

Constitution of Safe Space

Eastern Mennonite University

Article I: Name

This organization shall herein be referred to as Safe Space.

Article II: Purpose

We as EMU Safe Space desire to be an open and loving space affirming people of all sexual orientations and genders. In this space, we engage respectfully with one another as students, faculty, and staff to create safe, brave, and intentional dialogue regarding the topic of sexual orientation and gender and the ways it intersects across many identities. We commit ourselves to building interpersonal relationships while maintaining a long-term vision of equality and justice for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Article III: Membership

- A. Membership is open to any current EMU student, faculty, or staff who supports the above-stated purpose.
- B. Votes will be counted from members who are present at a meeting in which a vote occurs. Members will be informed of a vote prior to the meeting in which it will occur.

- C. In order to maintain a safe space, persons who are found to have views that strongly oppose our purpose may be asked to leave after engaging in discussions with Safe Space leadership.
- D. Members are welcome to attend and participate in all meetings open to the general body of the club and contribute to event planning when any opportunity or interest arises.
- E. Safe Space abides by Eastern Mennonite University's non-discrimination clause: EMU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any legally protected status in any of its school-administered programs.

Article IV: Officers

- A. Safe Space leadership will consist of the following: a coalition of three to six individuals with designated duties. All individuals will have equal power with different responsibilities and henceforth be known as "The Council". Designation of duties is as follows:
 - a. The Communicator will be responsible for communication to the club as well as outside communication via email, group chats, and any other forms necessary.
 - b. The Treasurer will be responsible for financial duties and will keep track of the budget.
 - c. The Publicist will be responsible for marketing and social media content creation. This person will also be the primary individual in charge of the social media account(s).

- d. The Secretary will be responsible for taking minutes and planning the agenda prior to each meeting.
- B. All members of The Council will be responsible for jointly planning events, running meetings, and providing for the advancement of Safe Space. These responsibilities may be assigned and delegated differently year to year based upon the needs and interests of the group. Members of The Council can resign from their position at any time.

Article V: Elections

- A. Elections for The Council will be held at the end of the Spring Semester or in the event of a vacancy. Elections will take place during a regularly scheduled meeting time or by message to the entire club.
- B. Members may either nominate themselves or have another member nominate them. All student members of Safe Space are eligible to be part of The Council. If the quorum for The Council is not met, nominations of outside students may be made by any member of the club providing the nominee agrees to run.
- C. If a Council Person in any way interferes with the purpose of the club and/or if any member believes that there has been an abuse of power, the named issue can be brought to the advisor who will be in charge of determining the next steps. The Council Person may be removed from office by a vote with the majority of the members submitting votes.

Article VI: Meetings

- A. The Council of Safe Space will meet regularly to discuss events and meetings. It is up to The Council to determine when and how often these meetings will occur.
- B. General body meetings will occur in a relaxed atmosphere and in a space where all feel welcomed and comfortable to join together in fellowship. An intentional effort will be made to keep regular meeting times and places.

Article VII: Finances

- A. A Council Member will be responsible for managing the funds of Safe Space. If extra funds are needed, this individual will procure the funds from the Student Government Association. The Council Member will be responsible for tracking and reporting all club financial activities to the members.
- B. Budget requests will be submitted annually to SGA and must be approved by all members of The Council.
- C. There are no dues for membership.

Article VIII: Advisor

One of the duties of The Council at the beginning of their term is to coordinate with the Faculty Advisor(s) or to find an advisor(s) if the current one(s) has no interest in continuing. The advisor(s) must agree with the stated purpose of Safe Space and their role will provide support as determined by The Council. The advisor(s) is to provide resources to the club as needed and serve as a sounding board as Safe Space deals with complicated issues.

Article IX: Amendments

- A. Amendments may be proposed to The Council by any member of the club. The Council will then send out the amendment to the club for open discussion and ratification.
- B. An amendment needs the majority support of the voting members to pass.

Article X: Ratification

This constitution was ratified on ... 2022