

The Dartmouth Political Union
CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name of the Organization

- 1.01 The official name of the organization shall be “The Dartmouth Political Union”.
- 1.02 The organization may also be referred to as “the Union”, as “the DPU”, or, by Officers of the Union, as “we.”

Article II. Founding and Mission

- 2.01 The Dartmouth Political Union was founded in the winter of 2009 as a formal and infrequent debating society between and among the various political ideologies represented on campus.
- 2.02 The founding goals of the Dartmouth Political Union, as articulated at the Union’s first meeting, are enumerated in sections 2.03 to 2.06 of the Constitution.
- 2.03 The Union seeks to foster political discourse on campus in a congenial and respectful atmosphere. We are interested in the free exchange of ideas, getting down to the most basic principles that drive our opinions, and examining them publicly. In doing so through intellectual competition, we hope to bring together those of differing political ideologies, affirming that one can disagree without being disagreeable, and inspiring a new respect for the freedom of speech.
- 2.04 The Union seeks to create a forum where student undecided about a particular issue, or even apolitical entirely, may assemble and hear the arguments of their peers, believing that a broad spectrum of viewpoints and competition in the free market of thought will lead to the strongest debates and most informed perspectives.
- 2.05 The Union seeks to support and bolster the political organizations on campus, particularly by drawing attention to those least represented. We believe that the political process is not something that happens once each election cycle, but rather something that requires continued engagement. The Union hopes it may be of assistance to the campus political parties by providing structure in off-election years, by helping to recruit members into their organizations through the ideological groups herein represented, and by offering a stage where they may sharpen their wits and arguments for use in the political realm.
- 2.06 The Union seeks, as a long-term goal, to provide a nexus of student interaction with notable politically oriented speakers who visit Dartmouth. We hope that these speakers will join us in our debates allowing students hear, question, and debate against them, fostering interaction more valuable than simple lectures, and absent in most corners of academia.
- 2.07 The aforementioned goals of the political union should not be viewed as constraining. Control over the direction of the Union shall be reserved by the sitting

Officers of the Union.

- 2.08 The purpose for which the Dartmouth Political Union is to be organized shall be consistent with the aims and objectives of a liberal arts education as pursued by Dartmouth College. No purpose or objective of the Dartmouth Political Union shall be in conflict with the applicable state or federal laws presently in force or hereafter enacted.
- 2.09 Hazing practices within the organization are prohibited pursuant to New Hampshire State law as stated in the Handbook.

Article III. Parties of the Union

- 3.01 The founding parties of the Union are the Socialists, Liberals, Centrists, Libertarians, and Conservatives.
- 3.02 The Union shall consist of no more than seven (7) parties and should not be consolidated to less than three (3) parties.
- 3.03 Party membership in the Union may be granted to a group of three or more adherents to an ideology distinct from those already in the Union. Paperwork should be submitted to the Teller of the Union describing the views of the ideology in positive terms and outlining what attributes substantively differentiate it from the existing parties. The Speaker may independently recognize a party for a total of one (1) meeting, and can extend permanent membership with the majority consent of the existing Party Leaders.
- 3.04 In the case that a new party seeks membership in the Union at a time when the maximum number of parties are currently recognized, the aspiring party must either wait until an existing party loses recognition, wait until the Speaker and Party Leaders consolidate the existing parties, or be incorporated into an existing party.
- 3.05 A Party may be derecognized from the Union when the officers of the Union, excluding that Party's Leader, agree that it is no longer able to participate effectively in the union, when the Speaker and a majority of Union Officers recognize that the Party has less than three (3) members, when the Speaker approves a merger between that Party and another as agreed by the members of those two parties, when the Speaker approves a request for de-recognition proposed by the Party Leader and a majority of its membership, or at the prerogative of the Administrative Officers of the Union after the Party has failed to participate in two consecutive debates.
- 3.06 While the term "Party" refers to one of the ideological factions represented in the Union, the official name of each party shall be the plural title of an individual subscribing to that belief. For example, the Party advocating for the ideology of conservatism shall be officially referred to as the "conservatives".
- 3.07 Whenever the Parties of the Union are enumerated, they should be ordered from the left-most party to the right-most party. The founding parties should be listed:

“Socialists, Liberals, Centrists, Libertarians, (and) Conservatives”.

