate their voting power to a representative, to enable a vote in absence. The representative may be another member of the L&IFE body, or external. A person so designated is called a "proxy" and the person designating them is called a "principal".

## **ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS**

**Section A:** – Candidates for any office of this organization must be Regular Members, thus being students of the Valdosta State University.

**Section B:** – Candidates for any office of this organization shall be nominated by the voting membership or shall nominate themselves.

**Section C** – Election of officers shall take place at a meeting of this organization called for that purpose to occur within the last thirty days of the Spring semester, with term of office lasting one year.

**Section D** – Election of officers shall be by a majority vote.

**Section E** – In case of a tie, the Current President shall cast the deciding vote.

**Section F** – If there is only one candidate applying for an office, that candidate shall take office by default.

**Section G** – Officers may be re-elected without limitation.

## **ARTICLE VI – REMOVAL**

**Section A** – Any officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership.

**Section B** – In case of a tie, the Faculty Advisor shall cast the deciding vote.

**Section C** – A vacancy of any office shall be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to the approval of the membership.

## **ARTICE VII – MEETINGS**

**Section A** – Meetings of this organization shall be no less than once a month during the Fall and Spring semesters, the general day and hour to be set by the voting membership at the first meeting of the Fall semester.

**Section B** – Special meetings shall be called at the discretion of the President upon the request of any five voting members of this organization.

**Section C** – The President shall have the authority to modify the meeting calendar as benefits majority of the schedules of voting members of this organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII – RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**Section A** – This organization shall use parliamentary procedure in the management of this group. This will specifically be Consensus Model.

Section B — No business shall be conducted without the presence of a quorum.

Section C – Business shall be decided by majority vote.

Section D – All references to voting or approval of the membership of this organization refer to voting membership except where specified.

### **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS**

Section A – One or more voting members of this organization may author an amendment to this Constitution.

Section B – The amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for review and recommendation concerning legality, punctuation, placement, and word order.

Section C – The Executive Board shall present the amendment at the next meeting of this organization; a copy of the amendment being given to each voting membership of this organization. This shall constitute a first reading.

Section D – At the next meeting following the acceptance of an amendment, updated copies of this Constitution shall be given to each voting member.

### **Article VII: SIGNATURES**

**Section A:** President or Senior Officer and/or advisor must sign off on any contracts entered by the organization.

**Section B:** President or Senior Officer and/or advisor must sign off on any expenditure by the organization.

Ratification Date: March 23, 2022

Current President/**two senior officers:**

Signature: *Hannah D. Echols*, Hannah D.Echols, Spanish & Pre-Dentistry Major

Signature: *Yovani Carranza*, Yovani Carranza, Graduate Assistant Deans Office

Advisor Signature: *James Martinez*, James Martinez, Ph.D., Teacher Education