

Constitution of the College Republicans at the University of Virginia

Article I: Name

1.1 We are the University of Virginia's chapter of the College Republicans, a national organization of conservative students.

1.2 The name of this organization shall be "the College Republicans at the University of Virginia," hereafter referred to in this document as "CRs" or "UVA CRs"

Article II: Purpose

In order to preserve our conservative values, we aim to bring youth into the Republican Party. We believe it necessary to the endurance of the conservative movement and the preservation of our exceptional nation. The stated objectives of this organization are:

2.1 The CRs will work to educate the student population on the issues and values important to the Republican Party.

2.2 The CRs will campaign for Republican candidates at every level of government.

2.3 The CRs will promote conservative values and candidates for the University Student Council.

2.4 The CRs will work to counter the actions of our political adversaries whenever possible.

Article III: Membership

3.1 Membership is open to all University of Virginia students. The College Republicans at the University of Virginia does not restrict its membership, programs, or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information.

3.2 Notwithstanding these requirements, the organization may choose to restrict membership based on an inability to perform the activities related to the organization's purpose.

3.3 An individual may become a member by paying dues to the organization, with the amount determined at the discretion of a majority of the Executive Board.

3.4 While participation in UVA CRs events and meetings is open to everyone, the following privileges are reserved only for members in good standing:

3.4.1 Voting in CRs officer elections

3.4.2 Nominating candidates for CRs offices

3.4.3 Seconding nominations for CRs offices

3.4.4 Seeking CRs office

3.4.5 Holding CRs office

3.4.6 Sitting on CRs committees and panels

3.4.7 Voting on CRs business

3.5 Once granted membership in the CRs, a student is automatically designated as being in good standing. This designation permits the member to participate in all the privileges specified in clause 3.4.

3.6 The Executive Board may choose to remove members in good standing by a majority vote. In such a case, that individual will lose the privileges mentioned in clause 3.4. Good standing status may be reinstated by a unanimous decision by the Executive Board. Reasons for the removal of this designation include, but are not limited to:

3.6.1 Violation of University of Virginia rules or regulations

3.6.2 Conduct unbecoming of a student at the University of Virginia

3.6.3 Conduct which is deemed to be detrimental to the Republican Party or any of its subsidiaries

Article IV: Elected CRs Offices, Office Holders, and Officer Responsibilities

4.1 The following are elected offices that will govern the organization and will comprise the Executive Board:

4.1.1 President

4.1.2 Vice President of Campaigns and Political Advocacy

4.1.3 Vice President of Operations

4.1.4 Treasurer

4.1.5 Secretary

4.1.6 Director of Communications

4.1.7 Outreach Coordinator

4.2 The President is the senior officer of the CRs and will act in the role of Chairman for CRFV purposes. The duties of this office include:

4.2.1 The President will be the presiding officer at all meetings and will cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie on the Executive Board.

4.2.2 The President will be responsible for providing direction and oversight on all matters.

4.2.3 The President will be responsible for maintaining familiarity with all CRs members.

4.2.4 The President will be responsible for representing the CRs on the local, state and national level.

4.2.5 The President is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the CRs' various activities all work together to shape a healthy and productive chapter.

4.3 The Vice-President of Campaigns and Political Advocacy and the Vice President of Operations possess seniority over all members and officers, with the exception of the President. Neither is senior to the other.

4.4 The duties of the office of Vice President of Campaigns and Political Advocacy, hereby referred to in this document as "VPC," include:

4.4.1 The VPC is responsible for overseeing all CRs activities that involve campaigns for public office

4.4.2 The VPC is responsible for keeping a schedule of campaign opportunities

4.4.3 The VPC is responsible for electing which campaigns to involve the CRs in.

4.4.4 The VPC is responsible for maintaining relationships with candidates and their campaign staff.

4.4.5 The VPC is responsible for coordinating all political advocacy efforts on Grounds and beyond, including but not limited to University of Virginia Student Council affairs and CRs lobbying efforts.

4.5 The duties of the office of Vice President of Operations, hereby referred to in this constitution as "VPO," include:

4.5.1 The VPO is responsible for overseeing all non-campaign related activities or advocacy undertaken by the CRs.

4.5.2 The VPO is responsible for ensuring that all events are managed in a way that reflects favorably on the CRs.

4.5.3 The VPO is responsible for assisting all other officers in event planning when needed

4.6 The positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Communications and Outreach Coordinator possess seniority over all members and appointed officers. None are senior to the other.

