

The Constitution of
**The Student Peace and Human
Rights Organization**
of Eastern Connecticut State University

Mission Statement: To provide a forum for activists and advocates advancing all levels of Peace and Human Rights and to energize and mobilize Eastern Connecticut State University students into informed advocates of Peace and Human Rights. The organization is committed without reservation to non-violence. As a student organization of the Eastern Connecticut State University community, the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization facilitates the advancement of Peace and Human Rights globally through local action.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this club shall be the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization of Eastern Connecticut State University.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote the advancement of Peace and Human Rights as described and defined in the Mission Statement.

For the purposes of this Organization, peace shall not be defined just in terms of the absence of physical violence, but also as freedom from fear and want that results from structural violence. Human Rights shall be defined as: the human dignity of every person regardless of race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, political alignment, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status; the ability to have a livelihood and access to education or other resources necessary to attain and sustain that livelihood; freedom of expression in all non-violent forms: artistic, social, religious, philosophical or political; the freedom to assemble or communicate with others as is necessary for such expression; institutionalized democracy and pluralism in hopes that all individuals may express their political interests and have institutional avenues to actualize those interests. This organization will work to highlight the linkages between peace and human rights and a diversity of other social and environmental justice issues, and this mission will be reflected in events that are hosted and coalitions that are formed with other organizations focused on related issues.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 This organization will be open to all students currently registered at Eastern Connecticut State University.
- Section 2 Anyone who has attended at least two meetings, with no more than a lapse of two meetings in between those two, of the Student Peace and Human Rights group in a semester or anyone who has joined the facebook group of the Student Peace and Human Rights group and attended at least two events organized by the group in a semester will be considered a voting member of the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization. In order to participate in an election, students must attend the meeting in which an election is scheduled to occur in person or via telephone. Students may vote via written anonymous ballots, or confidentially cast their vote via telephone by speaking with the organization's advisor after listening to the candidates present their platforms.
- Section 3 Any voting member unable to attend a meeting in which an election is occurring may notify the secretary in advance of the meeting and request to vote via a confidential telephone conversation with the organization's advisor or via a confidential absentee ballot presented to the organization's advisor in person or via e-mail. The secretary and the advisor of the organization must be informed 48 hours in advance of an absence, except in case of emergency.
- Section 4 Membership shall not be denied to any student because of race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, political alignment, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status except as sanctioned by federal or state law.

ARTICLE IV - POLICY MEETINGS

- Section 1 In order to advance the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization's ability to effectively advocate for Peace and Human Rights, the Organization shall hold Policy meetings open to any member of the Eastern community. A Policy meeting is a meeting in which upcoming projects are proposed, discussed, and voted on.
- Section 2 Policy meetings shall be held three times a semester or about every five weeks. While such meetings involve debating, planning, and committing to upcoming projects, other activities may also occur at such meetings.
- Section 3 Petitioners at Policy Meetings may have up to three minutes to present their particular project. Petitioners must: 1) state an overall proposal of

the project, 2) propose what role the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization will play in undertaking the project, 3) explain the relationship between the project and Peace and Human Rights, and 4) reasonably demonstrate that the project is not a detriment to the Human Rights of others.

- Section 4 Members of the group each have two minutes to comment upon and ask questions of the petitioner. The petitioner shall have one minute to respond to comments and questions.
- Section 5 Policy meetings shall be no longer than two hours unless accommodating the last petitioner. Votes shall be held only at the end of the meeting. The President of the organization is responsible for coordinating votes on projects, tallying the ballots, and immediately announcing the results. The President shall vote in regular meetings only in the event of a tie.
- Section 6 Voting members shall be given priority over non-member petitioners. Member petitioners shall petition first. The order of member and non-member petitions shall be selected at random.
- Section 7 All Policy meetings decisions require 2/3 of the present voting membership to pass. Members may be present at a Policy meeting via telephone and may cast votes on such decisions via telephone. The secretary will record the numbers of members present who voted for and against a decision, in addition to documenting the attendance of the meeting.

ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE BOARD & OFFICERS

- Section 1 The membership of the Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Liaison Officer. The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Board.
- Section 2 The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its regular business meetings and shall make policy recommendations to the organization. The Executive Board shall be subject to the rules of the organization and shall not act in conflict with actions taken by the organization.
- Section 3 The Executive Board shall have the power to establish all standing and ad hoc committees of the organization. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall have the power to appoint the chairpersons of all standing and ad hoc committees.

- Section 4 Meetings of the Executive Board shall be called by the President of the organization. The Executive Board shall meet in person at least every 2 to 3 weeks during the academic year. The executive board will meet weekly via telephone, facebook, chatroom, and e-mail during the academic year.
- Section 5 A majority of the membership of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. All decisions made by the Executive Board shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE VI - ENUMERATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the organization. Duties shall include but shall not be limited to the following.

