

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
UMBC FREEDOM ALLIANCE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY
BALTIMORE, MD 21250-0001**

Preamble

The UMBC Freedom Alliance is under the sponsorship of the Office of Student Life and the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The Freedom Alliance of the University of Maryland Baltimore County shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the University of Maryland Baltimore County's Student Life Committee and Student Government Association, as well as to the President of the University and his/her designees. If there is any conflict between this constitution and by-laws and those of the Office of Student Life as they now read, or may later be amended, those of the Office of Student Life shall be supreme in every case.

Article I – Name

Section 1

This organization shall be known as the Freedom Alliance of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. This organization shall be referred to in this Constitution as Freedom Alliance. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County shall be referred to as UMBC. The term "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Allies" shall be referred to as GLBTA.

Article II – Purposes

Section 1

The Freedom Alliance has been established for the following purposes:

1. To provide a social atmosphere for GLBTA members to develop their understanding of the diversity of the GLBTA communities and to provide a forum for GLBTA issues and experiences.
2. To provide support for GLBTA interests within surrounding areas.
3. To promote participation in community service activities among its members.
4. To promote awareness to the entire UMBC community of GLBTA issues.
5. To provide resources for anyone interested in GLBTA issues and have a perceived need for such resources.
6. To serve as a support group for GLBTA members.
7. To be an advocate for GLBTA issues.

Article III – Membership

Section 1

The Freedom Alliance is open to any UMBC student, faculty, staff member, or any person who seeks to support this organization.

Section 2

Membership in the Freedom Alliance may not be denied because of race, color, age, gender, gender expression, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, handicap, political affiliation, or social class.

Section 3

Any member of the Freedom Alliance may request a copy of this constitution at any time. This request must be made to a Freedom Alliance officer at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a scheduled general or meeting. If this request is made within the allotted time frame, a copy of this constitution must be provided to the requesting member at the aforementioned meeting.

Article IV – Meetings

Section 1 – General Meetings

1. All general meetings shall be presided over by the President. If the President is unable to perform this duty, the Vice President shall preside. If the Vice President is unable to perform this duty, the Secretary shall preside. The same goes for each successive board member through the Historian. If there are no board members in attendance, the meeting will be canceled.
2. Regular meetings shall be held once a week, notice of meetings shall be posted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting time.
3. Regular general meetings shall be held in a social but structured manner and shall follow an official agenda prepared by the President.
4. In the event of an official vote during a general meeting, parliamentary procedure shall be followed for the duration of the vote. The regulations set forth for a parliamentary meeting shall also be followed for the duration of the vote.
5. The proceedings of all meetings shall be held confidential. This confidentiality is to ensure that members may speak freely about their feelings, ideas and experiences without fear of having their privacy invaded by others.

Section 2 – Voting

1. Each present member of Freedom Alliance receives one vote unless otherwise stated in this constitution.

2. Only persons who have attended at least one meeting during the year prior to the meeting in which voting takes place will be eligible to vote.
3. Voting may not take place if there is not one more member present than the number of present board members of Freedom Alliance.
4. Voting shall take place by secret ballot unless another method is unanimously approved by all voting members.

Section 3 – Board Meetings

1. Board meetings shall be held in an open fashion, in which all present board members and committee members shall be able to present their reports and receive feedback from those present.
2. Board meetings are open to all Freedom Alliance members. However, the board reserves the right to close meetings at its discretion.
3. Board meetings must be held at least once every month during fall and spring semesters.

Article V - The Freedom Alliance Executive Board

Section 1 – Names

The Freedom Alliance of UMBC shall have the following elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

Section 2 – Eligibility

To be eligible to hold an office in the Freedom Alliance executive board, a member must meet all terms under Article III of this constitution. In addition to the terms of Article III of this constitution, they must be a student of UMBC. They must also be a member in good standing of Freedom Alliance, having not violated any rules set forth for members within this constitution. These rules include but are not limited to duties of officers (if the member was previously on the executive board), disruption of the proceedings of any meeting, and violation of the confidentiality of the proceedings of any meeting. Any member that was previously on executive board and seeks another office must have completed their previously elected term without complication. Any officer that was previously impeached from a position will not be eligible to run for another office, this does not include officers that had to resign from their positions early. Any officer found to not be in compliance with these terms of eligibility will be immediately removed from office and an election shall be held as early as possible to fill the office.

Section 3 – Election

A. Caucusing and Nominations

1. Members who qualify to be an elected board member and wish to run for office may caucus for a position. The currently elected President will announce when

- the time period that such caucusing will be accepted, this time period must consist of at least 2 weeks. Before the election the President must meet with each member that wishes to run in order to establish that the member understands the duties of the position they wish to run for.
2. Members who did not caucus for a position may be nominated by another member during the meeting of the election. This must be done before the run off of candidates for the position in which they will be nominated. The nominated member may choose to accept or decline the nomination. Candidates that are nominated this way are noted as “running off the floor.”
 3. The positions of President and Vice-President may be caucused for or nominated for by two members willing to run together as one candidate. These members, if elected, are noted as co-chairs. Both members must jointly perform the duties of their office.
 4. Members may not caucus for more then one position at a time. A member may withdraw their caucus for a position anytime during the caucusing period. They may then caucus for a different position. All requests to withdraw from running for a position must be made directly to the currently elected President.

