

Sample Constitution for Q/GSA

Created at Eastern University for Refuge

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Refuge

Constitution

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Refuge, a student-led organization, are committed to the following: creating an atmosphere of support for those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning their sexuality; educating other students at Eastern University about sexual orientation and gender identity issues through community and conversation; and working towards understanding how we should respond to one another and incorporate what we learn as members of the Eastern University community.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This club shall be known as Refuge, as we seek to be a place providing shelter and resources to our members. Rather than seeking to set ourselves apart from the community of Eastern University, we seek to determine how to become a more integrated part of that community through relationships and conversations--both between group members and with other students at Eastern University.

ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To provide a safe forum for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity; and to then interact with others outside of our group in conversation about those issues.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Refuge is open to all students at Eastern University who are supportive and affirming of the group's preamble and purpose, regardless of sexual orientation or identity.

ARTICLE IV: LEADERSHIP

- A. Co-Presidents
 - B. Two presidents will share overall responsibilities of this club. These responsibilities consist of: planning and presiding over weekly meetings; communicating with members of Refuge (via emails, phone calls, etc.); and assuring that the content of each meeting is in line with the welcoming atmosphere of the group (see preamble and purpose).
- A. Secretary
 - a. Assists the co-presidents in any responsibilities handed down to him or her. Assists in recording any event plans or questions that arise during meetings that may require more in-depth study. Helps in recommending possible group activities and keeping records thereof. Records and tracks the monetary funds of the club.



ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

- A. Elections will be held in April of each year. Officers will be nominated by the co-presidents and confirmed by the members.
- B. All those present at the meeting are able to vote.
- C. Voting Procedures for Co-Presidents
 - a. The current co-presidents will nominate four members for office. At a specified meeting, the members of Refuge will then vote for two of those four nominees. The two nominees with the most votes will be the co-presidents for the next school year.
- D. Voting Procedures for Secretary
 - a. The current co-presidents will nominate two members who have not been nominated to be co-presidents. At a specified meeting, the members of Refuge will then vote on one of those two nominees. The nominee with the most votes will preside as Secretary for the next school year.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

- A. Meetings will be held weekly at the discretion of the co-presidents. No quorum is needed for the meetings.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

- A. Informal committees will be formed to assist the co-presidents in planning for upcoming events as needed. All those who want to help will be welcome.

ARTICLE VIII: VACANCY PROCEDURE

- A. If a leader (co-president or secretary) decides to step down for any reason, they will nominate a successor. This successor will then be approved by a member majority vote (greater than 50%).

ARTICLE IX: IMPEACHMENT

- A. If an officer fails to effectively perform his or her duties as outlined in Article III, that officer may be impeached.
- B. Impeachment Process
 - a. If a member of Refuge finds that an officer has failed to perform their duties, he or she may start a petition to impeach that officer. At least 1/4 of all members must sign the petition before a vote is taken.
 - b. A vote will be taken in which a majority of 2/3 of the members present at the meeting must vote in agreement with the impeachment.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- A. This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the present members.

