

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER STUDENT UNION**

[WSU: Wayne State University  
GLBT: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender]

**Article I. Identification & Goals**

The organization bound by this Constitution shall be called, in full, the Wayne State University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Union.

Goals of the organization include, but are not limited to, providing a medium at WSU for public exposure to past and current GLBT issues; encouraging a sense of pride for the GLBT student communities on campus; forming a safeguard to sustain GLBT presence, history and culture on campus; serving as a social forum to strengthen the GLBT presence on campus.

**Article II. Intentions to Proceed with Goals**

This organization will hold weekly meetings open to students and other interested persons to discuss matters of concern in the GLBT communities or to plan events in accordance with Article I.

**Article III. Affiliation**

The Wayne State University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Union is not affiliated with any other organization, local, state, national or otherwise.

**Article IV. Membership**

To be a member, one must be a currently registered student at WSU and must be either GLBT or sympathetic to GLBT issues. Non-students are encouraged to attend meetings, but are not delegated a vote and may neither hold office nor engage in official business on the behalf of the organization.

A person shall lose membership if he/she is no longer a student at WSU or he/she attends less than one meeting per month or he/she resigns his/her membership.

**Article V. Delegation of Officers, Their Respective Duties & Method of Unseating**

The president shall be charged with the responsibilities of, presiding over all GLBT Student Union meetings, seeing to the adherence of the laws/bylaws established by this organization and by WSU, & enacting a prescribed retribution for offenders of these Articles and other laws/bylaws established.

The vice president shall be charged with the responsibilities of presiding over all GLBT Student Union's meetings in the absence of the president, assisting the president with the responsibilities of the president & serve as chief justice in any judicial proceeding involving the violation of law(s)/bylaw(s) prescribed by the GLBT Student Union.

The secretary shall be charged with the responsibilities of maintaining a list of all current members, recording the minutes of meetings, keeping a file on the numbers in attendance and the yea/nay numbers of each vote, receiving memos from members who wish to place an item on the agenda, preparing the agenda for the following week, contacting members in the event of an emergency meeting & creating ballots for elections and designating a box for safekeeping ballots cast during elections.

The treasurer shall be charged with the responsibilities of submitting a budget to Student Council or other body & organizing receipts and other documents related to the monies and financial status/reports of the organization.

Other officer positions may be added to this Constitution by means of an addition to this Article.

A person shall lose office through automatic resignation if he/she is no longer a student at WSU, he/she attends less than one meeting per month or he/she is removed from office through impeachment.

An officer may resign by indicating his/her intent to the president in writing. If the president wishes to willfully resign, he/she shall indicate the intent in writing to the vice president.

An emergency election to an office shall take place within fourteen days of resignation or removal of the person holding that office.

In the event of a vacant office, the president shall appoint a temporary replacement until such a time that an emergency election is to be held. If the office of the president is to be vacated, the vice president shall assume the duties of the office of the president and immediately appoint a temporary vice president until such a time that an emergency election is to be held.

#### **Article VI. Eligibility Requirements & Guidelines to Run for Office**

All officers must be registered students, carrying at least one class at WSU & have a genuine interest in GLBT issues or affairs.

It is also strongly recommended that to be an officer one should be self-admittedly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender & have attended meetings for at least one semester in order to be familiar with the operations of the organization.

#### **Article VII. Elections, Procedural**

Elections shall be done by secret ballot. Elections must take place during an official meeting; At least seventy percent of the membership must be present for a vote to be valid.

Voting shall take place for a total of fifteen minutes during the designated meeting; one person may only vote for one candidate per office per election. Every member present who wishes to cast a vote shall print the office for which the candidate is running and the full name of the person for which they are voting onto their ballot.

After a person has voted, he/she shall fold their vote in half and place it into a secured box designated to hold all ballots. After the designated fifteen minutes have expired, the secretary shall immediately count the ballots in the public witness of members present. The person with the highest number of votes shall assume office immediately unless there is contesting of the ballot results.

The secretary shall review the certification, authenticity of ballots, and/or recount the ballots at the request of a candidate who had received at least one vote in the election, or shall investigate the nature of the contest.

In the event of a tie, the person holding the office for which the candidates are running, may choose his/her successor.

No campaigning may be allowed during a meeting unless time is allotted for all candidates running for that office.

### **Article VIII. Impeachment of Officers and Other Members**

Officers and members may be removed through a Vote of Impeachment.

A Vote of Impeachment shall only be valid upon grounds of negligence or incompetence of an officer towards his/her duties as an officer described herein this constitution and other applicable documents.

