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## Constitution & Bylaws

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## **Preamble**

*We the members of The Rural South Law Society, and subscribing to the regulations and policies of the University of Georgia, establish this Constitution to govern the matters within our organization.*

## **ARTICLE I: Name**

**a. The name of this organization or association is:** *The Rural South Law Society. It may also go by Rural South Law, the Rural Law Society, RSLs.*

## **ARTICLE II: Purpose/Mission**

Enter a comprehensive, yet concise statement of purpose. This statement may have several ideas or objectives. Be as precise as possible, as this statement outlines the overarching objectives of your organization.

**a. The purpose/mission of The Rural South Law Society shall be ????????**

## **ARTICLE III: Membership**

Included in an appropriate Article or Articles shall be information as follows:

- a. Membership shall be limited to regularly enrolled University of Georgia students, faculty, and/or staff members.**
- b. Dues shall be decided upon by the executive board and shall be approved by a majority of quorum at a meeting. Dues shall be placed in an off campus bank account and purchases must be approved by the executive board. Any expenditure over \$150 shall require approval of a majority of a quorum of the membership at a regular meeting.**

## **ARTICLE IV: Non-Discrimination**

**a. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.**

## **ARTICLE V: Officers (qualifications; terms; election and removal)**

- a. The officers of this organization shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer**
- b. Qualifications for office: All officers must be enrolled in at least 6 (six) credit hours each semester during their term. All officers must show they live the purposes and values of the Rural South Law Society in their daily lives, and continue to advance its goals. Additionally, there are requirements for each officer:**
  - i. president: must be a 3L with previous executive board experience, unless there be none willing to run, then to any 3L, then to any 2L**
  - ii. vice-president: must be a 2L**
  - iii. Secretary: none**
  - iv. Treasurer: none**
- c. Terms of office All officers shall have terms of one year, starting with the beginning of the academic year in the fall. The term shall expire at the end of the school year.**
- d. Term limits: 3 years for any office.**
- e. Election: elections shall take place annually in April, at a regularly announced meeting of the Society, with at least one week advance notice via the group email list serv.**
  - 1. To be elected, a candidate must receive at least 50% of the votes of the members present at the meeting.**
  - 2. a quorum must exist to conduct the meeting.**
  - 3. if there are more than two individuals running, the two top vote getters (provided no one gets a majority the first round of voting), will participate in a run off election.**
  - 4. the president shall not vote in elections, unless there is a tie. In this case, the president shall cast a tie breaking vote.**
- f. Provisions for removal: if an officer is deemed to be unfit to serve, or has engaged in conduct unbecoming of an officer of RSLs or extreme conduct unbecoming of a member of RSLs, then he may be removed by a 50% majority of the quorum during a regular or specially called meeting of the Society.**
- g. Provisions for officer vacancies**

- i. In the event an officer should resign or be removed from office, the president shall appoint the next highest ranking officer to take the vacancy, and then a special election shall be held to replace the new vacancy using the same methods as a regular election.
- ii. If the president is the vacancy, then the vice president shall ascend to the role of presidency effective the moment the position is opened. The new president shall then call for a special election of a new vice president. The secretary and treasurer shall be eligible to run for this position, regardless of the eligibility requirements listed above.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Meetings**

- a. Meetings shall be held monthly, with events for general membership.
- b. quorum shall be at least 7 voting members, or 50% of the organization, whichever is lesser.
- c. Officers who are authorized to call a meeting are the president or the vice president.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Amendments**

Amending the constitution should not be too simple a process for the sake of the stability of the organization. All amendments must be decided on carefully; it is recommended that all amendments are subject for final approval by the general membership of the organization.

- a. The constitution may be amended by a vote of a majority of the membership of the organization who are in good standing with the RSLs.
- b. Amendments must be proposed at a regular meeting, and then a waiting period of at least seven days must occur before it is brought to a vote at the next regular meeting of the RSLs.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Advisors**

- a. There shall be no faculty/staff/community member advisor who shall be the members ex-officio with no voting privileges
- b. Method of selection of advisors: the advisor shall be nominated by the executive board, and an invitation shall be extended to him.
- c. Duties and responsibilities of advisor: the advisor shall give advice, knowledge, experience, and assist in developing dynamic programming ideas for the Society. The advisor shall not be required to act in a role beyond an "idea man" or "consultant" type role, unless he so chooses and the executive board welcomes his help.
- d. Advisors may be removed for cause with a 75% majority of the membership of the Society in good standing.

#### **BY-LAWS:**

Bylaws are not a necessary requirement for your constitution; however, they do provide the opportunity to be more specific regarding constitutional requirements. Typically bylaws are intended to establish rules or procedures necessary to carry out the constitution. It is important to note that your bylaws must not change, amend, or conflict with your constitution.

1. More detailed material concerning members, rights, duties expulsion, and resignation procedure.
2. Provisions for honorary members/associate members, if the group so desires.
3. Provisions for membership fee, dues and assessments, if there are to be any, should be set down in detail.
4. Detailed description of the officer positions, if desired.
5. Duties, authority, and responsibility of the Executive Committee.
6. Name of the standing committees, if any, and the method of selection of committee chair:
  - a. The duties of the committee(s) should also be stated.
  - b. Provisions for creation of new committees
7. A provision for some accepted rules of order for parliamentary procedure (i.e. Robert's Rules of Order).
8. A method to amend the by-laws, typically a majority vote (\*\*Required should you choose to have bylaws).