

# Uncensored America

Date of origin: January 13, 2020

## I. Purpose

- A. Uncensored America is non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting, promoting, and educating college students on their First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

## II. Membership

- A. At all times, the majority (50%+1) of all active members shall be full-time, officially registered students at University Park.
- B. The membership shall be divided into active, inactive, and associate members.
  1. Only currently registered students are eligible for active membership. Only active members may hold office, vote, preside, officiate, or solicit funds on behalf of the organization.
  2. If an active member misses at least 6 consecutive meetings, they will become an inactive member. Inactive members do not have voting privileges. An inactive member can become an active member again by attending at least 4 meetings.
  3. All others interested in furthering the purpose of Uncensored America, including but not limited to, faculty, staff, and community members, shall be associate members.
- C. Active members that have attended at least 4 meetings per semester shall be permitted 1 vote on organization business.
- D. The organization shall have at least 10 active student members at all times.
- E. The club reserves the right to expel a member who is not following the policies of the organization with a super majority vote of attending members - quorum is 75% of active members.
- F. In the case of violations of constitutional policies and/or a conflict between members within the organization the highest ranking officer that is not involved in the conflict, with the assistance from the advisor (if applicable), will facilitate an informal mediation procedure
  1. The mediator shall:
    - i. Arrange for a mediation meeting outside of the regular organization business meeting
    - ii. Explain their role as the impartial party and the objectives of the mediation
    - iii. Set ground rules
    - iv. Allow each party to express their views by allowing the conversation to go where the parties wish it to go
    - v. Collect any available resources that might assist in the resolution (financial documents, emails, photos, etc.)
    - vi. As a third party, do not suggest resolutions but rather leave the responsibility for the resolution with the parties involved
    - vii. Facilitate goal setting to reach a win-win resolution
- G. New Membership and Recruitment
  - a. Any and all new members will be given full disclosure during recruitment, including but not limited to the disclosure of the following:
    - i. New Membership Manual (if applicable)
    - ii. Schedule of New Member Events and Activities (if applicable)
    - iii. A list of responsibilities
    - iv. A copy of the University Hazing policy, prescribed by Policies and Rules for Student Organizations. This document is available upon request by the Office of Student Activities.
  - b. All members, including but not limited to new members and recruits, reserve the right to refrain from participating in any activities without consequence, based upon personal/religious beliefs, personal values, or moral reserve as defined by the member.
  - c. Any and all interaction/activity between members and/or new members will be limited to guidelines stated by university policy, as well as local, state, and federal laws.

### III. **Officers**

- A. Undergraduate candidates must be full-time, officially registered active student members to be selected as officers at the time of the appointment or election.
- B. Graduate candidates may be full-time or part-time, officially registered active student members to be selected as officers at the time of the appointment or election.
- C. Officers may change from full-time to part-time, or vice versa, after becoming an officer. Student organizations may establish and apply additional eligibility criteria for appointed or elected leaders/officers, but should first seek approval from the Office of Student Activities.
- D. Offices
  - 1. The President is the spokesperson for the organization. The President presides at all meetings.
  - 2. The Treasurer shall be charged with handling all organizational finances. The Treasurer presides at all meetings.
- E. Filling unexpired vacancies:
  - 1. Nominations are taken at the meeting following the vacancy. Elections also occur at this meeting.
  - 2. If a majority (50%+1) is not obtained by any of the candidates, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is eliminated, and the active members shall vote again.
  - 3. When nominations are being taken to fill unexpired terms, any member of the organization may nominate another member of the organization by simply raising his/her hand and indicating such when recognized.

### IV. **Meetings**

- A. Uncensored America will meet at least twice per semester.
- B. Adequate advance notice must be given to all active members.
- C. Members shall be notified of all meetings by e-mail.
- D. The President with the consent of the Treasurer may change meeting frequency.
- E. The President may call special meetings should he / she sees fit.

### V. **Voting**

- A. Only active members may vote.
- B. Quorum for all voting shall be thirty-three percent (33%) of the active membership.
- C. A simple majority (50% +1) shall be necessary for all voting, except passing amendments. This majority shall be derived from the active members present.
- D. A supermajority (2/3) of active members shall be necessary for passing amendments.
- E. Adequate advance notice of any upcoming voting must be given to all active members via email.

### VI. **Finances**

- A. All organizational funds are to be deposited and handled exclusively through the Associated Student Activities (ASA) in 240 HUB.
- B. This organization will not have an off-campus account(s).

- C. The Officers of Uncensored America may spend up to \$50 of the organization's funds without the approval of the general membership.
- D. Dues will not be collected.

## VII. **Elections**

- A. Nominations shall take place during the third to last and second to last meeting of the spring semester.
- B. Elections shall take place during the second to last meeting of the spring semester.
- C. This meeting shall be publicized in the meetings preceding it.
- D. Elections codes:
  - 1. Any member may nominate an active member for any office by raising their hand at the appropriate time and being recognized by the presiding official. Next, the active members shall cast secret, written ballots for the candidate of their choice. Each active member shall have one vote per office.
  - 2. If a simple majority cannot be obtained, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from consideration, and the active members shall vote again.
  - 3. In the event of a tie, the ballot will be recast.
- E. All officers serve for a term of one year, beginning in the month following elections and ending the month of elections.
- F. No one involved in conducting the elections may be an official candidate

## VIII. **Amendments to the Constitution**

- A. Any active member may introduce a constitutional amendment at the conclusion of any meeting. At the following meeting, the active members shall vote on the amendment, as outlined in the article on voting. If the amendment passes with a 2/3 majority vote among active members, it shall be sent to the Office of Student Activities for approval.
- B. Amendments will take effect once approved by the Office of Student Activities.
- C. All amendments are subject to the approval of the Office of Student Activities to ensure that they align with University policies and rules.

## IX. **Parliamentary Authority**

- A. "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" by Sarah Corbin Roberts shall be used in all cases not covered by this constitution.

## X. **Accessibility of this Constitution**

- A. Copies of this constitution shall be made available to anyone upon request.

## XI. **Advisor**

- A. This organization must retain an advisor at all times. The advisor will be a full-time Faculty or Staff member of The Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus and will be chosen by the organization.
- B. This organization will choose an advisor through a majority vote by the executive board.