

# **Constitution of the College Republicans at the University of Virginia**

## **Article I: Name**

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the “College Republicans at the University of Virginia,” hereafter referred to in this document as “CRs” or “CRs at UVa,” a body of conservative college students at the University of Virginia.

## **Article II: Purpose**

2.1 In order to preserve our conservative values, we aim to bring college students and the greater University of Virginia community into the Republican Party. We believe this to be necessary for the endurance of the conservative movement and the prosperity of our exceptional nation. The stated objectives of this organization are:

- 2.1.1 The CRs will work to educate the greater University of Virginia community on the issues and values important to the Republican Party.
- 2.1.2 The CRs will defend conservative values on Grounds and work to counter the actions of our political adversaries whenever possible.
- 2.1.3 The CRs will campaign for Republican candidates at every level of government.
- 2.1.4 The CRs will promote conservative values and candidates for all elected offices at the University of Virginia.

## **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 as outlined in Article II.

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 subject to reasonable limitations as decided by a majority of the Executive Board, 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
- 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. 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 responsible for initiating the process to join a national organization; however, the decision to join a national organization must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board and then a majority vote of a quorum of the general membership.
- 4.2.6 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 the Vice President of Operations possess seniority over all members and officers, with the exception of the President.

4.4 The duties of the office of Vice President of Campaigns, 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 organizing all non-campaign related activities or advocacy undertaken by the CRs.
- 4.5.2 The VPO is responsible for ensuring that all events are overseen in a manner both decorous and orderly.

4.6 The positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Communications, and Outreach Coordinator possess seniority over all members and appointed officers.

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 all fundraising endeavors and ensuring the financial health of the organization into the next school year.

4.8 The duties of the Secretary include:

- 4.8.1 The Secretary is responsible for recording meeting minutes of both CRs general body and Executive Board meetings.
- 4.8.2 The Secretary is responsible for the drafting of all inter-organizational and external communications, as well as 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 promoting CRs across social media and for maintaining the CRs website.
- 4.9.2 The DOC is responsible for promoting all CRs events through appropriate marketing methods.

4.10 The duties of the Outreach Coordinator, 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 organizing any community service and philanthropic events in which CRs will participate.
- 4.10.3 The OC is responsible for fulfilling other recruitment and engagement initiatives as delegated by the President, including but not limited to activity fairs.

4.11 All newly elected officers will receive the full powers of their elected positions immediately following the culmination of the academic year.

4.12 All outgoing elected officers and incoming elected officers must attend a transition meeting.

4.13 No member of the Executive Board may hold 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.

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 culmination 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. The criteria for incapacitation will be determined by the remaining Executive Board members, who must find the President incapacitated in an unanimous vote.

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 Within two weeks of the vacancy, the acting President shall call a general body meeting at which nominations for election to the remainder of the Presidential term shall be presented, in accordance with Article VIII.

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 general body meeting to fill that position.

6.6 Elections for vacated officer positions are to be held within one week of nominations for said 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 in impeachment proceedings.

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 process.

7.7 The impeachment process must conclude 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 prior to the beginning of the final examination period.

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 Within twenty four hours of the adjournment of the nominations meeting, an email will be sent out to the general body 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 beyond 48 hours of the nominating meeting's adjournment at which time, an email will be sent out to the general body email list about the new candidacy.

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

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

8.7.1 Candidates are permitted to withdraw their candidacies at any point before the voting begins for the position they are contesting. In this case, they are no longer candidates and are therefore no longer entitled to a campaign speech.

8.8 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.

8.8.1 If a candidate is uncontested, voting may take place by a vote of acclamation.

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

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

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

8.12 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 immediately..

8.13 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.

8.14 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.

8.14.1 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.

8.15 Members in good standing who are unable to attend the election meeting may cast an absentee ballot on the day of the regularly scheduled election from noon on that day until the time the election meeting is scheduled to begin as stated in the election email. Those members who have voted absentee are not permitted to attend the election meeting.

## **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 regularly 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 President may authorize any Executive Board member(s) to 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 good standing 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.

10.1.2 "Business" refers to executive board elections, constitutional amendments, and impeachment proceedings.

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 email 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. The enforcement of these rules is entrusted to said presiding officer, who may take such steps as they see fit to uphold order and decorum at the meetings of this organization, including but not limited to the removal of a person or persons violating these rules.

## **Article XII: Amending the Constitution**

12.1 Once amendments are accepted, the previous constitutions of the CRs are rendered null and void.

12.2 Amendments 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.