

# **Bylaws of The Greater Organization for Leadership in Democracy Party**

## **Preamble**

The purpose of The Greater Organization for Leadership in Democracy Party (hereinafter referred to as the GOLD party) shall be to provide for the betterment of the Upper Arlington High School (hereinafter referred to as UAHS) student body by providing effective leadership at the level of the student government. The mission statement shall be as follows:

*“The GOLD Party shall endeavor to achieve the will of the student body, provide effective leadership for the student body, and to provide a voice through which the student body may speak.”*

In accordance with our aforementioned mission statement, the Executive Leadership Team—hereinafter referred to as the E.L.T. (see section 1.5)—finds it necessary to set forth the rules and regulations under which the organization shall operate.

## **Article 1—Regulations Concerning Membership of the Party**

### *1.1—Eligibility*

All students enrolled at UAHS who have not had their GOLD party membership revoked (see section 1.3) are eligible to join the party.

### *1.2—Procedure for joining*

Any eligible student (as determined by section 1.1) may inform any member of the E.L.T. that they would like to join the party. The student will then be added to the database of party members and shall be issued a party identification card (see section 1.4). Only E.L.T. members shall be permitted to add new members to the database.

### *1.3—Revocation of party membership*

- a. If the student meets any of the following criteria, it is grounds for dismissal:
  - i. Expulsion from school
  - ii. Suspension from school
  - iii. Lower than a 2.0 GPA
  - iv. Poor behavior at a party convention (see section 2.3.c and 2.3.d)
  - v. Fraudulent and/or corrupt behavior (as determined by decision of the E.L.T.)
  - vi. Engaging in activities deemed seditious towards the GOLD Party
  - vii. Insulting the GOLD Party, GOLD Party members or elected government officials who are members of the GOLD Party
- b. If there is a suspected rule violation (as outlined in sections 1.3.a.1 through 1.3.a.7), then the E.L.T. may vote revoke the membership of an individual. A supermajority of votes from the member of the E.L.T. is required to revoke party membership. A member of the E.L.T. shall then mark in the database that the student is no longer a member of the party.

- c. Students whose party membership has been revoked may appeal by speaking with a member of the E.L.T.. Members of the E.L.T. shall then vote on the appeal—they must reach a unanimous decision in order to regrant party membership. There is a nominal processing fee of twenty-five cents for appeals to account for the time

#### *1.4—The Membership Card*

- a. All members of the party shall be issued a membership card. This card will bear the student's name, ID number, and signature of the chairperson. This information will be written in pen.
- b. The membership card is required for participation in party conventions (see section 2.3). If a student is unable to produce their own membership card, then they will be unable to participate in the convention.
- c. If a student has lost their membership card and seeks a new one, they may pay a nominal processing fee of twenty-five cents to the party to be issued a new one.

#### *1.5—The E.L.T.*

- a. The E.L.T shall be composed of six party members, including the party chairman and deputy party chairman (see sections 4.2 & 5.2.b for the regulations regarding the election and removal of E.L.T. members).
- b. The E.L.T. shall be in charge of the regular daily runnings of the party; including the release of statements on the party's official platforms.
- c. Any elected government officials who are members of the GOLD party shall automatically be given a seat on the E.L.T., their membership will be in addition to the five elected E.L.T. members.

## **Article 2—Regulations Concerning Primary Election System**

### *2.1—Introduction*

The GOLD party shall annually select candidates to put up for election in UAHS; this section shall provide a procedure for this process.

- a. It shall be attempted that a distinct—no singular person shall be called upon to run for more than one position—candidate be selected to represent the GOLD party for each of the following Class of 2021 Student Government positions:
  - i. President
  - ii. Vice-President
  - iii. Secretary
  - iv. Treasurer
- b. In the event that there is no suitable candidate (as deemed by a unanimous decision by the E.L.T.), there shall be no candidate representing the GOLD party.

- c. Candidates may be selected for any other government positions, including student council and government positions in the other class governments (in UAHS), pending the availability of candidates and the unanimous approval of the E.L.T..

## *2.2—Scheduling the Convention*

- a. When the E.L.T. decides to follow the primary election procedure, they must announce their plans to the student body through a digital mass media communication service, accessible to the student body at minimum 1 week before they plan on the procedure taking place.
- b. In the E.L.T.'s memorandum, it must be specified where and when the event shall occur.
  - i. The event must take place in one of the two following locations:
    - 1. The UAHS East Café
    - 2. The UAHS LC 1.
  - ii. The convention must begin between the hours of 15:10 and 15:30 EST. The convention must end before 17:00 EST on the same day. If the business of the convention is not finished before the ending time, a new convention may be scheduled (see section 2.2.a)
- c. The convention shall be called into order after a quorum if either of the following two (2) conditions are met:
  - i. Sixty-five percent (65%) of general party members are present
  - ii. A simple majority of the E.L.T. is present

## *2.3—At the Convention*

- a. After the quorum has been met (see section 2.2.b.1 and 2.2.b.2), party members who wish to become the GOLD Party's general election candidate shall stand up. A Candidate's bid shall only be recognized after another party member has seconded their bid.
- b. The candidates running for the same office shall give a minute long speech explaining why they should be the Gold Party's candidate, after which a vote shall take place. A simple majority of present members being required to win the nomination. In the event that no candidate makes it past fifty percent (50%), then a runoff shall be held between the top two contenders. In the event that there is a tie between the top two contenders, the members of the E.L.T. shall make a vote to determine who shall represent the party, with a majority being required. Should the situation arise where the E.L.T. members cannot reach a majority, the presiding officer shall select the nominee.
  - i. Should a party member be unable to attend the convention (as determined by the E.L.T.), they may request from a member of the E.L.T. to be included in the convention through a phone call, or a suitable agreed upon (as determined by the presiding officer) replacement digital communication system (D.C.S). The E.L.T. will make every effort to allow as many members to participate as possible. However, it may not be possible to include all members who request to be included through a D.C.S. In this case, the members who requested to be included

through a D.C.S. first shall be the ones who get to participate. Should a member be included in the convention by means of a D.C.S, they shall be allowed to cast their vote and have it count just the same as those members who are physically present.