- Section 1 The President shall:
- a. be the ambassador of the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization to other organizations and clubs on and off campus and facilitate coalitions with organizations and clubs advancing Peace and Human Rights inside and outside the university community as allowed by university regulations, state law, and federal law;
 - b. act as the spokesperson for the organization;
 - c. prepare the agenda for all meetings or delegate this responsibility to another officer;
 - d. have the power to call executive board meetings and all regular and special meetings of the organization;
 - e. have the power, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, to appoint the chairpersons of all standing and ad hoc committees;
 - f. be an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees except the nominating committee;
 - g. shall vote in regular meetings only in the event of a tie;
 - h. appoint a temporary secretary to take minutes when the secretary is absent;
 - i. shall print, sign, and officially submit the minutes of every meeting within 48 hours after the secretary submits the minutes via e-mail and facebook and shall find another member of the executive board to serve as a substitute as needed;
 - j. have the power to send out messages to all members of the organization via e-mail and facebook;
 - k. have the power to sign all official papers of the club in the absence of the treasurer;
 - l. carry on the official correspondence of the club, in absence of the secretary;

- m. shall be responsible for ensuring the Organization adheres to this constitution or delegate this responsibility to another officer. The delegation of this authority may be retained at the President's discretion.

Section 2 The Vice-President shall:

- a. assist the president with responsibilities as needed;
- b. coordinate all social functions of the organization;
- c. serve as coordinator of all standing and ad hoc committees;
- d. be an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees;
- e. have the power to send out messages to all members of the organization via e-mail and facebook;
- f. have the power to sign all official papers of the club in the absence of the treasurer and president;
- g. carry on the official correspondence of the club, in absence of the secretary and the president;
- h. carry out the duties of the president in the absence of the president;
- i. automatically assume the powers and duties of the President if the President resigns, if the office of President becomes vacant, or if the President is impeached.

Section 3 The Treasurer shall:

- a. have the power to sign all official papers of the club;
- b. expend funds as authorized by the membership of the organization as indicated in the organization's minutes;
- c. keep an accurate account of all receipts, membership dues, and expenditures of the organization;
- d. submit a financial report;
- e. keep track of the club's accounts, income, and expenditures;
- f. give a Treasurer statement of balance at every meeting;
- g. request financial assistance from the Student Government Association and Budget and Management Committee if needed;
- h. be responsible for the organization complying with the university regulations for clubs and organizations;
- i. assist the president in preparation of the meeting agenda as needed;
- j. have the power to send out messages to all members of the organization via e-mail and facebook;
- k. carry on the official correspondence of the club, in absence of the secretary, the president, the vice president; and the liaison officer;
- l. carry out the duties of the president in the absence of the president, vice president, and secretary.

Section 4 The Secretary shall:

- a. carry on the official correspondence of the club;
- b. keep a proper record of all activities of the club, including the

- minutes and the attendance of every meeting;
- c. take attendance and minutes at all in person business and executive board meetings of the organization;
- d. prepare a roll call of members and call it when necessary;
- e. authenticate by her/his signature all records and documents of the organization;
- f. give 72 hours of notice of all meetings via e-mail and facebook;
- g. distribute minutes within 48 hours of the meeting via e-mail and facebook which must be printed and signed by at least one other member of the executive board (preferably the President);
- h. assist the president in preparation of the meeting agenda as needed;
- i. have the power to send out messages to all members of the organization via e-mail and facebook;
- j. have the power to sign all official papers in the absence of the treasurer, president, and vice president;
- k. carry out the duties of the president in the absence of the president and vice president.

Section 5

The Liaison Officer shall:

- a. be responsible for the visibility of the organization;
- b. assist the president in her/his role as ambassador to other organizations and institutes both on-campus and off-campus;
- c. share information and organize collaboration with other groups on different events and campaigns, both on-campus and off-campus;
- d. be primarily responsible for the organization's public image;
- e. assist the president with responsibilities as needed;
- f. be responsible for attracting members to the organization;
- g. facilitate the success of fundraisers and events through advertising and public relations to other organizations;
- h. assist the president in preparation of the meeting agenda as needed;
- i. have the power to send out messages to all members of the organization via e-mail and facebook;
- j. have the power to sign all official papers in the absence of the treasurer, president, vice president, and secretary.
- k. carry on the official correspondence of the club, in absence of the secretary, the president, and the vice president;
- l. carry out the duties of the president in the absence of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

ARTICLE VII - FACULTY ADVISOR(S)

Section 1

The faculty advisor(s) shall be chosen by the membership at a duly constituted meeting of the organization by majority vote.

Section 2

The faculty advisor(s) shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member(s) of

the Executive Board.

- Section 3 The faculty advisor(s) shall give advice for the better performance of the organization.
- Section 4 The faculty advisor(s) shall meet her/his/their responsibilities to the organization as stated in written directives issued by the Student Activities Office and in the Club Advisor's Operating Manual located on the Student Activities Website.
- Section 5 The faculty advisor(s) shall serve at the discretion of the University.

