

CONSTITUTION OF THE VIROLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

ARTICLE I. NAME AND OBJECT

The Virology Student Association (VSA) primarily aims to organize and represent the graduate students conducting research at the Nebraska Center for Virology (NCV), as well as to promote professional development, social interaction, and academic integrity and excellence among all members of the University's community with an interest in virology.

The VSA organizes activities to encourage the study of virology, viral immunology and related disciplines, creates networking and social events, and cooperates with the authorities of the NCV to sponsor any action aimed towards improving the development and wellbeing of its members.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERS

Section 1. Primary members

Currently enrolled students of the University pursuing a graduate degree whose advisor is a member of the NCV faculty shall automatically be members of the VSA.

Section 2. Secondary members

Any currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate student with an interest in virology can become a member with the approval of the Executive Committee. All members shall have the same rights and responsibilities, unless otherwise noted in this Constitution.

Section 3. Revocation and resignation

Any member with due justification can file a request for membership revocation in accordance to Article IV, Section 6 of this Constitution.

Members are free to resign, and shall be requested to submit his/her resignation in writing to the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Dues

Members of the VSA shall not be required to pay any dues.

Section 5. Non-discrimination

The VSA does not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership appointment on the basis of gender, age, disability, genetic information, race, color, religion, pregnancy, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, gender identity of expression, place of residence, political affiliation, or sexual orientation.

Section 6. Non-student participation

A student organization shall consist of at least five currently enrolled student members. Non-students will be allowed to participate in any student organization activity, but will not be a voting member, or an elected or appointed officer or said organization. A non-student is someone who is not currently enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall or spring semester.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership

Meetings shall be comprised of all members as defined in Article 2, Sections 1 and 2. Each member shall have one vote.

Section 2. Meetings

A. Regular meetings

Regular meetings shall be conducted at least once every fall and spring semester.

B. Special meetings

A special meeting may be called by the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of five members. Except in case of emergency, at least three days' notice shall be given.

Section 2. Reserved powers

Legislative, electoral, and budgetary authority shall be exercised solely during meetings. The membership shall decide the time and dates for regular meetings, as well as the procedural rules for their operation.

Meetings may also serve as a forum for interaction.

Section 3. Presiding officers

The President shall preside over the meetings.

The Vice-President of Internal Affairs shall act as secretary of the meetings.

In their absence they shall designate the Executive Officer entitled to perform their duties.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum shall be reached with the presence of five (5) members, and shall be necessary to transact all business.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers: the President, the Vice-President of Internal Affairs, the Vice-President of Professional Development, and the Vice-President of Social Activities; and all past presidents maintaining member status.

Section 2. Powers

The Executive Committee shall have power to: (1) Supervise the affairs of the VSA; (2) create its own procedural rules; and (3) take any other reasonable action it deems necessary to fulfill the purposes of the VSA.

The duties of each of the Executive Officers shall be established by the membership.

Section 3. Election

A. Time and procedure of election

The Executive Officers shall be elected by first-pass-the-post voting no later than the last meeting of the spring semester. Provided three or more candidates run for the same Executive Officer position, instant-runoff voting will be used.

The outgoing President shall preside over officer elections. Electronic methods of voting may be used if approved by the membership.

B. Requirements for candidacy

Candidates running for an officer position must be primary members, as defined in Article II, Section 1, and intend to remain a graduate student for the full term of the next academic year.

Member shall not be able to run for more than one Executive Officer position at a time.

C. Additional directives

The membership reserves the power to establish any further directives regarding the election of officers by an absolute majority vote, in accordance to the principles outlined in this Constitution.

Section 4. Term of office

Elected Executive Officers shall serve a term of one calendar year with an effective inaugural date of May 1 and run through April 30 of the following year.

Section 5. Exclusions

Executive Officers shall not be able to simultaneously serve in multiple Executive Officer positions.

Section 6. Removal of office

The Executive Officers shall be subject to removal from office by a special meeting convened to that effect.

Procedure shall require that a written statement of reason(s) for removal be distributed to all members, and endorsed by at least 10% of them.

An absolute majority vote shall be required to remove an Executive Officer from their position.

Section 7. Vacancies

In the event that an Executive Officer resigns, or is removed from office, such vacancies shall be filled by a special election, provided one weeks' notice is given before it.

If the office of President is vacated, the Vice-President of Internal Affairs shall become acting President until the special election takes place.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Committees shall be established by the membership stating their purpose, duration, and participants.

The Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members as chairperson of such committees.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISORS

Section 1. Requirements

The VSA shall have one Primary Advisor, which must be a regular Academic/Administrative or Managerial/Professional faculty/staff member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and may have any number of Secondary Advisors, which may be regular Academic/Administrative, Managerial/Professional, or Office/Service staff members or Graduate Assistants of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

VSA advisors must be permanent full-time members of the NCV graduate faculty.

Section 2. Appointment

One Primary Advisor and one Secondary Advisor shall be appointed by the VSA membership upon the nomination of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Term and limits

Advisors may serve an unlimited number of terms of two calendar years each.

Immediately after the first selection, the Primary Advisor shall serve for a term of two years, and the Secondary Advisor for a term of one year.

Section 4. Removal and resignation

The Executive Committee shall request the membership to remove an advisor for any reason deemed appropriate by VSA.

Advisors may resign, and shall be requested to submit his/her resignation in writing to the Executive Committee with reasonable notice.

Advisor vacancies shall be filled by a special meeting.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCE

The VSA shall operate according to the rules and guidelines of a non-profit entity.

No part of the organization's net earnings will inure to the benefit of individuals. The VSA must establish that it will not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, such as the creator or the creator's family, shareholder of the organization, other designated individuals, or persons controlled directly or indirectly by such private interests.

The VSA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in this document.

The organization will not, as substantial part of its activities, attempt to influence legislation (unless it elects to come under the provisions allowing certain lobbying expenditures) or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution the VSA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt Federal Income Tax under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue laws). Organizational monies will be handled by Student Organization Financial Services, regardless of source.

ARTICLE VIII. PROCESS FOR DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the VSA the officers and advisors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the VSA, dispose of all the assets of the VSA exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization. Under section 501C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue laws), as the officers and advisors shall determine. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, exclusively for such purposes to such organization(s), as determined by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the VSA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and any special rules of order the VSA may adopt.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

All amendments must be approved by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN).

ARTICLE XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution shall go into effect May 1, 2014.

ARTICLE XII. EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

Ignacio Correas
President

Elisa Salas
Vice President of Internal Affairs