

Constitution

CONSTITUTION OF STUDENTS FOR FREETHOUGHT

THE PREAMBLE

The purposes of our organization are: to promote the ideals of freethought on and off campus, and to educate/inform the public about what freethought is through discussions, forums, lectures, and debates. The purposes and activities of our organization are lawful and are not in conflict with any university policies.

ARTICLE I – NAME & AFFILIATION

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be Students For Freethought, herein known as SFF.

Section 2 – SFF shall be affiliated with Campus Freethought Alliance (herein known as CFA), a national, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and defending reason, science and freedom of inquiry in education, and to the enhancement of freethought, skepticism, secularism, humanism, philosophical naturalism, rationalism, and atheism on college and high school campuses throughout North America and around the world.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - No prerequisites are required for membership. Membership within the local and/or affiliated organization will be open without regard to age, race, creed or religion, color, handicap, sex, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

Section 2 - At least five (5) members must be in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher).

Section 3 - The Student Involvement and Employment Office must approve any non-student community members, after reviewing how important these members are to the educational potential of the organization. If approved by the Student Involvement and Employment Office, “Non-student” members may join our organization. However, it is not mandatory that they attend meetings. Non-student members may not hold office in it, nor may they handle our finances, ride in university vehicles, or act as agents of the state for our organization. Because the university’s self-funded insurance covers only UWSP students, our non-student members may wish to arrange for their own liability insurance to cover them for any activities they engage in as members of our organization.”

Section 4 – Membership in SFF is not limited to Wisconsin residents.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Section 1 - The officers of SFF are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Web

Master/Maintainer, Public Relations Committee Chair, Fundraising Chair and Historian/Librarian.

Section 2 - All officers must be either full or part time students in good academic standing.

2.1 - On the second to last meeting of each semester an election shall be held to elect officers via majority vote if year-long term is over or if officer resigns. Elections can also be held during the semester if needed because of resignation. To become eligible for President or Vice President positions, the candidate must be a member and must have attended the majority of the meetings for that year. To become eligible for Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, Public Relations Committee Chair, Fundraising Chair or Historian/Librarian, the candidate must be a member and must have attended the majority of the meetings of that semester. Each member running for an officer position must complete the SFF election questionnaire, which will be the information provided to the rest of the members for voting. The attendance record of anyone in an election for an officer position must be verified by an existing officer.

Section 3 - Duties and responsibilities of the President:

3.1 Be the Chief Executive Officer of SFF

3.2 Call, prepare an agenda for, and preside over all SFF meetings

3.3 Act as the official voice of SFF

3.4 Serve as liaison to all affiliations of SFF

3.5 Carry out the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Committee

3.6 Coordinate SFF events and recruitment efforts with the Vice President

3.7 Hold two office hours per week

Section 4 – Duties and responsibilities of the Vice President:

4.1 Assist the President

4.2 Fill in for the President when absent

4.3 Coordinate SFF events and recruitment efforts with the President

4.4 Maintain records of current and past members

4.5 Hold two office hours per week

Section 5 – Duties and responsibilities of the Secretary:

5.1 Take, and maintain meeting minutes for all SFF and Executive Committee meetings

5.2 Assist the Public Relations Committee Chair in the promotion of all SFF meetings and events

5.3 Assist the President and Vice President in creating recruitment materials.

5.4 Hold two office hours per week

Section 6 – Duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer:

6.1 Work with SFF Fundraising Chair to coordinate fundraising activities

6.2 Maintain accurate and current financial records for SFF

6.3 Assist the President and Vice President with organizing SFF events

6.4 Hold two office hours per week

Section 7 – Duties and responsibilities of the Web Master/Maintainer:

7.1 To create and/or maintain SFF's website and D2L site.

7.2 To post onto said website: meeting minutes, constitution, agendas, and any other information the executive board deems fit for the website

7.3 Hold two office hours per week

Section 8 - Duties and responsibilities of the Public Relations Committee Chair

8.1 Supervise, organize, and designate responsibilities for the Public Relations Committee

8.2 Promote a positive image of SFF through publicizing events and by raising awareness of freethought on campus

8.3 Assist President in acting as liaison for SFF when deemed necessary by the President

Section 9 - Duties and responsibilities of the Fundraising Chair:

9.1 Coordinate at least one fundraising activity a semester

Section 10 - Duties and responsibilities of Historian/Librarian:

10.1 Keep a record of SFF's accomplishments and activities for the year. Collect items such as pictures and news clippings about the group and its members. Organize a scrapbook for the year.

10.2 Maintain and organize SFF library, ensuring resources are returned

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 - The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Web Master/Maintainer, Public Relations Committee Chair and the Advisor.

Section 2 - Each member serves a year long term. Elections shall be decided via majority vote, and shall be held on the second to last meeting of each semester when necessary.

Section 3 - The Executive Committee shall have the power to create sub-committees as needed.

Section 4 - The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a month.

ARTICLE V - PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Section 1 - Public Relations Committee is lead by the Public Relations Committee Chair with assistance from the President

Section 2 - Public Relations Committee is responsible for positive publication of all SFF events and raising awareness of freethought on campus

Section 3 - Any member can become a member of the Public Relations Committee pending approval by the Public Relations Committee Chair

Section 4 - The Public Relations Committee shall meet at least twice a month.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1 - Meetings are to be held at least twice every month.

Section 2 - E-mail from the President will designate the locations and times of these meetings.

Section 3 - Special meetings can be called to order by the Executive Committee as needed.

Section 4 - Public Relations Committee Chair and the President will organize Public Relations Committee meetings at least twice every month

Section 5 - The Executive Committee must have a meeting at least twice a month

ARTICLE VII – FINANCES

Section 1 - SFF shall not collect any club dues or any other payments from its members.

Section 2 - Funds may come from either SGA, fundraising, or donations from CFA or other affiliates.

Section 3 - In the event that the organization is dissolved, any funding received from the Student Government Association (SGA) will be returned to the SGA, and any other funds, including those from an SOA account, shall be split evenly between the Philosophy department of UWSP and the CFA.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

An amendment shall require that previous notification be given to members in writing and also a three-fourths majority affirmative vote of members voting for its adoption.

ARTICLE IX – RATIFICATION

A two-thirds majority of active members votes is needed to ratify a document. The constitution will be reviewed and updated a minimal of once every three years.

ARTICLE X – DATE OF CONSTITUTION – January 21, 2008

BY LAWS

If a member is disruptive to the cause of SFF (as deemed by the Executive Committee), that member shall be expelled from SFF only if an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the Executive Committee passes.

Members shall be allowed to vote on activities endorsed/sponsored by SFF.

Members shall be allowed to be in sub-committees.

A quorum shall consist of simple majority of officers.

Students for Freethought Election Questionnaire

Name:

Desired Position:

Current Position:

Member since:

Major(s)/Minor(s):

Other Campus Groups, Activities, Offices Held:

Semesters Remaining at UWSP:

Informative Paragraph (250 words or less; tell us a little about your views on religion, the separation of church and state, what strengths you can bring to SFF, and how you will benefit from holding an officer position with SFF):