

## College Democrats at UCSC Constitution

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the College Democrats at UCSC, hereinafter referred to as the College Democrats. For all activities occurring off the University of California at Santa Cruz campus, we shall be referred to as the Friends of the College Democrats at UCSC.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The College Democrats, upon charting with Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee (SCCDCC), the College Democrats of America (CDA), and the California Young Democrats (CYD), shall become a member organization in each of the above groups, and therefore pledges itself to support the philosophy and candidates of the Democratic Party. Furthermore, the College Democrats declares its intention to continue a century old tradition of supporting efforts to increase the participation of college students in Democratic Party affairs. To these ends, the College Democrats shall educate and train its members so that they may be better able to:

1. Educate students about the nature of the United States of America's political system and the Democratic Party Platform,
2. Register voters on campus and in the community,
3. Assist in the election of local, state, and national Democrats,
4. Participate in on and off campus events and community service activities.

We will also:

1. Represent the interests of Democratic UCSC students, faculty, and staff through local government, committees, boards, and councils, and actively support (or oppose) issues, initiatives, and candidates that help (or hurt) student interests,
2. Accept contributions in the form of gifts, bequests, and membership dues to carry out our purposes and activities,
3. Maintain an up-to-date roster of the College Democrats membership and keep members informed of activities relating to the club and to the Democratic Party.

### ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

#### Section A. Eligibility

Only currently registered students may be active members in a student organization at UC Santa Cruz. Only active members may vote or hold office. We will not haze due to ethical principles and as ordered by California State Law.

We will not restrict membership based upon, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical and mental disability, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship, or status as a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces. Neither shall any persons hold membership of the College Democrats while also holding membership of any organization that advocates the violent overthrow of the United States Government. Any non-students attending multiple College Democrats meetings must fill out the proper paperwork with Student Organization & Advising Resources (SOAR).

#### Section B. Members in Good Standing & Membership Dues

A Member in Good Standing shall be defined as any member, as defined above, who has paid the yearly dues, has provided their chartering information, and has attended one meeting in the current academic year. Only Members in Good Standing are eligible to vote or to hold office in this organization.

#### Section C. Alumni Membership

All former students at UCSC (those who have previously been enrolled for at least one academic term) who declare their support of the Democratic Party may become Alumni Members of the College Democrats upon receipt of their membership dues. Alumni members cannot vote or hold office in this organization, but may otherwise actively participate in activities.

#### Section D. Honorary Membership

With the approval of the Executive Council, anyone may be granted an Honorary Membership upon receipt of the membership dues. Honorary members are entitled to participate in all club activities, with the exception of holding office and voting.

#### Section E. Membership Lists

The club shall keep in electronic form a membership list containing the name, phone number, e-mail address, and expected year of graduation. E-Mail addresses shall be used to compile an electronic mailing list that shall be maintained by the Communications Director or whomever they appoint with the approval of the majority of the Executive Council. Non-members can be added to the mailing list with the discretion of the Executive Council. This membership information shall be subject to the rights of inspection required by law.

The club shall keep an ongoing recruitment "sign-up" list for those who have shown interest in the club. This list is private and is not subject to inspection laws. Only the Executive Council may have a full copy of this list without the approval of the Executive Council by a 2/3 super-majority vote. Release and usage of both the membership and recruitment lists is subject to the discretion of the Executive Council.

#### Section F. Transferability of Membership

Neither the Membership of the College Democrats nor any rights in the membership thereof may be transferred or assigned for value or otherwise.

#### Section G. Termination of Membership

The membership of any member shall terminate upon resignation of the member, expiration of the period of membership, non-payment of dues, or expulsion or suspension of the member by the Members in Good Standing. Following a determination by the Executive Council that a member should be suspended or expelled, a notice shall be given 14 days before the proposed effective date of the suspension or expulsion, and the reasons therefore. The member shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either orally or in writing, before the final vote by the Members in Good Standing on the matter. The result of the vote will take immediate effect.

#### Section H. Club Practice

The College Democrats shall not discriminate based upon, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical and mental disability, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship, or status as a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces. We will not haze due to ethical principles and as ordered by California State Law.

### ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### Section A. Authority and Responsibility

The Executive Council shall have general authority and responsibility for the ongoing affairs of the College Democrats. The Executive Council's decisions may only be overruled if the Members in Good Standing vote by a 2/3 majority to overrule the decision in question. Any decisions made by the Executive Council since the last meeting must be announced to the College Democrats at the next general meeting.

#### Section B. Composition

The Executive Council shall be composed of the President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Membership, Campus Affairs Director, Communications Director, President Emeritus, and at-large members. With respect to at-large members, there shall be one at-large member for each 15 members of the organization after the initial 15 (for example: 1-15 member(s) = 0 at-large members, 16-30 members = 1 at-large member, etc.). Any Member in Good Standing who wishes to attend Executive Council meetings will be welcomed.

