

Constitution of the
GLBTA Network
of the
University of Minnesota

Article I: Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Allies Network, herein known as the GLBTA Network.

Article II: Purpose & Non Discrimination Policy

Section 1: Purpose Statement

The GLBTA Network is a non-profit student organization that is formed and operates with the intent to promote tolerance and acceptance of diversity and sexual orientation, and to help in the promotion of the break down of gender stereotypes. The Network seeks to create a Housing environment where all can feel welcomed and accepted for their unique talents and contributions, and enjoy the full benefits of the U's educational system free from fear of harassment or persecution. The above objectives will be accomplished, abiding by the applicable rules and policies of the University of Minnesota, through educating the campus body in matters of and pertaining to sexuality and creating a community for all.

Section 2:

It is the policy of this organization that no person on the basis of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, political persuasion, weight, height, or disability shall be discriminated against in educational programs, facilities, activities, or admission.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Types of Membership

There are two types of membership in this group: Regular Members and Voting Members. Membership is open to any U of M student in good standing with the university and other community members.

Section 2: Voting Members Requirements & Privileges

Voting members must be current students of the University of Minnesota who have filled out a Network Application and have attended at least 50 % of the scheduled meetings during the current school year and since their membership application submission and reside in a Residential Complex. Applications are to be resubmitted to the Co-Presidents at the beginning of each school year. Voting members must notify the Co-Presidents of changes in vital information in order to retain voting privileges. The Network Applications and new members are accepted throughout the year. Voting members receive one vote and are eligible to run for office and represent the organization.

Section 3: Regular Members

Regular members shall be Housing and Residential Life students of the U who are in good standing with the University and have not submitted a Network Application but have attended the Network meetings. Regular members may also be non-student members of the community. Regular members may participate in Network events, but do not hold voting privileges and cannot run for a Network office.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

1. Membership in the organization can be denied or terminated if it is determined by the organization that an individual's actions are harmful to the goals of the group.
2. Termination of membership shall be by a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Voting Members present and shall follow the guidelines of the Recalling of an Officer.
3. The Network's Co-Presidents will notify the terminated member immediately.

Section 5: Membership Privacy & Confidentiality

All membership lists belong solely to the Network and will not be sold or given to other organizations. Membership information will remain confidential.

Section 6: Association

Association with the Network does not preclude one to be of any sexual orientation or political or religious persuasion.

Article IV: Executive Officers

Section 1: Office Positions

The officers of this organization will consist of two Co-Presidents, a Vice President, a Secretary/Treasurer, a Social Director, RHA liaison and QSCC representative.

Section 2: Election of Officers

- A. The officers of this organization shall be elected by majority vote of the Voting Members present.

- B. Election of officers will occur at the first meeting in April of the Spring Semester and voting members will be notified by April 1 of the date of the election meeting.
- C. Incoming officers shall take office at the last meeting in April of the Spring Semester.
- D. An officer's term is for one year.
- E. The Co-Presidents are responsible for holding elections for the next year's officers.
- F. Nomination shall be by secret ballot at the meeting prior to the election meeting at which point nominees may accept or decline.
- G. Voting shall be done by secret ballot and will be tallied by the Advisor.
- H. The Network shall promote diversity in the membership of the Executive Board.
- I. Officers must be in good standings and must not be on academic, social, or disciplinary probation.

Section 3: Grounds for Removal of Officers

The grounds for the removal of Executive Board members consist of the following:

- A. Failure to honorably fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office.
- B. Continued gross or willful neglect of the duties and responsibilities of the office.
- C. Failure or refusal to disclose necessary information on matters of organization business.
- D. Unauthorized expenditure, misuse of organization funds, or forging of documents.
- E. Misrepresentation of the organization and its officers to outside persons.
- F. Being on academic probation and/or on disciplinary probation with the University.

Section 4: Recall of Officers

- A. In the event that an officer is deemed grossly negligent, a voting member may move for impeachment.
- B. In the event of a motion to impeach, a majority vote of the voting members will mean that impeachment proceedings will be undertaken in the next regular meeting.
- C. Each member will be personally notified of the impending impeachment proceedings by the other officers.
- D. During the impeachment proceedings, each Regular and Voting Member will be allowed to question the officer, following which, the officer will be given time to explain their defense.
- E. After discussion, a vote will be taken by secret ballot. Removal must be by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Voting Members present who had submitted Network applications prior to the move for impeachment.

Section 5: Filling Vacancies

In the event that an office is vacated, emergency elections will be held, as in Article III, Section 2, supervised by the remaining officers.

Article V: Duty of Officers

Section 1: Co-Presidents

The duty of the Co-Presidents is to organize and preside at all meetings. The Co-Presidents shall facilitate all Executive Board meetings and meet regularly with the advisor. They shall be aware of all money matters and provide motivation and focus for the group. The Co-Presidents shall collect Network Applications and maintain e-mail and phone lists. The Co-Presidents shall represent the Network at other University of Minnesota entities. The job of Co-Presidents is also to organize Executive Board retreats and coordinate Executive Board transition. The Co-Presidents are obligated to enforce due observance of this constitution.

