# CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

# Preamble

Young Democrats at Southern Utah University is organized to help facilitate the organization of College Democrats college students at Southern Utah University. This college democratic group offers an opportunity for democratic college students to gain an understanding of the importance of active participation politically, including involvement in campaigns and policy issues, along with getting involved with the State and County Democratic Party and the Young Democrats of Utah. It is for these goals that we ordain and establish this Constitution for the Young Democrats at Southern Utah University.

**Article I**

**Name and Purpose**

*Section 1:* The name of this organization shall be the Young Democrats at Southern Utah University, hereon referred to as “YDSUU.”

*Section 2:* YDSUU pledges to support the philosophy and candidates of the Democratic Party. Furthermore, YDSUU shall focus on building inter-collegiate relationships among all College Democrats at all Utah universities and colleges.

*Section 3:* YDSUU shall be the official Southern Utah University Chapter of the College Democrats of Utah, an official arm of the College Democrats of America.

**Article II**

**Membership**

*Section 1:* Membership in YDSUU shall be open to all college students currently enrolled Southern Utah University who wish to be known as Young Democrats and who have the best interests of Young Democrats and the Democratic Party at heart.

*Section 2:* YDSUU does not exclude on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnic identity, national origin, religion, economic status, gender, sexual orientation or ability.

# Article III

# Executive Committee

*Section 1:* The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Director, Financial Director, Events Director, and Chapter Representatives.

*Section 2:* The Executive Committee shall determine the agenda and policy of YDSUU and coordinate all activities and events. Likewise, the Executive Committee shall establish an annual plan, which shall provide detailed directives for the improvement and development of YDSUU.

*Section 3:* All members of the Executive Committee must maintain active involvement in all activities and endeavors of YDSUU. Each member must attend at least 80% of all Executive Committee meetings unless prior arrangements are made with the President. Failure to meet this requirement shall be grounds for removal as deemed by the Executive Committee.

*Section 4:* The duties of the Executive Committee members shall be as follows:

The President shall:

* Be the chief executive officer of YDSUU;
* Preside over all meetings of YDSUU;
* Define the agenda of YDSUU during his or her tenure;
* Carries out the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Committee;
* Plan, organize, and execute YDSUU event;
* Delegate planning, organization, and execution of YDSUU events to committees and sub-committees
* Act as the official representative of YDSUU to the College Democrats of Utah, to the Utah State Democratic Party, and to all other organizations.
* Appoint members to positions in the Executive Committee in the event that elections can’t be held.

The Vice President shall:

* Assist the President in the performance of his or her duties;
* Act as President when the President is unable to perform his or her duties;
* Assume the office of President in the case of the President’s death, resignation, or removal;
* Assist the President in evaluating the progress of the Executive Committee and the organization as a whole;
* Perform such duties as the President may assign.

The Secretary shall:

* Keep detailed and accurate records of all YDSUU meetings;
* Provide copies of all meeting minutes to all members of the Executive Committee in a timely manner as determined by the President;
* Maintain contact lists and records;
* Perform such duties as the President may assign.

The Communications Director shall:

* Develop all advertisements, flyers, posters, and literature for YDSUU activities;
* Compose and distribute press releases to inform the media of events and activity of the Young Democrats;
* Develop and maintain the YDSUU website;
* Manage and grow social media outlets
* Perform such duties as the President may assign.

The Financial Director shall:

* Maintain accurate records of all donations and expenditures;
* Balance the budget and maintain the bank account;
* Direct all fundraising efforts and prepare grant requests;
* Perform such duties as the President may assign.

The Events Director shall:

* Plan, organize, and execute YDSUU event;
* Delegate planning, organization, and execution of YDSUU events to committees and sub-committees
* Perform such duties as the President may assign.

**Article IV**

**Elections and Vacancies**

*Section 1:* The majority of the Executive Committee, including the President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Director, Finance Director and Events Director will be elected once per year at the first official meeting of Spring semester.

