

## **Preamble**

The goal of the after-mentioned organization is to promote mutually supportive relationships among all students and members of the surrounding community in the interest of advancing campus and community diversity. Furthermore, we believe that Auburn and Auburn University are strengthened by the diversity of people and ideas and that each person has worth and should be treated with dignity and respect.

In order to promote these ideas, we strive to create a safe meeting space in which to discuss Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, Queer, and Ally (LGBTQIQA) issues and host activities that educate the general public to increase awareness and acceptance on campus and in the broader community.

## **Constitution**

### **Auburn Gay Straight Alliance**

#### **Article I: The Organization**

##### Section 1:

The name of the organization shall be the Auburn Gay Straight Alliance, herein after referred to as “AGSA”.

##### Section 2:

The purpose of the organization is as follows:

- a. To provide support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people, transsexual people, queer, questioning, allies, and supporters.
- b. To educate the campus and community about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues.
- c. To establish a campus and community environment free of prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender expression or identity.
- d. To actively encourage student activities which foster a positive, supportive, respectful, and thoughtful community outlook.
- e. To provide a safe and friendly environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people, transsexual people, queer, questioning, allies, and supporters.

#### **Article II: Membership**

#### Section 1:

- a. Membership in this organization shall be open to all persons regardless of sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, sex, gender, religion, age, physical handicap, marital status, veteran status, and/or any discriminatory factor that is prohibited by law.
- b. Membership in the organization can be denied or terminated if an individual's actions or intentions are in any way harmful to the goals of the organization. If any member feels threatened by another's actions or believes them not to be upholding to the goals of AGSA, they may approach an officer with the problem. From there, the officers will meet to discuss the problem and if by a majority vote the offending member is believed to be at fault, a special meeting shall be held with all the voting members to discuss the matter. The member in question will be given a chance to state their case to the members. Following this, the members will decide whether to put the individual on a probationary period of one month, or, if the actions are severe enough, to dismiss the member entirely. Each member is allotted one chance of probation. Thereafter, if the member continues with offensive behavior, they shall be automatically dismissed.

#### Section 2:

Voting privileges are granted to those members that meet all of the following criteria:

- a. Member must attend two consecutive meetings
- b. Member must have paid dues as defined in the by-laws
- c. Member must register his/her name and email address with the Committee Director or Assistant Committee Director of the Committee of Event Planning.

#### Section 3:

In order to preserve each individual member's right to privacy, any formal or informal membership lists are to be kept in the strictest confidence. Any member(s) who release(s) the name or contact information without consent of that particular member are subject to immediate removal from the organization.

#### Section 4:

It is each member's responsibility to read and abide by the constitution.

### **Article III: Elections, Committees, and Officers**

#### Section 1: Elections

- a. Election of officers for each academic year will be held on the second to last general meeting of spring semester.
- b. Nominations will be accepted for a period of two weeks prior to the election.
- c. Voting will be by secret paper ballot.
- d. The Advisor of the organization should preside over elections. If the Advisor is unable to do so, a non-voting member will be selected to preside over the election.
- e. A simple majority of the voting members present shall determine the winner.
- f. Officers assume duties at the closure of the meeting in which they are elected. It is the responsibility of the former officers to ensure a successful transition.
- g. To run for office an individual must have been a paying member for a minimum of one full semester.

## Section 2: Term of Office and Meeting Requirements

A term is one full academic year. An individual member can hold a particular office for a maximum of two consecutive years. Besides serving for one full academic year, the individual member is expected to attend most, if not all, AGSA meetings held throughout the year. This includes, but is not limited to, standard AGSA meetings, officer meetings, and any special meetings, should they be held throughout the year.

## Section 3: Committees

### a. Committee of Social Affairs

The Committee of Social Affairs, herein after referred to as CSA, shall have the responsibilities of alerting the media of AGSA events; communicating with the media before, during, or after an AGSA event; and planning non-AGSA events such as parties, pot lucks, etc. The CSA shall consist of a Committee Director and an Assistant Committee Director. The CSA shall not act on a specific decision to do something that will affect AGSA without the Committee Directors of all three committees being in general agreement. Once the committees are in agreement, then the CSA can take this action.

### b. Committee of Political Affairs

The Committee of Political Affairs, herein after referred to as CPA, shall have the responsibilities of recruiting new members, enforcing campus politics, getting LGBT legislation passed in the student government, executing AGSA events, and dealing with campus-wide events. The CPA shall consist of a Committee Director and an Assistant Committee Director. The CPA shall not act on a specific decision to do something that will affect AGSA without the Committee Directors of all three committees being in general agreement. Once the committees

are in agreement, then the CPA can take this action.

c. Committee of Event Planning

The Committee of Event Planning, herein after referred to as CEP, shall have the responsibilities of facilitating group discussions, planning special AGSA events, planning AGSA activities, obtaining guest speakers, and keeping a list of current voting members. The CEP shall consist of a Committee Director and an Assistant Committee Director. The CEP shall not act on a specific decision to do something that will affect AGSA without the Committee Directors of all three committees being in general agreement. Once the committees are in agreement, then the CEP can take this action.

