

Bylaws

of the
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Young Democrats

Passed November 8, 2017

- Section I The name of this organization shall be the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Young Democrats. This name does not state or imply endorsement or sponsorship by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Within these bylaws this organization shall be referred to as “the YD.”
- Section II Founded in 1939, the YD serves to organize, inform, and empower the campus community to drive progressive change in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and across the United States.

Article II: AFFILIATIONS

- Section I The YD will be affiliated with the North Carolina Democratic Party, the Orange County Democratic Party, the College Democrats of North Carolina, and the College Democrats of America. The platform of the organization will be influenced by the policies and platforms of the local, state, and national Democratic Party. From time to time, the YD may seek to ally itself with other campus and community organizations in pursuit of common interests and goals.
- Section II The YD will not endorse or support any candidate for political office prior to nomination by the Democratic Party. However, individual members may support candidates prior to nomination.
- Section III The organization shall have an advisor who is a full-time faculty or staff member of UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Hospitals, or an affiliated department; an emeritus UNC-Chapel Hill faculty or staff member; or a campus minister. The advisor does not have the right to vote and is unpaid.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

- Section I Membership in the YD is open to any full or part-time registered student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, including undergraduate and graduate/professional students. Faculty, staff, and other non-students are ineligible for membership.

Section II The YD abides by the University of North Carolina Non-Discrimination Policy for Student Organizations, which states the following:

Membership and participation in the organization must be open to all students without regard to age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Membership and participation in the organization must also be open without regard to gender, unless exempt under Title IX. Student organizations that select their members on the basis of commitment to a set of beliefs (e.g., religious or political beliefs) may limit membership and participation in the organization to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization's goals and agree with its beliefs, so long as no student is excluded from membership or participation on the basis of his or her age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status, or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or, unless exempt under title IX, gender.

Section III MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING are defined as members who have fulfilled their financial obligations to the club and are registered with the organization.

Section IV Members in good standing are entitled to vote on general motions, resolutions, endorsements, and in Executive Board elections. The deadline to fulfill financial obligations will be one week before any official proceedings.

Section V Annual dues will be determined by the Executive Board and changes shall not take effect until August 1st of the next academic year. Members must pay dues only once during the academic year.

Section VI Except where otherwise written, "notice" is defined as email communication.

Article IV: OFFICERS

Section I The EXECUTIVE BOARD of the YD is defined as the group of elected leaders of this organization. The CABINET of the UNC Young Democrats is defined as the group of appointed leaders of this organization. The Executive Board and Cabinet shall collectively be known as the OFFICERS of this organization.

Section II The Executive Board shall be composed of a PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER, in order of highest to lowest office.

Section III Executive Board members serve for a term of one (1) year, unless serving in a joint term. Executive Board members in joint positions each serve six month terms.

Section IV The Cabinet shall be composed of leaders appointed at the discretion of the Executive Board. The number and composition of cabinet positions is left to the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section V All officers of the organization must be full-time, registered students of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. All officers must remain members in good standing throughout their terms.

Article V: OFFICER DUTIES

Section I It is the responsibility of all Officers to enforce and uphold the provisions of these bylaws.

Section II All major decisions, except where otherwise described in these bylaws, shall be made by a majority vote of the Executive Board. In cases of a tie, the President shall be the tiebreaker in a majority vote.

Section III The Executive Board may open the vote to all Officers by majority vote. This should be practiced as often as practical, to best reflect the opinions of the general membership. Votes may be initiated by any Officer and may take place in person or electronically.

Section IV Each Officer will be allowed three absences per semester from regularly scheduled Officer meetings. If an Officer accrues three absences, the President shall send notice to the Officer informing them that they have reached their allowable total of absences and that any further absence *may* result in impeachment proceedings. Mandatory academic events are the only legitimate excuse for absences. Any other legitimate reasons can be addressed during the impeachment proceedings if undertaken.

Section V Specific duties of Officers are as follows:

A. President

The President shall be the leader of this organization, and is responsible for all outward-facing communications. Responsibilities include running officer meetings, coordinating with other student organizations, interacting with the Democratic Party, and planning events for the organization.

B. Vice President

The Vice-President shall act as a support to the President in their duties, and shall fulfill the Presidential duties when the President is unable to serve.

C. Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for taking notes at meetings and maintaining a YD website that contains at least these bylaws and contact information for the organization.

D. Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial activity of this organization.

E. The Cabinet

The Cabinet shall support the Executive Board in the activity of the organization, including event planning and management. Cabinet Officers are bound to fulfill their duties as outlined by the Executive Board. The number of positions and associated responsibilities assigned to the Cabinet are left at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section VI The Officers will meet at a mutually agreed upon time and place at a minimum of once every two weeks during fall and spring semesters. Special meetings of the Officers may be called, but no binding action may be taken unless at least half of the Officers are present.

Section VII The Executive Board may, at their discretion, set up Committees to assist in the activity of the YD. Each Committee must have of at least one DIRECTOR, who will be a member of the Cabinet.

Section VIII In election, removal, or amendment proceedings; general body meetings; or events, the Executive Board may choose to operate under Robert's Rules of Order. The President, or next highest officer present shall serve as Parliamentarian. If evoked during election proceedings, the ELECTORAL OFFICER shall serve as parliamentarian.

Article VI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section I The Electoral Officer shall be responsible for overseeing YD elections. This person will receive declarations of candidacy, conduct the elections, and use these bylaws to address any questions of electoral procedure.

Section II The Electoral Officer shall be the President, in the case that the President is not seeking re-election to the Executive Board. In the case that the President is seeking re-election, the Electoral Officer shall be the next-highest Executive Board member not seeking re-election. Should every member of the Executive Board be seeking re-election, the Electoral Officer shall be a member of the Cabinet, or, if none are available, a dues paying member not seeking election to the Executive Board. This person shall be approved for the position by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section III Any full-time, registered student in good standing for at least one week prior to the election is eligible to hold an Executive Board position.

- Section IV Candidates may run for one position jointly, but may only serve one semester each, separately. Only one person may hold any Executive Board position at a time; concurrent service of jointly-elected candidates is not allowed.
- Section V Executive Board elections shall be held during the last regularly-scheduled general body meeting in November. The results of the election become effective at noon on December 1st.
- Section VI The window for those wishing to run for an Executive Board position shall be open beginning two weeks prior to the election and close one week prior to the election. Candidates may self-nominate in a manner determined by the Electoral Officer.
- Section VII Voting Procedure is as follows:
- A. All elections will be conducted by secret ballot. Any member in good standing for at least one week prior to the election may vote.
 - B. Voting for offices will be done in ascending order of office rank: Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President.
 - C. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes in an election will be declared the winner.
 - D. When no majority exists, the two candidates with the most votes will participate in a runoff election. In the event of a tie, the election will be decided by moving the election from within the general membership meeting to the general membership listserv, in which an announcement will be sent out to the members via email. In this email, each candidate will be able to issue a statement concerning his or her candidacy. Dues paying members will be able to vote for a candidate via email by December 1st, when the results will be announced.
 - E. In the case of a tie after the electronic vote, the election will then be decided by a coin toss in which the candidates whose last name occurs first in alphabetical order will be designated "heads."

Article VII: OFFICER REMOVAL AND VACANCIES

Section I An Officer may be removed from their office, elected or appointed, on two grounds: failure to abide by the attendance policy as outlined in Article V Section IV of these bylaws, or miscarriage of duty, as defined below:

The term “miscarriage of duty” as grounds for impeachment includes, but is not limited to: violation of local, state, or federal law; failure to carry out the duties of office; and violation of the Student Code. Officers must also abide by all requirements for general membership.

Section II The procedure for removal of an Officer is as follows:

- A. A Cabinet member may be removed on the grounds of attendance or miscarriage of duty at any time by a three-quarters vote of the Executive Board.
- B. Procedures for impeachment of an Executive Board member may be initiated by any member in good standing filing a written complaint to the highest-ranking Executive Board member not named in the complaint. The complaint must describe the grounds for removal and be signed by at least ten percent of the membership in good standing.
- C. The highest-ranking Executive Board member not under impeachment shall immediately inform the general membership via written communication of the impeachment charges.
- D. Impeachment proceedings shall be held at the next regularly scheduled general body meeting that occurs no sooner than 48 hours following notification of the general membership. The Executive Board may delay impeachment proceedings for up to a week to accommodate extenuating circumstances, such as a school break.
- E. The person under impeachment shall be given the opportunity to speak on their own behalf at the general body meeting at which their impeachment vote shall be cast. In the event the person under impeachment cannot attend the impeachment proceedings, the individual may submit a written letter to be read by a designee.
- F. An affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members in good standing present shall be required for removal from office.

