

UVM Student Government Association

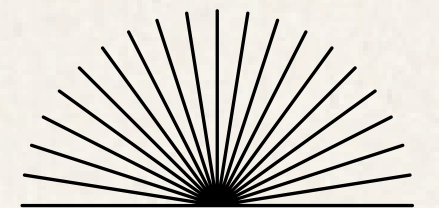


# THE POWER OF A CONSTITUTION

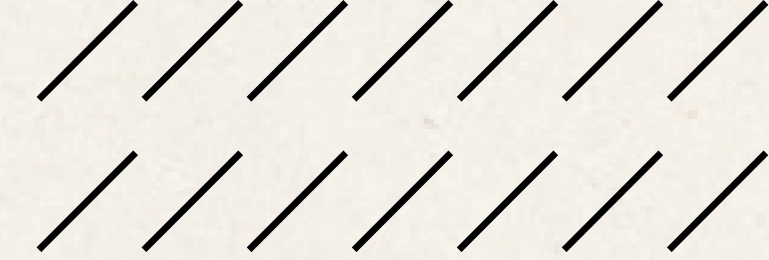
What an effective constitution can do for your RSO

PRESENTED BY:

Jaden Grace and Kaitlin Alarafi



# Agenda



<b>01</b>	<b>What is a Constitution?</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>Components</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>Constitution Review</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>Holding People Accountable</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>Questions</b>

# What is a Constitution?

As an RSO, your constitution is a guide to your organization's operations.

Your constitution determines not only the guidelines you ask your members to follow, but what a typical semester looks like for your organization.

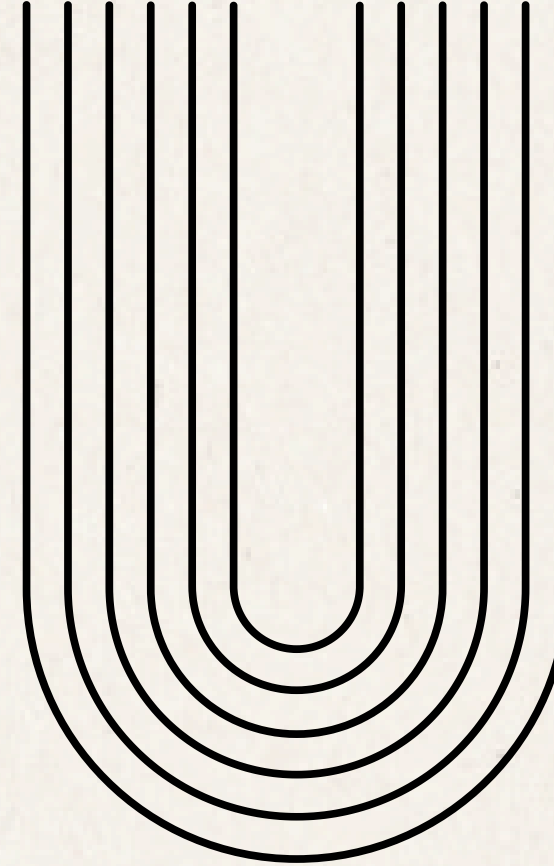
- A structured, living document
- Guides your organization's operations both now and in the future
- Holds you and your club members accountable

# **Articles of your Constitution**

# Articles

## 1. Purpose & Goals

The purpose and goals section should outline exactly that: your organization's purpose and what you plan to achieve.



### Purpose

- What need does your club fill on campus?
  - In the community?
  - In the world?
- Be broad!

### Goals

- What does your club plan to deliver?
  - Tangible Goals: Performances, games, media, conferences
  - Intangible Goals: Community, knowledge, values
- Be specific!

# Articles

## 2. Officers & Responsibilities

- Roles and Responsibilities
  - Include all officers
  - What do you do for your club?
- Unique to each club
- Remember, this will be used for years to come (no names!)

## 3. Officer Selection/Elections

- Who chooses officers? How?
  - Appointment/Election



# Articles

## 4. Membership Requirements & Tryouts/Audition Process

1. General Members Statement

2. Additional Membership Requirements

a. GPA, Auditions, tryouts

3. Non-Discrimination Statement



# Articles

## 5. Behavioral Expectations & Removal

Outlines the behavior that is acceptable/not acceptable as a member of your club

Behavioral Expectations

Removal Process

1. Officers

2. Members

a. Reporting process

b. Hearing process

c. Appeal process



# Articles

## 6. Meeting & Quorum

1. Frequency

2. Quorum

## 7. General Provisions (Optional)

1. Standing committees

2. Fundraising

3. Operations

4. Everything else



## 8. Amendments

## 9. National By-Laws

---

# **Purpose**

**What is it good for?**

# Purpose

- To develop a mission and vision for the club
  - Strong purpose unites members and promotes club longevity
- To set goals for the upcoming year
  - Clear, actionable goals increase planning ability and transparency
- To outline how the club will be run
- To outline the type of behavior that is acceptable/not acceptable as membership in the club.

# **Constitution Review**

# Constitution Review

## 1. Re-Registration

a. Great time to make bigger changes **if needed**

## 2. Winter Check-In

## 3. Changes in leadership

a. New officers may have new ideas for guidelines/operation

## 4. In case of an incident

Your constitution may stay the same for years, or it may change often. Try to find a balance, treating it as both a living document and a set of guidelines that exist for a reason.

# **Holding People Accountable**

# Accountability

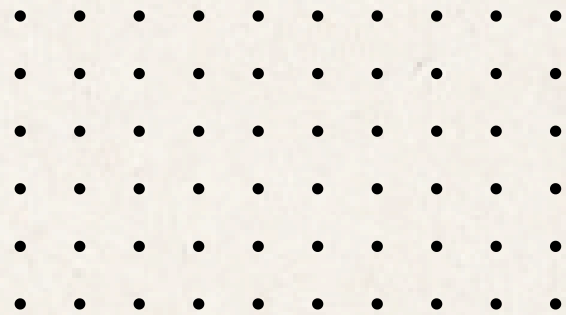
- Use university resources and reporting structures first.
  - Distinguish what the appropriate response is based on specific behavior being addressed.
    - Is member safety involved?
    - Are university guidelines being followed?
- Rely on your constitution to hold people accountable to specific behavior standards
  - A conversation with the Associate Director for SGA Operations always accompanies removal from a club

**Thank you!**

---

# Attendance

Clubsigner Education  
Conference Session Insights



# Questions?

