

Constitution

This constitution shall describe the rules of the UMass Chemistry Club, hereinafter referred to simply as “club”.

Article I. Purpose

The club promotes academic development and community of undergraduate Chemistry and related majors at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. To this end, the club is set up as an informal study space with literary and computing resources tailored to the club’s demographic. The club tours chemistry-related facilities to help its members explore career options in chemistry and it hosts social events for its members.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Club membership is open to any undergraduate student attending one of the Five Colleges that had not been banned from the club pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Section 4.

Section 2. Temporary Membership

Any person eligible to become a member becomes a temporary member by attending one of the club’s meetings or other events. If, upon becoming a temporary member, this person does not attend two out of the next four meetings or other events held by the club, this person becomes a non-member.

Section 3. Active Membership

A temporary member becomes an active member by attending a total of three meetings or other events as detailed in Section 2. If an active member does not attend at least two out of any four consecutive meetings or other club events, this person becomes a temporary member.

If a scheduling conflict prevents an active member from continuing to attend club meetings, the requirement of attending two out of any four consecutive meetings or other events in order to maintain active membership may be waived for this person by a vote of the majority of club officers. Such a waiver shall remain in power until the end of the semester during which the vote is held.

Active members have access to club facilities and as well as user accounts on club computers. Computer accounts of formerly active members may be deleted within one calendar week from the last date on which these persons' memberships were active. Property of formerly active members that is left on club premises shall become property of the club within one calendar week from the last date on which these persons' memberships were active.

Section 4. Demotion and Banning

During a meeting, any active member may propose to demote any other active member to temporary member status if the former believes that the latter either negatively impacts the image of the club or is disruptive of the club's purpose. Reasonable opportunity must be given to discuss the proposal. Following the discussion, the proposal may be ratified by a vote of the majority of active members present at the meeting.

If the demotion proposal is ratified, then two meetings from the ratification vote, any active member has the option of proposing to ban the demoted member from the club if the former believes that the latter continues to either negatively impact the image of the club or to be disruptive of the club's purpose. Reasonable opportunity must be given to discuss the proposal. Following the discussion, the proposal may be ratified by a vote of the majority of active members present at the meeting.

Article III. Office

Section 1. Duties of Office

The club has four officers occupying the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The President represents the club in all official relations. In addition, the President acts as the chairperson at the general meetings.

The Vice President coordinates all event-related activities that are outside the scope of other officers' responsibilities and that include ensuring that relevant regulations are followed and reserving facilities. When the President is absent from a meeting, the Vice President acts as the chairperson at that meeting.

The Secretary records minutes of the general meetings and e-mails them to all the interested parties. In addition, the Secretary maintains membership records and manages publicity for club events.

The Treasurer maintains financial records and advises the club on its financial status. In addition, the Treasurer purchases supplies and rents equipment for club events.

Section 2. Eligibility to Hold Office

Any active member of the club with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 is eligible to become an officer. Once elected, the member must maintain active membership and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.3 in order to maintain office.

Section 3. Regular Elections

Officer elections are held annually, at the meeting that takes place two weeks prior to the start of spring semester final exams. The elections take place in the following order: President first, then Vice President, followed by Secretary, followed by Treasurer. For each position, officers may be elected by a majority vote of active members present at the meeting. Should no candidate for a given position secure a majority of the votes, a run-off vote among the candidates who received two of the greatest numbers of votes shall be held immediately. The officer-elect shall be determined by a vote of the majority of active members present at the meeting.

Officer-elects assume officer status on the day following the last day of finals and retain it until the last day of spring finals on the subsequent year.

Section 4. Emergency Elections

If an office becomes vacant before the end of the spring semester, emergency elections are held at the first meeting following the development of the vacancy. If the vacant office is the office of the President, then the Vice President assumes the office of the President and emergency elections are held for the office of the Vice President; otherwise, emergency elections are held for that office which develops the vacancy.

The emergency election process is analogous to the regular election process outlined in Section 3. Officer-elects assume officer status immediately and retain it until the last day of finals following the next regular election.

Section 5. Officer Resignation

Any officer may resign from office either through an announcement at a general meeting or via an e-mail message sent to the list to which meeting minutes are distributed.

Section 6. Officer Impeachment

During a meeting, any active member may propose to impeach any officer. If at least 25% of active members in attendance agree, then an impeachment vote will be held at the subsequent meeting.

Immediately prior to the vote, reasonable opportunity must be given to discuss the impeachment proposal. Impeachment shall be decided by a vote of the majority of active members present at the meeting. Should an officer be impeached, an emergency election shall be held immediately, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 in all manners except for timing.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. Meeting Frequency

The club holds general meetings during the spring and fall semesters, once for every week when the University of Massachusetts – Amherst is in session. A meeting may be omitted during a given week by a vote of three out of four officers.

Section 2. Conduct of Meetings

General meetings are open to all members and non-members who do not create a disruption. Proposals and announcements are accepted from anyone in attendance at a time determined by the meeting chairperson. Computers are disabled during meetings.

Section 3. Quorum

Voting on any issue addressed in this constitution may occur only when at most one officer is absent and when at least half of active members are present.

Article V. Amendment

During a meeting, any active member may propose amendments to this constitution which shall become a part of this constitution when ratified by a vote of the majority of active members at the subsequent meeting.

Article VI. Ratification

Ratification by the majority of active members shall be sufficient for the establishment of this constitution.