

Statement of Intent:

Due to an unusual amount of candidates running for almost all positions, only one amendment was made to the previous constitution (a copy of which may be received from the undersigned upon request), passed by a nearly, if not completely, unanimous vote by the roughly fifty members present at the annual elections meeting: the addition of the Executive Board position of Director of Outreach, created for the purpose of alleviating some of the responsibilities of the Director of Communication. While other changes will be need to be made in the future in order for a continued improvement of organizational transparency, efficiency within the organization, and better service to its constituents, no other amendments were made, as no vote was held for them.

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Chelsea (CJ) Rock

Director of Communication, Pride Alliance 2006-2007

CONSTITUTION OF THE PRIDE ALLIANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

ARTICLE I : NAME

SECTION 1: The name of the organization is the Pride Alliance, formerly known as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Alliance.

ARTICLE II: MISSION STATEMENTS

SECTION 1: To raise awareness and promote an accepting and supportive campus environment for persons of all sexual and gender identities, through outreach, education, and work with other organizations.

SECTION 2: To provide a safe and supportive environment for all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed (LGBTQI), questioning, and heterosexual allies.

SECTION 3: To address the educational, political, and social needs of the campus community, and provide advocacy for the LGBTQI, questioning and heterosexual allied community, and work toward dismantling oppression in all its forms.

ARTICLE III: PRIDE ALLIANCE MOTTO

SECTION 1: The Pride Alliance's official group motto is "UM's LGBTQI, questioning and allies student organization".

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: We do not discriminate on the actual or perceived basis of sexual or gender identity, race, color, creed, sex, religion, marital status, personal appearance, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, or on the basis of the exercise of rights secured by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. In addition, we do not discriminate on the perceived or actual status of HIV and AIDS.

SECTION 2: Membership is open to any undergraduate student who agrees with the Pride Alliance's mission.

SECTION 3: Membership and voting privileges may be denied to anyone who is an obstruction to the general well being of the Pride Alliance; a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the Executive Board is required.

SECTION 4: There shall be no membership dues.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: All executive and appointed officers must be registered undergraduates. Collectively, these officers comprise and are hereafter referred to as the Executive Board.

SECTION 2: Elected officers shall be the President, the Vice President, the Director of Finances, the Director of Communications, the Director of Programming, and the Historian/Media Monitor.

SECTION 3: Appointed officers shall be the facilitators of all current and future subgroups, the Webmaster, and whomever the President—in consultation with the Executive Board—sees fit.

SECTION 4: All officers shall maintain mutual communication with the Executive Board and various associated groups.

SECTION 5: The duties and powers of the Elected Officers shall be:

SUBSECTION A: PRESIDENT

- To act as the official representative of the Pride Alliance
- To see to it that the decisions of the Executive Board and members are observed and executed
- To chair all Executive Board meetings and call emergency Executive Board meetings if needed
- To appoint all unelected/appointed officers such as the facilitators of all current and future subgroups, and the Webmaster
- To maintain group registration with the Office of Campus Programs (OCP)
- To serve as the Student Government Association's (SGA) liaison
- To act as secondary person to pay any accrued bills
- To serve as official liaison to other LGBTQI, questioning and heterosexual allied University units, including but not limited to the Office of LGBT Equity, LGBT Studies, Queer Central and the President's Commission on LGBT Issues

SUBSECTION B: VICE PRESIDENT

- To facilitate Gay Straight Alliance/General Body meetings
- To maintain official Pride Alliance membership list for the SGA
- To assist other officers with their various tasks when appropriate, and to maintain communication with all Executive Board members
- To serve as liaison to other student groups, especially concerning the co-sponsorship of Pride Alliance events

SUBSECTION C: DIRECTOR OF FINANCES

- To oversee the financial transactions of the Pride Alliance
- To act as primary person to prepare any accrued payment, and to balance and maintain the Pride Alliance financial records
- To prepare SGA primary budget in the spring semester and secondary budget in the fall semester
- To maintain relations with SGA Accounts Office and SGA Financial Committee, and to attend any funding meetings pertaining to Pride Alliance scheduled by the SGA
- To maintain regular financial records and make periodic financial reports to the Executive Board, and to ensure that this information is available upon request to all Executive Board members.