Section 2: Vice-President

The duty of the Vice President is to serve all duties of the Co-Presidents in their absence. The Vice President shall serve as parliamentarian and direct constitutional updating and revising. They will coordinate recruitments and retention effects and also serve as the point person for the Network in implementing the department's 'Safe Space' program. The Vice Presidents shall perform other duties as required.

Section 3: Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall record and maintain minutes of all organizational meetings as well as sending minutes to the appropriate members and institutional staff. He or she may appoint a Record Keeper to take minutes in their absence. He or she shall make the minutes accessible for all members of the Network. He or she shall keep all financial accounts in good order; be responsible for any funds that need to be held for the group; inform the group of any and all changes in financial situations; and other duties as assigned.

Section 4: Social Director

The Social Director shall plan, coordinate and implement social activities and events for the membership of the Network and will work closely with committees to plan these events. They shall also coordinate all PR efforts for Network programs and events.

Section 5: RHA Representative

The RHA Representative shall attend RHA meetings as required by the RHA constitution. In the event of their absence, it is their responsibility to find a substitute among the Voting Members of the Network. The RHA Representative shall also keep the Network informed regarding the business of the RHA and on to RHA execute the same.

Section 6: QSCC Representative

The QSCC Representative shall attend QSCC meetings as required by the QSCC. In the event of their absence, it is their responsibility to find a substitute among

the Voting Members of the Network. The QSCC Representative shall also keep the Network informed regarding the business of the QSCC.

Article VI: Committees

Section 1: Ad Hoc Committees

The President(s) shall create Ad Hoc committees when the needs are required by the Network or by petition of the membership.

Section 2: Ad Hoc Committee Purpose

There shall be committees to serve the needs of the organization as these needs arise. These committees shall be designated to work on the focus area that the group decides.

Section 3: Ad Hoc Committee Heads

Each committee will have a committee head(s). The committee heads shall be selected by the Ad Hoc committee. The duties of the committee heads are to coordinate all committee meetings and to coordinate certain projects or needs in conjunction with the group's current focus and goals. Also committees are to organize all events under the committee's interest area. These committees shall maintain contact with the Executive Officers and perform other duties as required. The committee heads shall report to the Vice President and schedule meetings with the Vice President as the need arises.

Section 4: Ad Hoc Committee Head Qualifications

A committee chairperson must be in good standing with the University including academics and disciplinary violations.

At the ratification of this Constitution, be it known that the Secretary has in his/her possession paperwork for standing committees.

Article VII: Executive Board

Section 1: Executive Board Members

1. The Executive Board shall consist of all officers.
2. The Network Advisor shall appoint officers with the advice and consent of Housing & Residential Life for an interim period ending with the election cycle April 2004.

Section 2: Executive Board Procedures

The governing of this organization's operations shall be vested in the Executive Board, who shall be empowered to make it's own rules of procedure.

Article VIII: Organizational Advisor(s)

Section 1: Selection of Advisors

- A. Housing & Residential Life shall designate advisors for the term of one academic year.

Section 2: Duties and authorities:

The duties and authorities of the advisor(s) shall be as follows:

- A. At least one advisor shall be present at organizational and Executive Board meetings.
- B. Provide personal and professional advice and aid the organization as a resource person.
- C. Act as a non-voting member.
- D. Hold periodic, individual meetings with each Executive Board member.
- E. Meet weekly with the President.
- F. Meet Monthly with the Treasurer.

Section 3: Community Advisors liaisons

Community Advisors selected by Housing and Residential Life to work with the Network shall fulfill the following roles:

- A. Serve as a liaison between the Network and their Hall.
- B. Advertise for Network events in their Hall.
- C. Promote the Network in their Hall through active channels such as staff, hall directors, and bulletin boards.
- D. Support the Network by attending meetings and events.
- E. Be an active, voting member.
- F. Actively recruit membership for the Network.
- G. The CA shall, and is not limited to, assess their hall and its needs and implement in-hall programming in addition to their membership in the Network as required by their supervisor.

Article IX: Meetings

Section 1: Frequency

All the meeting times and days shall be decided upon at the first formal meeting of the semester.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Co-Presidents, Advisor, or upon the written request of three Voting Members that outlines a purpose.

Section 3: Quorum

A quorum shall be made up of 50% + 1 of the Voting Members including the Executive Officers.

Section 4: Parliamentary Procedure

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed. The advisor shall serve as sergeant-at-arms, should the need arise.

Section 5: Executive Board Meetings

Executive Board meetings will be called at the discretion of the Executive Board and Advisor.

Article X: Finances

Section 1: University Policy

This organization shall follow current University Policy in regards to the handling of funds. The Network will adhere to Housing & Residential Life guidelines with University funding.

Section 2: Budget Planning

If a budget is called for, the Executive Board must first vote it on, and then the treasurer will be called upon to oversee all transactions.

Section 3: Disposition of Funds in the Event of Dissolution

In the event that this organization ceases to exist, any remaining funds shall be diverted to Housing & Residential Life.

Article XI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed by any member and must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members present at a regular meeting following the meeting at which the proposed amendment was distributed.

Article XII: Ratification

Section 1: Ratification

This Constitution has been ratified by consensus of the GLBTA Network membership December 2003.

Section 2: Commencement

This Constitution shall take effect upon the interim appointment of executive officers that shall serve their term until the general election specified by this Constitution.

Bylaws

There are no specific bylaws at this time.