B. Speeches

1. Each candidate running for a position will have time to speak in which they may choose to read a speech or take questions from other present members.
2. Time to speak shall be 120 seconds. Candidates running for a co position receive 120 seconds in total. A candidate may choose to end their own time early at any point.
3. Candidates that are running off the floor will only be allowed half the time to speak of candidates who caucused. (60 seconds)
4. Two individuals running for a co position are considered one candidate. As such, they receive 120 or 60 seconds in total for both members to speak. Both individuals must speak during this time.
5. Candidates may distribute prepared platforms during their speech, which list their qualifications.
6. Speeches shall take place in the order of President down through Historian. Candidates that caucused shall be able to speak first, and those who have run off the floor speak last. The presiding board member shall decide any ordering beyond this.
7. After all speeches have been heard for one position, five minutes will be allotted for a question and answer period. After this period, the voting for the particular position shall take place before moving on to the next position.

C. Voting

1. Elections shall be decided by secret ballot.
2. Members who qualify to vote may only select a valid candidate running for the position at hand, or abstain from choosing. Either way they must write there decision on the ballot.

3. When all ballots have been collected, they shall be counted by a minimum of three board members and/or official sponsors. This counting shall take place outside of the room in which the meeting is held. Board members that are running for a position shall not be permitted to be present during the counting.
4. A winner is only selected if there is a quorum of votes for a single candidate. A quorum is defined as having the clear majority, or half the number of voting members. If a quorum is not reached, a re-vote shall occur. If there were more than two candidates running for the position in question, the one who received the fewest votes may be eliminated before the re-vote. At the discretion of the President, a short question and answer period may also take place before the revote. This should consist of one or two questions asked to both candidates separately. If a quorum is still not reached after a re-vote, this process will be repeated until a candidate is elected.

D. Dropping Down

1. Any candidate who caucused for a position and was not elected for that position may choose to drop down to any lower position and run off the floor without a nomination.
2. These candidates shall be treated as if they ran off the floor and shall have a 60 second period in which to speak.

Section 4 – Installation

Newly elected officers shall be installed into their positions during the last business meeting of the spring semester in which they were elected. If the election is held during that meeting, the new officers shall be installed at the end of that meeting.

Section 5 - Duties

A. President

1. Preside over all meetings of the Freedom Alliance. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside over a meeting.
2. Shall keep in close contact with the Freedom Alliance executive board in order to ensure they are doing their job. In the case they are not, the President must personally see to it that they carry out their task.
3. Represent Freedom Alliance at all organization events and conventions.
4. See that communication is intact on the executive board level between the executive board members.
5. Prepare an agenda before each meeting that will be distributed to all attending members or in some way displayed for all attending members to see during that meeting.
6. Present a speech about the state of the organization during the last meeting of the term. This speech will be given before the installation of the new board.
7. Show perfect attendance to all organization events and meetings.

B. Vice President

1. Preside over any meeting in which the President is absent. If the Vice President is absent and unable to perform this duty, the Secretary shall preside.
2. Oversee the planning of all organization programs and appoint coordinators of each program if they don't do it themselves.
3. Ensure that all paperwork is filled out and turned in for each program on time. If the appointed coordinator does not do this, then the Vice President shall perform this job for them.
4. Shall be the primary contact for Freedom Alliance members to voice their opinions and concerns. The Vice President shall keep in close contact with the President in order to convey these concerns.
5. Show perfect attendance to all organization events and meetings.

C. Secretary

1. Preside over any meeting in which all of the above officers are absent. The Secretary shall also perform any duties of the above officers in their absence during a meeting. If the Secretary is absent and unable to perform this duty, the Treasurer shall preside.
2. Record the proceedings of all general meetings and all executive board meetings of Freedom Alliance.
3. Maintain rosters and send out communications email.
4. Show perfect attendance to all organization events and meetings.

D. Treasurer

1. Preside over any meeting in which all of the above officers are absent. The Treasurer shall also perform any duties of the above officers in their absence during a meeting. If the Treasurer is absent and unable to perform this duty, the Historian shall preside.
2. Collect money at all Freedom Alliance events or designate another officer to do so.
3. Assist in the planning of all fundraising programs.
4. Shall be in charge of filling out and turning in all Student Event Forms.
5. Shall make sure that all reallocations are performed at any time they are required.
6. Shall be the primary contact for working with the Student Business Management Center.
7. Show perfect attendance to all organization events and meetings.