Article IV. Members of the Union

- 4.01 Only members of the Union and specifically invited speaking guests of the Speaker will be permitted to hold the floor during a Union debate.
- 4.02 Membership shall be granted to all students who are active members of one of the Union’s recognized political Parties. Aspiring members may petition the Union, through its Secretary, for membership in one of the Parties. The Secretary will then refer the persons to that Party and its Leader for their approval. All members recruited by the Parties or their Leaders shall be given credentials by the Secretary of the Union.
- 4.03 All persons with or without membership shall be permitted to ask questions of the floor speakers during Union debates.
- 4.04 Membership in the Union shall be open to all members of the Dartmouth Community without regard to race, color, creed, sex, physical ability, sexual preference, or national origin. The Dartmouth Political Union must have at least ten (10) undergraduate members. In no event shall more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members be non-Dartmouth students. All officers must be Dartmouth undergraduates.

Article V. Officers of the Union

- 5.01 The Speaker of the Union shall act as the leader and figurehead of the Dartmouth Political Union. Duties of the Speaker include: calling all meetings, choosing the topics for Union debates, inviting guest speakers to participate, moderating the debates, selecting people to ask questions of floor speakers, administering votes of the Union, recognizing and derecognizing Parties of the Union, and general Union organization. The Speaker will have the power to speak on behalf of the Union and may delegate this power to an appointed Spokesperson. The Speaker will have the power to appoint all Administrative Officers of the Union with the advice and consent of the Party Leaders and may choose to keep the offices vacant. The Speaker may not hold the floor and shall be addressed as “Mr. (or Madam) Speaker”. The Speaker shall be elected following the procedure outlined in Article VIII.
- 5.02 The Teller of the Union shall be responsible for managing time during debates, collecting statistics during the debates for use by the Union and its parties, and for generally assisting the Speaker in the management of the debates. In the absence of the Speaker, the Teller will moderate Union debates, and in the event of the Speaker’s removal from office, will lead the union, with the assistance of the Secretary until an election may be called. The Teller may not hold the floor and shall be addressed as “Mr. (or Madam) Teller”.
- 5.03 The Secretary of the Union will be responsible for keeping union minutes, recording debates, receiving petitions for membership by Parties and individuals, and

overseeing the structure of the Union. The Secretary may not hold the floor and shall be addressed as “Mr. (or Madam) Secretary”.

- 5.04 The Treasurer of the Union shall be responsible for all financial aspects of the Union including managing its budget and placing all commercial orders on behalf of the Union. The Treasurer shall be addressed as “Mr. (or Madam) Treasurer”.
- 5.05 Party Leaders shall be responsible for the leadership, management, organization, and debate preparation of their respective parties. The Party Leaders shall be the connection between the Administrative Officers of the Union and the parties and shall be selected according to the methods established by the Party . Party Leaders shall have the privilege of being call upon first to ask questions and of delivering the opening speech of their parties at Union debates, but may delegate this power if they wish. Party Leaders shall be addressed as “The Leader of the x” or “The y Leader” where “x” is the name of the party (e.g. The Leader of the Liberals), and “y” is the party name in singular form (e.g. The Liberal Leader).
- 5.06 “Officers of the Union” or “Union Officers” shall refer collectively to the Speaker, Teller, Secretary, Treasurer, and all Party Leaders.
- 5.07 “Administrative Officers of the Union” or “Administrative Officers” shall refer to all of the Officers of the Union with the exception of the Party Leaders
- 5.08 No non-Dartmouth student shall be eligible to be an Officer to the Dartmouth Political Union. Dartmouth students must be “in-residence” to hold office.
- 5.09 Any Dartmouth undergraduate eligible to be an Officer of the Organization shall not be permitted to hold more than one office in that organization at any one time.

