

Constitution of the Young Democratic Socialists of America Purdue

Last Updated: February 1st, 2024

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Young Democratic Socialists of America Purdue, here forth referred to as YDSA Purdue.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to build the power of students, campus communities, and youth to fight for equality, justice, and democratic socialism.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The voting membership of this organization shall be defined as students and staff of educational facilities in the Greater Lafayette area and as members of the national organization, with a 1 year grace period given to members transitioning out of academia.

Section 2. While paying dues is not required to participate in general chapter activities, members are encouraged to submit annual dues to national DSA, and official membership with the national organization is required to hold an elected position.

Section 3. This organization will not deny membership on the basis of age, disability status, ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, social class, color, national ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, gender expression.

Section 4. The organization's advisor can't vote or hold an elected position

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. An Executive Committee comprised of Officers will govern the activities of the organization, the offices of this organization shall be as follows:

- a. Two Co-Chairs (at least one of which is self-identified as non-male)
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer
- d. Greater Lafayette & Central Indiana DSA Steering Representative
- e. Two Harassment and Grievance officers

Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- a. Co-Chairs shall call and conduct meetings with an agenda and oversee chapter operations and activities
- b. The Secretary shall record chapter meeting minutes

- c. The Treasurer shall keep accounts, deposit the organization's funds, and make expenditures in a manner approved by the Business Office for Student Organizations
- d. The Steering Representative shall communicate and decide plans in conjunction with Greater Lafayette & Central Indiana DSA
- e. The Harassment in Grievance officer will facilitate issues with harassment in accordance with the guidelines outlined later as well as mediate disputes within the chapter

Section 3. Elections will be held at the final scheduled meeting of the academic year in April. Any member who states their intention to run for office is considered a candidate, and has the opportunity to present their qualifications to the voting membership body. Members are permitted to be re-elected to the same position or run for another position. After all candidates have had the opportunity to present, a ballot vote will be conducted. Voting must meet quorum, 10% of voting membership, in order to be held. The election is won by simple majority. In case of a tie, a tie-breaker election will be held.

Section 4. If an officer wishes to resign their post, they must submit their resignation in writing and the election procedure as outlined in Section 3 will occur at the next meeting.

Section 5. Executive Committee members may be subject to recall by petition with three (3) signatures for any or no reason. Submission of such a valid petition shall trigger a recall election to be held no later than 30 days from receipt of that petition by the Executive Committee.

1. The meeting for a recall vote shall be properly noticed to the membership.
2. The recall vote shall be held with a secret ballot.
3. If at least half of present members vote to recall the Executive Committee member, the Officer shall be recalled and a new election for the Officer position will be held immediately with open nominations.

ARTICLE V. SPECIAL PURDUE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

This organization will adhere to the Purdue University Conduct Code.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the organization shall be held at least bi-weekly at a date and time agreed upon by the general chapter membership.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Co-Chairs.

ARTICLE VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Meetings and elections shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of

Order. **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be adopted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any general meeting held two weeks or more after a general meeting at which the proposed amendment or amendments were first read.

Section 2. Voting on amendments must meet quorum, 10%, of voting membership in order to occur

Section 3. These bylaws and all amendments or additions thereto shall not become effective until approved by the membership.

Section 4. All amendments to the constitution and bylaws are subject to the approval of the Office of Student Activities and Organizations. They MAY NOT take effect until they have been approved

ARTICLE IX - HARASSMENT POLICY

1. This organization shall aim to be an inclusive and safe organization for all members of all races, genders, and classes, where anyone may join and participate without fear of harassment including but not limited to: sexual harassment, physical violence, hostility, and intimidation.
2. Any member may submit a report of harassment to any Officer of Executive Committee. a. Any Officer who is employed by the Institute or who holds any position where they may be unable to ensure confidentiality must promptly indicate this to the reporting member and explain the consequences of disclosing harassment.
3. Any member may request that Executive Committee investigate the member's report of harassment. The Executive Committee will refer the member's report to the standing Central Indiana DSA Grievance Officer, who will oversee an investigation of the report of harassment.
 - a. The member may request that the Executive Committee appoint a Grievance Officer from the Purdue chapter. In which case, the following apply:
 - i. If any Officer of Executive Committee is named by a reporting member in a report of harassment as a participant in harassment, they will be recused from the appointment of a Grievance Officer to the investigation.
 - ii. A Grievance Officer will be appointed by a simple majority vote of non-recused Officers of Executive Committee to oversee an investigation of the report of harassment.
 - iii. No person who is employed by the Institute or who holds any position where they may be unable to ensure confidentiality may be appointed as a Grievance Officer.
4. Any member at a general meeting may share a report of harassment to the general membership in attendance, nominate a general member to serve as a Grievance Officer, and motion to appoint a the nominated member as a Grievance Officer to oversee an investigation of their report of harassment.

