

Philosophy Club Constitution

Last Updated: 9/17/2024

ARTICLE ? .IDENTITY

1. Name

The name of this club shall be Philosophy Club of Santa Barbara City College.

2. Goals

To create an open place of philosophy where people can be heard and challenged. A place to grow perspectives.

To increase the number of thinkers and bring back philosophical inquiry into people's lives.

To build connections and community in a supportive relaxed environment.

3. Function

Hosting philosophical symposiums, events, and other such gatherings of individuals and perspectives.

ARTICLE + .MEETINGS AND EVENTS

1. Standard Meetings

- Time & Place:

Meetings or their cancellation will always be announced beforehand in the appropriate media channels.

Monday

2:15pm - 3:30pm

Baggish Overlook

Friday*

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Baggish Overlook

Exceptions**

Twice a month, Friday will be reserved for special events at a different place and/or time.

- What to expect:

Every week a topic of discussion will be announced for every meeting during that week.

A summary of the topic will be posted and presented by an officer at the start of each meeting.

All members will have an opportunity to speak individually about their views and be questioned as they please.

After all members have concluded their time individually everyone will be allowed to participate in group discussion.

All sources and extra readings will be available in the proper channels.

2. Special Events

Special events will take place twice a month, with the exception of December.

Special events will take place during one of the allocated meeting days, though time and location are to be announced in the proper channels.

3. Quorum

The minimum number of members needing to be at the club to begin and record an official meeting are as follows:

It is necessary that there is at least one President or Vice-President present.

It is necessary that there are at least 4 members of the club (officer or otherwise) present.

4. Officer Meetings

Officer meetings will be officially held once a month to discuss topic and event plans. This meeting will occur on the first week of every month at the discretion of the current active officers.

ARTICLE % .MEMBERSHIP

1. Rights

Rights to hold any views and discuss them.
Right to be informed on events or cancellation.
Rights to respect and inclusivity.
Rights to participate in events exclusive to members.

2. Eligibility

Members must be SBCC students (non-students are free to join as visitors).
Members must express their desire to be members to an officer, who will record their membership officially.
Members cannot have more than two infractions on article "Article !2".

3. Responsibilities

Responsibilities to keep respectful and follow the guidelines.

ARTICLE ** .OFFICERS

1. Positions

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Propagandist
General Officers

2. Duties

All Officers:

Officers must uphold the club constitution and regulations when acting under their positions. If a position has more than two active officers, the responsibility of the obligations may be split between them.

President:

Presides over all meetings and events.
Creates club meeting agendas in consultation with other officers.
Communicates and coordinates officers for the completion of club agendas.

Vice President:

Presides over all meetings and events.
Supports the president and assists in duties when the president is unavailable.
Assists closely with event planning and coordination.

Treasurer:

Requests and acquires funding from the appropriate sources.
Manages and keeps track of finances.
Purchases necessary expenses for activities.
Gives monthly updates and informs the club of finances.

Secretary:

Records occurrence of official meetings, topic of meetings, as well as attendance in numbers.
Manages club memberships.
Manages storage and accessibility of all club documents.

Propagandist:

Manages club announcements and ensures that members receive their right to information. This includes any meeting times and special events.
Manages club social media.
Manages the gathering of attraction to the club.

General Officers:

Help with club activities as requested by officers.
May hold special named positions for their term of office.

3. Elections

Number of Officers:

During an election the position of President and Vice-president are mandatory roles for the formation of the club.

There can be two of each type of officer for the position.

Officers may choose to run for the same position together.

Process of election:

Elections will be done by anonymous ballots, with majority vote of present members being the condition for election of a position.

Positions of officers will be voted for in phases (for presidents, vice-presidents, and so on).

Names will be collected in a container and be counted after all members have had a chance to vote.

If the highest votes are shared between two individuals, a revote may be cast or the position may be shared as to the wishes of the candidates.

4. Term

Officers will serve for the length of one semester.

There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms an officer can be elected to office.

5. Transfer of Club

The transfer of documents and assets of the philosophy club to successors must be facilitated through the active advisors in collaboration with the secretary.

6. Impeachment

Any officer can be removed from office through the process of impeachment. Impeachment proceedings may be brought against any officer of the club if 51% of the club officers (henceforth referred to as aggrieved party) agree to initiate impeachment proceedings. Grounds for impeachment include negligence or abandonment of duty to the club, severe infraction of SBCC policy while acting under the authority or representation of the club, or any action which intentionally and maliciously harms the club and/or any of its members.

