



Official Organization Constitution
Updated Summer 2020

Preamble

We, the Mizzou College Democrats, stand united in our determination to create greater opportunity for involvement in the political process. We dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of Democratic college students at the University of Missouri. Our mission is to serve as a representative body for fellow Democrats on this campus. We call for the full participation of all MU students, regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or socioeconomic status.

Understanding the importance of participation in the Democratic Party for the advancement of our values and principles, we hereby associate ourselves and adopt this constitution as the Mizzou College Democrats.

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name

1. The official name of this organization shall be the Mizzou College Democrats.
 - a. Acceptable references include MU College Democrats, Mizzou Democrats, University of Missouri College Democrats, MU Dems, and Mizzou Dems.

Section 2. Purpose and Activities

1. Mizzou College Democrats pledges itself to support progressive values and policies, assisting and aiding the Democratic Party in its efforts. Furthermore, the Mizzou College Democrats declares its intentions to support all efforts to increase the participation of students in Democratic efforts through education, outreach, and advocacy.
2. The Mizzou College Democrats pledges to offer its members the opportunity to get involved in community outreach as well as foster involvement with local, state, and national Democratic campaigns.

Article II. Organization

Section 1. Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice, Treasurer, Communications Director, Campus Coordinator, Membership Coordinator and Chief of Staff.
2. All executive decisions shall be made by a unanimous vote, and a quorum shall consist of the President or Acting President and (3) other officers.
3. The Executive Board shall make all decisions mandated in the Constitution as well as all other actions necessary to ensure the efficient functioning of the organization.

4. The Executive Board shall have the ability to create and dissolve electable or appointed positions under the Executive Board that are deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the organization.
5. All members of the Executive Board shall have the power to delegate activities to one another with unanimous consent.

Section 2. Officers

1. President – The President shall:
 - a. Serve as the chief executive and administrative officer for the organization's activities.
 - b. Acts as the primary liaison between Mizzou College Democrats and external political organizations, candidates, campaigns, and other Mizzou campus organizations.
 - c. Take any action deemed necessary and proper for the efficient functioning of the organization.
2. Vice President – The Vice President shall:
 - a. Serve as an executive aide to the President for the purpose of administrative duties.
 - b. Act as the chief manager of intra-organizational functions and matters, which includes:
 - i. Scheduling and executing weekly meetings.
 - ii. Overseeing departments formed within the organization.
 - iii. Serving as the primary liaison between members and the Executive Board.
 - c. Take any action deemed necessary and proper for the efficient functioning of the organization.
3. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Keep all financial records in order.
 - b. Spend money as needed for efficient functioning and approve spending proposals from other officers.
 - c. Prepare ORG budgets with input from the Executive Board.
 - d. Organize and lead fundraising activities and initiatives.
 - e. Act on specific duties agreed upon by the other members of the Executive Board.
 - f. Be the principal party responsible for accessing and managing the Mizzou College Democrats bank account.
4. Communications Director – The Communications Director shall:
 - a. Be solely responsible for the establishment and upkeep of all digital efforts.
 - b. Design and oversee the organization's promotional strategies.
 - c. Act on specific duties agreed upon by the Executive Board.

5. Membership Coordinator – The Membership Coordinator shall:
 - a. Plan and execute all membership and recruitment efforts.
 - b. Organize activities and efforts aimed toward retraining members and/or intra-organizational community building.
 - c. Act on specific duties agreed upon by the Executive Board.

6. Chief of Staff – The Chief of Staff shall:
 - a. Be selected by the Executive Board through majority consent.
 - b. Keep records on the happenings of organizational activities and meetings.
 - c. Serve as an executive assistant to the organization, assisting in the oversight and execution of any Mizzou College Democrats function, as designated by the Executive Board.
 - d. Serve as a proxy or replacement should any executive be unable to perform his or her duties with the exception of the President.
 - e. Serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Board; unless in the event of a removal of an officer.

Section 3. Non-Executive Offices and Departments

1. The Executive Board shall have the ability to increase and dissolve departments under the Executive Board that are deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the organization.
 - a. Departments shall be defined as groups within the organization that have a volunteer-based, open membership.
2. The Executive Board shall have the ability to create and dissolve electable or appointed non-Executive offices under the Executive Board that are deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the organization and departments.
3. In order to dissolve a department or non-Executive office, the Executive Board must have unanimous consent.

Section 4. Affiliation

1. The Mizzou College Democrats are and shall be affiliated with the College Democrats of Missouri, College Democrats of America, and Young Democrats of America.
2. The organization shall not give explicit endorsements to any candidate running for local, state or national government before a primary election (unless under the exception of Part 3 in Section 4). This clause shall not prohibit the individual members of the organization from working on campaigns.
3. Mizzou College Democrats endorsements in the midst of a primary will only be permitted under the following circumstances. All circumstances must be met in order to endorse.
 - a. The race must be for a state or local government office in Missouri.
 - b. Credible news outlets within the state of Missouri must presume the candidate to be the Democratic nominee - excluding editorial pieces. For candidates seeking statewide office, three news sources are needed. For

candidates seeking office in the state legislature or local government, one news source is needed.

