

Constitution of the Bearkat Democrats

I. Name

- A. The name of this organization shall be known as
"Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University."

II. Purpose

- A. Firmly believing that the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party provide the best guides to peace, security, liberty, dignity, and prosperity for the students of Sam Houston State University, we the members of the Bearkat Democrats feel that our purpose is to foster and perpetuate those ideals, to stimulate an active interest in the political process, to promote the involvement of young people in all aspects of the political arena, and to provide the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the students of Sam Houston State University.

III. Membership

- A. Membership to this organization shall be open to any democrat who is affiliated with Sam Houston State University (i.e. Student, Staff, and Faculty) and who is at least 14 years of age, but has not yet attained the age of 40.
- B. Any eligible democrat may become a member of this club by completing an application and paying required dues. All members of this club shall be members of the College Democrats of America and the Texas Young Democrats.
- C. A democrat, for membership purposes, is defined as any person who subscribes to the following pledge: I support the principles of the Texas Democratic Party.
- D. The Application for membership shall contain the following information: date of birth, date of application, name and address of person seeking membership, and SHSU-id.
- E. The pledge mentioned in III. B shall be signed by the applicant and must be witnessed by at least one member of the Texas Young Democrats.

F. There shall be dues that must be paid before membership is complete. Dues will be of a monetary value that will be determined by the executive committee before each semester and are to be paid by a date picked by executive committee and the start of each academic semester.

IV. Meetings

- A. Meetings will be held bimonthly, with the option of weekly meetings to be decided by the executive committee.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the president to call the first regular meeting of each new academic semester, excluding summer sessions. If the President fails to do so by the third full week of school, any member may call the first regular meeting, assume the role of Temporary Club Chair for that meeting if the President does not attend, and call for special elections to elect new officers to replace any officer who does not attend that meeting.
- C. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless 1/3 of the members are present, including at least half of the Executive Committee.
- D. No member shall be eligible to vote in any meeting unless she or he has paid all of their dues and has attended at least one prior meeting or has been a member for 5 days.
- E. The Club, in meeting assembled, shall be the supreme policy-making authority of this club, subject only to this constitution and to the constitutions and By-Laws of the College Democrats of America, and the Texas Young Democrats.

V. Officers

A. President

- 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee.
- 2. Appoint and remove members and chairpersons of all committees (with the exclusion of the Executive Committee and the chairperson of the Finance Committee).
- 3. Create and remove new committees as needed.

4. Create and remove positions and appoint and remove people to non-executive committee level positions to preside over specific tasks as needed, subject to the executive committee.
5. Call regular meetings of the club.
6. The liaison to the Young Democrats shall represent the club at meetings and functions automatically assumed by the club member currently holding the highest ranking office within either the Young Democrats of America or the Texas Young Democrats. If no one meets these qualifications, the job becomes the responsibility of the president.
7. The Liaison to the Walker County Democrat Club Shall Represent the Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University at meetings and functions of the Walker County Democrat Club. In the best interest of the Democratic Party of Walker County, the President shall attend the general and planning meeting of the Walker County Democrat Club when able, and encourage involvement from the Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University.

B. Vice-President

1. The Vice President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the president. He/she shall serve as Membership Committee Chair.
2. The Liaison to the College Democrats shall represent the club at meetings and functions of the College Democrats of America and the College Caucus of the Texas Young Democrats. This position is automatically assumed by the club member currently holding the highest ranking office within either the College Democrats of America or the College Caucus of the Texas Young Democrats. If no one meets this qualification, the job becomes the responsibility of the Vice President.

C. Secretary

1. The Secretary's duties shall include taking minutes of the club meetings and Executive Committee meetings and keeping complete records of the club.
2. The Secretary shall also help in coordinating events with the President and Vice-President.
3. The Secretary shall also serve as the club Historian.

D. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall keep all of the club money in a special bank account, disperse money on the order of the club or Executive Committee, keep complete financial records, and present reports at each meeting of the club and Executive Committee.
2. The treasurer shall be the Finance Committee Chairperson and serve as the lead coordinator for all fundraising activities.

