

# **Constitution- EMSWA Eastern Mennonite University**

## **Article I: Name**

Eastern Mennonite Student Women's Association (EMSWA)

## **Article II: Purpose**

EMSWA's purpose is to empower members of the community; to deepen awareness; to develop relationships; and to create open and safe dialogue all with a focus on women and gender studies.

## **Article III: Membership**

All members of the community are welcome to attend most meetings and events. Some events will be designated as "women-only", which will be clearly stated in the announcement about the meeting. To be a voting member, you must be an EMU student and have attended three or more meetings.

## **Article IV: Officers**

A leadership committee will plan the calendar, coordinate events, provide publicity, serve as contacts, and oversee elections. The leadership committee will consist of at least two voting members, but does not need to be limited to two. The leadership committee should be aware that their purpose is to represent the members of EMSWA, not make decisions for them. In addition, if any voting member or regular attendee wants to lead an event that is consistent with EMSWA's purpose, they should be allowed to do so with the support of the leadership committee.

## **Article V: Elections**

In the spring semester, the leadership committees for the following fall and spring semesters will be appointed by group consensus, with voting when there are many nominees. A unanimous vote must be reached.

## **Article VI: Meetings**

Meetings are held weekly at a time to be arranged by the group with an eye to the meeting schedules of student clubs with similar affinities. Meetings range from open dialogue space to art therapy to discussions with faculty to planning events for the campus.

## **Article VII: Finances**

EMSWA will submit an annual budget request to fund projects that it organizes to benefit the student body, and may submit occasional requests for unbudgeted events. No dues will be required of members.

## **Article VIII: Advisor**

The advisor will make the leadership committee aware of relevant events and provide support as needed. EMSWA will review the advisor situation at the first meeting each September, to affirm the current advisor or propose inviting a new advisor. The advisor is available to help the leadership committee communicate with administration as necessary.

### **Article IX: Affiliations**

EMSWA is interested in collaborating with student groups at EMU and JMU (like Sister Speak) on common projects.

### **Article X: Amendments**

Amendments can be proposed to the Leadership Committee. Any proposed changes will be voted upon at a meeting of members; all members will be informed of the proposed amendments and meeting time via email a reasonable amount of time before the meeting.

### **Article XI: Ratification**

This constitution was ratified on March 14, 2012.