A Vote of Impeachment must be ordered through a written letter of dissatisfaction. The letter must be descriptive in its dictation as to the nature of the negligence of the person accused. The letter must be written by one member and petitioned to other members for signing. The letter must be signed by fifty percent of the general membership. The starting of a letter may not be announced during a meeting nor may it be placed in the agenda.

Only one Vote of Impeachment is to be allowed at a time. A Vote of Impeachment shall only be valid if agreed upon by the president and the vice president. If the president or vice president is among the accused, the treasurer shall act as proxy in their position. If there is agreement between the president and vice president (or established proxy) that the impeachment proceedings should go forward, a tribunal of justices shall be formed.

The vice president (or treasurer, if the VP stands accused) shall act as chief justice. Two members shall be picked via random lottery by action of the secretary to act as justices. One member shall have signed the letter; the other shall not have signed. No other officer besides the vice president may serve on the tribunal. If the secretary stands accused, the president shall be proxy to the secretary in judicial proceedings. The accused may not serve on the tribunal if selected to do so in the lottery.

The tribunal shall consider the contents of the letter as evidence against the accused; the accused shall be requested to present evidence in defense of himself/herself. The tribunal, after hearing and considering all evidence, shall vote either for a removal of the officer from his/her position or for an acquittal. The tribunal may convene in a private deliberation in order to debate the facts of the case.

Removal shall only happen if the vote is unanimous (3-0) in favor of "removal;" otherwise the official verdict is "to acquit."

For an officer, "Removal" is defined as not eligible to further hold office as of the date of the tribunal's vote; he/she shall not lose general membership. Double Jeopardy may not be enacted to place a person on trial as both an officer and member for the same offense.

For a member, "Removal" is defined as to be striped of all rights of membership. For members, a removal may be reversed upon petition with citation of the promise of good behavior from the former member.

#### **Article IX. Elections, Chronic**

General Elections shall be called on date of the third meeting of the new academic year.

#### **Article X. General Business Requirements**

A minimum of thirty percent of the general membership and one officer are required to be in attendance in order for business to proceed.

#### **Article XI. Conduct of Meetings**

The president shall call the meeting to order. The secretary shall announce the agenda, always beginning with the reading of an abridged version of the minutes of the previous meeting. The business of the agenda shall be completed, and any additional business and/or issues shall be addressed. The meeting may be adjourned after the completion of business.

#### **Article XII. Emergency Meetings, Requisition**

An officer, a delegate or director of a project under the supervision of the organization & the faculty advisor only may call an emergency meeting.

#### **Article XIII. Officer Responsibility for Member Information of Meetings**

The secretary shall inform all members as well as officers the time and location of the meeting.

#### **Article XIV. Method of Informing Membership of Meetings**

The secretary may use any power or method available to him/her in order to inform members and officers of a meeting.

#### **Article XV. Date & Time of Meetings**

Weekly meetings are to be held on Wednesdays, starting at 7:00 P.M. Meetings may be rescheduled due to inconvenience with this time.

#### **Article XVI. Dues**

No dues, monetary or otherwise, are required for membership into this organization; nor shall any person recite oath or allegiance under duress to this organization. Individuals who wish to join shall submit 'contact information,' such as an e-mail address and phone number, to the secretary.

#### **Article XVII. Additions to This Constitution**

A person wishing to add an Article to this constitution shall notify the secretary to add the request to the agenda.

The proposed Article shall be addressed as prescribed in the agenda, and the four original officers of Article V shall take whatever time necessary to deliberate and finally vote on a Continuation to

Consider. Passage of the Continuation to Consider requires one vote of "yea" from each of the four officers. If the Continuation to Consider passes, the Article shall be considered by the membership for seven days or until the next meeting.

At the next meeting, a public vote of raising one's hand in support shall determine if the Article is to be placed into the constitution. A minimum of fifty percent of the membership must be present to vote on an addition of an Article to the constitution. The Article passes if seventy-five percent of the membership present vote "yea."

Portions of existing Articles may be edited or stricken, and additions may be attached to existing Articles by the same process described.

### **Article XVIII. Symbols**

This organization shall adopt the following symbol. Six circles in a cascading fashion of the colors, starting from the outer circumference: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple; A white disc placed in the center; A pink triangle, pointing downward, with vertices reaching equidistant points on the edge of the purple circle; A large yellow letter "W" outlined in green shall rest atop the triangle; A Greek letter "Lambda" stationed with the curved leg in front of the "W," the straight leg behind, and the curved top ending around the top of the triangle.

Other symbols with the likeness of the center portion may also adorn flyers as a simplified version suitable for printing.

### **Article XIX. Previous Constitutions**

All previous constitutions of the Wayne State University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Union and all other laws/bylaws as adopted under those Constitutions are rescinded as of the date of the ratification of this Constitution.

