#### Constitution & Bylaws Template Instructions

**Review and customize this template to fit the needs and desired policies of your organization.**

**Follow this key when editing the document:**

#### Text that is not highlighted is required. Do not edit. Editing required text will result in a rejection of your constitution and required revisions.

#### Text highlighted in yellow is required, but customizable for your organization. Fill in and edit the specifics for your organization as you see fit. Edits and customizations of these fields are subject to the approval of SLIC staff.

#### Text highlighted in green is optional. Fill in the specifics for your organization as you see fit or delete if not using.

**When you are finished editing, remove all highlighting and brackets and delete this instruction page.**

**If your organization would like to create or use a more customized constitution (such as a template from a national organization) please speak with a SLIC staff member.**

#### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**[Name of Organization] at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM)**

**ARTICLE I NAME**

**Section 1** The name of this organization shall bethe [**name of organization**] at California State University San Marcos.

[Optional: If part of a national organization, include name of national organization, chapter designation, and national organization’s founding date.]

**ARTICE II PURPOSE**

**Section 1** The purposes of this organization are [*describe the organization’s mission or purpose statement*].

**ARTICLE III AUTHORITY**

**Section 1** This organization is a recognized student organization at California State University San Marcos and adheres to all campus policies and policies set forth in the Student Organization Handbook.

**Section 2** [If applicable:This organization is affiliated with [name of national or affiliated organization.]

**Section 3** This organization may establish Standing Rules to govern administrative and procedural matters (such as time and location of meetings, etc.). Standing Rules shall not conflict with these bylaws. Standing Rules may be adopted, amended, or temporarily suspended by a majority vote present at an organization meeting where a quorum is present (advance notice is not required).

Section 4 The rules contained in the most recent version of [Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised](https://robertsrules.com/) shall be the parliamentary authority for this organization and shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt. [*Optional: Some organizations use Robert’s Rules to run their meetings, but it is not required. If you are not using Robert’s Rules, your organization can list your parliamentary procedures here*.]

**ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1** Membership in the organization shall be open to all those regularly-enrolled California State University San Marcos students who are interested in membership. There shall be no other requirements for admission to regular membership. Each regular member has equal rights and privileges.

**Section 2** Eligibility for membership or leadership positions shall not be limited on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability. There shall be not requirement based on major or degree objective. The organization shall have no rules or policies that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability.

**Section 3** This organization shall prohibit all members and officers from engaging in hazing or committing any act that injures, degrades or disgraces any fellow student.

**Section 4** This organization shall comply with [Title 5, Section 41301, Standards for Student Conduct](https://www.csusm.edu/dos/studres/standards_student_conduct.html).

**Section 5** Members [shall/shall not] be required to pay dues.

**Section 6** Members shall be required to attend at least [# %] of the organization’s regularly scheduled meetings.

**Section 7** [*Optional: Some organizations have additional requirements for membership, such as service hours or GPA requirements (additional requirements cannot be based on the protected classes listed in Section 2 above). If applicable, add them here.*]

**Section 8** [*Optional: Some organizations have additional categories of membership, such as honorary membership. If this applies, include the categories of membership along with associated privileges.*]

**ARTICLE V OFFICERS**

**Section 1** The officers of the organization shall bethe [*List the titles of the officers for your organization. All organizations must have one President and one Treasurer*].

**Section 2** **Powers and Duties of Officers:**

a. The President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the organization, shall preside at all meetings of the organization and shall prepare the agenda for meetings. The President shall be the official spokesperson of the organization, representing the policies, views, and opinions of the organization in its relations with the campus and community at large. [Optional: The President shall appoint all committees and committee chairs.] [Optional: The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.] The President shall have such further powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization.

b. The Vice President shall preside at organization meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall perform all legal duties assigned by the President. The Vice President shall assume the office of President if the office becomes vacant.

c. The Treasurer shall handle all financial affairs and budgeting of the organization, maintain all necessary accounting records, and prepare monthly financial reports for the membership. These records shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Treasurer shall collect and deposit all dues and fees. The Treasurer shall maintain bank accounts in the organization’s name, requiring signatures of both the Treasurer and President for authorized disbursements.

d. The Secretary shall take minutes at all meetings of the organization, keep these on file, and submit required copies to all organization members. The Secretary shall be responsible for all organization correspondence and shall keep copies thereof on file. The Secretary shall maintain membership records for the organization.

e. [*List duties of any additional elected or appointed officers.*]

**Section 3** Qualifications necessary to hold office in this organization are as follows:

1. To be eligible for and to hold office, candidates must meet the requirements of [CSU’s policy on minimum academic qualifications for student office holders for minor student officers.](https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/6648732/latest/)
2. Additionally, [*list other additional qualifications, such as academic requirements, length of time one has been a member, length of time one can hold office, etc*.].

