

Fourth-Year Trustees Constitution

We, the students of the University of Virginia, recognize the importance of self-governance for the Fourth-Year Class. We acknowledge the need for a body that can communicate with the University on behalf of the Class and with the Class on behalf of the University. We understand the necessity of an organization that can plan, implement, and promote Class activities that develop professional skills, social skills, and an intellectual community. Finally, we acknowledge the need for an organization that preserves the traditions of the University of Virginia.

With the mission of fostering and maintaining a sense of community, loyalty, and responsibility among all students towards their Class, the University of Virginia, and the Alumni Association we do hereby establish the Fourth-Year Trustees.

Article I: General

Section 1: Name

The chief self-governance organization for the Fourth-Year Class shall hereby be called the Fourth-Year Trustees.

Section 2: Authority

The authority of the Fourth-Year Trustees shall be derived from the members of the Class and recognized by the Alumni Association, the President of the University, the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Board of Visitors. The Fourth-Year Trustees shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the University. The Fourth-Year Trustees shall exist with approval from the University. To develop a lasting relationship between the Alumni Association and the Fourth-Year Trustees, the Alumni Association shall take an advising role to support in the implementation of Class-unifying and alumni-related activities. The office of the Dean of Students in cooperation with the Alumni Association shall provide advice on Class activities. So that the Fourth-Year Trustees can provide beneficial career and development services, the Career Center shall offer advice and resources in the planning of career events. The Office of Major Events will take an active advisory role in the planning of graduation week activities with the Fourth-Year Trustees.

Section 3: Objectives

The objectives of the Fourth-Year Trustees are to represent the Class's interests to the University community; to plan, implement, and promote social, and philanthropic activities; to communicate important information to members of the Class; to promote an intellectual community through academic activities and faculty-student interactions; to preserve University traditions; and to foster a sense of loyalty to one another, the Alumni Association, and the University in their time on Grounds and beyond. Further the Trustees should implement a giving program for the Class, host valediction, plan the University's graduation weekend, and organize the reunions of the Class.

Article II: Officers

Section 1: President and Vice President

The Fourth-Year Trustees shall be led by the Class President and Class Vice President.

Section 2: Elections

The President and Vice President shall be selected separately by an election held in the spring semester before their fourth year on Grounds. All members of the Class are electors in this election.

The election shall be administered by the University Board of Elections or its successor organization, and the candidates for office must abide by their rules for campaigning. The University Board of Elections is not granted the authority to create or impose restrictions on a person's eligibility for the office of President nor Vice President not outlined in this constitution.

Section 3: Qualifications to serve as Class Officer

Only a student who is enrolled in an on-Grounds full-time degree-seeking program and a member of the Class shall be eligible for the office of President; only persons eligible to serve as President may serve as Vice President.

A member of the Class shall be considered a candidate for the office of President or Vice President if they have received 25 unique signatures from members of their Class.

Section 4: Powers of the President

The President shall preside over all Trustees and Executive Board meetings. The President shall retain final approval over all activities and shall be the representative of the Class in all matters regarding the University and its administration. The President must propose a regular meeting time for the Trustees. The President may not vote on matters set in front of the Trustees but maintains the power to veto any Trustees decision. The President shall represent the Class in all matters regarding the University and its administration.

Section 5: Powers of the Vice President

In instances where the President cannot preside over a Trustees meeting or an Executive Board meeting, the Vice President shall. The Vice President shall also act as a liaison between committees, committee chairs, and other Executive Board members. The Vice President may assist the President with presiding over Trustees meetings and representing the interests of the Class to the University. The Vice President shall vote on matters set in front of the Trustees in the case of a tie.

Section 6: Term of Office

The President and Vice President shall remain in their positions until such time as their five-year reunion, at which point they may be re-elected with the consent of the Class and the Alumni Association.

Section 7: Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the position of President. The office of Vice President would then be vacant.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice President, the President must nominate a new Vice President to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Trustees. If a vacancy occurs in both the offices of President and Vice President simultaneously, the Trustees should vote until a member of the Trustees has been elected President with a two-thirds of the vote.

