Virginia Atheists and Agnostics

We the atheists and agnostics of the University of Virginia, in order to form a more perfect club, establish rules and procedures by which the club shall be governed, and secure the benefits of good organization to ourselves and our posterity, do propound and establish this constitution for the Virginia Atheists and Agnostics.

Article I: NAME

The organization shall be known as the Virginia Atheists and Agnostics, hereto after referred to as VAA.

Article II: General mission

The primary goal of VAA is to eliminate the stigma of atheism and agnosticism at the University of Virginia. Along with that goal, VAA establishes the following purposes: 1) to enrich University of Virginia campus life by sponsoring educational events and fostering student dialogue on matters of faith, science, and reason, 2) to engage University of Virginia students in issues of national and international import surrounding freedom of conscience and secular education, and 3) to provide a safe and open space for discussion on issues facing atheists and agnostics.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: QUALIFICATIONS

Membership is restricted to those who have attended at least four meetings in the space of the current academic or calendar year. Candidates for membership must be ­willing to actively participate in the meetings and activities of the organization and must promote a hostility-free atmosphere. To obtain membership, one must submit name, email address, expected graduation date, and a list of four meetings attended qualifying one for membership to the Vice President. Meetings and activities are open to anyone, regardless of membership, unless otherwise noticed as a members-only event.

Section 2: VOTING MEMBERSHIP

In order to vote, one must have both paid dues and bea member. The amount of the dues shall be specified in the bylaws.

Section 3: REVOCATION

Membership may be revoked by a unanimous vote of the elected officers present. A person whose membership has been revoked has the right to appeal that decision to a majority vote of all officers present at the next officers meeting.

Section 4: NON-DISCRIMINATION

VAA does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation or veteran status. Notwithstanding these requirements, VAA may restrict its membership based on an ability to perform the activities related to the organization’s purpose.

Article IV: OFFICERS

Section 1:

The elected officers of VAA will be the President, Vice President, and Events Officer. The Treasurer will be appointed by the elected officers. Other officer positions may be created, and their duties and powers and the method of selecting and removing them specified, in the bylaws. Organizational decisions shall be made by majority vote of the officers or by the president if the officers have not held such a vote.

Section 2: QUALIFICATIONS

In order to be an officer, a person must be a member (but not necessarily a voting member) and must support the purpose of the organization. The elected officers must be full time students of the University of Virginia.

Section 3: ELECTION

The time and place of officer elections must be announced to all members by email at least one week prior to officer elections. A quorum shall be 1/3 of voting members. All members, including nonvoting members, shall be entitled to speak in regard to the election for three minutes each prior to voting. Officers shall be elected by majority vote in a secret ballot. If no candidate receives a majority vote, the candidate(s) receiving the fewest number of votes shall be eliminated, and another vote shall be held between the remaining candidates. In the event of a tie, the sitting president shall break the tie.

Section 4: REMOVAL

Elected officers may be removed from office if all of the following criteria are met:

1) One or more of the official members of VAA has filed a written formal complaint,

2) The other elected officers of VAA unanimously agree that there is reason for VAA to vote on removing the officer from his/her position, and

3) At a regular weekly meeting, after hearing a plea and explanation of guilt or innocence to the charges by the elected officer being impeached, a majority of present, voting members of VAA vote by secret ballot to remove the officer from his/her position.

If an elected officer is removed from a position, the other elected officers will appoint an eligible member of VAA to take the person's place.

Section 5: TERMS

Elected officers shall be elected in November or December, and shall serve a one year term beginning on the following June 1.

Section 6: DUTIES

The PRESIDENT shall:

1) Preside over meetings,

2) Act as a liaison between the Student Council of the University of Virginia and VAA, which includes filing all necessary paperwork with Student Council, and

3) Organize activities, speakers, etc.

The VICE PRESIDENT shall:

1) Assist the president in all of his/her duties,

2) Preside over meetings and activities in the absence of the president,

3) Advise the president on all organizational policy matters, and

4) Maintain membership records.

Article V: MEETINGS

The officers will hold officer meeting once a week at a location and time to be decided by the officers. A quorum for officer meetings shall be a majority of the officers.

The organization shall hold weekly meetings at a regular time to be decided by the officers, and may hold other meetings at other times at the discretion of the officers.

Article VI: FINANCES

The activities, etc. of VAA will be funded by:

1) Submitting budgets to the University of Virginia Student Activities Fee,

2) Holding fund-raisers and/or other moneymaking activities,

3) Dues

4) Donations by members, alumni, or others, and

5) Such other sources of funding as the officers shall deem appropriate.

Expenditures of up to $50 per week may be authorized by the president. Expenditures in any amount may be authorized by a majority vote of the officers present at an officer meeting.

Article VII: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the officers present at an officers meeting. Once proposed, such an amendment shall be voted on by the voting members using the procedures specified above for officer elections, except that a proposed amendment shall require a 2/3 vote to take effect.

Article VIII: BYLAWS

The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the officers present at an officers meeting.

The TREASURER shall:

1) Assist the president and vice-president,

2) Maintain the VAA bank account, and

3) Apply for funding from the Student Activities Fee as well as other sources.