4.7 The duties of the Treasurer include:

4.7.1 The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the financial records and accounts of the CRs.

4.7.2 The Treasurer is responsible for expressing an educated opinion on whether individual expenditures are in the best interest of the club.

4.7.3 The Treasurer is responsible for completing the University of Virginia Student Council appropriations process, including any appeals which may be necessary.

4.7.4 The Treasurer is responsible for taking an active role in all fundraising endeavors.

4.8 The duties of the Secretary include:

4.8.1 The Secretary is responsible for recording meeting minutes of the CRs.

4.8.2 The Secretary is responsible for the drafting of all inter-organization and external communications and official organizational statements.

4.8.3 The Secretary is responsible for the upkeep of the official CRs student and community email lists .

4.9 The duties of the Director of Communications, hereby referred to as "DOC," include:

4.9.1 The DOC is responsible for all CRs social media and for maintaining the CRs website.

4.9.2 The DOC is responsible for promoting all CRs events through appropriate marketing methods.

4.9.3 The DOC is to serve as the liaison to the Cavalier Daily as delegated by the President.

4.10 The duties of the Outreach Chair, hereby referred to as "OC," include:

4.10.1 The OC will be responsible for engaging organizations within and outside of the University community to grow membership and increase engagement

4.10.2 The OC is responsible for assigning executive board members to contact individual students following activity fairs.

4.10.3 The OC is responsible for organizing any community service and philanthropic events in which CRs will participate.

4.10.4 The OC is responsible for executing other recruitment and engagement initiatives as delegated by the President, including but not limited to activity fairs

4.11 As a transition period aids the fluidity of operation, all newly elected officers will attend all Executive Board meetings for the remainder of the academic year, and all newly elected officers will receive the full powers of their elected position immediately following the culmination of the academic year.

4.12 During this transition period, all outgoing elected officers and incoming elected officers must attend a mandatory transition meeting of no less than one hour.

4.13 No member of the Executive Board can have a paid position on any contested primary candidate's staff.

Article V: Appointed Officers

5.1 The President has the ability to appoint officers to fulfill specific tasks. Upon making an appointment, the President shall notify the Executive Board of said event.

5.2 Should a member of the Executive Board object to the President's appointment, that officer reserves the right to put the appointment to a vote. In this instance, a majority vote will decide whether or not the appointment will be allowed to stand.

5.3 Appointed officers are granted seniority over non-officer members of the CRs. No appointed officer is senior to another.

5.4 An appointed officer may be removed at the discretion of the President

5.5 Each member of the Executive Board reserves the right to put the removal of an appointed officer to a vote should the officer object to the decision. In this instance, a majority vote will decide whether the removal will be upheld.

5.6 All appointed positions expire at the end of the University of Virginia's academic year.

Article VI: Succession

6.1 In the event that the CRs President resigns, is impeached or is incapacitated, the VPC will immediately assume the role of acting President, while also continuing the regular duties of the VPC.

6.2 If the VPC is unable to fulfill the role of acting President, the VPO will be made the acting President. If the VPO is unable to fulfill the role, the Treasurer will be made the acting President. If the Treasurer is unable to fulfill the role, the Secretary will be made the acting President. If the Secretary is unable to fulfill the role, the Director of Communications will be made the acting President. If the Director of Communications is unable to fulfill the role, the Outreach Coordinator will be made acting President.

6.3 The acting President shall call a special general body meeting within two weeks of full academic session. School holiday periods do not count in this limit. At this meeting, nominations will be held to fill the position of President.

6.4 An election to fill the vacant seat of President will be held within one week of nominations.

6.5 If any of the other elected offices are vacated, nominations will be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting to fill that position.

6.6 Elections for vacated officer positions are to be held within one week of nominations for that office.

Article VII: Impeachment

7.1 Any elected officer who has demonstrated negligence, incompetence, inability or corruption in performing the constitutional duties of said office may be removed following the impeachment process.

7.2 Any member, elected officer, or appointed officer of the CRs in good standing with the organization may move to impeach an elected officer. Any member, elected officer, or appointed officer of the CRs, in good standing with the organization, may second a move for the impeachment of an elected officer.

7.3 For the remainder of this article, the phrase “voting Executive Board” will refer to the Executive Board, excluding the member facing impeachment. No officer facing impeachment is permitted to vote on the matter

7.4 The impeachment process for all positions excluding the President will consist of a vote of the Executive Board. If three-fourths of the voting Executive Board vote to impeach the accused officer, that officer will be immediately removed.