E. Public Affairs Administrator

1. The Public Affairs Administrator shall keep in contact with club members informing them, in a time efficient manner, the time and whereabouts of each meeting and event.
2. He/she shall also be responsible for all social networking and website maintenance.

F. President Emeritus

1. President Emeritus shall be the preceding president of the organization that has left the presidency in good standing.
2. He/she shall serve as an advisor to the Executive Committee.
3. He/she shall not have executive committee voting rights.

G. Order of Succession for the Presidency

1. When a Vacancy occurs in the Office of the President, for whatever reason, the following shall be the order of succession:
1.) Vice-President, 2.) Secretary, 3.) Treasurer, 4.) Public Affairs Administrator

VI. Elections

- A. All officers shall be elected at a regular meeting in the second half of April or the first half of May as called by the president, and shall serve out their term of one academic year beginning one meeting after elections.**
- B. Voting will consist of all paid members.**
- C. All officers shall be by majority vote, with run-offs when necessary.**
- D. Any officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting at any regular club meeting, provided notice of this proposed action has been given at a prior meeting.**
- E. Any officer shall be removed upon failure to attend five events per semester of the organization, including but not limited to, general and Executive Committee meetings and other events mandated by the Executive Committee. The organization or Executive Committee may, but a majority vote, excuse absences.
 - 1. Except in the case of an emergency, 24 hours notice must to given for all absences. If notice is not given, an absence cannot be excused.****
- F. In event of a vacancy in any office, the office shall be filled, first by the Order of Succession, and secondly by a special election at the next regular meeting of the club.**
- G. In order for a person to be elected to the executive committee, he/she must have one full semester sustaining, active, membership, and have completed one academic semester at Sam Houston State University.**
- H. In order for a person to be elected to the executive committee, he/she must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.**
- I. Proxy voting and attendance by proxy shall be permitted. The Proxy must present to the body or unit a signed document from the absent member stating that the present member has the absent member's proxy. Proxies shall be transferable if so specified in the original proxy document. No single**

person shall serve as proxy for three or more members.

VII. Committees

A. The following standing committees shall exist:

1. Executive

a. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers and other committee chairs. They shall meet at the call of the president or any three members. The Executive Committee shall: set the date, time, place, and agenda of the organization meetings, plan programs for meetings, suggest policy and financial expenditures to the Organization (approval which requires majority vote), and take action on behalf of the Organization, when necessary, subject to the approval of the club at the next meeting.

2. Finance

a. Finance Committee shall convene once every active month of the organization.

3. Membership

a. Membership Committee shall serve as the recruitment arm of the organization.

4. Philanthropy Committee

a. Philanthropy Committee shall coordinate all community service activities of the organization.

5. Political Outreach Committee

a. The Political Outreach Committee shall serve as the official political action wing of the organization including, but not limited to, direct issue advocacy and candidate hosting.

VIII. Amendments and Ratifications

A. Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced at any regular meeting of the club, and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting.

B. Amendments approved by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, shall be adopted.

IX. Endorsements

A. Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University, as an organization, will refrain from endorsing primary candidates who are opposed in their primaries. Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University can endorse candidates for party positions and can actively campaign for their election. Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University officers shall be free to endorse whomever they wish.

X. Parliamentary Authority

A. Except as otherwise provided, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority of this Organization. In the event of conflict, the Constitution and By-Laws of the College Democrats of America, and Texas Young Democrats shall prevail over this constitution or other rules of this club.

XI. University Registration/Recognition

A. At the beginning of each fall, spring and summer semesters, this organization shall submit an Organization Update Form to the Department of Student Activities no later than the twelfth class day.

XII. Anti-discrimination Standard

A. All Activities of the Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University, at all levels of the organization, shall be open to all members of the Bearkat Democrats of Sam Houston State University, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age (except as provided in Article III), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, disability, or philosophic persuasion.