Article VI. Debate Protocol

- 6.01 Debates of the Union shall occur on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6:00PM at a location of the Speaker’s choosing, to be announced a week in advance.
- 6.02 Should the Party Leaders request it, the Speaker may schedule a caucus to be held in advance of debates for the purpose of allowing parties to discuss the arguments they will raise and coordinate strategy.
- 6.03 Topics for debate shall be announced by the Speaker to Party Leaders in writing at the preceding debate. For the first debate of a term, the topic must be posted no less than ten (10) days in advance. Topics will be chosen by the Speaker in the form of a one sentence resolution with the advice and consent of the Party Leaders. Topics should be “should” statements that split the Union in a way that the numerical difference between the parties arguing for the affirmative and those for the negative is no greater than one (1), with the burden of proof resting with the more numerous side.
- 6.04 The structure of the debate will follow Sections 6.05 to 6.12

- 6.05 Debates will begin with a speech delivered by the Speaker, introducing the topic for debate.
- 6.06 The Teller will choose the order of speakers at random no more than five (5) minutes in advance of the debate. An effort should be made to alternate the speaking order between those arguing for the affirmative and negative.
- 6.07 The Speaker will call upon Party Leaders, according to the order announced by the Teller, to deliver a four (4)-minute opening speech with the balance of the time being used for questions from the audience. The Speaker will recognize people to ask straightforward and non-leading questions lasting no more than ten (10) seconds and will have the power to remand questioners when they are out of line. The next Party will be recognized when the member holding the floor yields it voluntarily or when the Party's time has expired. Time on opening speeches is non-transferable.
- 6.08 Once all Parties have had the opportunity to deliver an opening speech, each party will be given seven (7) minutes to deliver rebuttal floor speeches to be presented in the order of the opening speeches. Members may hold the floor until their Party's time account has expired, until they yield the floor to another member of their party, or until they yield the floor to the next party. The parties will cycle though no more than twice; parties that exhaust their time account on the first cycle will not be able to speak during the second round. Party leaders may yield their party's time to members of other parties. Each party must take at least one question during floor speeches.
- 6.09 Once all time accounts have expired or the second round of rebuttal speeches is completed, the Speaker will then call upon parties to deliver a ninety (90) second closing speech in the same order as the opening speeches. The next Party will be recognized when the member holding the floor yields it voluntarily or when its time has expired. Time on opening speeches is non-transferable.
- 6.10 During the debate, members shall respectfully refer to each other by their offices. Examples include: The distinguished Leader of the Libertarians, the honorable member of the Liberals, the Conservative Leader, the Socialist, the gentleman, my colleague, etc.
- 6.11 At the conclusion of closing speeches, the Speaker will call for a vote on the debated Resolution. Each person in attendance will have one (1) vote.
- 6.12 At the conclusion of the vote, the Speaker will make final announcements before adjourning the Union.
- 6.13 There will be no restrictions on the content of speeches.
- 6.14 The dress code for participants in Union Debates shall be business formal attire.
- 6.15 The Speaker and the Party leaders shall have the power to temporarily alter the

provisions of Article VI for one (1) debate at a time. Permanent changes must be made by constitutional amendment.

Article VII. Finances

- 7.01 Any funds of the Dartmouth Political Union will be spent as directed by the donor. All surplus funds will be kept in the account of the Union and will go solely toward expenses serving the Organization as a whole.
- 7.02 Any payment received by Members for participation in the Dartmouth Political Union will stay within the Organization. This includes any event, on- or off-campus, held or co-sponsored by the Organization.
- 7.03 All finances will be handled by the Treasurer. Any request for purchase, procurement card use, and reimbursement will be directed to said Officer. All expenses incurred by the Officers of the Union will be reported to the Treasurer.

Article VIII. Voting and Eligibility

- 8.01 The voting procedure for resolutions at the conclusion of Union debates will follow sections 8.02 to 8.05.
- 8.02 The Speaker will once again read the resolution to the audience and, if possible, project the written text of it for its viewing.
- 8.03 The Speaker will then ask all those voting in favor of the resolution to raise their hands. The Secretary will count the number of hands and announce the vote count to the Speaker. After asking that hands be lowered, the Speaker shall then repeat the process for those voting in opposition and in abstention.
- 8.04 The speaker will numerically record the tallies on the resolution. The side with more votes will win.
- 8.05 From the vote tally, the speaker will announce whether the motion is affirmed or rejected and will, along with the Secretary and Teller, sign the resolution.
- 8.06 The voting procedure and eligibility for elected offices will follow sections 8.07 to 8.19
- 8.07 Of the Administrative Offices of the Union, the office of Speaker will be elected. The Teller, Secretary, and Treasurer will be appointed by the Speaker.
- 8.08 Party Leaders will stand for election using a method agreed upon by the party.
- 8.09 All Officers of the Union must be registered members of the Union prior to their election or appointment and shall be in residence on campus for the term(s) of their service.