SUBSECTION D: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

- To take minutes at all Executive Board meetings, distribute minutes to the Board within a reasonable period of time, and to find a replacement if unable to attend a meeting.
- To maintain the electronic mailing list and send out the weekly mailing and additional mailings if necessary
- To produce press releases for Pride Alliance events
- To make or oversee the production of primarily electronic advertisements
- To coordinate Pride Alliance publicity and advertisement by distributing fliers, sending information to media/press outlets and other electronic mailing lists, and organizing a chalking committee.
- To advise the Executive Board on issues pertaining to the Pride Alliance's relationship with the media
- To bear responsibility for the Pride Alliance web site, either individually or through the appointment of a Webmaster
- If the Webmaster cannot fulfill their duties or one is not appointed, the Director of Communications is responsible to perform their duties.
- To act as secondary spokesperson of the Pride Alliance

SUBSECTION E: DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

- To coordinate non-electronic Pride Alliance publicity and advertisement by distributing fliers, and organizing a chalking committee.
- To make or oversee the production of paper and other non-electronic advertisements
- To collaborate with the Director of Communications on advertisements and other duties
- To organize students in campus-related activism
- To engage the undergraduate community through the most effective method(s) possible
- To coordinate with other leaders of student organizations, in addition to coordination done by the President and Vice President

SUBSECTION F: DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

- To be familiar with all matters of event programming, including but not limited to obtaining contracts/licenses, renting space, obtaining A/V equipment, and paying for services
- To oversee planning of all events while ensuring that all programs/events sponsored or cosponsored by the Pride Alliance are aligned with the mission statements set forth by this Constitution.
- To bear responsibility for gathering documentation on all programs/events for the purposes of record-keeping and review by the Executive Board and membership

SUBSECTION G: HISTORIAN/MEDIA MONITOR

- To collect articles in campus newspapers, the Washington Blade, and other area newspapers that pertain to Pride Alliance or cover important LGBTQI, questioning, and heterosexual ally issues
- To document Pride Alliance events through pictures, film, and any other media as is applicable, and make sure this information is available to all members of Pride Alliance
- To advise the President and Vice President of any activism opportunities, upcoming legal and social challenges, and any other event pertinent to the Pride Alliance mission statement.

SECTION 6: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assume the Office of President if the office becomes vacant.

SECTION 7: The duties and powers of the Appointed Officers shall be:

SUBSECTION A: FACILITATORS

- To coordinate events of their specific meeting group
- To facilitate discussions at meetings and foster a comfortable setting
- To maintain a working relationship with on and off-campus LGBT and allied peer support groups
- To maintain a mutual connection with their group and the Pride Alliance through announcements and discussion of the Pride Alliance
- To maintain communication with the Executive Board about concerns of the general Membership body they communicate with.
- To receive facilitator skills training within two weeks of beginning the semester or taking the position

SUBSECTION B: WEBMASTER

- To update and maintain the Pride Alliance web site(s) on a regular basis
- To maintain and update electronic reflectors for Executive Board positions and facilitator appointments

SECTION 8: All Elected and appointed officers that attend the Executive Board meeting shall have the right to vote on proposed measures.

SECTION 9: Any measure proposed (financial measures, program proposals, etc.) at an Executive Board meeting shall be passed upon approval of the majority in attendance. There must be at least 5 elected or appointed officers in attendance for a vote to take place.

SECTION 10: No appointed or elected member of the board may hold more than any one elected or appointed position except where noted.

SECTION 11: In the event that any elected or appointed officer feels that they cannot faithfully execute their duties, they may submit a written letter of resignation to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will notify the general membership of the vacancy and open a two-week (14 day) period for nominations for a replacement, to be followed at the next general body meeting after the close of said period by an election process as set forth in Article VII.

SECTION 12: If, for any other reason, the offices of the Vice President, Directors, or Appointed Officers become vacated, it shall be the duty of the Executive Board to appoint an interim officer as well as notify the general membership of the vacancy and open a two-week (14 day) period for nominations for a replacement, to be followed at the next general body meeting after the close of said period by an election process as set forth in Article VII.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

SECTION 1: The Pride Alliance will finance activities by the following means.

SUBSECTION A: CHECKING ACCOUNT AND BUDGET

- Check writing authority shall only be given to two members of the Executive Board: the President and the Director of Finances.
- Renewal of authorized officers must be made to the bank within one week after elections.
- A budget must be submitted to the SGA's Finance Committee for primary funding (during the spring semester) for the Pride Alliance's activities in the next school year.
- A budget must be submitted to the SGA's Finance Committee for secondary funding (during the fall semester) if additional spring and summer events are planned.

SUBSECTION B: EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Monies generated through Pride Alliance events shall be deposited in the Pride Alliance account no later than two working days after the event.

- All checks to be written to a member, officer, local business or organization, must be validated by a receipt.

ARTICLE VII: GENERAL RULES

SECTION 1: The Executive Board shall convene all meetings of the General Body of the Pride Alliance as necessary. The Executive Board shall be required to call special meetings when requested in writing by members of Pride Alliance.

