

Constitution-
Young Democrats Club
Eastern Mennonite University

Article I: Name

Young Democrats Club

Article II: Purpose

Group purpose – As outlined in the following paragraphs, our main purpose is to stimulate student awareness and involvement from a Democratic lens regarding current political affairs.

Why the group was founded –Young Democrats was founded out of both enthusiasm to make campus more politically active and aware as well as concern for our country’s current state of affairs. We’ve been inspired to promote much more political awareness now and in the future, whether it be during Democratic or Republican majority control, as both circumstances call for consistent attention. We want to inform students and enable them to take political action.

List general group goals – Our general goals include providing students with the opportunity to register to vote via registration drives before every local, state and national election, granting students easy access to ballots and candidate information before voting day, informing students how to check if they are registered to vote and where they are registered, volunteering and fundraising for Democratic campaigns, spreading awareness year-round on campus regarding current political events, hosting events for occasions such as political debates and election-day results, and attending political protests and campaign events.

Outline political, cultural, religious, social, service, etc. purpose – Our political purpose is derived from our Democratic values, which we feel compelled to share with the rest of the campus community. Culturally, our purpose is to create a club that emphasizes the importance of dialogue and encourages open debates regarding politics. Young Democrats has no religious affiliation, and has no plans to incorporate religion into our activities. Our social purpose has been outlined in the second bullet point of this article.

Article III: Membership

To become a member of Young Democrats, one must be either a student or a faculty or staff member at Eastern Mennonite University. They must be willing to put in at least one hour of work per week and put in maximum effort to attend all or most of our weekly meetings. We do not expect every member to be a registered Democrat, but members must understand that Young Democrats is a partisan organization and must be willing to promote the basic values of the Democratic party. Members must commit to respecting differing views within the club as well as those of every student on campus. Young Democrats 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.

Article IV: Officers

President:

The President is in charge of leading events and presenting the views to EMU, the local community, and other organizations. The President will also preside over meetings if the Chairperson is absent.

Chairperson:

The Chairperson is in charge of presiding over meetings and maintaining contact with other clubs. The Chairperson will also be in charge of recording decisions that are made regarding the Young Democrats Club including vote totals.

Treasurer:

The Treasurer is to keep track of the group's expenses. The Treasurer will also coordinate with the executive body in appropriating funds for events that the group has agreed on.

Events Manager:

The Events Manager will work directly with the President in organizing logistical matters for events. This includes gauging interest, organizing transportation, and possibly reserving a room.

Communications Director:

The Communications Director will be in charge of social media, as well as communicating with the members of the club. This includes spreading information via emails, posters, or whatever way the club sees fit.

If it is deemed necessary for an executive to be expelled, a majority of the executive team must agree to bring the motion before the advisor. The advisor will then decide whether or not to expel the executive. If this happens, the remaining executives must announce the ousting to the members at the next meeting time. A special election will be held two weeks following the announcement of the ousting.

Executive terms last for the school year they were elected for.

Article V: Elections

Elections must be held in the spring of the year for the following year's executives. Announcements of the elections must be made in the two official meetings prior to the elections by the executives.

Any candidates must come to an executive member with two other members who are willing to nominate that candidate in order to run for an executive position. This can happen anytime before the day of the election. That executive is then obligated to tell the Chairperson so that it can be officially recorded. Nominations can be made by any member but a member can only nominate a candidate once, this nomination cannot be rescinded. Executives do not need nominations to run for the same or different executive seats but must declare their intentions to run to the Chairperson so that they can record who is running for what seat.

Candidates must:

- Be an active member in the Young Democrats club for at least a semester prior to holding office
- Be a registered democrat or independant
- Be nominated by two other members

The elections for all executive seats will be held on the last official meeting of the year and must have oversight from the club advisor. All ballots will include a printed paper with all candidates' names listed for whatever position they chose and majority will win. All members must be allowed to vote if present. If there is a tie for any position the two highest scoring candidates will both be voted on again by the entire body (unless they were the only two running for that position). If there is a subsequent tie the club advisor will flip a coin and should state beforehand who will win if the coin lands "heads" facing up.

If any member of the executive team leaves for a semester of cross cultural, Oregon extension, etc. the executive

team should announce this person's departure two weeks before their last possible meeting of the semester. A special election should be held at the last meeting of the semester before departure.

Article VI: Meetings

Meetings will be held weekly and members can be notified by updates on the Young Democrats Club Facebook page, emails, or whichever forms of communication are agreed upon.

Behind-the-scenes decisions will be made by the executive team. Larger organizational decisions can be brought to the members to vote on. The executive team must agree by majority for a vote to be brought to the members. Any vote will have a weeks notice for the members unless the matter is time-sensitive. In a time-sensitive case the executives must unanimously agree to hold a vote before the normal week time period. The quorum for any vote will be five non-executive members. This quorum number should be updated by the club during the readover of this constitution at the beginning of each fall semester to reflect three fourths of the average attendance or as seen fit.

It is highly recommended that the number of executives remains an odd number during the creation or elimination of positions. If it is decided to have an even number of executives, in the result of a tie during executive voting, the President's vote will be the tie-breaker. If an executive is not there to vote, the vote must either be postponed or the missing executive must vote remotely (either prior to the meeting or via phone, text, or any other means of communication).

Article VII: Finances

Financial records will be kept on a google spreadsheet that will be shared with the executives and the club's advisor. The treasurer is directly responsible for managing the budget and for the collection and distribution of funds. The treasurer may authorize funds with the consent of the rest of the executive team. The Young Democrats Club will not pay dues to any executive members.

Article VIII: Advisor

The advisor's main role in Young Democrats is to weigh in on the direction of the club and its proposals. Since politics can often be controversial, it will be the advisor's responsibility to be an unbiased observer regarding the club's decisions, especially those which involve activities on campus. As a partisan organization, we understand that it may sometimes be complicated to accomplish our goals on campus without appearing as if we are trying to force people to accept our views. Therefore, the advisor will overlook event-planning and weigh in with his or her assessment. As stated in Article V, the advisor will also oversee elections and will be in charge of removing officers, should this ever be appropriate.

Article IX: Committees

Committees should be outlined and explained for the following year where deemed fit.

Article X: Affiliations

Young Democrats is affiliated with Dukes Vote of James Madison University. We are also affiliated with and will volunteer for Democratic campaigns in Virginia. Additionally, we plan on enrolling our club in the Virginia Young

Democrats organization.

Article XI: Amendments

At the first official meeting of each fall semester the constitution should be read aloud to the body and the body should discuss anything they see fit to be changed or altered. Any proposed change must be voted on by the entire executive team with unanimous consensus and have at least two non-executive members second the motion.

During the semester if the entire executive team agrees that an amendment should be made they must relay that proposed change to every participating member at an official meeting. During the next official meeting time, the body of non-executive participating members must vote to ratify the amendment with a supermajority vote (2/3). To find the quorum, see Article VI.

Article XII: Ratification

The Constitution shall be agreed upon in unanimous consensus by the President and the Chairperson of Young Democrats.