



CONSTITUTION FOR THE VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY PRE-LAW SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

The officers and membership of the VCU Pre-Law Society, in order to protect organizational integrity and ensure procedural fairness in the fulfillment of its purpose do hereby ratify this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization is hereinafter to be addressed officially as the Virginia Commonwealth University Pre-Law Society. The purpose is to provide all students that express an interest in the legal profession by joining the Society with pertinent information regarding the legal profession; and to assist all such students in their pursuits of legal careers. For the purposes of this Constitution, the organization will be herein referred to as the "Society."

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The Society shall elect the following officers:

- A. President.
- B. Vice-President.
- C. Secretary.
- D. Treasurer.
- E. Reporter.

These officers are generally responsible for conducting and managing the affairs and activities of the Society, and are required to abide by and enforce the provisions of this Constitution and the by-laws the Society ordains.

SECTION 2: Duties. The duties and powers of the officers are as follows:

A. President. The President shall preside over all Society meetings, activities, and other sanctioned events; except for when such authority is explicitly delegated to the Vice-President. The President is empowered to:

1. Represent the Society and its interests.
2. Delegate authority to any member, to perform duties which are necessary for the Society.
3. Contract with outside parties on behalf of the Society.
4. Appoint chairpersons of committees, and create committees standing or ad hoc, as needed, with approval.
6. Call special meetings as needed.
7. Consider motions for actions as proposed by members.

B. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assist the President as necessary, and in the absence or inability of the President to

perform official duties as specified by the Constitution, to act as president. The Vice-President is empowered to:

1. Perform duties delegated by the President.

C. Secretary. The Secretary acts as primary custodian of all Society records. Such records must be provided for the President.

The Secretary is empowered to:

1. Record minutes of each Society meeting

2. Supervise all correspondence to or from the society.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer oversees all financial affairs conducted within the Society, and provides records of all transactions for the Society. The Treasurer is empowered to:

1. Keep accurate records of financial transactions of the Society.

2. Maintain account books.

E. Reporter. The reporter' when the secretary is unable to perform the specified duties, acts as secretary. The reporter is empowered to:

1. Publish the Society newsletter.

SECTION 3: Eligibility for Office. Before and during the term of duty the officer must:

1. Maintain active membership in the Society.

2. Remain in good academic standing.

3. Comply with all attendance regulations set forth in the Constitution and its by-laws.

Any violation of the above-mentioned requirements subjects the officer to review and/or removal.

SECTION 4: Elections. To gain office, any eligible member must be elected by plurality of votes cast by full members.

1. Terms for all officers are 1 semester.

- 2- No officer shall hold the same office for more than 4 consecutive semesters.

- 3 Vacant positions are filled by Presidential appointment, with approval of the officers and membership. In the event that the Presidential post is vacant, the next ranking officer shall perform this duty

4. Elections are to be held at the end of each semester, as determined by the voting members of the Society.

SECTION5: Removal of Officers. Officers may be removed if after a hearing in front of the membership, they have been found beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. To have abused their office.

2. To have compromised the integrity of the organization.

3. That their duties were not performed effectively.

These complaints must first be reported to the faculty advisor, after which the complainants must notify the complaineer that a review hearing will take place.

A. Resignation. Any officer may resign by announcing to the officers and membership that the position will be vacated.

SECTION 6: Executive Vote. The officers of the Society constitute

the executive committee. Any administrative decision affecting the Society must have the approval vote of 3/4 of the executive committee. All officers must vote, either in person or by absentee ballot.

SECTION 7: Presumption of Assent. Any officer present during executive voting is presumed to have assented to any decision unless:

1. Dissent is specifically entered by voice and recorded in the minutes.
2. Dissent is recorded by the secretary before adjournment. Dissent may be allowed in absentia only if it is delivered by registered mail within 48 hours of adjournment.

Positive affirmation by an officer removes the right to dissent.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Eligibility. In order to be recognized as a full member, entitled to any privileges granted by the Society, any VCU student must:

1. Pay dues set by the executive committee.
2. Adhere to the Society attendance policy, stated in the By-laws.
3. Maintain good academic standing with VCU, as defined by the University (currently enrolled at VCU and not on academic probation).

SECTION 2: Privileges and duties of members.

1. Members must support the Society's interest by abiding by this Constitution and its Bylaws.
2. Members are entitled to participate in any Society sponsored activity.
3. Only members can be recognized voters.

SECTION 3: Membership Voting. Members decide on all matters presented with approval of the executive committee.

1. Full approval is signified by a 3/4 majority of approving votes.
2. Absentee ballots may be filed with the Secretary.

SECTION 4: Committees. Committees, as needed, may be created by the President, with a consensus vote of approval by members in attendance. The committee shall be composed of Society members, and a chairperson, upon Presidential appointment. Committee powers must be clearly delineated before seeking approval. The President can move to abolish committees at any time; pending consensus approval of such a motion by members attending.

SECTION 5: Order of Business. All regular meetings of the Society shall be conducted- in this manner (refer to by-laws):

1. Call to order and reading of minutes from previous meeting.
2. Announcements.
3. Committee reports.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Introduction of new business.

ARTICLE IV: ADVISOR

The Society members may choose any VCU affiliated faculty member who is willing to assist the Society in the fulfillment of its objectives to serve as its advisor. Selection must accord with Constitutional voting procedures.

ARTICLE V: RECORDS

SECTION 1: Records. The Society shall maintain an accurate current, and adequate record of all business. The officers are responsible for keeping such records.

SECTION 2: Availability. All records, accounts, books and related materials shall be open to inspection for any member.

SECTION 3: Succession. Minutes and records from the semester must be provided and transferred to the successive administration at the beginning of each new term of office.

SECTION 4: Contracts. The Society does not recognize, assume liability, nor is in any way responsible for contracts and agreements entered into by members, on the Society's behalf without proper approval from the advisor, and/or officers of the Society.

SECTION 5: Certification and Inspection of the Constitution. The original or copy of this Constitution, amended or otherwise, shall be made open for inspection by the advisor or any member, after certification by the Secretary.

ARTICLE VI: BY-LAW POLICY

The By-Laws of this Constitution shall be reviewed upon initiation of each new administration. If necessary, revision can be implemented by unilateral decision of the executive committee, pending 3/4 approval of the membership.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

All members of the Society must abide by this Constitution; it cannot be altered nor amended in any way except as follows:

1. Amendments must be proposed by members.
2. Proposals must be reviewed by at least a quorum of members.
3. The advisor must approve the proposal.
4. The executive committee must unanimously approve the proposal.
5. Approved proposals must receive the affirmation of no less than 3/4 of the voting membership to be amended to this Constitution.