#### Section C. Quorum

A quorum of the Executive Council shall be noted when a minimum of 51% of the Executive Council are present in person.

## Section D. Elections

Elections of the Executive Council shall take place in the following manner:

When:

By the 8th week of winter Quarter.

Eligibility of Candidacy and Voting:

Only those who are Members in Good Standing are eligible to vote or run for office in the election.

Procedure:

All elections must be announced to members in good standing two weeks before the elections take place. No member may occupy for more than one position.

During the election, ballots should be collected by the VP of finance and counted by the President. Both the actions of VP of Finance and the President shall be observed and verified by the remainder of the Executive Council. All elections must abide by the following guidelines:

1. Elections must be decided by secret ballot.
2. Voting will occur in the following order:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President of Finance
  - c. Vice President of Membership
  - d. Campus Affairs Director
  - e. Communications director(if applicable)
  - f. Member at-large
3. Each candidate must make a speech of no more than two minutes.
4. A person must be present to run for any elected office.
5. Any write-in candidates must be Members in Good Standing.
6. Elections for all positions shall be conducted by ranked choice voting as is explained in the following video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y3jE3B8HsE>.
7. In the case that two candidates for an office both receive an equal share of the vote after all other candidate's votes have been properly reallocated, the winner shall be determined by a flip of an American Quarter which is not a state quarter portraying a state which was once part of the Confederate States of America.

## Section E. Terms of Office

All elected officers' terms begin at the start of the Spring Quarter following their election. Their terms terminate at the end of Winter Quarter of the following academic year. Appointed officers' terms will begin immediately after acceptance of the post, and will expire at the end of the quarter the appointment was made. No person may hold the office of the president for more than 2 academic years consecutively. After holding office, the person is eligible to hold office again after 2 quarters. However, a person may run for an office again if they held that office for less than two full quarters previously.

## Section F. Removal

Executive Council may be removed in the following manner: 1 Cause for Removal: Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of assigned duties, being convicted of a felony, or upon other grounds found by all other members of the Executive Council to constitute good and sufficient cause. a Process of Removal: To begin the process of removal, any Member in Good Standing may charge the officer with the reasons for their removal during a meeting of members of the Executive Council. The officer in question must be offered an opportunity at that meeting to defend themselves. If the charge stands, after a period of two weeks, the issue will be put up for a membership vote. Then, if a majority of Members in Good Standing are present, the Members in Good Standing must vote for removal by a majority vote.

## Section G. Vacancies

A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Council dies, resigns, is removed from office, or misses more than 3 consecutive meetings without an approved excuse (as defined by the Executive Council). If there is a vacancy of any other position than the President, the President shall appoint a successor with the majority consent of the remaining officers. If the vacancy is in the Presidency, the position shall be temporarily filled by the Vice President of Finance. The Vice President of Membership will facilitate a vote as soon as possible to decide which Executive Council Member will fill the role of President for the remainder of the term of office. Each Executive Council Member will have one vote and the Executive Council Member receiving the plurality of the votes will serve until the end of the term. The new President will be responsible for appointing a successor to fill their old position. This appointment must be approved by a majority of the remaining officers. If the Vice President of Finance is not selected to continue in the role of President they may return to their office of Vice President of Finance.

## ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

### Section A. The President Shall:

1. Be the Chief Executive of the College Democrats,
2. Act as the official representative to other groups and the media,
3. Define the agenda of the organization for their tenure,
4. Carry out the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Council,
5. Appoint, in consultation with the Executive Council, standing and ad-hoc committees,
6. Preside over all official meetings,
7. Delegate tasks,
8. Build the future leadership of the organization,
9. With the consent of the Executive Council, create and fill appointed positions to fulfill the needs of the organization as they arise.

### Section B. The Vice President of Finance Shall:

1. Direct all fundraising activities and membership dues collection,
2. Maintain complete records of all expenditures and receipts,
3. Act as the College Democrats official liaison to the Federal Elections Commission, the California Fair Political Practices Commission, the Santa Cruz City Clerk (concerning campaign finance laws) and with all financial institutions that the College Democrats maintain funds with,
4. Process reimbursements, purchase requests and applications for SOAR/CORE Council funding, Grant applications for the organization, and maintain the accounts for each,
5. Perform such duties as the Executive Council or President may assign or are customarily performed by a Vice President of Finance.

Section C. The Vice President of Membership Shall:

1. Plan outreach programs and membership drives; including but not limited to, tabling at the Bay Tree Quarry Plaza, active recruitment activities, and planning social gatherings,
2. Work with the Communications Director on membership recruitment oriented publicity,
3. Keep and maintain a current listing of contact information for all members,
4. Do what is necessary to maintain the current membership,
5. Promote diversity,
6. Perform such duties as the Executive Council or President may assign or are customarily performed by a Vice President of Membership.

