

Constitution of the EMU Astral Society

Adopted February 1, 2018 by Aaron Dunmore and Ben Stutzman, Co-Presidents:

Article I – Name:

The name of the club is the Astral Society.

Article II – Purpose:

The purpose of the Astral Society is to provide a place for students to enjoy and learn more about astronomy. The Astral Society was founded because a group of students enjoyed organizing informal events like stargazing and Iridium flare-spotting, and wanted to create an official club to allow for more engaging activities. The goals of the group are to utilize EMU resources and organize fun and educational activities for students to learn more about astronomy. The club will also serve a social purpose, connecting people who enjoy astronomy, and will build awareness of the universe beyond Earth in the EMU community.

Article III – Membership:

All EMU students and faculty are eligible to be members of the Astral Society. Those wishing to be members must inform an officer that they wish to join the club. The officer will then add the person to an official list of members. All members will be able to vote in elections and participate in decisions concerning the use of club resources. A member may be removed by a 75% majority vote at a meeting with a 75% quorum.

As a club at Eastern Mennonite University, the Astral Society will 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:

Two co-presidents will be responsible for club leadership, including organizing activities and marketing the club to other students. A secretary/treasurer will assist the co-presidents and manage club finances. Officer terms will be one academic year, with no term limits.

In the case of a vacancy for one of the presidents, the remaining officers and the advisor will decide whether the remaining president will serve the remainder of the term alone, or if a replacement for the vacant president will be elected. In the case of a vacancy for the secretary, a replacement must be elected to fill the position. If necessary, an officer may be removed by a 75% majority vote at a meeting with a 75% quorum.

Article V – Elections:

Each spring, an election will be held for the next year's officers. Officers will inform club members of an election one week before it takes place, by some official means of communication. All members are eligible to run for office. Nominations by other members are not necessary; any members wishing to run for office must notify an officer at least one day before the election. Candidates may present their qualifications to the club in person or tell an officer, who will make the information available to all club members by the time of the election.

The election will be determined by an electronic vote or a vote at a meeting, in which at least 60% of members participate. For each position, the candidate receiving the most votes will receive the position. Elections to replace vacant officer positions will be called by an officer as needed.

Article VI – Meetings:

While many club gatherings will be in the form of activities, administrative and organizational meetings for members to discuss the use of club and EMU resources will be held as needed. Officers will notify all club members of meetings and activities by some official means of communication at least one day before they take place.

Minor decisions, such as activity planning, will be made by the officers and advisor, with input from the club members as deemed appropriate. Major decisions, including those concerning the use of club and EMU resources, will be made by a 60% majority vote at a meeting with a 60% quorum of club members. All members are eligible to vote on these major decisions. The officers or advisor will organize and lead meetings and activities.

Article VII – Finances:

The club will seek funding from SGA for activities and equipment. Additional funds may be acquired through fundraisers. The club will submit an annual budget request to SGA. The secretary/treasurer is responsible for ensuring that a budget is developed and a request submitted, with the input and aid of the other officers and advisor. Each year, the officers and advisor will meet to review the budget and edit it as necessary before accepting it. Changes to the budget must be approved by the officers and advisor.

Financial records will be kept by the secretary/treasurer and will be available to the advisor and other officers upon request. No member dues are required. The officers will be responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds as authorized by the advisor.

Article VIII – Advisor:

The advisor will maintain regular contact with the club, and will act as a liaison between the club and EMU administration. The advisor will be an EMU faculty member who expresses an interest in the position, and will be selected by the officers.

Article IX – Committees:

The club's regular operation will not require any committees.

Article X – Affiliations:

The Astral Society has no official affiliations with other organizations, but seeks to collaborate at an informal level with local astronomy organizations in the Harrisonburg area.

Article XI – Amendments:

Any member may propose an amendment to an officer, to be considered by the officers and advisor. If an amendment is approved by a simple majority vote at a meeting with at least 60% of club members, an application for a constitutional amendment will be submitted to SGA.

Article XII – Ratification:

The constitution will be ratified by simple majority approval at the first official meeting.