Section III An interim replacement for any vacancy in the Executive Board will be chosen by the President, unless the vacancy is in the Presidency. If the vacancy is in the Presidency, the next highest Officer will assume the Presidency.

- Section IV The Executive Board must call for a special election to be held within two weeks of the vacancy. Voting procedure from Article VI of these bylaws shall be used.
- Section V No interim replacement for a Cabinet-level position shall be necessary. Applications for a replacement shall be sent to the membership within two weeks of the vacancy.

Article VIII: RESOLUTIONS

- Section I A “quorum” is defined as the minimum number of members in good standing needed for an affirmative vote.
- Section II The Officers of the YD -- or the Executive Board if Cabinet has not been chosen -- have the authority to pass resolutions. An affirmative vote by three-quarters in either case is required. The message shall be signed as the “Officers of UNC Young Democrats”
- Section III At the request of a member, the officers may decide to bring a resolution or endorsement to general membership. The proposed resolution must be made available to the membership at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of a vote. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of members in good standing present at a regularly scheduled general body meeting is required. A quorum of ten members is required.
- Any public-facing message drafted as a result of the resolution shall be signed as the “UNC Young Democrats.” Any resolution or endorsement by the general membership supersedes that of the Officers.

Article IX: ENDORSEMENTS

- Section I Any request for an endorsement vote *besides the Student Body President* must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board, who may initiate endorsement proceedings. The YD may endorse candidates for UNC Chapel Hill Student Body President, the leadership of UNC Chapel Hill campus student organizations, and off-campus elected office.

- Section II The procedure of endorsements is as follows:

A. UNC Chapel Hill Student Body President Endorsement

The YD shall hold a Student Body President forum each year during the spring semester campaign season, after the petition period has ended. Every student body president candidate that has garnered enough petition signatures to be on the ballot will be invited to attend. The Officers will determine the format, date, and time of the forum.

The YD may endorse a candidate for Student Body President at the end of the forum by majority vote of members in good standing in attendance.

Once a candidate has been endorsed, the YD may choose to endorse a different candidate for Student Body President if the previously-endorsed candidate has dropped out of the race or has become ineligible. A forum is not required for these endorsements. This replacement endorsement may be passed by a three-quarters vote of the Officers.

B. UNC Chapel Hill Campus Organization Leadership Endorsements

The YD may endorse a candidate for an on-campus student organization leadership position other than Student Body President with a three-quarters vote of the Officers. This endorsement requires neither a forum nor a vote by the general membership.

C. Off-Campus Elected Office Endorsements

The YD may officially endorse nominees of the Democratic Party in local, state, and national elections with a majority vote of the Officers. This endorsement requires neither a forum nor a vote by the general membership. The YD may not, however, endorse any candidate for off-campus elected office prior to their nomination by the Democratic Party.

Article X: FINANCES

- Section I All financial transactions must be minimally approved by the President and Treasurer, or by a majority vote of the Executive Board prior to the transaction being made. Any transaction over \$100 must be approved by a majority vote of the Officers. If a transaction over \$100 occurs during a time at which Cabinet has not yet been appointed, the transaction must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
- Section II The President and Treasurer must be signatories to any account opened on behalf of the organization.
- Section III Any money obtained under the name of UNC Young Democrats - including but not limited to University funding, fundraising and donation revenue, and member dues - is considered property of the YD and may not directly benefit any individual member.
- Section IV The YD shall comply with local, state, federal, and University financial regulations.

Article XI: AMENDMENTS

- Section I These bylaws may be amended by the general membership of the YD as outlined below.

Section II With one weeks' notice to general membership, the amendment procedure is as follows:

- A. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the general membership in written form.
- B. Once at least seven days have passed since notification of the general membership, the amendments may be formally proposed for a vote at a regularly scheduled general membership meeting.
- C. Amendments may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at the meeting. A quorum of ten members in good standing is required.

Section III Without previous notice, an amendment may be passed by a three-quarters vote of members in good standing at a regularly scheduled general body meeting. A quorum of fifteen members in good standing is required.

Section IV Amendments shall be added directly into these bylaws.