Prior to Scheduling Impeachment Meeting:

- Each member of aggrieved party must meet with the club advisor separately and provide any evidence of the officer's misconduct

- Should the club advisor deem it appropriate, any member of aggrieved party will meet with the officer they want to impeach and the club advisor for the purpose of attempting conflict resolution
- Only when such attempts at remediation fail can the impeachment hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled club meeting

The Impeachment Hearing:

- Must be overseen by the club advisor or a staff member appointed by the club advisor, should the advisor not be able to make it
- Must take place at the regular club meeting time while school is in session
- Must be attended by at least 10 non-officer members of the Philosophy Club. These club members must have attended at least one club meeting prior to this meeting.
- Cannot be run by either the officer being considered for impeachment nor any member of the aggrieved party
- Aggrieved party will choose one representative to explain to club members why they are pursuing impeachment and provide evidence of any misconduct. Their explanation should be no longer than seven (7) minutes.
- Officer under impeachment will have the opportunity to defend themselves for no more than seven (7) minutes or for however long the representative of aggrieved party spoke

ARTICLE \$.FINANCES

1. Budget & Allocation

- Budget Planning

During each officer meeting, the treasurer in consultation with other officers shall prepare a budget outlining expected income and expenditure.

The budget must be approved by a majority vote of the officers present.

- Use of funds

Club funds shall be used to support activities that align with the clubs goals, including events, catering, guest speakers, educational materials, and promotional activities.

All expenditures must be pre-approved by the treasurer and one other officer (President/Vice President).

2. Systems of Financial Oversight

- Record-Keeping:

The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date financial records, including receipts, invoices, and transaction logs.

Financial records shall be stored securely, with backup copies maintained digitally (e.g., on Google Sheets).

- Access to Records:

Financial records shall be accessible to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Faculty Advisor.

Other officers may request access as needed for transparency.

- Financial Reporting:

The Treasurer shall provide a financial report to the officers and club members on a monthly basis.

Reports shall include current balances, recent transactions, and any budgetary concerns.

Significant transactions should be recorded within one week of occurrence.

- Audit and Review

The club's financial records may be audited by the college or requested for review by the Faculty Advisor at any time.

Discrepancies or concerns must be addressed promptly by the Treasurer and officers.

- Expense Reimbursement

Members seeking reimbursement for approved expenses must submit receipts to the Treasurer within a month of the expense.

- Fundraising Activities

Fundraising efforts must comply with college regulations.

Proceeds from fundraising shall be used exclusively for club activities and operational costs.

ARTICLE ! .CODES OF CONDUCT

1. On Respect and Inclusivity

Each member's contribution should be treated with seriousness and respect. Do not speak down to others or imply their arguments are unworthy of discussion. Everyone's thoughts are valuable and deserving of a thoughtful response. All voices are equal and valuable, regardless of philosophical background or experience. Do not dismiss someone based on their level of expertise or personal background.

2. No Personal Attacks or Insults

Personal attacks, name-calling, shaming, and discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at any point before, after, or during the course of a session. In the event that this boundary is breached, the offender will be given one warning to apologize and return to civil conduct.

3. No Interruptions

Allow others to finish their thoughts without interruption. Every participant has the right to express their ideas fully before responses are made. If you would like to interject politely raise your hand and allow the active speaker to naturally allow this (or not).

4. Respect for Time and Space

Share the floor and ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute if they would like to. If "talking stick" is wielded, certain allocated time must be abided.

ARTICLE ~ .AMENDMENTS, RATIFICATION, & RECORDS

1. Amendments of Constitution

Amendment propositions must be presented during an officer meeting.

Amendments must receive a majority vote by show of hands of all present officers to be put into the constitution.

Amendments passed will take effect immediately.

2. History of Records

All versions of the constitution must be saved and recorded in club files.

All constitutions must be time stamped with the date of the amendment.

ARTICLE < .DERELICTION OF DUTY

During the course of the regular semester, an officer may be considered to have abandoned their post and may be replaced under the following circumstances:

- Neither the club advisor nor the fellow officers have heard from the missing officer in at least two weeks
- Multiple attempts have been made over the course of two (2) weeks to reach out to the officer in question by every other officer and the club advisor using a variety of communication methods, with no response.
- The officer has missed the two most recent officer meetings without notifying any of their fellow officers