The Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement

Constitution

Drafted on: August 27, 2021

Article One Name of Organization

* The name of this organization shall be Standing for Change, Inc., doing business as The Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement, hereinafter referred to as “Society."

# Article Two Purpose of Organization

* The purpose of the Society is to honor undergraduate students’ achievement and empower them by providing powerful tools for academic and professional success. Our goal is to maximize each student’s potential by providing meaningful connections to a vibrant peer and mentor community as well as a proprietary platform for developing necessary personal and academic skills.  We aim to inspire members to take control of their own futures, move toward independence, and ultimately establish a foundation and foothold for successful careers and lives.

# Article Three Membership

* Membership in this organization will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information.
* To be eligible for membership in the Society at George Mason University, a student must:
	+ Have accumulated a minimum of 12credit hours with GMU;
	+ Meet the specific GPA requirements established by the local chapter.
	+ Be and in good academic and disciplinary standing with GMU.
* All active members must be currently enrolled GMU students with a minimum academic achievement record defined as a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0.
* The Society shall consist of active, provisional, alumni, and honorary members:
	+ Active members of the Society shall be students who have met the requirements for membership in an active chapter of the Society as set forth in Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution, and who have been duly initiated into the Society; and who maintain the standards required for good standing for active membership.
	+ Provisional members of the Society shall be students who, in the opinion of the Society or local chapter, have shown an active interest in the affairs of the Society and who serve the Society in some special capacity, but who do not meet the full requirements for active membership in the Society. Provisional members shall not have the right to vote, hold office, or to represent the chapter at meetings of the Society.
	+ Alumni members shall be former members of the Society who terminated active membership in good standing and who were enrolled for at least one year in a two or four year college or university. Alumni members shall not have the right to vote, hold office, or to represent the chapter at meetings of the Society.
	+ Honorary members shall be persons who, in the opinion of the Society or of the local chapter, have rendered distinguished service. National honorary membership shall be conferred at the discretion of the Executive Committee and local honorary membership shall be conferred at the discretion of the local chapter. Honorary members shall not have the right to vote, hold office, or to represent the chapter at meetings of the Society.
* Any member of Society in violation of Society’s purpose, constitution, or who fails to meet the membership requirements as outlined herein, may have their privileges as a member revoked through the following process:
	+ A written request by at least three members of the organization must be sent to the executive committee.
	+ Written notification to the member in question, asking the member to be present at the next executive committee meeting and prepared to speak.
	+ A unanimous decision by the executive committee members, in consultation with the advisor, to remove the member from the organization.

## Article Four Officers

* The officers of this organization shall include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, and Outreach Coordinator. A member may hold more than one officer position. The elected officers shall form the Executive Committee.
	+ Duties and responsibilities of the President:
	+ **(1)** Preside over meetings of the organization;
	**(2)** Serve as the liaison between the local chapter and the National Office;
	**(3)** Appoint the presidential cabinet, committees or commissions that are deemed necessary;
	**(4)** Meet with local chapter Society staff advisor, per local chapter organization requirements, or at a minimum of one time per academic semester. Meeting can be in-person, by phone or by electronic communication;
	**(5)** Take care that this Constitution and the laws of the student body are faithfully executed; and
	**(6)** Perform any administrative power or duty not provided for in this Constitution.

**(7)** Serve as a liaison between the organization and Student Involvement

* + Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice President
	+ **(1)** Exercise presidential duties in absence of the President;
	**(2)** Assume presidential office upon vacancy; and
	**(3)** As necessary, make sure event registration forms and program report forms are completed.
	+ Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer
	+ **(1)** Keep complete and accurate account of the organizations funds; and
	**(2)** Report to the President.
	+ Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary
	+ **(1)** Take minutes at organization meetings;
	**(2)** Maintain complete and accurate records of all organization meetings; and
	**(3)** Report to the President.
	+ Duties and Responsibilities of the Webmaster
	+ **(1)** Update organization site on getconnected.gmu.edu;
	+ **(2)** Create flyers for organization events;
	+ **(3)** Utilize social media to advertise events; and
	**(4)** Report to the President.
	+ Duties and Responsibilities of the Outreach Coordinator
	+ **(1)** Organize events in collaboration with other Registered Student Organizations; and
	**(2)** Report to the President.
* All officers must be meet the requirements listed under Article Three, Membership above. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is recommended at time of election and during the entire term of office.
* Term shall be one academic year and/or until successors are elected/appointed. The term shall begin at the end of the spring semester and extend through the following spring semester.
* Any officer of Society in violation of Society’s purpose, constitution, or who fails to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in Article V, may be removed from office by the following process:
	+ A written request by at least three members of the organization.
	+ Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.
	+ A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of eligible voting members is necessary to remove the officer.
	+ In the event of the removal of an officer, a special provision may be granted to the remaining officers to appoint an interim replacement until an election may be held.

