



# the sociological thinkers<sup>TM</sup> of bryant

## THE OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION

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### ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

- A. Name: The name of this organization shall be the "Sociological Thinkers of Bryant".
- B. Purpose: The Sociological Thinkers of Bryant shall promote the study of Sociology at the undergraduate level at Bryant University. The Sociological Thinkers of Bryant shall also:
  1. Support the participation of Bryant University students in sociological thought and academic pursuit.
  2. Encourage the thoughtful discussion of sociological ideas on campus by organizing presentations, panel discussions, and other civic events.
  3. Foster the development of leadership skills and social entrepreneurship through experiential learning in the non-profit, profit, and service sectors.
  4. Encourage participation in the broader sociological community through collaboration with students from other campuses, attendance and participation at regional and national conferences, and the study of sociology and service learning at Bryant.
  5. Promote the education of Bryant University students with the end of producing intelligent and thoughtful leaders.
  6. Further the discussion of sociological ideas and humanitarian efforts outside the classroom.

7. Actively promote and participate in service to the community, both at Bryant University and beyond, with a focus on those in great need.
8. Publish no fewer than two (2) issues of a sociology newsletter per semester, which will include sociology club news and program information of particular interest to students (i.e., club programs, courses to be offered next semester, new course proposals, student research/internship opportunities, upcoming conferences, interviews with noteworthy sociologists, photos of students presenting papers, etc.).

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

- A. **Membership Requirements:** The Sociological Thinkers of Bryant shall be open to all full-time undergraduate Bryant University students with an interest in sociology. Membership is *not* limited to Sociology majors or minors. Membership shall be granted regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, religion, creed, ability, socioeconomic status or sexual affinity.
- B. **Membership Dues:** Participants of the Sociological Thinkers of Bryant shall pay an annual fee to be considered an active member. The annual membership fee shall be \$5.00, or as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board at the first Executive Board meeting of the year.

## **ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

- A. **Terms in Office:** All elected terms shall begin at the last meeting of the academic year and conclude at the last meeting of the next academic year.
- B. **Attendance Expectations:** Executive Board members are expected to attend Executive Board and General Body meetings. Executive Board members may not hold their positions while studying abroad, but will be considered for reelection if nominated. If extenuating circumstances apply, meetings may be missed at the President's approval.
- C. **Executive Board Officers:** The Executive Board shall consist of the following officers:
  1. **President:** The President shall attend and preside over all General Body and Executive Board meetings, oversee initiatives of other Executive Board members, assisting members where possible and holding members accountable where necessary, and appoint any ex-officio positions with the majority consent of the Executive Board.
  2. **Vice President of Publicity and Communication:** The VP of Publicity and Communication shall publicize Sociological Thinkers of Bryant events and activities and shall manage the general image of the Sociological Thinkers of Bryant. The VP of Publicity and Communication shall also prepare all Sociological Thinkers of Bryant press releases, maintain the website, and,

along with the President, serve as the primary spokesperson for the organization.

3. Vice President of Events and Community Engagement: The VP of Events and Community Engagement shall organize and manage community service activities with the aim of fulfilling the commitment to service in the Sociological Thinkers of Bryant constitution while fostering awareness and discussion of community issues among the General Body. The VP of Events and Community Engagement shall organize and manage lectures, forums, debates, social events, and all other events not designated to another member of the Executive Board by the President.
4. Vice President of Information: The VP of Information will act as the liaison between the Executive Board and the General Members, responsible for managing communication with members. The VP of Information is also responsible for the organization and management of membership information. The VP of Information will assume secretarial duties; keeping and organizing notes at General Meetings and Executive Board meetings, and should keep all members informed of meeting dates and times.
5. Treasurer: The treasurer shall undergo Bryant University's "Treasurer Training", offered by the Student Senate. The Treasurer shall keep detailed accountings of all Sociological Thinkers of Bryant finances, build and manage the Sociological Thinkers of Bryant alumni database, and organize fundraising activities.

D. Removal:

1. Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties as expressed by this document.
2. Unexcused absence at more than two (2) Executive Board meetings in one semester shall be grounds for removal.
3. An officer shall be removed by a majority vote of the remaining four (4) members of the Executive Board.
4. If a motion is made to remove an Executive Board member, one week shall pass before a vote for removal is made by the Executive Board, and the member in question shall be notified of the motion by the President. The member in question shall be entitled to a brief, five minute presentation to the board prior to a vote for removal.

- E. Vacancies: Vacancies shall be filled by special election of the Executive Board as called by the President. The President shall assume the duties of vacant positions from the beginning of the vacancy until the time of the special election.

#### **ARTICLE IV: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. Elections: Nominations for five (5) Executive Board positions shall be held in April. All paid members, general and executive, will vote the nominees into Executive Board positions by a majority vote of those present (see Article VII for further clarification).

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

- A. Meetings: Meetings of the General Body of Sociological Thinkers of Bryant shall be held no fewer than two (2) times per month while Bryant University is in session. Meetings shall be called by the Executive Board and advertised to the General Body and the entire Bryant University community in advance. Meetings are open to members and non-members.
  
- B. Executive Board Meetings: Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held no less than two (2) times per month or as deemed necessary by the executive board while Bryant University is in session. Meetings shall be called by the Executive Board and advertised in advance. Executive Board meetings shall be attended only by members of the Executive Board, together with the faculty advisor and any General Member or guest who is invited by the Executive Board. The Executive Board will have the right to implement policies to make Executive Board meetings and general meetings efficient and productive. Existing Executive Board officers shall each have one vote in Executive Board meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS**

- A. Process: To amend the Constitution of the Sociological Thinkers of Bryant, a member must:
  - 1. Submit a formal letter displaying the inadequacy of the section or article in question.
  - 2. Pending approval by the Executive Board – the section or article will then be placed on the agenda for the following meeting at which proposals of changes will be addressed.
  - 3. A majority vote of the attending members is needed for the amendment to be voted upon by the Executive Board, so long as such amendment adheres to the rules and regulations governing Bryant University student clubs.
  - 4. After the meeting the Executive Board will elect to:
    - a. Leave the bylaw as is
    - b. Implement the new amendment
  
- B. Implementation: Pending the final signature by the President and one (1) other member of the Executive Board, the amendment will be immediately activated.

## **ARTICLE VII: QUORUM**

- A. When a vote is required of the general membership, at least 50% of paid members must be present.
  
- B. A quorum is required for voting regarding (1) the electing of officers or (2) amending the constitution.