- 8.10 Terms of service will coincide with academic quarters at the college.
- 8.11 All officers of the Union are limited to serve a total of three (3) terms in any given position.
- 8.12 Elections will take place at the last Union meeting of every term that the Union is in operation. If the DPU operates in the summer, elections will take place in the Spring at the same time as elections for the following fall.
- 8.13 Elections will be administered by the Secretary or by the sitting Speaker should he or she not stand for election.
- 8.14 The presiding officer will call for nominations, which may be advanced by any member of the Union for any member of the Union. To be considered, each nomination must receive a second.
- 8.15 From the list of nominees, Union members will be able to cast one (1) vote for their desired candidate.
- 8.16 The majority support of the Union membership is required to win the election contest. Should no one candidate achieve a majority on the first vote, run-offs will be held until a winner is achieved.
- 8.17 The election will be conducted by hand vote unless a secret ballot is requested by a nominated candidate.
- 8.18 The presiding officer will announce the winner as soon as he or she is selected. The winner will take office at the precise time dorms close to students at the conclusion of the term.
- 8.19 Appointed officers will take office as soon as their appointments are announced to the Union.

Article IX. Removal from Office

- 9.01 The Speaker may remove other Administrative Officers of the Union before the expiration of his or her term with the majority support of the Party Leaders.
- 9.02 Party Leaders may be removed from their office before the expiration of his or her term by the provisions of the Party. Motions for the removal of Party Leaders may be filed by at least two registered Party members with the Secretary of the Union. The Speaker will administer the vote.
- 9.03 The Speaker may be impeached by a majority vote of the other Union Officers and removed from office before the expiration of his or her term by a subsequent two-thirds vote of the Union Membership.

9.04 The vacant Speaker office shall be filled as the earliest date possible and must be filled within two-week's time.

Article X. Constitutional Ratification and Amendments

10.01 The Constitution shall have been presented to the Membership of the Organization and shall be ratified by a majority vote thereof.

10.02 The Constitution and any amendments and changes hereto shall be kept on record with the Student Activities Office and shall be available to any Member of the Dartmouth Political Union for inspection during reasonable office hours.

10.03 Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any Officer of the Union and passed by universal consent of the Union Officers or by a two-thirds vote of the Union membership. If the Speaker proposes the amendment, the Secretary will call the vote.

10.04 The Speaker, with the consultation of the Teller will have immediate interpretive power over the Constitution. When disagreements arise, the Speaker will yield to the majority opinion of the Officers of the Union.

Article XI. Succession of Officeholders

11.01 Article XI will be updated automatically by the Secretary of the Union, outside the Amendment process of Article X, to reflect the succession of Officers of the Union.

11.02 The following people have held the office of Speaker:

1. Nathan L. Bruschi '10 (09W)
2. Brice D. L. Acree

11.03 The following people have held the office of Teller:

1. Erich A. Hartfelder '12 (09W)

11.04 The following people have held the office of Secretary:

1. Katrin Kabral '10 (09W)

11.05 The following people have held the office of Treasurer:
(Vacant)

11.06 The following people have held the office of Leader of the Socialists:

1. Igor Terzic '12 (09W)

11.07 The following people have held the office of Leader of the Liberals:

1. Taylor A. Stevenson '10 (09W)

11.08 The following people have held the office of Leader of the Centrists:

1. Christopher D. Chavis '12 (09W)

11.09 The following people have held the office of Leader of the Libertarians:
1. Scot T. Parsley '09 (09W)

11.10 The following people have held the office of Leader of the Conservatives:
1. Michael G. Marcusa '11 (09W)