7.5 The impeachment process for the position of President will consist of two parts:

7.5.1 The voting Executive Board will vote on the matter. If three-fourths of the Executive Board votes to impeach the President, the steps outlined in 7.5.2 shall be followed.

7.5.2 A general body meeting is to be called at which at least a quorum of members must be present. If the majority of regular members vote to impeach the President, the President shall be immediately removed..

7.6 In the event that impeachment proceedings have been initiated against the President, the power to call Executive Board meetings and general body meetings is granted to the VPC, who shall retain this power until the conclusion of the impeachment proceedings.

7.7 The entire impeachment process must be concluded within a period of two weeks of full academic session. School holiday periods do not count toward this period. Any impeachment process not completed within this period of time will become void.

Article VIII: Election

8.1 Only members in good standing, who have been members for at least fifteen days, are permitted to vote or officially address the general body during CRs elections.

8.2 The annual date on which elections are to be held will be decided by the Executive Board. The date for elections shall be set after the second week of March, but before the last week of April.

8.3 A general body meeting shall be called seven days before CRs elections. This meeting will be held in order to nominate candidates for CRs offices.

8.4 Shortly after the adjournment of the nominations meeting, an email will be sent out to the general email list which includes the names of all members nominated for CRs office.

8.5 Nominations for CRs office will be accepted by email after the nomination meeting, but will not be accepted any later than five days before the election is to take place.

8.6 In the event that a member is nominated after the nomination meeting but before the five day deadline, an email will be sent out to the general list about the new candidacy.

8.7 A member is not permitted to be elected to an officer position unless that member has been nominated for said office.

8.8 At the election meeting, all candidates are permitted to make a speech no longer than five minutes before the general body.

8.9 Voting will take place by secret ballot. The President will be responsible for counting these ballots. At least two members selected by the Executive Board will observe this counting.

8.10 All elected officers are permitted to observe the count unless this would violate clause 8.11

8.11 No officer in the CRs is permitted to observe the counting of a vote in which said officer is a candidate.

8.12 The candidate receiving a simple majority of the vote will be considered the winner of an election.

8.13 In the event that no candidate receives a majority of the vote, a run-off election between the two candidates with the largest share of votes will be held no later than three days after the general election.

8.14 No candidate running for an executive position may seek or advertise the endorsement of any individual or organization other than that of current members of the CRs at UVA. The consequence for doing so will be immediate disqualification at the discretion of voting members present.

8.15 In the event of extenuating circumstances, rules governing the method of voting and date for Executive Board elections may be altered by a unanimous decision by the Executive Board and a majority of a quorum of general body members.

8.15.1 The quorum of general body members required to consider this matter may be accomplished through either a physical meeting or alternative method as determined by a unanimous Executive Board.

Article IX: Meetings

9.1 A general body meeting will be held at least once per month during the school year, with the exception of May and December. An email will be sent out prior to meetings detailing time and location.

9.2 An Executive Board meeting will be held at least twice per month during the school year and must be held at a time distinct from general body meetings, with the exception of May and December. An email will be sent out prior to this meeting detailing the time and location.

9.2.1 Other invitations may be issued at the discretion of the President.

9.3 The senior officer(s) present will preside over any general body or Executive Board meeting.

9.4 The President reserves the right to call a meeting of the Executive Board or general body.

Article X: Quorum

10.1 One-third of all members in the club must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business. Without a quorum, no business will be transacted at meetings. This pertains to regular meetings and elections.

10.2 An exception may be made to clause 10.1 if the following conditions are met. In the event that these conditions are met, absent members will be considered to have made an informed abstention.

10.2.1 An email is sent out to the general body mailing list within seven days. This email must include:

10.2.1.1 The specific date, time, and location of the meeting at which the CRs business will occur.

10.2.1.2 Specific and detailed information about the club business.

Article XI: Rules of Decorum

11.1 The rules of order and decorum of general and Executive Board meetings will be at the discretion of the presiding officer of these meetings.

Article XII: Amending the Constitution

12.1 Once accepted, the previous constitutions of the CRs will become null and void.

12.2 Changes to this document must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board and then a majority vote of a quorum of the general membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

12.3 The current method of Contracted Independent Organization renewal gives the President of an organization nearly exclusive control over altering a CIOs constitution. This clause is accepted as irrefutable by any person assuming the position of President. Any President who alters this document without the approval of the Executive Board is subject to the honor offense of lying at the discretion of a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.