

Constitution for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences Students Organization

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The objectives of this organization are as follows:

- Serve as a forum for students to voice their opinions/concerns
- Serve as a conduit between the Department of Atmospheric Sciences (DAS) students and the DAS faculty and staff
- Serve as a conduit between the DAS students and the University
- Serve as a conduit between the DAS students and the Champaign-Urbana community
- Serve as a vehicle to communicate/collaborate with other Atmospheric Sciences student groups at other universities
- Promote and, when necessary, coordinate social activities within DAS
- Promote and, when necessary, coordinate professional activities within DAS
- Promote the welfare of all DAS graduate students

Membership

A student is permitted membership into DASSO if (s)he meets one of the following requirements:

- o Graduate student in DAS¹

Dues

Although both the Organizational and Departmental dues will be administered by DASSO they will be used for distinct purposes and entitle the payee to a distinct set of privileges.

- Departmental dues
 - o Dues paid by all DAS personnel for participation in department-wide functions
 - o These funds will be used to support all department-wide activities coordinated by the organization (e.g., holiday parties and picnics)

Membership Levels

- Inactive
 - o Graduate students who have NOT paid the Organization Dues
 - o Ineligible to vote but allowed to participate in all discussions related to departmental or Organization issues
- Active

¹ Acceptance into any department as a graduate student requires a formal procedure of admission at the departmental level.

- o Graduate students who HAVE paid the Organization Dues
- o Allowed to vote
- o Allowed to serve as officers and committee members

General Assembly Meetings

- A general assembly meeting, defined as a meeting open to all active and inactive members, should be held at least once per semester.
- The tentative agenda items must be announced no less than 1 week before the meeting.
- All voting shall be done at general assembly meetings.

Officers

All officers are permitted to conduct transactions to the Organization account. Terms of office shall last 1 year and shall begin at the start of the fall semester following the spring semester in which the election took place.

- President
 - o Oversees the operations of the organization
 - o Establishes ad hoc committees
 - o Calls and organizes regular general assembly meetings
 - o Establishes the election committee for officer elections and amendment voting
 - o Serve on both the Social committee and Academic and Professional committee
- Secretary
 - o Serve as the student representative at faculty meetings
 - o Records the minutes of all general assembly meetings
 - o Disseminates meeting minutes to all active and inactive members
 - o Counts the votes for any policy referenda
 - o Serve on the Academic and Professional committee
 - o Serve as the president pro tem in the absence of the president
- Treasurer
 - o Collects and manages both organizational and departmental dues
 - o Serve on the Social committee

Permanent Committees

All committees should designate a chairman who will serve as the primary liaison between the committee and the president and the committee and the general membership.

- Social committee
 - o Composed of no fewer than 2 members
 - o Permanent membership
 - President
 - Treasurer

- o Responsibilities include, but are not restricted to, the organization of the following activities:
 - Seminar refreshments
 - Spring and fall picnics
 - Holiday parties
 - Pay day dinners
 - Happy hours
- Academic and professional committee
 - o Composed of no fewer than 2 members
 - o Permanent membership
 - President
 - Secretary
 - o Responsibilities include, but are not restricted to, the following:
 - Selects DAS student representatives for prospective student visits
 - Selects DAS student representatives for faculty meetings

Officer Elections

- Date of election
 - o Approximately 2 weeks before the last day of spring semester classes
- Announcement of candidacy
 - o All candidates can be nominated up to the meeting where the election will take place.
 - o All candidates shall be encouraged to submit in writing a platform that shall be disseminated at least 1 week prior to elections.
- Nominations
 - o A candidate can be nominated by his/her peers or by himself/herself.

Voting protocol

- The issue or candidate receiving the most votes will win the election.
- Policy referenda
 - o The policies under consideration shall be announced no less than 1 week before the election.
 - o The quorum² for policy referenda shall be >50% of the active members.
 - o The voting method shall be hand raising.
- Officer elections
 - o The announcement of officer elections shall be no less than 2 weeks prior to the date of the election.
 - o The quorum for officer elections shall be >2/3 of the active members.
 - o The voting method shall be paper ballots.
 - o Election committee

² Strictly defined, a quorum is the minimum number of members who must be present for a valid transaction of business. Since the most important “transactions” undertaken by this organization require voting we have defined the quorum as the minimum number of active members that must be present at the time of voting for a vote to take place.

- The president shall nominate two active members who are not on the ballot to serve on the election committee.
- The election committee is responsible for coordinating the election including,
 - Making ballots
 - Counting votes
 - Archiving ballots for 1 week
- o Absentee voting
 - Absentee voting is allowed for active members up until the time of the election.
 - Votes should be submitted to the chair of the election committee in writing (submission through e-mail is allowed).

Constitutional Amendments

- Amendment proposal
 - o More than 15% of the active membership must support the proposal of an amendment for it to be voted on.
 - o Proposal methods
 - Voting
 - Amendment proposal voting shall follow the protocol for policy referenda voting.
 - Petitioning
 - Shall take the form of a list of signatures submitted to the president
- Amendment voting shall take place at the same general assembly meeting that officer elections are held.
- The announcement of amendment voting shall be made no less than 2 weeks prior to the election
- The quorum for amendment voting shall be $>2/3$ of the active membership.
- The voting method shall be paper ballots.
- Approval of an amendment requires the affirmative votes of $>2/3$ of the votes cast.
- Absentee voting is allowed following the protocol set forth under Officer Elections.