**Advisor**

* The primary advisor shall be a full time member of the faculty or staff at George Mason University.
* Nominations for Advisor will take place within the Executive Board. An Advisor will be chosen within two weeks of a vacancy. The Executive Board will choose the Advisor by a majority vote and invite him/her to serve as Advisor for the academic year.
* During officer elections, the organization will vote on whether to continue the Advisor appointment or not. The vote must be a majority of those voting in order to retain the Advisor for the next academic year.
* The duties of the Advisor include but are not limited to: meeting with organization officers to discuss progress and direction of the group, reviewing the organization’s proposed events, signing all required to school policy.
* The Advisor can be removed for not carrying out the duties and expectations as defined in this document. Any member can bring concerns to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will meet with the Advisor to discuss the concerns. After this meeting, the Executive Board will vote on whether to remove the Advisor. If there is a majority vote, then the Advisor will be removed.
* If an Advisor steps down, is removed, or is not re-appointed, the Executive Board will follow the process stated in this document.
* The advisor may offer guidance and support for the organization, but shall not have a vote.

## Article Five Elections

* Elections shall be held one time per academic year during the spring semester.
* Any active member may nominate any eligible member for any office or elected position. In the case of regular elections, nominations shall be opened at the last regular meeting before the election and shall be closed at the election. In the case of an election to fill a vacancy, nominations shall be opened at the first regular membership meeting after the vacancy occurs and shall be closed at the next regular membership meeting thereafter.
* Prior to the vote, nominees shall be given time to describe their qualifications for office. The Executive Committee shall establish the time limit.
* All elections for officers and for committee chairpersons shall be decided by majority vote of the full membership and shall be conducted by secret ballot. Write-in votes shall be permitted on the ballot and shall be deemed valid if the intent to vote for a specific candidate for a specific position is clear. The Executive Committee shall tally the votes.
* In the event that no candidate receives a majority, a run-off shall be held among the two candidates receiving the largest percentages of the vote.
* The procedure for transitioning of current and new officers shall involve a shadow period in which new officers are familiarized with operating procedures and necessary paperwork.

Article Six **Impeachment or Resignation**

* Should an elected officer fail to perform the responsibilities or abuse the privileges of their elected position, the officer shall be subject to impeachment and removal from their office.
* Any officer of Society in violation of Society’s purpose, constitution, or who fails to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in Article V, may be removed from office by the following process:
	+ A written request by at least three members of the organization.
	+ Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.
	+ A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of eligible voting members is necessary to remove the officer.
* An officer who wishes to resign shall provide written notice to the Advisor and the other officers. Resignation shall take effect one week after receipt of notice.
* In the event of vacancy of office, whether through impeachment or resignation, a special provision may be granted to the remaining officers to appoint a replacement with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

## Article Seven Meetings

* The number of local chapter meetings shall comply with the specific meeting requirements as established by the local chapter and be no less than one time per academic semester.
* The President shall preside at the meetings.
* The Executive Committee shall meet separately as determined by the Executive Committee and Advisor and, if necessary, the Board of Directors.
* A quorum shall consist of the majority of total active members present at any meeting.
* In the event a special meeting is required (e.g., to hold an election to fill a vacancy), the President shall notify the membership at least one week in advance of the special meeting date.
* Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used in all situations not covered by provisions of this Constitution.

Article Eight **Finance**

* The national Board of Directors shall set the amount of dues. The Executive Committee shall collect dues annually.

Article Eight **Amendments**

* This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the membership at least one week earlier.
* Student Involvement must review all amendments in the same manner as a completely new constitution.

Article Nine **Ratification**

* This constitution shall become effective upon approval by a ¾ vote of the membership, and a staff member in Student Involvement.

Ratification Date August 27, 2021