Section 4: Officers

a. Committee Director

The Committee Director shall be the head of the committee that he/she is a part of, and he/she shall assume all of the duties given to his/her appropriate committee. However, he/she may delegate some duties to the Assistant Committee Director as deemed necessary.

b. Assistant Committee Director

The Assistant Committee Director shall assume any duty not assumed by the Committee Director or any duty delegated to him/her by the Committee Director.

c. Executive Communications Officer

The Executive Communications Officer, herein after referred to as Secretary, shall keep an account of all organization meetings, general and executive, and all non-financial records. The Secretary shall be in charge of communication between voting members, non-voting members, and the executive board. The Secretary shall have access to the mailing list and website. He/she should post to these media, if they are in use, as often as is asked of him/her by the Committee Directors.

d. Financial Officer

The Financial Officer, herein after referred to as Treasurer, shall keep an accurate record of all the organization's financial dealings, including fundraisers, and shall give a detailed report at regular meetings. Authorized officers for expenditures include the combined signatures of any two of the following: the Advisor, the Finance Officer, the Director of Political Affairs, the Director of Social Affairs, or the Director of Event Planning.

e. Media Technician

The Media Technician shall be responsible for documenting all AGSA events through the use of photography, videos, and other available media. In addition to documenting AGSA events, the Media Technician shall be responsible for designing or helping to design media for distribution in preparation for AGSA, or related events, which can include but is not limited to: pamphlets, fliers, information cards, posters, etc. By assuming these responsibilities, the Media Technician shall keep in contact with the Secretary in order to keep pictures, videos, etc., up-to-date on AGSA related media, like the website, should it be currently in use. In addition to assuming these responsibilities, the Media Technician must also be able to go to most, if not all, AGSA functions in order to document them.

## Section 5: Discrepancies

If a question over the delegation of the responsibilities given to each officer arises or a question of policy cannot be agreed upon by the separate committees, the question should be decided by a majority vote by the voting members present at the meeting at which the issue arises.

## Section 6: Mid-Academic Year Officer Replacement

If an officer leaves his/her position halfway during a full academic year and there are willing members to fill his/her position, then a Mid-Academic Year election shall be held. The procedure for electing someone to this position is exactly the same as the end of the spring semester. Furthermore, the person elected to the newly vacated officer position shall be able to be elected to the same position for two full academic years, contrary to the two-year limit rule discussed in Article III: Section 2. However, this person can no longer be elected in another Mid-Academic Year election should one arise again.

## Section 7: Delegation of Power for Vacant Positions

- a. In the event of the vacancy of the Secretary, Treasurer, or Media Technician, then the Assistant Committee Directors of each committee shall evenly divide up the responsibilities given to the vacant position and assume these responsibilities thereafter.
- b. In the event of the vacancy of Assistant Committee Director of a committee, then the Committee Director for this committee shall reclaim all the responsibilities given to the Assistant Committee Director and he/she shall be able to share these responsibilities with any remaining committee members.
- c. In the event of the vacancy of Committee Director of a committee, then the Assistant Committee Director of that committee shall assume all responsibilities given to the Committee Director and he/she shall be able to share these responsibilities with any remaining committee members. The order of succession thereafter shall be the shared responsibility among the remaining Committee Directors, shared responsibility among the remaining Assistant Committee Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, and Media Technician.

## Section 8: Officer Removal

### a. Abusing Power

In the event that one of the Committee Directors or the Treasurer uses his/her power to do anything that involves AGSA in its entirety without first consulting *both or all three* of the Committee Directors, then that officer shall be immediately be put on probationary status. While on probationary status, the officer shall no longer have the ability to vote or make executive decisions but will still be officer of AGSA. This officer shall be on probationary status until he/she proves that he/she can effectively work with the other officers *or for a period of two weeks, whichever comes first*. If the officer continues in *his/her* previous manner, then he/she

shall be immediately removed from the position without the voting members involvement or without further discussion of the topic. Once removed from this officer position, this person can longer be an officer of AGSA but can still be a voting member of AGSA, should he/she choose so.

b. Minor Mishandling of Officer Duties

In the event that the officers, excluding the members, feel that an officer is not performing his/her duties efficiently, then the other officers shall have a meeting with this particular officer to discuss the problem. Upon meeting with the officer, the particular officer's ability to vote and make executive decisions, regardless of the officer's position, shall be put on probation until the officer has proven that he/she can do his/her duties efficiently. During the probationary period, the officer is to still perform those duties that were given to him/her, since he/she is still considered an officer of AGSA. If the officer continues to perform poorly at his/her duties, then the other officers should present this problem to the voting members in order to consider the procedure for Severe Mishandling of Officer Duties.

c. Severe Mishandling of Officer Duties

In the event that the membership, excluding the other officers, feels that an officer is severely mishandling his/her duties, then a special meeting regarding the officer's actions shall be held with the voting members. During the meeting, the reasons for why the officer is up for removal shall be presented by one of the officers. Afterward, these reasons shall be considered by the voting members. If the majority of the voting members vote in favor of removing the officer from his/her position, then from that point onward, the officer shall be relieved of his/her duties. This officer will still be a voting member of AGSA, however, should he/she choose so.

#### **Article IV: Meetings**

Meetings shall be held during the academic year as determined by the committee members. Special meetings shall be called by *any* of the Committee Directors and/or Advisor.

#### **Article V: Constitution Amendment or Revision**

This constitution may be amended or revised with the approval of the majority of the voting membership present. Such a vote must be announced to the general membership fourteen days prior to the actual vote and must be held during a regularly scheduled general meeting. All voting members must have access to the current version and the proposed version(s) for the seven days prior to the vote. Any and all changes should be clearly visible.

*Date of Revision: 29 April 2009*