E. Historian

1. Preside over any meeting in which all of the above officers are absent. The Historian shall also perform any duties of the above officers in their absence during a meeting.

2. Shall be in charge of photographing all Freedom Alliance events or designating a board member or other member to do so.
3. Shall be in charge of maintaining record of full consent to display photographs.
4. Shall be in charge of keeping a log of all Freedom Alliance events and presenting the log to the organization. This log will also be kept and passed to the next Historian in order for it to be added to.
5. Shall be in charge of decorating the bulletin boards within the Freedom Alliance office with photographs and other memorabilia from past Freedom Alliance events.
6. Shall be in charge of clipping any newspaper stories that are pertinent to Freedom Alliance.
7. Shall be in charge of keeping a collection of all past meeting agendas, minutes as well as any presented motions. This collection shall also contain any photographs that are displayed on a bulletin board, as well as the event logs of all past events. This collection shall be kept as a living history of the UMBC Freedom Alliance.
8. Shall be in charge of creating, designing, and/or maintaining the organization's website and/or overseeing an individual or committee to create, design and/or maintain the organization's website.
9. Show perfect attendance to all organization events and meetings.

Section 6 – Removal from Office

If a Freedom Alliance executive board member becomes unable to perform their duties, neglects to perform them, or becomes in violation with any other terms of this constitution, they may be removed from office. Removal of an officer may only be done during a general meeting, and only by an official motion to impeach them. This motion must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) majority. An election must be held for a replacement of the impeached officer within four weeks. The newly elected officer shall be installed at the end of the meeting in which they are elected. Until a new officer is elected, the President shall perform the duties of the un-held office.

Section 7 - Terms of Officers

The terms of all officers of Freedom Alliance shall last from the beginning of the UMBC summer semester until the end of the following spring semester. Elections will be held each year within the last four weeks of spring semester.

Section 8 – Compensation

The executive board shall not be paid for their services as board members.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1 – Committees

Committees shall be appointed for such purposes and at such time as the executive board may order. Upon completion of their business they shall be automatically discharged.

Article VII – Donations

Section 1 – Acceptance

Donations of money, equipment, furniture or services will be accepted only after approval of the Freedom Alliance executive board.

Section 2 – Receipts

The Treasurer shall issue receipts to the donating party when applicable.

Article VIII – Limitation on Liability

Section 1

No member or executive office shall be liable for the payment of Freedom Alliance debt.

Article IX – Indemnity

The Freedom Alliance shall indemnify and hold harmless each officer now or hereafter serving the organization from and against any and all claims and liabilities to which they are or may become subject by reason of their now or hereafter being or having heretofore been an officer of the organization and/or by reason of their alleged acts or omissions as such officer, whether or not they continue to be such officer at the time when any such claim or liability is asserted, and shall reimburse each such officer for all legal and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with defending any or all such claims or liabilities, including amounts paid or agreed to be paid in connection with reasonable settlements made before final adjudication with the approval of the executive board, whether or not they continue to be such officer at the time such expenses are incurred; provided, however, they no officer shall be indemnified against any claim or liability arising out of their own negligence or willful misconduct or shall be indemnified against or reimbursed for any expenses incurred in defending any or all such claims or liability or in settling the same unless in judgment of the organization, the officer against whom such claim or liability is asserted has not been guilty of negligence or willful misconduct. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of other rights to which any officer may be entitled as a matter of law.

Article X - Rules for Amending This Constitution

Section 1 – Where and When

The official constitution of Freedom Alliance can be amended only at regular business meetings. The entire board must be present with at least five active members.

Section 2 – Regulations

1. The amendment must be submitted within twenty-four (24) hours of the meeting that the motion to amend will be presented.
2. There must be a minimum of a one week period between the presentation and the voting of a new amendment. During this period, any member of Freedom Alliance may request a copy of the proposed amendment. A copy of the proposed amendment must be provided by either the Freedom Alliance executive board or the member that is proposing said amendment within forty-eight (48) hours of a request.
3. All motions to amend are subject to being vetoed by unanimous vote by the executive board.

Section 3 – Delegation

Motions to amendments to this constitution must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by a quorum of the delegation. If a motion passes, the amendment will not take affect until the beginning of the following term, unless otherwise noted in the motion to amend. If the executive board vetoes the motion or it fails to pass, a copy of the motion and the amendment shall be kept by the executive board for historical and reference purposes.

Article XI – Disbandment

Section 1 – Delegation

Disbandment of the Freedom Alliance requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote during an official business meeting.

Section 2 – Freedom Alliance Property

In the event that the Freedom Alliance disbands or ceases to exist, all Freedom Alliance property shall be sold and all accounts closed, with all moneys received being donated to one or more non-profit charitable organizations in Baltimore or surrounding areas to be selected by the executive board.

In witness hereof, we the undersigned, do hereby agree to all terms which are contained herein, and swear to uphold these terms.