**ARTICLE VI SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1** The **[**list of elected officers] are elected **[**annually or each semester]. Elections are held [at the end of each fall/spring semester] and shall take place at a regularly scheduled meeting of the organization at which a quorum is present. At least one week’s notice shall be provided for any meeting at which an election is to be held.

**Section 2** Nominations for officers shall be made at the regular meeting immediately preceding the election. Nominations may also be made from the floor immediately prior to the election for each office. Members may nominate themselves for an office.

**Section 3** The officers shall be elected in this order: [List order, usually starting with the President].

**Section 4** Officers shall be elected by [majority/two-thirds/etc] vote. [Optional: If no candidate receives a [majority/two-thirds/etc] vote, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, there shall be a revote.]

**Section 5** Votes shall be cast by secret ballot; however, when there is only one candidate for an office, a motion may be made to elect the candidate by acclamation.

**Section 6** [Optional] The following officers shall be appointed by the [President or Executive Committee]. [*Indicate if ratification by a majority vote of the membership is required*.]

**Section 7** Officers shall assume office on [the first day of the semester following the election/other starting point] and shall serve for [length of term of office].

**Section 8** Officers may be recalled from office for cause. To initiate a recall election, a petition signed by [specify number, such as one-third of the total number of voting members] must be submitted at a regular meeting and a recall vote shall be taken at the next regular meeting. The officer subject to recall shall be given written notice of the recall at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which the recall vote will be held and shall be given an opportunity to provide a defense. A two-thirds vote is required to remove an officer.

**Section 9** If the position of President becomes vacant as the result of resignation, ineligibility or recall, the [Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary/etc] shall assume the office of President. Vacancies in any other elected office shall be filled by an election held at the next regular meeting where the vacancy was announced. Nominations may be made at the meeting where the vacancy is announced, and nominations may also be made from the floor at the time of the election. The President may appoint an interim officer to fill the vacancy until the election is held.

**Section 10** An updated officer roster must be kept on file with the Student Leadership & Involvement Center (SLIC) on [Tukwut Trax](https://csusm.presence.io/). Any changes to the President or Treasurer positions must be reported to SLIC within 7 days via the [Student Organization Change Form](https://csusm.presence.io/form/student-organization-change-form). All other officer changes should be indicated on the organization roster on Tukwut Trax within 7 days.

**ARTICLE VII MEETINGS**

**Section 1** Regular meetings shall be scheduled [weekly, bi-weekly, monthly] during the academic year.

**Section 2** Special meetings may be called by the President or a majority of the Executive Committee. All members must be given a minimum of 24 hours notice prior to the meeting time.

**Section 3** Business cannot be conducted unless a quorum of the membership is present. A quorum for this organization is defined as [a majority of the voting membership; two-thirds of the voting membership, etc] *Note: Organizations may choose to have a lower quorum, such as one-third, or a specific number of members.]*

**Section 4** Members must be present to vote. Absentee or virtual voting via Tukwut Trax may be utilized as a substitute.

**Section 5** In order to vote a member must be in good standing. *[State what constitutes “good standing.” This may include payment of dues, meeting attendance requirements, etc. If there is an attendance requirement, specify the number of excused and/or unexcused absences that results in loss of voting privileges, and define what constitutes an excused absence, if applicable.]*

**ARTICLE VIII ADVISOR(S)**

**Section 1** The organization shall [elect/appoint] an individual employed as a faculty or staff member by California State University San Marcos to serve as the university advisor to this organization. Auxiliary staff and student assistants are not eligible to serve as advisors. The advisor shall fulfill the responsibilities specified in the CSUSM Student Organization Handbook. Advisors shall serve on an academic year basis or until their successor has been selected pending approval by the Student Leadership & Involvement Center.

**Section 2** The advisor(s) may be removed by a [majority/two-thirds/etc vote] of the membership at a regularly scheduled organization meeting or at the discretion of the University.

**Section 3** A staff member from the Student Leadership & Involvement Center or designee may be assigned to work with this organization to assist the advisor(s) and the organization.

**ARTICLE IX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1** The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected and appointed officers, with the advisor(s) serving as non-voting member(s).

**Section 2** The Executive Committee shall meet [weekly/monthly/semesterly] during the academic year. Special meetings may be called by the President or a majority of the Executive Committee. All members must be given 24 hours’ notice of the meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Executive Committee members.

**Section 3** [Optional: When necessary, Executive Committee business can be conducted via email or via online meetings.]

**Section 4** The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between meetings and is authorized to take action when action must be taken prior to the next meeting.

**Section 5** The Executive Committee shall report to the membership all actions taken between meetings. Except when it is too late to do so (such as when a contract has been executed), any actions taken by the Executive Committee may be rescinded or modified by the membership by a majority vote.