- a. A Grievance Officer will be appointed to oversee an investigation upon approval by a simple majority vote of the general membership present at the meeting by private ballot.
 - b. No person who is employed by the Institute or who holds any position where they may be unable to ensure confidentiality may be appointed as a Grievance Officer.
5. Upon appointment, the duties of a Grievance Officer shall be to collect information about the incident(s) of harassment in the report, to present their findings to non-recused Officers of Executive Committee (or the general body if all Officers of Executive Committee are recused), and to sentence members to discipline.
 - a. The Grievance Officer shall contact all witnesses, victims, or participants of the alleged harassment for the purpose of collecting information about the incident(s) of alleged harassment within one week of appointment.
 - b. No person alleged to be a witness or a victim of harassment shall be compelled or coerced to provide information to the Grievance Officer in any way.
 - c. Any person alleged to be a witness or a victim of harassment may indicate they wish to remain anonymous when submitting information to the Grievance Officer. The Grievance Officer may reveal this information to the Executive Committee or general membership, but may not disclose the source of information to anyone.
 - d. Any person alleged to be a witness or a victim of harassment may indicate they wish to share confidential information to the Grievance Officer. The Grievance Officer may not reveal confidential information to anyone.
6. Once the Grievance Officer has collected all relevant information, the Grievance Officer will decide on an appropriate sentence for any member concluded to be a participant in harassment, including but not limited to: temporary or permanent expulsion from membership of YDSA Purdue, temporary or permanent expulsion from YDSA Purdue events, removal from Executive Committee, and removal from a position as chair of a committee.
 - a. Before announcing a sentence, the Grievance Officer must confer with any people found to be victims of harassment. If any victim does not wish for a portion of a sentence to be issued, the Grievance Officer may not issue that portion of a sentence.
 - b. Before announcing a sentence, the Grievance Officer must consult with non-recused Officers of Executive Committee.
7. Following the conclusion of an investigation, the Grievance Officer shall present their sentence(s) for any persons found to be participant(s) in harassment to the non-recused Officers of the Executive Committee. The sentence will be issued if approved by a majority vote of the non-recused Officers of the Executive Committee.
 - a. If all officers are recused, the Grievance Officer shall present their sentence(s) to the general membership at the next general meeting.
 - b. An opportunity will be given for members to motion to amend or block the sentence.
 - c. Any members may motion to amend the sentence in its entirety or any portions of the sentence. The entire sentence or any portions of the sentence may be amended by a simple majority vote by private ballot of the general membership present.
 - d. Any members may motion to block the sentence from being issued. The sentence may be blocked by a simple majority vote by private ballot of the general membership present.
 - e. After any motions to amend the sentence, or after no motions are made, the sentence will be

issued.

8. Any member may submit a petition with five (5) signatures of YDSA Purdue members to the general body at a general meeting to sentence any member to discipline for harassment. a. Any member may motion to amend or block the sentence following the same procedure detailed in Article X, Section 7.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following committees:

- a. Political Education
- b. Outreach
- c. Reading Group
- d. Labor Working Group

Section 2. The committees shall each have an elected chair. The chair of the committee will be responsible for fulfilling the duties of the committee.

Section 3. The duties of the committees will be as follows:

- a. The Political Education committee shall conduct meetings and produce materials to educate members on issues relevant to the working class.
- b. The Outreach committee shall connect the chapter with the broader campus community and connect membership with the activities of the chapter.
- c. The Reading Group shall host weekly meetings to discuss socialist theory and praxis through analysis of a given text.
- d. The Labor Working Group shall focus on improving labor conditions in the community.

Section 4. Elections will be held at the first general meeting of the academic year. Any member who states their intention to run for a committee chair is considered a candidate, and has the opportunity to present their qualifications to the voting membership body. Members are permitted to be re-elected to the same position or run for another position. Members may not chair multiple committees simultaneously, but may chair a committee while being an executive officer.. After all candidates have had the opportunity to present, a ballot vote will be conducted. Voting must meet quorum, 10% of voting membership, in order to be held. The election is won by simple majority. In case of a tie, a tie-breaker election will be held.

Section 5. Committee chairs will be subject to the same regulations and recall procedures applied to Officers as outlined in Article IV, Sections 4 & 5.

President's signature
Adoption

Date of

Advisor's signature

Date of Signed

Student Activities and Organizations Office
Recognition

Date of