Article III: The Trustees

Section 1: Membership and Selection

The Trustees shall be composed of members selected and appointed by the President and Vice President. Members should be selected in the Spring semester before their fourth year on Grounds. In the case of a disagreement, the President decides the composition of the Trustees. The President and Vice President must apply the same rules for selection across all applicants. Only students who are enrolled in an on-Grounds full-time degree-seeking program and members of the Class are eligible for membership. The President reserves the power to appoint new members of the Trustees under extraordinary circumstances, but only as they are needed.

Section 2: Powers of the Trustees Members

The power to vote on Trustees matters shall only be extended to those persons selected to serve as members of the Trustees by the President.

Section 3: Size of the Trustees

The number of members of the Trustees should not be more than two percent of the total number of students enrolled in the Class.

Section 4: Guarantee of Representation

There shall be a guarantee that for each undergraduate school with fifty members of the Class, there shall be at least one member of the Trustees to represent them. During the fall semester, the President shall select a minimum of two new transferring students to be members of the Trustees.

Section 5: Committees

The President may form standing committees at the beginning of their term. The President and Vice President may then assign members to those committees in a manner they see fit. The Trustees may further establish any ad hoc committees as necessary, according to the procedures set out in the adopted bylaws. Each member of the Trustees, excluding the President and Vice President, must serve on one or more committees.

Section 6: Quorum

A Quorum is considered two-thirds of Trustees members.

Section 7: Bylaws

At the beginning of each administration, the President and Vice President should introduce to the Trustees a set of bylaws. The bylaws may outline the operation of the Fourth-Year Trustees and its meetings as well as the responsibilities and expectations of Trustees members and Executive Board members. The bylaws may not violate or contradict any provision in this constitution.

Section 8: Amending the Bylaws

An amendment to the bylaws may be proposed by any member of the Trustees. The bylaws can only be amended with a two-thirds vote of the present quorum.

Section 9: Removal from office

The Trustees may, with a quorum present, remove the President, the Vice President, any member of the Executive Board, or any Trustees member. Four-fifths of present members must vote in favor of removal for any Trustees member or Officer to be removed from their office.

The President and Vice President may remove at any time any member who has violated the Honor code or University Judiciary Committee Standards of conduct, broken the bylaws, or disrupted the business of the Trustees.

Article IV: Executive Board

Section 1: Members of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and all Committee Chairs.

Section 2: Selection of the Secretary and Treasurer

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be nominated by the President and Vice President and must receive two-thirds approval from a quorum of the Trustees.

Section 3: The Office of Secretary

The Secretary of the Trustees is responsible for keeping minutes of Trustees proceedings, a log of Trustees activities and programs, and a record of the attendance at meetings. The Secretary of the shall be responsible for maintaining a record to pass on to future Trustees and for the preservation of University of Virginia history.

Section 4: Office of Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Trustees shall be responsible for tracking and maintaining the budget of the Trustees. The Treasurer shall keep track of all streams of income and all expenditures of the Trustees. The Treasurer shall communicate with the President, Vice President, Trustees members, and Administration regarding the Trustees's financial standing. The Treasurer should also propose a policy for reporting expenses.

Section 5: Committee Chairs

The President and Vice President shall appoint all committee chairs. Committee Chairs must be Trustees members. Each chair is responsible for abiding by their budget, reporting expenses to the Treasurer, reporting attendance to the Secretary, and

communicating with the President and Vice President. Each chair shall be responsible for planning and presiding over regular committee meetings.

Article V Finances:

Section 1: The Budget

The budget should be appropriated to the Trustees to accomplish its mission and objectives for the benefit of the Class, the University, and the Alumni Association.

Section 2: The Process for Adopting a Budget

The President and Vice President shall propose the Trustees's budget. The President and Vice President must receive the Trustees's approval before enacting a budget. The budget should be made publicly available upon its enactment.

Section 3: Expenditures

All expenditures must be approved by the methods established in the Bylaws before they are made. In the event that expenditures are not prior approved, reimbursement will be subject to the desires of the Executive Board.

Article VI Amending the Constitution

Section 1: The Process for Amending the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution can only be adopted through a student-wide referendum in which more than fifteen percent of the Class voted, and the amendment received support from a simple majority of voters. An amendment to the constitution can be placed on the ballot if it has been passed in a resolution supported by four-fifths of current members of the Trustees or by a petition that has gained the signatures of twenty-five percent of the Class.