

Lyndon Unity CONSTITUTION

(Ratified 9/16/24)

PREAMBLE

Lyndon Unity will be a safe community for LGBT+ people and allies on the Vermont State University - Lyndon campus. It will work towards creating a safer campus for the interests of students of the Lyndon campus and thus push change that may be needed.

ARTICLE I

Name of organization

The club will be referred to as Lyndon Unity in all instances.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section A. Types of Membership

There will be three types of members within the club:

- ❖ Honorary Members may be members of the community who wish to work with Lyndon Unity in ensuring the campus sees change in becoming a safe space for all. They do not have voting privileges and have no requirements for attendance or participation. If a Honorary Member wishes to seek the General Member status, they must attend at least two General Board Meetings per semester.
- ❖ General Members are considered full-time members of the club who gain all benefits of honorary members along with voting rights. They must regularly attend general board meetings to keep the general member status.
- ❖ Executive Board Members have all rights of the previous members as well as responsibilities of their position as listed in Article III, Section A. They have stricter attendance and professional conduct expectations. They are voted into position by a majority vote of the members per semester.

Section B. Membership Qualifications

All general members and executive board members must be current Vermont State University –Lyndon students. Honorary members may be community members, alumni, staff, faculty, or community members of be Vermont State Colleges System at the discretion of the President and Vice President

Section C. Non-Discrimination Statement

Lyndon Unity 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

- ❖ General Membership will be granted upon the Lyndon Unity member as soon as they reach the criteria needed in a single semester.
 - One or more members will be expected to notify the club member of their promotion via official university email.
 - Members may accept or deny their role of general membership at their discretion.
- ❖ Executive Board members will be voted on every semester six weeks before the end of the semester
 - Each position that is contested will be voted on by the entire voting body. A simple majority (greater than 51%) is needed for a passing vote.
 - Elections will take place via anonymous written ballot.
 - In the event of a tie, the following procedure will occur...
 - Executive contestants with the highest votes will give final statements and a re-vote will occur. Only those top contestants will be included on the new ballot.
 - If there is another tie, the winner will be determined by activity within the club. Point values of one (1) will be assigned to attendance of general board meetings, publication of contributions, and attendance/assistance of club events. The contestant with the highest point value will assume the executive role.
 - Further tie-breaking measures will occur at the discretion of an assembly of the President and Vice President.
 - Each position will start immediately thereafter and will expect to be in their role by the last meeting of the semester.
 - In the event an Executive Board position is vacant during the academic year, and it is more than two months before the end of the spring semester, a mid-term election may occur.
 - Mid-term elections will occur at the Vice President's discretion. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Applicants filling out a form stating what position they are running for and why they would be suitable for that position.
 - Applicants presenting their case at the next available club meeting.
 - Each position will then be voted on by the entire voting body. A simple majority (greater than 51%) is needed for a passing vote.

- Elections will take place via anonymous written ballot.
- In the event of a tie, tie-breaking measures as listed above must be followed.
- If the vote does not pass, members must wait one month before they may reapply for an Executive Board position.

Section E. Voting Privileges

General Members and Executive Board Members have the voting privileges on the following issues:

- ❖ Executive Board Positions
- ❖ Impeachment proceedings
- ❖ Amendments to the constitution
- ❖ Any other business the executive board deems necessary to vote on

All votes must be done at an official General Board or Executive Board meeting, recorded in the meeting minutes report. These meetings may occur in-person or virtually through Zoom, Facebook, or other substitute means of face-to-face communication.

Section F. Termination of Membership

- ❖ Honorary Members and General Members may be removed from Lyndon Unity or have their membership status demoted...
 - If there is material evidence of a club member breaking the rules set forth in this constitution, in which the Executive Board and club Advisor may meet and come to a consensus of grounds of removal or demotion.
- ❖ Executive Board members may be removed from Lyndon Unity or have their membership status demoted if the following impeachment process is followed...
 - Impeachment proceedings begin once a petition with at least half of the voting body in favor is delivered to the Executive Board and club Advisor.
 - The petition must outline the reasoning of the impeachment.
 - If the petition is formulated against the President or Student Government Representative, the petition must outline a successor and the successor must sign the petition.
 - If the reason for impeachment is not due to a failure to uphold the constitution, the club Advisor will decide whether there are grounds to continue the impeachment process or if other methods of restorative justice may be sought out.
 - At the next general board meeting, there will be a vote on the matter mediated by the club Advisor.
 - A two-thirds (66%) or greater majority vote of those present is sufficient protocol of impeachment.

