

Constitution for USU Student Veterans of America

Article 1

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be **USU Student Veterans of America**, abbreviated **USUSVA**.

Section 2: The organization will have nonprofit status.

Article II

PREAMBLE

The primary mission of the USUSVA is to assist student veterans and their families in pursuing their educational, professional, and vocational goals by providing access to information, tools, and services that will enhance service member skills as they transition to civilian life through their academic endeavors, and provide networking and social opportunities and referrals for services. Activities include assisting military veterans and their families in achieving their education and professional goals by improving morale and motivation through social gatherings and networking. Additionally, the USUSVA will:

- Promote and educate available entitlements and benefits available for veterans and their families
- Ensure the needs and well-being of our student veterans and their families are being met
- Represent our veterans and their interests and concerns
- Develop social skills and create networking opportunities with our veterans and alumni
- Provide outreach services to veteran students and their families

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Membership shall be in the following categories:

1.1 Active. Any student who is currently enrolled with Utah State University who is a veteran, Reservist, National Guardsman, an active-duty service member, or a dependent thereof, and attends at least one meeting per month.

1.2 Alumni. Any former graduate of Utah State University who is a veteran, Reservist, National Guardsman, or an active-duty service member.

1.3 Honorary. Any member that does not meet the above criteria. This includes faculty/staff and dependents of veterans, Reservists, National Guardsmen, or active-duty service members. Dependents will achieve active status after attending 3 meetings.

Section 2. Discrimination. USUSVA does not tolerate discrimination. Eligibility is not determined by gender, race, class, economic status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, or religious/cultural backgrounds.

Section 3. Dues. No monetary contribution to the club shall be required of any members at any time.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 1. Bi-Monthly Meetings: Dates and times will be determined by the council and are subject to change.

Section 2. Beginning of Session Meeting: Two weeks following the start of the Fall, Summer, and Spring sessions, there will be a meeting to address new students and agendas for the upcoming school session.

Section 3. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the USUSVA will be held for any reason and may be called by elected officials.

Section 4. Location: Meetings will initially be held at Utah State University, Logan main campus in the Veterans Resource Office (VRO). An email reminder will be sent out 5 days prior to each meeting. The e-mail shall include the time, date, place, and the meeting agenda. Any students unable to attend the meeting due to distance or scheduling conflicts can join via Zoom.

Section 5. Voting: Any areas requiring a vote will be voted on only by Active club members. Voting will be conducted during scheduled meetings, and items will be advertised at least 3 days prior to the event. Votes cannot be cast outside of official meetings.

5.1 Non-Voters Alumni and Honorary members will be encouraged to voice concerns prior to the voting process.

ARTICLE V

ACTIVITIES

Section 1. Members Conduct: During meetings, members will conduct themselves in a manner becoming of the organization. Members will avoid discussion that is overtly political, sexual, or controversial in nature in order to foster an environment of acceptance and good faith among the membership.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTIONS

Section 1. Eligibility: Members must be currently enrolled in Utah State University. Candidates must be able to perform all duties required by the current by-laws. The role of president and vice president will

be filled by a veteran. All other candidates must have had an honorable discharge or currently be on active duty, in the National Guard, or be a Reservist. All candidates must hold a 2.75 GPA or higher.

Section 2. Nominations: Members must be nominated or make it known they would like to be considered 30 days prior to the new election period beginning on the first week of April.

Section 3. Term: The term shall be 12 months, beginning on the last day of the spring semester.

Section 4. Vacancies: Vacancies will be appointed by the council, with the exception of the President. The President must be voted on by council members.

Section 5. Removal: Officers may be removed from office at any time only with a unanimous vote from all other officers in the council. If council members' GPA falls below standards or if they cannot meet their obligations, they will be asked to resign.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICIAL POSITIONS

Section 1. The elected, official USUSVA officer positions shall be:

1.1 President: The president will have active management in running the club; meet with other USUSVA elected leaders and its members regularly; represent the club at official functions; oversee the organization of USUSVA events; coordinate with the club advisor prior to any organized function.

1.2 Vice-President: The Vice-President shall act under the President. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall step forward and perform duties assigned to the President.

1.3 Secretary: The Secretary shall record all meeting minutes and keep records; disseminate minutes to appropriate parties; and distribute club information to student veterans.

1.4 Advisor: The Advisor is the direct line of communication between USUSA and USUSVA. The advisor will have final VETO authority on events deemed too dangerous due to exceptionally high-risk factors.

1.5 Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the USUSVA officers and the Veterans Resource Office (VRO) staff advisor. Collectively, the USUSVA Board of Directors shall guide the direction of the club.

1.6 Other: additional positions may be added to the council ad hoc, as determined by the council.

ARTICLE VIII

Financial Matters

Section 1: The club shall not provide monetary gain, incidentally or otherwise, to its advisor, elected officers, or membership.

Section 2: Should the organization dissolve, leaving residual assets, the Faculty Advisor shall decide how those assets are distributed.

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments by Members: The Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. There must be a notice of intention provided 3 business days prior to the meeting.

Date of Ratification: 09 January 2023

Signatures of Officers/Witnesses:

Andy R. Allen

Andy R. Allen – USUSVA Advisor (VRO Staff)

Melissa Duce

Melissa Duce – USUSVA Member (VRO Staff)