SECTION 2: The term of the Executive Board will begin on August 1st and end on May 31st.

SECTION 3: The overall responsibility for the administration and management of the Pride Alliance shall lie with the Executive Board, which will faithfully execute the wishes of the members of the Pride Alliance as expressed in the meetings of the General Body adopted by the majority present.

SECTION 4: The Executive Board shall keep members well informed of cultural events, civic events, educational events, political events, social events, and official matters pertaining to the Pride Alliance.

SECTION 5: All Pride Alliance members in good standing may at any time petition the Executive Board, in writing, for access to general organizational information including but not limited to financial, programming, membership and media documents EXCEPT where this information would disclose identifying or potentially sensitive data on members or finances. The Executive Board will provide access to requested information within a reasonable period of time or provide a reasonable explanation for non-disclosure.

SECTION 6: Requests by other parties, including but not limited to researchers, media/press persons and other student or outside organizations, to speak at, distribute information to or observe Pride Alliance meetings must be approved in advance by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: All general elections will be conducted by secret ballot. Elected officials must be voted in by majority vote.

SECTION 2: Any individual, who has registered with the incumbent Pride Alliance administration prior to the time of voting and is an undergraduate of the University of Maryland, shall be eligible to vote in the Pride Alliance elections. Voting/running members must have attended at least two organizational meetings prior to voting, and must have signed the Membership Roster once during the semester.

SECTION 3: All members, including candidates are only allowed to cast one vote. Persons violating this rule will be banned from the Pride Alliance and its events for one full year and will be subject to disciplinary action stated in the University of Maryland's Code of Student Conduct.

SECTION 4: Elections will be held in April or the first week of May.

SECTION 5: One non-running officer, one non-running member and one graduate advisor will count election ballots. In the event that all officers run, an officer from the SGA, one non-running member and one graduate advisor of the Pride Alliance will count the election ballots.

SECTION 6: The deadline given by the Executive Board to declare candidacy must be strictly followed in order for the candidate's names to be officially included on the ballot.

SECTION 7: Election speeches must be given at the designated time, date and place by the candidates.

SECTION 8: The election committee must comprise of at least one outgoing officer (usually the President) and one graduate advisor.

SECTION 9: Voting must take place within one week of election speeches being given at a General Body Meeting.

SECTION 10: The use of official student group listserves, including the Pride Alliance listserve(s) for individual campaigning will not be allowed.

SECTION 11: There will be no absentee ballots and/or email votes.

SECTION 12: The Chair of the Annual Executive Board Election of the Pride Alliance will conduct the election meeting, and will ensure a smooth transition of the responsibilities of the new administration to the latter.

SECTION 13: The new Executive Board member must adhere to this Constitution by signing it under Article X and submitting it to an advisor. Each board member must keep copies of the signed Constitution.

ARTICLE IX: IMPEACHMENT

SECTION 1: A written request for the impeachment of an officer from any member/officer must be made with a three-member support submitted to the Executive Board and the person accused.

SECTION 2: The Advisor shall appoint a committee to recommend a plan of action.

SECTION 3: If the matter is unresolved for more than five working days of the submission of the complaint, the committee must bring the complaint forward to members at the next General Body meeting.

SECTION 4: At the General Body meeting, a committee member must present the case to the General Body. Thereafter, the accused must be given the opportunity to defend themselves before any vote is taken against them. The General Body may ask questions of anyone involved.

SECTION 5: A secret ballot must be held. Removal of the officer will become the official by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present. There must be at least fifteen (15) members present or voting will be tabled until the next General Body meeting. The issue can only be tabled two (2) times.

ARTICLE X: ADVISORS

SECTION 1: In addition to the Coordinator of LGBT Involvement and Community Advocacy in OCP, an individual interested in becoming an advisor must contact the President and will be named a General Resource.

SECTION 2: After an informal one semester trial period, the Executive Board will vote to decide whether to declare the General Resource as an official Pride Alliance advisor. This formal evaluation is based on very informal and loose criteria.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: This Constitution is binding to all members of the Pride Alliance, but the Constitution is not binding on to itself.

SECTION 2: The Executive Board shall incorporate amendment(s) to this document for the stability and well being of the Pride Alliance when the General Body officially adopts the amendment(s) by a majority (2/3rds) approval.

SECTION 3: Any voting member of the Pride Alliance may propose amendments to the Constitution in writing to the executive board. The Executive Board must then propose the amendment to the General Body. A majority of the General Body members must be present or voting will be postponed until the next morning or until fifteen members are present at a meeting.

ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION

This Constitution has been signed and approved by the Executive Board of the Pride Alliance.