- In pursuing President and/or SGA Representative impeachments, if voting requirements have been met, and the requirements for impeachment are followed as they are written in the constitution, then there will be a one-week transition period between the old leadership to the new leadership. After one week from the vote, the successor assumes the vacated role.
- In pursuing the impeachment of an Executive Board role without the need of a successor, mid-term elections may take place as written in Article II, Section D.
- The impeached person is not able to serve on the Executive Board for the remainder of the school year.

The termination of membership shall require greater than a 50% vote, the member will then be notified via an email to their VSC email.

- ❖ Those on the Executive Board who wish to resign must do so via an email sent to the entirety of the Lyndon Unity Executive Board Members along with the advisor entirely through VSC emails.

ARTICLE III

Officers (Executive Board Members)

Section A. Elected Officers

Executive Board officers...

- ❖ Shall have access to Lyndon Unity's Google account for official record keeping.
- ❖ Are allowed up to three (3) unexcused absences per semester in attendance of any club meeting.
 - Unexcused is defined as unrelated to academia, VTSU-affiliated extracurricular events, or other job hours.
 - Unexcused is also defined as a personal reason without notice before a meeting.
- ❖ Shall attend a minimum of one (1) club sanctioned event per semester.
- ❖ Shall handle any relevant paperwork or other responsibilities as assigned.

Additional responsibilities per role on the Executive Board are as follows:

- ❖ President
 - Run meetings collaboratively with the Vice President
 - Run-down of events to bring to the Exec Board to discuss
 - Ensure that the club meets the accountability rule by SGA
- ❖ Vice President
 - Run meetings collaboratively with the President
 - Willing to take up positions in absences
 - Attend events the president cannot attend

- ❖ Secretary
 - Record important details during general board meetings
 - Help with scheduling events and general board meetings
 - In charge of marketing via social media
 - Will send recap emails of meetings to the club email list
- ❖ Treasurer
 - Keep track of club finances
 - Communicate with club advisor to purchase materials for any events
 - Communicate with SGA Rep regarding SGA financials to have a better understanding of what money can be requested
- ❖ SGA Rep
 - Attend each SGA board meeting and state any club updates
 - Take thorough notes of SGA's updates every meeting
 - Represent the club and talk about their activities in a professional standing

Section B. Qualifications for Holding Office

- ❖ Officers must be currently enrolled VTSU-Lyndon students.
- ❖ Must attend at least three meetings before running for office.

Section C. Selection of Officers

- ❖ Executive Board members will be voted on every semester six weeks before the end of the semester
 - This must happen before Thanksgiving Break within the fall semester.
 - This must happen before March 31 or sooner within the spring semester.
- ❖ Voting shall be done by an anonymous written ballot vote unless otherwise specified.
- ❖ Officers will be elected and trained for the following semester and the new members shall run the final general board meeting of the semester.

Section D. Filling Vacancies

- ❖ If there is no one in the board seat the president and/or vice president will take the responsibilities of that role.
- ❖ Vote by hand raised vote unless otherwise specified.

Section E. Recall of Officers (Impeachment)

- ❖ If the seat is unable to do their responsibilities it will lead to a vote determining if they can keep their position. This will be a majority vote (2/3).

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section A. Frequency of Meetings

- ❖ Meetings shall be held each week at a regular day and time decided by the executive board.

Section B. Special Meetings

- ❖ Possible reasons to hold special meetings may include preparing for events. This is subject to change, and everyone will be notified by email.
- ❖ Members will be notified during a meeting or through email where and when a special meeting will occur.

Section C. Quorum

- ❖ Half of the members must show up to conduct business such as event planning.

Section D. Parliamentary Authority

- ❖ We will be referring to the Sturgis Rules of Order.

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 Lyndon Unity, 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.

ARTICLE V

Advisors

- ❖ The advisor will assist the club with purchasing items for events. Most contact will be through email. They can have a very hands-off approach to their positions.
- ❖ All advisors should be faculty or staff members of Vermont State University -Lyndon or a spouse/partner of a faculty or staff member.

ARTICLE VI Amendments

Section A. Constitution

- ❖ Any voting member can present an amendment to the constitution during a general meeting.
- ❖ There will be a vote for the amendment at the next meeting.
- ❖ The amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds majority.

ARTICLE VII Bylaws

The bylaws indicate the technical details necessary for carrying out stipulations in the constitution.

- ❖ The powers of the officers will not be abused for one's own good and used to help grow and improve the club.
- ❖ All members must treat others with respect and with dignity. Those who do not follow this rule will be investigated and handled accordingly.
- ❖ Announcements will be made during weekly meetings as well as through email, and members will continue with the work/activity for the club that day.
- ❖ An Executive Board group chat may be created exclusively using Microsoft Teams or another university-sponsored application.

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 *Lyndon Unity* activity as they see fit.