

# **Iowa State University Students for Life Student Organization Constitution**

## **PREAMBLE**

ISU Students for Life promotes the sanctity of human life by educating and activating our peers and our community with regards to abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, human cloning, and related life issues. In recognition of the fact that each human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, ISU Students for Life will work to foster respect for human life and defend the right to life of all human beings, born and unborn.

## **ARTICLE I. Name**

**Section 1.** The name of this Association shall be the ISU Students for Life, a non-profit organization.

## **ARTICLE II. Purposes and Goals**

**Section 1.** This Association is an organization of Students banded together to foster and to protect the most basic value of society – Human Life. It is crucial that the Pro-Life movement mobilize students to oppose the anti-life mentality that is gripping campuses throughout the United States.

**Section 2.** The primary purpose of this Association is education: to present fully detailed and factual information upon which our peers and the general public may make an informed decision about the various topics of fetal development, abortion, alternatives to abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, crisis pregnancies, human cloning, and related life issues. This will be accomplished by:

- (a) Developing and maintaining educational programs regarding the right to life of every human being which would include the development of a clear understanding, full appreciation and sympathetic attitude toward the fundamental value and dignity of human life at all stages of its development and the right of every human being to the continuation of life.
- (b) Developing and maintaining educational programs on campus on the issues of fetal development, abortion, abortion alternatives, euthanasia, infanticide, crisis pregnancies, and human cloning.
- (c) Providing educational materials such as films, books, slides, and pamphlets to ISU students and surrounding communities.
- (d) Submitting relevant news articles to local publications to provide current information on recent events related to the previously mentioned topics.
- (e) Providing information concerning support systems and available services to the ISU community. In particular, we are to educate women who are or may be faced with crisis pregnancies.
- (f) Soliciting, receiving, and raising funds or monies needed for the accomplishment of the above stated purposes of this organization.

**Section 3.** This organization shall be non-profit, non-sectarian, and no part of the net earnings, contributions, or other property shall inure to the benefit of any member. No officer or director shall be remunerated for his/her services as an officer or member.

**Section 4.** This organization shall be non-partisan, shall not support any political party, and shall take no position on matters of government policy, except those relating to the stated purposes and objectives of the organization.

**Section 5.** This organization shall maintain a policy of non-violence in all of its activities.

**Section 6.** ISU Students for Life abides by and supports established Iowa State University policies, State and Federal Laws.

### **ARTICLE III. Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership shall be open to all students and faculty at Iowa State University, and to all community members. No person shall be denied membership on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran.

**Section 2.** Membership shall be on an individual basis.

**Section 3.** Members shall be required to pay annual dues.

**Section 4.** The Executive Board shall not make available any membership information to outside parties.

**Section 5.** Membership will be revoked by 1/2 vote of officers plus 3/4 vote from the general membership if actions are deemed inappropriate by the membership.

### **ARTICLE IV. Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of this organization will comprise the ISU Students for Life Executive Board. All members of this board will be elected to their positions by the general membership. The offices are as follows:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Treasurer
- (e) Public Relations / Education Officer(s)

**Section 2.** The officers of this organization must be registered ISU students and must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office. For undergraduate students, the minimum GPA is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration.
- (b) Be in good standing with the university and enrolled: at least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and at least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.
- (c) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b).

**Section 3.** Duties of Executive Board

- (a) Meet regularly as needed.
- (b) Coordinate group activities and carry out group business.
- (c) Represent the members of the group and act upon its wishes.
- (d) Requires 2/3 of officers present when motions are to be voted on.
- (e) Shall notify the President before meetings if unable to attend.
- (f) Shall be unbiased and fair in dealing with the members of ISU Students for Life.

**Section 4.** Duties of Officers

- (a) President
  1. The President shall be the principal executive officer, and shall preside at all meetings of the organization, foster a sense of unity among members, and shall discharge all the duties which the law will allow him/her as the principle executive officer.
  2. He/She shall be a member ex officio of all committees. The President shall be in charge of making official statements to the media. For a prepared press statement, the President is required to clarify all statements with the Public

Relations Officer or, in his/her absence, another member of the executive board.

3. Individual duties include: maintaining contact with local Pro-Life organizations, representing the group at all functions which require representation, and coordinating activities of the group.

**(b) Vice-President**

1. The Vice-President shall assist the President and perform his/her duties in the event of the President's absence, resignation, removal from office, or other circumstances that prevent the President from completing his/her obligations.
2. Individual duties include: setting program of presentations, speakers, and other group events, and assisting the President wherever needed.