**ARTICLE IX STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Section 1** The organization shall have the following standing committees: [*List all standing committees, such as Membership, Fundraising, Programming, Social, Bylaws, Nominations, Finance, Public Relations, etc.*]

**Section 2** The duties of each of Standing Committees are as follows:

*[List the duties for each of the committees listed above.]*

**Section 3** The President shall have the authority to establish ad hoc committees as may be necessary from time to time to carry out the work of the organization.

**Section 4** The President shall appoint the chairpersons and members of all committees [Optional: subject to ratification of the membership].

**ARTICLE X FINANCES**

**Section 1** Membership dues shall be [$XX per semester/quarter/academic year].

**Section 2** Dues shall be paid by [*specify due date, such as* “the second week of each semester//academic year.”] [Optional: There shall be a late fee of [$XX/$XX per week].

**Section 3** This organization has the ability to assess the membership for special purposes. Assessments shall be determined by a quorum of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting

**Section 4** Members who have not paid their dues or special assessments by the due date shall be considered as not being in good standing and shall lose all membership privileges, including voting, until the dues are paid.

**Section 5** The Executive Committee shall propose an annual budget to be voted upon no later than the second regular meeting of the academic year. Any unbudgeted expenditures shall be approved in advance by the membership. When financial decisions must be made between meetings, the Executive Committee is authorized to approve expenditures not exceeding [$XXX].

**Section 6** Organization funds shall not be used to purchase or reimburse members for alcoholic beverages.

**ARTICE XI DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

**Section 1** All complaints alleging violations of the [Student Conduct Code, Title 5, section 41301, et seq.,](https://www.csusm.edu/dos/studres/standards_student_conduct.html) shall be investigated pursuant to [Executive Order 1098](https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/8453518/latest/) and/or 1097 (in cases involving allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment or retaliation based on protected status). Investigations and other proceedings under Executive Orders 1098 and 1097 shall be conducted by campus administration, not student organizations, and this organization shall refer any complaints alleging subject matters covered by Executive Orders 1098 and 1097 to the campus Vice President for Student Affairs or other designee for investigation and resolution.

**Section 2** Complaints of conduct obviously contrary to the Constitution of the organization, conduct that impairs the rights of the members to enjoy the benefits of the organization, or any violations of the Student Code of Conduct may also be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. A written charge may be filed with the Executive Committee. That Executive Committee shall review the charges and may conduct a preliminary investigation if deemed appropriate. If the preliminary investigation concludes that misconduct appears to have occurred, the Executive Committee shall conduct a hearing on the matter. The member alleged to have engaged in the misconduct shall be given at least 72 hours notice of the hearing and be given an opportunity to present a defense. By a majority vote, the Executive Committee shall determine whether misconduct occurred. If it determines that misconduct did occur, the Executive Committee shall prepare a report to the membership of its findings and recommended sanctions, which may include expulsion, suspension, or lesser sanction(s) including, but not limited to, a reprimand, removal from office, a fine or corrective remedies.

**Section 3** The membership shall review the hearing report in executive session, and the member accused of misconduct shall have an opportunity to rebut the information in the report. After providing a statement to the membership, the member accused of misconduct shall leave the room for the remainder of the deliberations.

**Section 4** The membership shall vote first on whether the member has engaged in misconduct. If by a two-thirds vote, the membership determines that misconduct has occurred, the membership shall then by a two-thirds vote, determine appropriate sanction(s). The accused member shall be immediately notified of the outcome.

**Section 5** By a two-thirds vote, the membership may reinstate a member who has been suspended or expelled.

**ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1** Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be presented to the membership, in writing, at least one meeting prior to the meeting where the amendment will be voted upon. [Optional: The Executive Committee and/or Bylaws Committee shall review and make recommendations on all bylaw revisions prior to consideration by the membership.]

**Section 2** Bylaw amendments require approval by [a majority/two-thirds] of the voting members present at a regular meeting. The amendment shall be effective immediately unless otherwise stipulated in the amendment.

**Section 3** A copy of this constitution and amendments to this constitution must be filed with the Student Leadership & Involvement Center every year during annual recognition. If any changes are made outside of the annual recognition period, an updated copy must be filed with SLIC within 30 days via the [Student Organization Change Form](https://csusm.presence.io/form/student-organization-change-form).

**Section 4** The University reserves the right to make any changes to the Constitution to meet any requirements set by the CSU Chancellor’s Office or University policy.

**ARTICLE XIII DISBURSAL OF ORGANIZATION ASSETS**

**Section 1** In the event [Name of Organization] should become defunct for a period of more than 2 years, all assets will be turned over to CSUSM Associated Students, Inc., to be used to support student programming on campus.