- c. All of the following behaviors are banished from taking place during a party convention (see 2.3.d for consequences):
  - i. Speaking out of turn
  - ii. Engaging in activities deemed seditious towards the GOLD Party
  - iii. Insulting the GOLD Party, GOLD Party members or elected government officials who are members of the GOLD Party
- d. Party members must follow the above set of rules at a convention. Failure to do so— as determined by the presiding officer—shall result in dismissal from the convention. Upon an infraction, the E.L.T. may choose to revoke the membership of the offending party member (see section 1.3.b).

#### *2.4—Extra-ordinary Conventions*

- a. Should a nominee withdraw from the race or be deemed unable to run by the Election Coordinator or School Board before the ballot deadline, then the E.L.T. shall have a convention to nominate a new candidate for only that a specific race. The E.L.T. should make a reasonably concerted effort to inform the public of the events, however, it may arise that this is not possible, in which case, the meeting need not be announced to the public.
- b. Should a nominee withdraw from the race or be deemed unable to run by the Election Coordinator or School Board after the ballot deadline, then the E.L.T. may choose to endorse another candidate.

### **Article 3—Services Provided to Candidates**

#### *3.1—Prior to the Election (but after nomination)*

- a. Each candidate shall be provided ten (10) 8½” by 11” posters by the GOLD Party. These posters shall feature the GOLD Party logo and conform to a unified brand image of the other nominees. Candidates are free to produce other media if they so please.
- b. The E.L.T. shall provide assistance towards the establishment of campaigns for the various candidates.
- c. The E.L.T. shall distribute general propaganda material regarding the party; the E.L.T. may not campaign specifically on behalf on any GOLD party candidate except for the candidate's official party poster. (See section 3.1.a)
- d. Any GOLD party candidate may conduct their own propaganda so long as it falls within established party guidelines.

#### *3.2—After Election*

Should a GOLD Party nominee win an election, the following bylaws shall come into play:

- a. The E.L.T. may not actively campaign for or against an incumbent during a primary election.
- b. Any GOLD party candidate may conduct their own propaganda so long as it falls within established party guidelines

## **Article 4—Party Congresses**

### *4.1—Introduction*

If any of the below circumstances arise the E.L.T. shall arrange a time for a party congress, the time may not be more than a month after the circumstances have arisen.

- i. A written petition of more than fifty percent (50%) of GOLD party members
- ii. A simple majority of the E.L.T.

### *4.2—Party Congress & E.L.T. Election*

- a. The E.L.T. shall follow the rules listed in section 2.2 when arranging a party congress.
- b. The Party Congress shall be called into order when the pre-established quorum number has been met. (see section 2.2.a)
- c. Throughout the duration of the Congress should  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the assembled party members choose to do so, a vote of confidence may be triggered against any E.L.T. member. A vote of confidence may only be triggered once per E.L.T. member during the party congress.
- d. Should more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the assembled party members vote in no confidence, than the specified E.L.T. member shall automatically be relinquished of their position.
- e. Following the relinquishment of an E.L.T. member or if an E.L.T. seat falls vacant due to another circumstance, any party member who wishes to run for the open seat may give a speech for 1 minute. Afterwards, the assembled party members shall vote on the various candidates. In order to win, a candidate must receive a simple majority, should the circumstance arise that a simple majority is not achieved the first time than a runoff shall be held between the top two contenders.

### *4.3—Amendments to the Bylaws*

- a. Party bylaws which are determined to be in direct violation of the school code, any city regulation or ordinance, any state law, or any federal law can be overturned by the order of the party chairman. Regulations which technically do not violate any school rules, but

which are requested to be overturned by teachers regardless, can only be overturned in a party congress.

- b. Amendments may only be added to the bylaws after a supermajority of present party members and E.L.T. members vote in approval, except in circumstances outlined in section 4.3.a

## **Article 5—Establishment of the GOLD Party**

### *5.1—Establishment of the Party*

- a. The GOLD Party shall be established after the approval of the election coordinator, the school administration (if deemed necessary by the election coordinator) and by an absolute majority of the presidential cabinet.
- b. Following the establishment of the GOLD Party, the below-listed members of the Cabinet of The Class President of the UAHS Class of 2021 shall become the acting members of the E.L.T.. The Chief of Staff shall become the acting party chairman. The below-listed cabinet positions shall become acting board members of the E.L.T..
  - i. Director of Public Relations
  - ii. Deputy Director of Public Relations
  - iv. Commandant of the Fist
- c. The acting E.L.T. shall have one week to arrange an inaugural party congress. (see section 4.1.a)

### *5.2—Establishment of the Bylaws*

- a. The Bylaws listed herein shall come into effect immediately following the establishment of the GOLD party, except for sections 1.1 through 1.4, which shall come into effect following the inaugural party congress.