- c. A unanimous vote of all elected executive board members must agree to endorse the candidate
4. The Mizzou College Democrats shall not affiliate itself with any organization or effort that threatens to adversely affect the Mizzou College Democrats, its membership or its purpose as an organization.

Article III. Elections and Vacancies

Section 1. Elections

1. The date for elections for all elected Executive Board offices shall be selected by the Executive office holders by unanimous approval within the month of April.
2. Procedures for speeches, order and voting style to be determined by present Executive Board office holders.
3. There must be a minimum 2.2 GPA requirement for all officers.
4. All persons voting must be active members, defined in Article IV Section 1.
 - a. Membership must be established at least eight weeks prior to elections in order to vote.
5. All new officers will take office within a transition period of no more than two weeks.

Section 2. Vacancies

1. Upon the permanent absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume the role of President.
2. Upon the permanent absence of any other officer, the President will appoint a person to hold the position to be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
3. The President may, upon the temporary absence of an officer and the approval of the other members of the Executive Board, appoint the Chief of Staff to fill that position until such a time as the officer can return.

Section 3. Removal of Officers

1. The Executive Board can vote to remove one of its own members if every Executive Board member except the individual in question supports removal.
 - a. Executive Board members must notify the individual they wish to remove at least seven (7) days prior to a voting meeting.
 - b. The Chief of Staff may vote in Executive removal proceedings.
2. The Executive Board holds the authority to appoint and remove any individual appointed positions with a unanimous vote on the council.
3. In all instances of removal, reasonable time shall be allotted for the individual in question and others to express grievances and maintain a defense.
4. Grounds for removal include the inadequate fulfillment of aforementioned duties or the violation of regulations described in the Guidelines for Recognized Student Organizations, University policies or any federal, state or local laws.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Membership Criteria

1. Membership shall be open to any currently enrolled student or employee of the University.
2. Additional membership criteria shall be established at the discretion of the Executive Board.
3. Regular member status entitles an individual to a vote when applicable and the access to connections and involvement opportunities provided by the organization.
4. A member shall not be a member of, or affiliated with, a partisan political organization outside of local, state, or national Democratic organizations.
5. Membership begins at the signing of membership agreement.
6. Members must be marked as present at 51 percent of Mizzou College Democrats meetings per semester from the date of membership.
7. Members must attend at least one Mizzou College Democrats sponsored event per semester.

Section 2. Membership Rights and Responsibilities

1. All general meetings are open to all Mizzou students, regardless of membership status.
2. Membership in Mizzou College Democrats will entitle students voting and discussion rights on issues, endorsements, officer elections, and other votes that may arise before the organization as a whole.
3. Members of Mizzou College Democrats will be responsible for their active involvement in the organization through attendance at meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities. They will also be responsible for the ultimate care and oversight of the organization of the Executive Board, because it is in the interest of the members that the executive board should always act.

Section 3. Honorary Members

1. An honorary member is a non-voting member of the organization who has devoted significant time, effort and/or resources to the advancement and function of the Mizzou College Democrats. The Executive Board may appoint honorary members at their discretion.

Article V. Amendment Process

Section 1.

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of regular voting members present at the general meeting at which the vote occurs.

2. Votes on proposed amendments cannot occur within twenty-four (24) hours of their initial proposal and must occur at separate meetings.
3. An individual or group not a part of the Executive Board may submit a petition for a constitutional change if the petition holds the signatures of five (5) or more regular members.
4. Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to and approved by the Coordinator for Student Organizations before they become effective.

Article VI. Advisor

Section 1.

1. This organization must select one faculty or staff member (at least 75% FTE) to serve as advisor.
 - a. He or she shall be selected by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board to serve as advisor to the Executive Board and members of the organization.
 - b. Grounds for removal include the inadequate fulfillment of aforementioned duties or the violation of regulation described in the Guidelines for Recognized Student Organizations, University policies or any federal, state or local laws.
2. The Executive Board can vote to remove the advisor if every Executive Board member except the individual in question supports removal.
 - a. Executive Board members must notify the advisor they wish to remove at least seven (7) days prior to a voting meeting.
 - b. The Chief of Staff may vote in the removal proceedings of an advisor.
 - c. In all instances of removal, reasonable time shall be allotted for the individual in question and others to express grievances and maintain a defense.

Article VII. Non-Discrimination

Section 1.

1. This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law.

Article VIII. Compliance

Section 1.

1. We agree to abide by all regulations described in the Guidelines for Recognized Student Organizations, all University policies, in addition to all federal, state and local laws.