

# **Students for Life**

## **Student Organization Constitution**

### **PREAMBLE**

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, 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 Students for Life.

### **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.** Students for Life abides by and supports established Iowa State University policies, State and Federal Laws and follows local ordinances and regulations. Students for Life agrees to annually complete President's and Treasurer's Training.

### **ARTICLE III. Non-Discrimination Statement**

**Section 1.** Iowa State University and Students for Life do not discriminate on the basis of genetic information, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, race, ethnicity, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S Veteran.

### **ARTICLE IV. 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 genetic information, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, race, ethnicity, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S Veteran

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

**Section 3.** The Executive Board shall not make available any membership information to outside parties.

**Section 4.** 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 V. Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of this organization will comprise the 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) Volunteer Coordinator
- (d) Treasurer
- (e) Outreach Chair
- (f) 40 Days Coordinator
- (g) Tabling Coordinator

**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 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 2/5 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.
3. The Vice President shall also act as Risk Management Officer. These Duties include:
  - (a)** help minimize potential risks for club activities,
  - (b)** recommend risk management policies or procedures,
  - (c)** to submit documentation to ISU's Risk Management Office and
  - (d)** to ensure that proper waivers and background checks are on file with Risk Management for events (if applicable).

**(c) Volunteer Coordinator**

1. The Volunteer Coordinator shall take responsibility for contacting local Pro-Life organizations to organize volunteering opportunities for the club to partake in.
2. He/She shall be obligated to organize at least one such volunteering event per semester.

**(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) Outreach Chair**

1. The Outreach chair 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.

**(f) 40 Days Coordinator**

1. The 40 Days Coordinator shall be diligent and conscious of all activity related to 40 Days for Life which may be taking place in the area. This includes raising awareness for any protests sponsored by the club.
2. He/She shall take the lead in promoting and coordinating the Life Chain.

**(g) Tabling Coordinator**

1. The Tabling Coordinator shall do all necessary preparations to ensure that club members are present to represent the club in a public space for at least one three hour period of time on a semi-weekly basis.
2. He/She shall promote and send out a sign-up sheet for members to get involved in tabling.
3. He/She shall arrange for all needed materials (e.g. table, sign, handouts) to be placed at the table in time for the tabling period.

**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. Exceptions may be made, particularly when an officer leaves campus after the fall semester (i.e. the student is graduating, studying abroad, on co-op etc.)
- (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.

## **ARTICLE VI. Advisors**

**Section 1.** The advisor duties of this organization shall be to attend executive meetings, maintain communication with university administration, and assist with the leadership development of the organization's officers.

**Section 2.** The method of selection of the advisor of this organization shall be by a unanimous decision of the executive officers.

**Section 3.** The advisor term of service of this organization shall be an indefinite term length at their leisure

**Section 4.** Impeachment/removal of advisors shall follow the same proceedings and format as the officer impeachment proceedings (see Article XIII).

**Section 5.** The replacement of advisors shall occur immediately after the announcement of the removal or resignation of the previous advisor. The replacement shall require unanimous approval as any other advisor selection.

## **ARTICLE VII. 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 48 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 VIII. 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 Student Engagement 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 Student Engagement within 10 days for final approval.

## **ARTICLE IX. 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 X. 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 XI. Representation**

**Section 1.** No members shall make representation to any public official or body, or speak, or act publicly, in the name of Students for Life except the President and the Outreach Chair.

## **ARTICLE XII. 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 XIII. Vacancies and Impeachments**

**Section 1.** Impeachment or removal of an officer may be considered if an officer fails to uphold the duties of their position or commits wrongdoing against another club member. Examples of this could be the Volunteer Coordinator failing to organize at least one volunteering event per semester, the Tabling Coordinator repeatedly failing to schedule at least one three hour period of time on a semi-weekly basis, or any other failure to comply with listed duties. Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by a written complaint submitted to the President. If impeachment charges are being brought against the President, the written complaint should be submitted to the Vice President. To move forward with impeachment proceedings, 2/3 of executive officers must vote to continue the removal process. The officer being impeached should be notified at least 2 weeks before the general impeachment hearing. The officer will have 5 minutes to speak in front of the general membership, then a secret ballot will be held. An officer can be impeached by a simple majority vote of members. 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.