**The Blue Leaders Club Constitution**

**July 1st, 2022**

# ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization is *Blue Leaders*. The club will also go by *The BL Club* in marketed public material and correspondence. *Blue Leaders* is operating in Gainesville, FL**.**

# ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT

*Blue Leaders* primary purpose is to provide students with an outlet to learn more about the university, regardless of experience, and to create connections between the different colleges of the University of Florida. *Blue Leaders* will host a variety of events, meetings, and workshops for members to engage with each other and campus.

# ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, *Blue Leaders* shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. *Blue Leaders* shall comply with all local, state, and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

# ARTICLE IV. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Non -Discrimination

*Blue Leaders* agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B. Sexual Harassment

*Blue Leaders* agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

Section C. Hazing

*Blue Leaders* agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If *Blue Leaders* becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

# ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff are prohibited from holding membership, office or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

# ARTICLE VI. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR

The student organization advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The student organization advisor should attend executive and general meetings, but is not required to, and the advisor shall not vote or hold office. The organization advisor shall serve for a term of one year, with the ability to be re-selected. In the event that the student organization advisor is unable to continue in their position, officers may nominate a replacement at any time, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the officers.

# ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section A: The elected officers of *Blue Leaders* shall be President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. At no time should one person hold more than one of these positions.

Part 1: The President shall:

* Preside at all meetings of the organization/coordinate with the Vice-President on the work of the officers, committees, and subdivisions.
* Oversee the activities of the organization/contact with external groups that wish to collaborate/sponsor certain projects or events.
* Act as the official representative of the organization to the University of Florida and the community.
* Forms secondary officer positions as necessary and with the consent of the current elected officers.
* Organize general body meetings.

Part 2: The Vice-President shall:

* Serve as an aide to the President and shall perform the duties of the President in her/his absence or inability to serve.
* Nominate an active member to become Secretary.
* Coordinate with team leaders on the activities of each subdivision within the organization and ensure overall progression.
* Assist the president with available tasks as listed under the president section.
* Coordinate transition of new Executive Board Members
* Assist in the training of new staff members.

Part 3: The Treasurer shall:

* Receive all monies of *Blue Leaders*.
* Shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures.
* Shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization.
* Present a financial statement at every meeting of *Blue Leaders* and at other times when requested by the President or Vice President.
* If additional funds are required, coordinate with faculty/members on additional funding.
* Material purchases (If needed)
* Orchestrate sponsorships and maintain sponsorship packet updates.

Section B: The appointed officer of *Blue Leaders* shall be Secretary. The Secretary shall be appointed by the elected officers with at least 2/3 majority, following Vice-President nomination.

Part 1: The Secretary shall:

* Record the minutes of all meetings of *Blue Leaders*
* Implement Point system if necessary.
* Keep track of attendance at meetings, events, etc. when necessary.
* Organize tabling for Blue Leaders and negotiate permits for tabling through Gator Connect.
* Organize members to pass out flyers for GBMs and events of Blue Leaders

Section C: Officers shall serve a term of one year, with the ability to be reappointed. Officers shall assume their official duties at the beginning of the Fall term and serve until the election meeting in the Spring term, upon which a vote shall be held for new officers for the following year. To qualify to run as an active officer, a member must be active within the club for at least a semester before they are eligible to run. Eligibility will be up to the secretary to keep track of active members and to define what an ‘active’ member is.

Section D: Impeachment

Part 1: In the event an officer or member has a problem with a fellow officer, a warning may be issued.

* Warnings can be issued at any time and can be issued through a notification with the president (or another member of the executive board) where it will be up to the informed officer to issue a warning.
* If the problem that caused the warning is not resolved in a matter of a week after the non-compliant officer is warned, the non-compliant officer can be released from their position based on a private vote from all appointed and executive officers where a majority must be established for an officer to be released.
  + If the released officer disagrees with the decision, the released officer maintains the right to debate the decision at the next officer meeting regarding their decision to disagree with the release.
    - Respectful discussion and reasoning will be provided by both parties regarding the released officer on why they were released and why they should stay. All officers are allowed to participate. The released officer can be reinstated based on another private vote after this discussion. This vote will be written on paper and will be placed in a container where anonymity of the participating parties can be enforced. Afterwards, the votes will be tallied to decide whether the officer will be reinstated.
    - If the released officer does not appear at the next officer meeting following their decision to contest release, the released officer will forfeit their right to refute the dismissal.
  + If an officer is considered released, he or she is considered impeached.
  + If an officer is impeached, he or she is prohibited from applying to any executive board position in the future.

Section E: In the event that an officer position becomes vacant for reasons beyond impeachment (e.g. resignations, officer ineligibility, or similar occurrences) the president will appoint a temporary officer (upon majority approval among current officers) to fill that position until such time as an election can be held using the election procedures found in Article VIII. The Vice-President will become president temporarily in the event the president positions become vacant until the position can be filled within one month of the vacancy.

# ARTICLE VII I. ELECTIONS

Nominations for all officers will take place annually at the (second-to-last) general body meeting prior to the election meeting in the Spring term and shall be made through electronic submission. Any member may nominate any qualifying member, including himself or herself. A qualifying member can be defined as a participant who is actively involved within club-activities and has fully attended at least 1/3rd of the general body meetings. Nominations may also be made during the election meeting prior to closing of nominations. Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients. Elections should take place in April to allow for turnover between old and new board.

# ARTICLE IX. FINANCE

*Blue Leaders* will apply for Student Government Funding to purchase operational materials, food, event supplies, and merchandise. *Blue Leaders* members shall not require dues for the organization, however, if an instance arises in which additional financial support is needed, then the organization may host fundraising opportunities such as carwashes. Additionally, if members wish to purchase any apparel/items that the club may create during its duration, they are entitled to do so.

# ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Department of Student Activities & Involvement. Any monies received from Student Government shall be returned to Student Government for reallocation.

# ARTICLE XI. BYLAWS FOR BLUE LEADERS

Blue Leaders may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the University of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the SAI constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the SAI approved constitution on file and SAI’s constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). Blue Leaders agrees to provide all unaltered bylaws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

# ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any regular meeting so long as provided notice of the proposed amendment was given one week prior to a vote. Prior to this meeting, our officers will request a copy of the constitution from the Department of Student Activities and Involvement through email. Any member is eligible to propose an amendment, and proposals should be sent to any member of the executive board. Amendments require a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance at the meeting, and are subject to final approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement.