

The Lyndon Dance Ensemble

PREAMBLE

The Lyndon Dance Ensemble aims to provide an affordable way for students to start or continue their dance journey. This is done by teaching dances weekly in weekly practices throughout the year so that they can showcase them in recitals and performances that present our artistic capabilities. Our club is available to all dance experience levels.

ARTICLE I The Lyndon Dance Ensemble

ARTICLE II Membership

Section A. Types of Membership

Our membership is fairly flexible according to each member. They have the ability to be as involved as they would like depending on the number of dances they are a part of.

- Executive board choreographed dances include: tap, contemporary, hip-hop, pom pom, opening, closing, burlesque, prop, jazz, possible senior sport games, and any competition dances.
- Self choreographed dances (but executive board can help if needed) include: solos, duets, trios and small groups.

Section B. Membership Qualifications

To be a member of the Dance Ensemble one must show an interest in the art. Dance experience is not required to join.

Alumni of the club may coach the Dance Team, and choreograph for the Dance Team, VT State Dance Festival and any other pieces that will be competed or performed outside of the VTSU community. They may choreograph for regular ensemble pieces. Alumni may choreograph for those circumstances, but may not perform.

Special cases will be evaluated by the President and Vice President to determine certain alumni to perform and choreograph. Alumni may only perform in athletic events, or recital/competition pieces, if they graduated in the fall semester of that academic year since the club only hosts one annual show and that takes place in the Spring Semester.

Students who were in the club, but have transferred to a different school with no dance, are allowed to still perform at the recital with permission from the President. They are not allowed to perform at competitions or any other dance performance events.

Section C. Non-Discrimination Statement

[The Lyndon Dance Ensemble] or any part thereof shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, veterans status, marital status, or any other status protected by law.

Section D. Selection of Members

- Members will be recruited through promoting the club on campus and on social media.
- Approval of new members is at the sole discretion of the President and/or Vice President.
- Anyone can audition for half-time senior day games.
 - o The President, and/or Vice President will hold auditions to determine who will perform for the half-times. However, anyone who learns the piece and auditions may perform it in the annual recital.
- Performers for the VT State Dance Festival, Benefit Dance Recital (hosted by Lyndon Institute), and any other competitive events will be at the discretion of the President and Vice President.
- Anyone can participate in pieces for the annual recital, unless groups have been chosen by the President, and/or Vice President.

Section E. Voting Privileges

- If voting issues should arise within the general club, all members are entitled to an equal vote with the President having the final say.
- Absentee ballots will be taken into consideration.

Section F. Termination of Membership

- If membership termination arises, the member will be notified two times prior with warnings and then asked to have an intervention conversation with the President and/or Vice President. After two warnings, if behavior is not improved, and productive conversations are not had between the member, President, and Vice President, the member will be asked to leave the group.
- Causes for removal include inappropriate and/or offensive behavior towards other dancers, or failure to show up for scheduled rehearsals. If a dancer misses two rehearsals without communication, or shows up late to three rehearsals with no communication, that is when a decision will be made. After the first failure to show up or show up on time without communication, a conversation will be had with the President, Vice President, and Coach if applicable. After failure to show up or show up on time twice without communication, members will be benched from any upcoming competitions or halftime dances, and pulled aside for Ensemble. After failure to show up or show up on time three times without communication, the member will be asked to leave. Communications must go through the President and/or Vice President directly, not in group chats. This goes for both regular Ensemble Members and Dance Team members.

ARTICLE III

Officers (Executive Board Members)

Section A. Elected Officers

- **President**
 - o Resolve conflicts
 - o Choose dance numbers
 - o Choreograph dances when necessary
 - o Be the point of contact for Ensemble members
 - o Plan events
 - o Make dance schedule
- **Vice President**
 - o Help make dance schedule
 - o Take over running rehearsal if President cannot be there
 - o Choreograph dances when necessary
 - o Help plan events
 - o Be second point of contact for Ensemble members
- **Secretary**
 - o Take attendance/keep track of what is done in rehearsals
 - o In charge of updating social media
 - o Book spaces for rehearsals and events
 - o Share responsibility of bi-semesterly inventory count with Treasurer
 - o Email dance schedule
- **Treasurer**
 - o Keep track of budget
 - o Differentiate between what is needed and what is possible for the club
 - o Order costumes and materials needed
 - o Share responsibility of bi-semesterly inventory count with Secretary
 - o Responsible for filling out financial related forms for fundraising and budget requests
 - o Lead of Just Dance Fundraiser
- **SGA Representative**
 - o Attend SGA meetings
 - o Report meeting minutes to Ensemble and publish notes to google drive
 - o Directly advertising for events

Section B. Qualifications for Holding Office

- Officers must be currently enrolled VTSU Lyndon students.
 - o Officers need to have participated in dance for at least one semester, unless approved by the President.
 - Approval would be based on if members can prove themselves to be responsible enough to take on an executive position, at sole discretion of the President.
- Must attend weekly meetings to be determined by the executive board.

Section C. Selection of Officers

- Elections occur every year in late Spring Semester as determined by SGA for that academic year.
- Any member is able to run for a position who has been part of the club for at least one semester (unless the President approves that individual due to responsibility being proven). The majority vote is the deciding factor for each position.
- The new executive board should run the final meeting of the Spring Semester.
- In the event that a position becomes vacant during the course of a semester, the President and Vice President may pick a current responsible member to fill that position. If positions have not been filled within the first two weeks of the fall semester, the President and Vice President may pick any member to fill those positions.

Section D. Filling Vacancies

- In the case of a vacancy Vice President will take over for President. The President and Vice President will take over for treasurer. The Treasurer or Secretary will take over for SGA Representative. The Treasurer will take over duties for the Vice President. SGA Representative will take over for Secretary.
- In the event that a position becomes vacant during the course of a semester, the President and Vice President may pick a current responsible member to fill that position. If positions have not been filled within the first two weeks of the fall semester, the President and Vice President may pick any member to fill those positions.
- In the event we don't have enough qualified members to fill all positions, the President will stay the same, the Vice president will take on the SGA Representative position and Secretary and Treasurer will combine.

Section E. Recall of Officers (Impeachment)

- In the case of recall of officers, fellow officers will make the decision for removal and vote to remove. Conditions for removal include failure to perform duties or excessive absenteeism.
- Voting should be a large majority (2/3 or more). Final action should be delayed until the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section A. Frequency of Meetings

- Meetings are according to the schedule made. Each dancer is called for 30 minute segments per dance they are in. For example: A trio dance is scheduled for Sunday

2:30pm-3:00pm, the three dancers are called to be there every Sunday 2:30pm-3:00pm. Dancers not scheduled for a time are not required to be there.

- Each year, there will be group pieces that any member can be a part of (opening, closing, tap, hip-hop, contemporary, etc.) but small groups can be created amongst members or by the executive board and those are closed off exclusively to the chosen members.
- Meetings (rehearsals) will be held every Sunday (all day) during the fall semester for ensemble members and the Friday before the VT State Dance Festival. During the spring semester, meetings (rehearsals) will be held every Sunday (all day). Rehearsals for the Benefit Recital and any other competitions or performances outside of the VTSU Lyndon community would be based on the President and member availability to be determined for each event.

Section B. Special Meetings

- Special meetings would include tech week rehearsals, which happen everyday the week before the recital and Dancing with the Presidents, General Business Meetings (bi-weekly on Sundays), and Exec Board Meetings (bi-weekly required, but emergency meetings can be held with at least 24 hours notice).
- Members will receive notifications when tech week is happening.
- Special meetings are also held when events are upcoming or when something drastic happens last minute.

Section C. Quorum

- For a meeting to conduct business, more than half of dancers called to that meeting must be present.

ARTICLE V

Advisors

- The advisor is responsible for resolving major conflicts between officers. The board of officers (that were in office for that academic year, and the newly elected officers for the upcoming year) should vote on this position, after the election of the office board every year.
- All advisors should be faculty or staff members of VTSU-Lyndon or a spouse/partner of a faculty or staff member.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

Section A. Constitution

- Any officer may propose an amendment.
- Any amendment will be discussed in the officer board meetings and voted on.

- All members must agree to the amendment.

ARTICLE VII

Emergency Clause

In addition to any other emergency powers enumerated in this constitution, the advisor, Director of Student Life, or Dean of Students shall have the authority to supersede portions of this document in order to continue the proper functioning of the Student Government Association, and in order to provide quality and valuable services for students. These emergency powers can be invoked in case of local, state, national, or global crisis, emergency, or pandemic, in response to a declaration of emergency by government officials and/or at the direction of the College President or their designee.

In the event of another pandemic, rehearsals will be moved remote if the college moves to remote learning. If in-person events are allowed, precautions would be taken as directed by the institution. Our events may be livestreamed with no audience members. Masking policy can be implemented at any point, even if the pandemic isn't in full force and the institution has not set any masking procedures in place. For example, masking can be required during tech week of performances to limit exposure and potential risk of positive cases within the group. If a member ends up testing positive, members who are direct close contacts will be required to test within five days. All members will be required to mask during rehearsals and events if there is a positive case within ten days of a rehearsal or event. We will not force members to mask outside of rehearsals, although it is encouraged.

ARTICLE VIII

Inclusivity Policy

No SGA organization shall discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, age, economic or social class, political affiliation, major, or minor. Each club or organization must include a statement of non-discrimination in its Constitution that includes all items currently listed per VSC policy. By applying for funding each year and attending SGA meetings, clubs acknowledge this policy and automatically accept any modifications to that policy without amending their Constitution.

The Executive Board of the Lyndon Dance Ensemble and Lyndon Stingers Dance Team will work to incorporate a diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop once a semester for Executive Members to demonstrate and work on leadership. This workshop would be open to members if they would like to join, but only Executive Board members will be required to attend.

ARTICLE IX

Board of Trustees

- The board of trustees is the legal governing body of the VSC system and nothing within this constitution is being constructed as to grant the faculty, students, or other body concerned, the authority to act outside the policies of this board.

- The board of trustees has the right to suspend any [*The Lyndon Dance Ensemble*] activity as they see fit.