

Constitution of the Young Communist League at the University of Houston

PREAMBLE

In order to promote socialist consciousness and critical scientific understanding of the socioeconomic system in which we live, to build intersectional solidarity among students from diverse backgrounds and inclusivity for those from groups historically marginalized in American capitalist society, to support and assist all efforts to build student movements for justice and progress and to incorporate these movements into the broader united front against fascism and for socialist democracy, and to prepare students for the real world of political struggle and create future leaders of the working class and its Communist Party, the Young Communist League is established and shall operate within the following constitution.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Young Communist League at the University of Houston, abbreviated YCL or YCLUH.

ARTICLE II – PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Young Communist League operates on the principle of democratic centralism, which means that all decisions are arrived at only after the widest possible discussion by the membership. After such discussion, a decision is arrived at by majority vote and all members strive to carry out the decision.

Section 2. The Young Communist League is an autonomous and structurally independent organization that works alongside the Communist Party for the advancement of socialism. We strive to develop the next generation of leadership for the Communist Party, to give the party radical and youthful perspective and support that can only come from youth and students, to accept the guidance of the party as well as to guide the party in the direction its membership strives towards.

Section 3. Each member of the Young Communist League has an equal say on decisions put before the membership. In all votes on policy and elections of officers, each member shall have one vote.

Section 4. The Young Communist League at UH is a campus chapter of the Young Communist League USA and is subject to its constitution and shall participate in its activities, including those associated with its international affiliation with the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. As a Registered Student Organization at the University of Houston, we adhere to the University of Houston's Non-Discrimination policy. The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. The university provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status except where such distinction is required by law. Additionally, the System prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Section 2. Membership in the Young Communist League shall be open to all students at the University of Houston who agree to uphold its constitution and general program and participate fully in its activities.

Section 3. All members have the right to vote on decisions made by the organization at its meetings.

Section 4. Membership in the Young Communist League does not amount to membership in the Communist Party.

Section 5. All members are eligible to run for office in this organization.

ARTICLE IV – CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 1 – The YCL shall elect annually a Central Committee which shall function as the YCL's decision making body in between general meetings.

Section 2. – The Central Committee shall elect from its membership officers to carry out essential organizational functions for the YCL. The offices shall include a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Additional offices may be created by a majority vote of the Central Committee.

Section 2. – The tasks of the Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) To chair both general meetings and meetings of the Central Committee;
- (b) To serve as the representative of the YCL to University Administration, the Student Government Association, and other organizations;
- (c) To execute the orders of the YCL;
- (d) To appoint chairpersons and members of all committees;
- (e) To delegate official responsibilities when deemed appropriate;
- (f) To have signature authority on all checks issued by the YCL;
- (g) To inform succeeding officers of their responsibilities to this organization, University Administration, the Student Government Association, and other organizations;
- (h) To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

Section 3. – The tasks of the Vice Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) To assist the Chair in her/his duties;
- (b) To preside at meetings of this organization in the absence of the Chair;
- (c) To establish, administer, and enforce an attendance policy;
- (d) To assume the office of Chair in her/his absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal;
- (e) To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

Section 4. – The tasks of the Secretary shall be as follows:

- (a) To prepare agendas and to record minutes of general meetings and meetings of the Central Committee;
- (b) To handle all correspondence of the YCL not under the preview of the President;
- (c) To pick up all mail received at the Center for Student Involvement at least once a week, in addition to any other location at which mail for the YCL may be delivered;
- (d) To maintain an accurate list of the membership of the YCL;

- (e) To update and maintain all files of the YCL;
- (f) To assume the office of Vice-President in her/his absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal;
- (g) To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

Section 5. – The tasks of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

- (a) To keep accurate records of the financial status and transactions of the YCL;
- (b) To receive and disburse all monies of the YCL;
- (c) To have signature authority on all checks issued by the YCL;
- (d) To hold personal responsibility for all YCL funds in her/his possession;
- (e) To represent the YCL when requesting funds from the Activities Funding Board;
- (f) To assume the office of Secretary in her/his absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal;
- (g) To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

Section 1. – The Central Committee shall be elected annually by the membership during a special general meeting to take place at the end of the Spring semester, no later than the 1st of May. This special meeting shall, on top of the immediate concerns of other general meetings, focus on critical analysis of the past year of the YCL's work, of its leadership's performance, and setting goals for the year ahead.

Section 2. – Every member of the YCL who is in good standing shall be eligible to run in an election for the Central Committee.

Section 3. – The size of the incoming Central Committee shall be decided by the outgoing central committee.

Section 4. – Any member may nominate any other member to be on the Central Committee. If the nominee accepts her/his nomination and that nomination is seconded by another member, s/he shall be on the ballot for the election.

Section 5. – The election shall be by secret ballot in a ranked choice system. This means that every ballot shall have a full list of nominees and the voter must rank the nominees by who they most want to be in the Central Committee.

Section 6. – All ballots shall be counted in front of the membership and the outcome shall be announced by the Chair.

Section 7. – In the event that the number of nominees is equal to the size of the incoming Central Committee, the election shall be by acclamation, meaning that the ballot shall pass on a voice 'yay' or 'nay' vote.

ARTICLE VI - REMOVAL

Section 1. – Any officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership.

Section 2. – In case of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 3. – A vacancy of any office shall be filled by Chair appointment, subject to the approval of the membership.

ARTICLE VII – EVALUATION AND APPEAL

Section 1. The status of any member or officer of the YCL may be subject to review for action contrary to the principles on which the YCL is founded. This applies to financial irregularities, to racism and religious discrimination, discrimination against women, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and strikebreaking.

Section 2. – Review of a member or officer should be made by an evaluation committee established by the Central Committee in a process open to the general membership. The committee should review the situation and make a recommendation to the organization.

Section 3. – Any member who is to be reviewed must be so informed.

Section 4. After hearing the recommendation of the evaluation committee, the Central Committee can make a decision by two-thirds vote on disciplinary action. Disciplinary action can consist of reprimand, educational task, suspension, or expulsion.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. – Meetings of this organization shall be no less than once a month during the Fall and Spring semesters, the general day and hour to be set by the Central Committee with the consultation of the membership.

Section 2. – Special meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Chair upon the request of any five voting members of this organization.

Section 3. – The Chair shall have the authority to modify the meeting calendar as benefits the majority of the schedules of members of this organization.

ARTICLE VIII – ANTI-HAZING CLAUSE

This organization will not initiate, participate in, or be witness to any act that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. – One or more voting members of this organization may author an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 2. – The amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Central Committee for review and recommendation concerning legality, punctuation, placement, and word order.

Section 3. – The Central Committee shall present the amendment at the next general meeting, a copy of the amendment being given to each member of the YCL. This shall constitute a first reading. The bill shall be put to a vote at the next general meeting.

Section 4. – At the general meeting following the acceptance of an amendment, updated copies of this Constitution shall be given to each member.