ARTICLE VIII - NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Section 1 Elections shall be held for all offices, including vacancies created when officers are no longer able to continue serving in their current office for any reason, including study abroad, graduation, or other responsibilities. Faculty advisor(s) must be present for any election, and are responsible for coordinating the election, tallying the ballots, and immediately announcing the results.
- Section 2 Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected. They shall hold office until the end of the Spring semester, at which time their successors shall assume office. If a special election is held to fill a vacancy with a replacement officer, then the candidate who wins that election will assume office immediately after the election occurs.
- Section 3 Elections shall be held during the spring semester, unless they are special elections being held to fill a vacancy. Elections shall take place no earlier than March 30 and no later than April 30 of each year. Special elections for vacancies can occur at any time during the year.
- Section 4 Only active members shall be allowed to vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot unless there is only one candidate for an office in which case election may be by voice vote. Any voting member unable to attend a meeting in which an election is occurring may notify the secretary in advance of the meeting and request to vote via a confidential telephone conversation with the organization's advisor or via a confidential absentee ballot presented to the organization's advisor in person or via e-mail.
- Section 5 Officers shall be elected by a majority of those members voting in the election. If no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, additional ballots will be taken until a majority vote has been reached.
- Section 6 Notification of elections and nominations must be given a week's notice

prior to voting. Notification of elections and nominations occurs verbally at a meeting during the week prior to the election as well as via messages on e-mail and facebook to active members.

- Section 7 Only active members of the organization who are able to attend weekly meetings in person, are permitted to run for office. Candidates for office can be nominated by other active members or they can be self-nominated.

ARTICLE IX - VACANCIES

- Section 1 In the event of the vacancy of the office of president, the duties will be carried out by the vice-president. The vacancy in the office of the vice-president will be filled via a special election, which other officers may enter as candidates. If new vacancies may be created via the replacement of the vice president, then additional special elections can be held contingent on the outcome of the vice presidential special election.

- Section 2 In the event of the vacancy of any other offices, the president will appoint a temporary officer and a special election to replace the vacancy will be held as per the provisions in Article VIII regarding nomination and election of officers. If the vacancy is reported during the last two weeks of a semester or during the winter or summer holiday, special elections to replace vacancies will be held within 3 weeks of the start of the fall or spring semester. For all other vacancies, special elections to replace vacancies must be held within 3 weeks after the vacancy is reported to the members of the Executive Board or faculty advisor(s).

ARTICLE X – IMPEACHMENT AND/OR RECALL

- Section 1 Any officer is subject to impeachment and/or recall and removal from the office for failing to fulfill her/his constitutional responsibilities.

- Section 2 An impeachment request must be given during a regular meeting, and voting members must be informed that an impeachment election will be occurring at a subsequent meeting which is at least one week after the impeachment request. The officer who is subject to the impeachment request and faculty advisor(s) must be informed of the request within 48 hours. Both the impeachment request and voting must take place during regular meetings.

- Section 3 Faculty advisor(s) must be present for any impeachment election is conducted, and are responsible for coordinating the election, tallying the ballots, and immediately announcing the results. Prior to the impeachment election, the members who submitted an impeachment request will be allowed five minutes to present their arguments and the officer who is

subject to the impeachment request will be given an opportunity to respond in five minutes. Thereafter the advisor(s) will moderate any additional discussion or argumentation, until the advisor(s) determine that all parties have had an opportunity to present arguments or no parties wish to speak any further. Upon conclusion of the discussion and arguments for and against impeaching the officer, a vote shall be taken. No officer shall be impeached except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot, following the same protocol as in regular elections.

Section 4 An officer who is impeached shall immediately relinquish her/his office but shall be allowed to maintain active membership in the organization unless by a 90% vote the membership of the organization determines her/his actions have brought discredit to the organization, in which case the officer's membership will be relinquished for the remainder of the academic year.

Section 5 If an officer is impeached, the organization shall fill the position following the procedures outlined under Article IX regarding vacancies.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Amendments to this constitution must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership present.

Section 2 Proposed amendments to the constitution shall be automatically tabled until the next scheduled meeting of the organization. The faculty advisor(s) and voting members of the organization will be notified within 48 hours of the upcoming vote on proposed amendments.

Section 3 Prior written notice via e-mail and via facebook of the proposed change(s) and the date of the meeting at which the proposed change(s) shall be voted on shall be provided to all members of the organization.

Section 4 The President of the organization is responsible for coordinating votes on Constitutional Amendments, tallying the ballots, and immediately announcing the results. The President shall vote in regular meetings only in the event of a tie.

Section 5 The constitution may be amended at a duly constituted meeting of the organization by a two-thirds (2/3) vote provided that prior notice has been given.

ARTICLE XII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revised Edition shall act as the Parliamentary authority

for all meetings of the club.

ARTICLE XIII - RATIFICATION

This constitution must be ratified by a majority vote at a regular meeting and approved by the Student Government Association Budget and Management Committee.

ARTICLE XIV – RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY

If it becomes and as long as it remains an official student organization of Eastern Connecticut State University, the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization will adhere to all University regulations regarding organizations and clubs. While the Organization will comply with these policies, the Student Peace and Human Rights Organization retains the right to protest any policy it regards as unnecessarily restricting its primary mission: advancing Peace and Human Rights.