

# Constitution

## *Students UNITE of the University of Wisconsin - Stout*

### **Article I: Name and Purpose**

- Section I. The name of the organization shall be Students UNITE.
- Section II. The purpose of Students UNITE is to promote equality and restore justice through nonviolent direct action. Students UNITE is a civil rights and advocacy organization comprised of dedicated students that take action to protect and preserve the liberties, rights, and dignity of all people.

### **Article II: Membership**

- Section I. Students UNITE welcomes all University of Wisconsin – Stout students to be members of the organization. Only University of Wisconsin – Stout students may be officers and/or voting members. Students UNITE will not discriminate against members of any individual based upon race, gender, religion, ancestry, age, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, income, physical ability or political ideology.
- Section II. In order to remain a member of Students UNITE a student must abide by the organization constitution and SSA Code of Conduct.

### **Article III: Officers**

- Section I. Officers will serve from the last week of April of the current year until the last week of April the following year.
- a. Members shall be nominated either by themselves or another member to an officer position.
  - b. The organization will come to a consensus as to who may be a willing or suitable fit for each position of the executive board upon showing interest in a position. If a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken with majority ruling.
  - c. Previous members of board shall assist new members with president, vice president, and treasurer duties for the following year.
- Section II. Student UNITE leaders will be effective not only because of their intellectual capacity or organizing skills but because of their moral courage, a quality which will give others in the organization a sense of hope for personal and social redemption.
- a. The leaders of Students UNITE will complete formal nonviolence training whenever possible in order to help them model behaviors, attitudes, and actions for other members of the organization.

- b. Leadership development will be central to the long-term success of the organization.

Section III. The President(s) shall serve as the primary contact for the organization and manage the following duties:

- a. Encourage and enable a positive and peaceful relationship between all members and the UW-Stout community at large.
- b. Prepare all necessary forms/documentation for SSA.
- c. Organize and lead all executive board and weekly member meetings and communicate with the Students UNITE advisor on a regular basis.
- d. Primary coordinator for events in so far as to contact necessary offices or people required to secure that the event takes place.
- e. Call special meetings when necessary and notify members at least three (3) days in advance.
- f. Take care of renewing the organization each year and overseeing that financial affairs are taken care of for the following year.

Section IV. The Vice-President shall serve as a secondary source for the affairs of the organization and manage the following duties:

- a. Act as President should the President for any reason is unable to carry out the presidential duties.
- b. Assist the president in planning events.
- c. Make reservations or other necessary arrangements for events and meetings.
- d. Record events either with video camera or summarizing for social media.

Section V. The Treasurer is responsible for all funds of the organization and the following duties:

- a. Attend all financial affairs meetings and stay updated on any financial news or forms that are needed.
- b. Keep detailed financial records for the president and SSA.
- c. Make regular financial reports to the Executive Board and general membership.

Section VI. The Public Relations chair is responsible for all forms of communication and the following duties:

- a. Updating OrgSync and social media pages as needed.
- b. Sign up Students UNITE for Backyard Bash, Involvement Fair, and encourage collaborative efforts with other organizations
- c. Encourage involvement in off-campus events and conferences not directly related to the organization.
- d. Produce or supervise production of all Students UNITE marketing materials.

- Section VII. Board members shall attend required meetings hosted by SSA or the Involvement Center and report at the next meeting as to how the event went.

#### **Article IV. Removal of Officers**

- Section I. Officers failing to fulfill the given responsibilities and duties may be removed by the regular members of the Organization.
- Section II. Any member of the organization can petition to remove an officer of the organization.
- Section III. The removal of an officer will require the members of the organization to come to a consensus as to whether they are accomplishing the given responsibilities and duties. A notification shall be given to the officer in question in a week's time prior to the discussion.

#### **Article V: Vacancies**

- Section I. If the president is unable to fulfill their duties for the year or have been removed, the vice president would fill the vacancy and proceed with elections to fill their position.
- Section II. In the case that there is a vacancy of an officer position; the organization shall go through the process of election.
- a. Members shall be nominated either by themselves or another member to an officer position.
  - b. The organization will come to a consensus as to who may be a willing or suitable fit for each position of the executive board upon showing interest in a position. If a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken with majority ruling.

#### **Article V: Advisor**

- Section I. The advisor of Students UNITE shall be a University of Wisconsin - Stout faculty or staff member.
- a. The organization would prefer that a faculty/staff member volunteer as the advisor of Students UNITE.
  - b. Providing the circumstance that no faculty/staff member volunteers, the organization shall come to a consensus as to who they feel is suitable for the position of advisor. If the organization cannot come to a consensus, a vote will be taken with majority ruling.
  - c. The advisor shall provide support when necessary and be involved in events as much as needed or desired.
  - d. The advisor shall be required to attend weekly meeting with the organization when feasible with their schedule.

- e. The advisor to Students UNITE will participate in Nonviolence training if possible.

### **Article VI: Meetings**

- Section I. Anyone wanting to be involved in the organization shall attend regular meetings when feasible.
  - a. Board members are required to attend all regularly scheduled meetings and unplanned meetings when called by president.
  - b. Attendance at organization events is strongly encouraged.
- Section II. Meetings will be held once a week according to the schedules of the members. An executive board meeting will be held after the general meeting.
- Section III. In order for a consensus or ruling with majority to be met, a quorum of half the members must be at the meeting with a mandatory attendance for officers.

### **Article VII. Amendments**

- Section I. All amendments to the constitution require notice of one week prior to it being discussed and can be brought forward by any member of the organization.
- Section II. Amendments will be passed based on a consensus of the group. If no consensus is achieved, a vote of 2/3 majority will be required.