*Section 2:* After the new Executive Committee has been elected, they will shadow their incumbent counterparts for the remainder of the semester to learn their duties and functions.

*Section 3:* The newly elected Executive Committee will take office and begin serving in their duties and functions at the beginning of each Fall semester.

*Section 4:* Only members of the Young Democrats at Southern Utah University can run for office and vote in elections.

*Section 5:* Elections shall be conducted using secret ballots. Each College Democrat shall have one vote per election. Immediately following the close of an election, the votes shall be counted and the elected officials shall be declared.

*Section 6:* A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Committee dies, resigns or is removed from office. In the event of a vacancy, the President shall appoint a replacement, with a two-thirds (2/3) approval by the Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.

**Article V**

**Removal from Office**

*Section 1:* Any member of the Executive Committee may be removed from office if found guilty of failure to adequately perform his or her duties or if found guilty of any major misconduct which reflects poorly on YDSUU.

*Section 2:* The procedures for removal shall be as follows:

1. Any member of the Executive Committee may bring charges against another. These charges must be submitted in writing to Executive Committee.
2. If the President is charged with negligence, the Executive Committee shall appoint, based upon a majority vote, another member of the Executive Committee to preside over the removal process.
3. All members of the Executive Committee, including the member charged, shall individually review the charges. After reviewing the charges, all members of the Executive Committee who are not charged with negligence shall vote on whether to hear the case. A majority vote in favor of hearing the case shall be necessary to proceed.
4. If the majority votes in favor of hearing the case, the Executive Committee shall schedule a hearing to be held no fewer than 15 days after the initial vote.
5. The hearing must begin with testimony by the member charged. The member must be given opportunity to defend himself or herself after which he or she may be asked questions by all members except those who submitted the charges.
6. After hearing testimony, the charged member shall be dismissed from the proceedings. All other members of the Executive Committee shall then have opportunity for debate after which a vote shall be taken. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by members of the Executive Committee shall be necessary for removal. Upon the vote, the presiding member must immediately inform the charged member of the outcome.

**Article VI**

**Constitutional Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution of YDSUU must be submitted to the Executive Committee no fewer than 15 days prior to a general body meeting at which the amendments shall be considered, unless submitted by the President. An amendment shall be approved if two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee and two-thirds (2/3) of the general body in attendance vote in favor of the amendment.

**Article VII**

**Emergency Power**

*Section 1:* In the event that the Young Democrats at Southern Utah University as an organization is neglected and no Executive Committee has been elected to govern the club, any interested member of the Democratic Party enrolled at Southern Utah University can register the club with the university and declare himself or herself as the new President. He or she can then appoint an Executive Committee of his or her choice, according to his or her discretion.

*Section 2:* The self-declared President has the power to appoint and remove anyone he sees fit to the Executive Committee so long as he is operating under the Emergency Power. He cannot, however, remove all members at the same time. A minimum of three members of the executive committees must remain until the other positions are filled, at which time those three members can be removed.

*Section 3:* Operating under the Emergency Power, the President can perform all duties and functions of each member of the Executive Committee.

*Section 4:* The newly formed Executive Committee can reverse the actions of the self-declared President with a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

*Section 5:* The self-declared President can end his or her use of the Emergency Power at any time by notifying the Executive Committee and the general body of the club. At that time this Constitution is ratified and goes into full effect.

*Section 6:* The general body of the club can end the self-declared President’s use of the Emergency Power and ratify this Constitution with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. At that time this Constitution goes into full effect.

*Section 7:* Upon the end of the use of the Emergency Power and the ratification of this Constitution, elections for the Executive Committee for the next Fall semester are to be held before the end of the semester in which the Emergency Power was invoked. It is the duty of the standing President and the Executive Committee to hold elections.

*Section 8:* The self-declared President and the Executive Committee will remain in office until the next Fall semester when a newly elected committee will take over.