Section D. The Vice President of Campus Affairs Shall:

1. Act as official representative of the College Democrats at all campus functions and events (along with the President), specifically SOAR,
2. Act as the primary liaison/signatory with SOAR, ensuring the organization is reregistered every year, that all activities are in accordance with University Policy, that rooms have been reserved for our meetings, etc.,
3. Perform such duties as the Executive Council or President may assign or are customarily performed by a Campus Affairs Director.

Section E. Communications Director

1. Maintain the website and social media presence,
2. Formulate and communicate the chapter message,
3. Design fliers,
4. Write and issue press releases for the organization's activities and events,
5. Write op-eds and letters to the editor,
6. Maintain the organization's calendar,
7. Perform such duties as the Executive Council or President may assign or are customarily performed by a Communications Director.

## ARTICLE VI. REGULAR MEETINGS

### Section A. Frequency of Meetings

A schedule of regular meetings that includes at least one general meeting every other week of the academic year shall be set by the President. All general meetings shall be well publicized and shall be conducted at reasonable hours and locations.

## Section B. Quorum

A quorum at a College Democrats general meeting shall consist of no less than 51% of the members of the executive council. A quorum shall be required at all general meetings before any official actions can be taken.

## ARTICLE VII. ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

### Section A. Overview

The platform of the College Democrats shall consist of any and all endorsements made by the club.

The College Democrats may endorse:

1. The Democratic Party candidate in a partisan political office,
2. Democratic primary candidates for major political office,
3. Any Democrat for non-partisan political office,
4. Any initiative, measure, advisory petition, or action,
5. Members in Good Standing and Alumni Members for any office within the Democratic Party structure.

The College Democrats may not endorse:

1. Anyone who is a member of the KKK or any hate group as defined by the Southern Poverty Law Center,
2. Anyone who supports the violent overthrow of the United States Government.

### Section B. Endorsement Procedure

1. For major candidate endorsements, a Standing Endorsement Committee shall be created consisting of no more than six Members in Good Standing including the President, Vice President of Membership, and Campus Affairs Director. This committee will be responsible for doing minimal research on candidates and supplying the club with pertinent information about their background and positions. For initiatives, measures, or local elections, the Endorsement Committee is not necessary.
2. The Endorsement Committee shall inform each eligible candidate, in writing and/or by telephone, of the endorsement procedure. The Candidate will be invited to either speak at the endorsement meeting or fill out a questionnaire created by the Endorsement Committee and approved by the membership. In the event that suitable questionnaires are provided by other organizations such as the California Young Democrats or Santa Cruz County Democratic Party, these questionnaires can be used in the place of questionnaires created by the Endorsement Committee. Once all candidates have been given an equal opportunity to participate, the Members in Good Standing must vote via

secret ballot in the affirmative by at least a 2/3 supermajority for the endorsement to become official.

3. Any lone Democratic primary candidate shall be endorsed by acclamation, requiring quorum as listed above, without otherwise required endorsement interview or meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION

Dissolution of the College Democrats requires unanimous approval of the Executive Council and approval of three-fourths of the Members in Good Standing at two consecutive general meetings. Upon dissolution, all unspent funds (after expenses/liabilities are accounted for) will be donated to CYD or CDA. It is hoped that the organization who receives these funds will return it to any new Democratic organization that comes into existence at UC Santa Cruz in the future.

#### ARTICLE IX. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Any Member in Good Standing may propose an amendment to this constitution. This constitution may only be amended after a one-week notice before the proposed vote where the change is approved by a 2/3rd supermajority. All amendments, additions, or deletions must be filed with SOAR.

#### ARTICLE X. CONSTITUTIONAL SUSPENSION

All or part of this constitution, except this article, may be temporarily suspended through a motion brought by a member in good standing, which then must be seconded by another member in good standing, and passed by a 3/4ths majority of present members in good standing. Any such suspension shall end at the adjournment of the meeting during which the constitution is suspended

#### ARTICLE XI. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The authority used for points not covered in this constitution in regards to the College Democrats is Robert's Rules of Order.

#### ARTICLE XII. CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY

The constitution will nullify any previous constitutions of the College Democrats, and will stand as is, until amended. Full replacement shall require a vote of 100% of the Executive Council and 100% of the Members in Good Standing of the College Democrats.

#### ARTICLE XIII. STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The College Democrats at UCSC pledge to:

- Accept responsibility for compliance with University policies and campus regulations.
- Understand and agree to abide by the provisions of the anti-hazing statutes in the California Education Code or Penal Code (as amended, effective January 1st, 2007).
- Affirm that the rules, regulations and policies of the University of California and UCSC shall supersede the rules, regulations, policies and/or bylaws of any affiliated international, national, regional or local organization.

Signed by,

Edward Estrada  
Authorized Representative

12/16/2020