Constitution

“Students Demand Action” at Iowa State University

**Preamble:** We, the members of Students Demand Action, in order to organize and act to combat gun violence and advocate for sensible gun laws, do hereby establish this constitution.

**Article I:** Name

The name of this organization will be “Students Demand Action” at Iowa State University, henceforth referred to as Students Demand Action.

**Article II:** Affiliation with other groups

Students Demand Action is affiliated with Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety.

**Article III:** Purpose, vision, mission, aims, functions of the organization

Section 1. Purpose: Students Demand Action is established for the expressed purpose of organizing students at Iowa State University to advocate for sensible gun legislation.

Section 2. Mission: Through political engagement such as lobby days, letter writing, and public advocacy initiatives, our mission is to end gun violence around the country and to secure a safer future for students around the country.

Section 3. Students Demand Action understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by Iowa State University policies and procedures. Students Demand Action abides by and supports established Iowa State University policies, State and Federal Laws and follows local ordinances and regulations. Students Demand Action agrees to annually complete President’s and Treasurer’s Training.

**Article IV:** Membership

Section 1. Upon joining the organization, all members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of Students Demand Action.

Section 2. Active membership shall be limited to persons officially connected with Iowa State University as faculty, staff, or registered students. Additionally, in order to be an active member of Students Demand Action, individuals must:

1. Attend at least 2 meetings a semester

Section 3. Joining the Organization: Interested individuals may join the organization by attending meetings, joining the listserv, contacting members, emailing the group, or registering to receive messages from our text team. The only requirement to be considered active is outlined in Article IV Section 2.

Section 4. Any member may voluntarily withdraw from this organization by notifying the executive board.

Section 5. Students Demand Action is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or mental disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in its membership or activities unless permitted by university policy for gender specific organizations.

**Article V:** Officers

Section 1. Students Demand Action will be governed by an executive committee consisting of three officers elected by a popular vote of active members:

1. An elected Chapter Lead will preside at all meetings. The Chapter Lead will be the President of the organization. The Chapter Lead will appoint chairpersons, shall aid other board members and chairpersons in their assignments, shall serve as the outreach voice for the organization, and be responsible for risk management.
2. A Membership Lead will also be elected. The Membership Lead’s responsibilities include member recruitment and providing new members with information on our legislative stances, non-partisan position, and whatever other information is deemed necessary.
3. A Social Lead will also be elected. The Social Lead’s responsibilities include logistical functions such as organizing transportation for off-campus activities like lobby days and organizing monthly meetings in such a way as to encourage attendance.
4. A Treasurer will be elected. The Treasurer will assist the President/Chapter Lead in managing the budget granted by Everytown and the national chapter of Students Demand Action.

Section 2. Students Demand Action will work closely with the other Iowa chapter(s) of Students Demand Action and the Ames Moms Demand Action chapter of Moms Demand Action. These groups will also consult with the chapter on major decisions, so long as the consultation aligns with University policies and guidelines.

Section 3. The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

(a) 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 level 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.

(b) 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, graduate, and professional 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.

(c) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b).

**Article VI:** Advisor

The role and duties of the faculty/staff advisor shall include attending meetings, providing counsel to the executive committee when requested, and advising on policies, decision-making, and leadership development. The executive board will ask at least one willing faculty or staff member will serve the role, and the general members will have the right to veto the decision should it become necessary. The advisor will not vote on organization business.

**Article VII:** Operations

Section 1. Voting Eligibility: Eligible members will be granted voting privileges.

Section 2. Election Process:

1. All officers will be elected by a majority vote of eligible voting members in attendance at the election meeting. Students not in attendance at the meeting may vote via text message to an executive board-appointed intermediary. All elections will be held in September, and incoming officers will spend the next month working with their predecessor to learn their responsibilities before taking charge.
2. The outgoing Chapter Lead will take nominations from the floor. Nominated parties may also vote and make a short speech as decided upon by the executive board.
3. Voting will be done by secret ballot and counted by an executive-board appointed member.

Section 3. Meetings

Meetings will occur on a bi-weekly basis at a time selected by the executive board and general members on the first meeting of the semester. Meetings will follow the following template:

1. Attendance
2. Reports by Chapter Lead, Membership Lead, and Social Lead
3. Committee Reports/Upcoming events
4. Vote on issues, if applicable
5. Other business
6. Dismissal by Chapter Lead
7. Optional engagement activity

**Article VIII:** Finances

        Section1. Students Demand Action will finance its activities by:

1. Applying to funding grants from Students Demand Action
2. Fundraising activities such as bake sales, tshirt sales, and similar activities.

Section 2. 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 Adviser to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

Section 3. Description of Dues -- no dues will exist.

**Article IX:** Quorum

Due to students’ busy schedules, formal quorum will not be required for voting matters. Students who cannot attend meetings will be encouraged to vote via text message or online voting measures.

**Article X:** Removal of Membership or Officers

        Section 1. Removal of Officers

Any officer in violation of the purpose, constitution, mission, or who fails to fulfill their duties may be removed by the following process:

* 1. A written request by at least 5 active members of the organization
  2. Written notification to the officer in question, requesting that the officer be present at the next meeting to speak
  3. A written suggestion from the advisor that the officer be removed
  4. A 2/3 vote

Section 2. Removal of Membership

Any member may be removed either by personal request of the member or if the executive board or majority of members find that they are in violation of the constitution, purpose, or requirements. This may be done by:

1. Written request by 5 active members
2. Written notification to the student in question, requesting presence at the next meeting to speak
3. Unanimous decision from the executive board, with a recommendation from the advisor

**Article XI:** Amendments

Section 1. This constitution is binding to all members of Students Demand Action but is not binding unto itself. Amendments may be proposed by email to Chapter Lead who will schedule arguments at the next meeting.

Section 2. Amendments must be approved by 2/3 of the executive board and 2/3 of voting members

**Article XII:** Ratification

        This constitution must be ratified by 2/3 of voting members and shall be reviewed every 3 years.

**Article XIII:** Statement of Compliance

Students Demand Action agrees to fully comply with the University’s policies. We understand that the organization’s registration is contingent on acceptance of these policies.