**(c) Secretary**

1. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board and of the organization and shall make such reports of the minutes at all meetings.
2. He/She shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary that may be assigned by the President.
3. The Executive Board may approve a committee, or assistants to the Secretary, to assist in the performance of these duties.

**(d) Treasurer**

1. The Treasurer shall handle all finances and give a report at all meetings.
2. The Treasurer shall, in conference with the President, be responsible for the everyday business of the organization, in particular for the finances and business dealings of the organization.
3. Individual duties include: collecting dues, paying all bills promptly, preparing a yearly budget, coordinating all financial allocations, coordinating fundraising, and submitting audits as required by University regulations.

**(e) Public Relations / Education Officer(s)**

1. The Public Relations / Education Officer(s) shall be in charge of making official statements to the media along with the President and heading educational activities throughout the year.
2. He/She shall be in charge of keeping current with media-related Pro-Life issues. Individual duties include: writing articles, dispensing educational information to the public, bringing educational materials to each meeting, and assuring that all meetings and activities are properly advertised.

**Section 5. Elections**

- (a)** The term of office for all officers shall be one year, beginning after elections during the month of April and ending on April of the following year.
- (b)** There shall be no limits on the number of terms served.
- (c)** No person shall hold more than one office at a time.
- (d)** Elections will be by simple majority vote of the members present, with one vote per person. Only members who are registered ISU students may vote.
- (e)** If there are more than two candidates for a particular office, the candidate receiving the plurality of votes shall be elected.
- (f)** To be eligible for the office of President, a member must have been an officer on the Executive Board for one year prior to his/her candidacy for the office of President, unless he/she receives the unanimous approval of the outgoing Executive Board.

**Section 6.** All members of the Executive Board shall be willing to fulfill the position of another in his/her absence.

**Section 7. Advisors**

- (a)** The advisors will assist the organization as they see fit by making suggestions to the group.
- (b)** Advisors must be current faculty members at Iowa State University.

- (c) Advisors may be appointed from office by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board. Once appointed, they shall retain their office throughout their tenure at Iowa State University, or until they resign or are removed by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLE V. Finances**

**Section 1.** All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within 24 hours after collection. The advisor to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

**Section 2.** The organization may establish reasonable dues that must be paid by all members. The amount of the dues will be determined at the beginning of the academic year by the Executive Committee and presented to the general membership for a 3/4 vote. Annual dues shall not exceed \$25.

**Section 3.** The fiscal year will agree with that of Iowa State University Government of the Student Body (GSB).

**Section 4.** Upon dissolution of this organization, the Executive Board, after payment of all the liabilities of the organization, shall dispose of all remaining assets exclusively to charitable, educational, and religious purposes as the Executive Board shall determine.

#### **ARTICLE VI. Amendments & Ratification**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended in two ways:

- (a) At the monthly meeting or in a special meeting called by the Executive Board by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting.
- (b) In the case of an emergency, the Executive Board may have a meeting to vote on a proposed amendment, with a 2/3 vote required for approval.

**Section 2.** Voting may be by acclamation or by secret ballot. Amendments shall become effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted.

**Section 3.** The amended constitution will be submitted within 10 days to the Student Activities Center for approval.

**Section 4.** This constitution shall become effective upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the general membership. Ratified constitutions must be submitted to the Student Activities Center within 10 days for final approval.

#### **ARTICLE VII. Meetings**

**Section 1.** The organization shall hold meetings as necessary, but at least one per month.

**Section 2.** At least half of the Executive Board must be present to conduct business.

**Section 3.** Motions shall be passed by simple majority of those members present.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. Liaison**

**Section 1.** This organization has the power to establish liaisons with other Pro-Life organizations, including, but not limited to, those organizations providing alternatives to abortion.

#### **ARTICLE IX. Representation**

**Section 1.** No members shall make representation to any public official or body, or speak, or act publicly, in the name of ISU Students for Life except the President and the Public Relations / Education Officer.

## **ARTICLE X. Rules of Order**

**Section 1.** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of business in all cases where they are applicable and not in conflict with this constitution.

## **ARTICLE XI. Vacancies and Impeachments**

**Section 1.** If any officer is found to be unfit or unable to fulfill his/her duties, he/she may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority of the entire voting membership. If a vacancy should arise for any reason, the President has the authority to fill that position until an election can be held. A special election to fill the vacancy should be held as soon as possible, preferably no later than the second regular meeting after the vacancy occurs.

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## **Required Signatures**

President \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Director  
of Student Activities \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_