

Constitution-

EMU Sustainable Food Initiative

Eastern Mennonite University

Article I: Name

The organization is to be referred to as the Sustainable Food Initiative (SFI).

Article II: Purpose

Our purpose is to advocate for and live into a new food system that is more sustainable. Based on a belief that “doing justice” includes a form of food justice, we desire to create a more sustainable food system at EMU. To do this, we will care for the campus garden to provide local food for the school cafeteria in a reliable way, promote local eating through monthly local meals, develop a way of using the cafeteria leftovers to support the community, and other activities.

Article III: Membership

Membership is open to anyone in the EMU community who express an interest in sustainable food practices. Membership is not restricted 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.

All members will be informed of SFI activities via email or Facebook notifications and have the right to provide suggestions and feedback on how SFI functions and the activities it supports. Membership may be removed by the member by notifying the Network Coordinator.

Article IV: Officers

SFI will be primarily organized in networking fashion with the role of Officers being filled by the following Coordinators and specific Task Managers. All members are eligible to become officers as long as they are reliable and willing, and have been present for at least two meetings prior to their election. Any member can hold up to two positions at a time. Officers will be evaluated each semester by the members at large and at this time a collective decision will be made about whether they will remain in office or resign. If an officer is not able to perform their duties, or has not been performing their duties, any resignation or removal of officers will be discussed among the officers before it is brought to the larger SFI community. If activities arise that do not fall under the dominion of a specific coordinator and require too large of a commitment from the networking coordinator, other officer positions can be added by following the amendment procedure.

A. Networking Coordinator:

1. Serves as the contact person and spokesperson for SFI.
2. Provides general leadership for the rest of the coordinators.
3. Responsible for planning and leading SFI meetings.
4. Responsible for all non-specific activities and onetime events.

B. Gardening Coordinators organize gardening, including planting, weeding, and harvesting. There are to be two coordinators at all times because of the amount of work required.

C. Local Meal Coordinator is responsible for planning and organizing local meals.

D. Food Coordinator is responsible for organizing bread baking, gleanng operations, and other events related to providing local food other than gardening.

E. Sustainable Waste Coordinator is responsible for transporting EMU cafeteria leftovers to OCP and other organizations where they can be used.

F. Financial Liaison is responsible for dealing with the finances of SFI, reimbursing expenses, and organizing the budget.

G. Minute Maid/Man is responsible for note taking at meetings and emailing the minutes to the SFI members.

Article V: Elections

Elections will be held when a Coordinator or specific Task Manager position goes vacant or will be vacant in the near future. Elections for Garden Coordinators and Networking Coordinator will take place in March of each year to guarantee leadership over the summer and for the coming fall. Other Coordinator or specific Task Manager elections can occur either at the end of the spring semester or start of the fall semester depending on need and interest. All elections are to be announced to members via email one week in advance. Nominations (and self nominations) can occur at any time during the following week via email correspondence with the Networking Coordinator, or at the election meeting. At the election meeting nominees will present their reasoning and qualifications for running to the members at large.

Article VI: Meetings

Meetings will be held every fortnight and organized by the Networking Coordinator. Members will be notified about meetings via email at least two days before the meeting is to occur. The Networking Coordinator will run meetings in such a way that all Coordinators have time to voice their concerns and interests. All members will be encouraged to share input in meetings and take ownership of the club activities. Decisions will be made by consensus voting, where all members in attendance must be in agreement, or relative agreement, with the course of action. Members may vote by proxy only in exceptional circumstances. All meetings will be documented by the Minute Maid/Man and the minutes then emailed out to all members.

Article VII: Finances

Finances are to be the primary responsibility of the Financial Liaison. The Financial Liaison, along with the Networking Coordinator, will submit a budget request each year to SGA for funding. Funds will also be drawn from the sales of garden produce, both the cafeteria and the larger community. The distribution of these funds will be the responsibility of the Financial Liaison, however all expenditures must be authorized by SFI members at an official meeting.

Article VIII: Advisor

The advisor position is one of providing mentorship and guidance for SFI. They will provide a stable presence during transition periods where they will provide a location for storing SFI goods and tools. They are not required to attend meetings or take part in all SFI activities, though they should be in regular contact with the Networking Coordinator. The advisor is free to offer suggestions, critiques, or commentary on SFI activities and involvements.

Article IX: Committees

Committees fall directly under the specific coordinators. No official committee membership is required and all SFI members are encouraged to participate in all committees. New committees may be created as need arises.

Article X: Affiliations

SFI is affiliated with Earthkeepers through our vision of sustainability, though the food justice focus is specific to SFI.

Article XI: Amendments

Amendments may be proposed by any member, though they need to be seconded by a Coordinator in order to go before a vote. Once amendments are recommended, they are to be communicated to the SFI members by email at least one week prior to a vote. Decisions will be made by consensus voting, where all members in attendance must be in agreement with the amendment. Members may vote by proxy only in exceptional circumstances.

Article XII: Ratifications

All amendments are to be emailed to members immediately following a vote so that a true consensus can be achieved. If no discontent is expressed by the members in the week following, Coordinators and specific Task Managers will meet to ratify the amendment. If discontent is expressed, the amendment will be revisited at the next meeting.