

# MSUM – SECULAR STUDENT ALLIANCE CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

### Section A. Name

1. The name of this organization shall be **Minnesota State University Moorhead – Secular Student Alliance**, otherwise known as **Secular Student Alliance**.

### Section B. Purpose

1. The purpose of the **Secular Student Alliance** shall be to empower secular students to proudly express their identity, provide a welcoming community in which the ideals of scientific rationality, secularism and human based ethics flourish on campus. **Secular Student Alliance** will focus on fostering secular values among students by organizing, uniting, educating and serving students and student communities that promote our core ideals. **Secular Student Alliance** specifically seeks to provide a space for all students who identify as Atheist, Agnostic, Non-religious, Free-thinker, Skeptic, Humanist, Rationalist, Naturalist, Pastafarian and other secular titles not mentioned in this constitution.
2. The organization will actively promote the non-religious viewpoint, independent of any supernatural assumptions in light of empirical evidence, as a valid contribution to public discourse by actively engaging in educational programs, social activities, public discussion and other activities to promote awareness of secular, rational and human based values.
3. It is to be a chapter of the national non-profit organization **Secular Student Alliance** and pursuant to all chapter regulations, rules and guidelines.
4. Changes to the Bylaws will be made when necessary to improve the operation of this organization, however changes that alter the core principles of this organization will NOT be recognized.

## ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

### Section A. Membership Eligibility

1. Membership shall be open to any and all currently enrolled students at **Minnesota State University Moorhead**.

### Section B. Membership Criteria

1. Membership criteria includes:
  - a. Regular attendance at meetings.
  - b. Conduct adhering to the core values/principles of this organization.

### Section C. Non-Discrimination and Harassment Statement

1. **Minnesota State University Moorhead is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in, programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. In addition, discrimination in**

**employment based on familial status or membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited. Harassment on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or familial status is prohibited.**

**Section D. Student Conduct Code Statement**

- 1. This organization shall abide by the Minnesota State University Moorhead Student Conduct Code.**

**Section E. Statement of Non-Hazing**

- 1. Hazing is prohibited by MnSCU Board of Trustee's policy. Minnesota State University Moorhead will investigate all allegations of hazing and will utilize appropriate judicial, disciplinary and criminal processes in our efforts to eradicate hazing. The MnSCU Board of Trustees Policy and the MSUM Student Code of Conduct define hazing as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person, subjects a person to public humiliation or ridicule, or which destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student group, organization, or athletic team. Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to sleep deprivation or causing excessive fatigue; engaging in public stunts, jokes, or degrading games and activities; compelled ingestion of any substance; forced servitude; paddling in any form; forced tattooing or branding; or late night activities that interfere with academic and occupational activities. The express or implied consent of the victim to any activity covered by the foregoing definition does not validate or excuse the activity.**

**Section F. Affiliations**

- 1. This organization shall be affiliated with Secular Student Alliance. The rules and regulations of the affiliated organization's constitution shall be followed when not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of Minnesota State University Moorhead. When inconsistencies are present, this organization shall adhere to the rules and regulations of Minnesota State University Moorhead.**
- 2. This organization will strictly adhere to the Secular Student Alliance Minimum Standards of Affiliation mentioned here.**  
[\(http://secularstudents.org/minimum-standards-of-affiliation/\)](http://secularstudents.org/minimum-standards-of-affiliation/)

**Section G. Categories of Membership & Voting Privileges**

- 1. Any MSUM enrolled student who has met the membership criteria and eligibility is considered an active member. Active members may vote and may hold office.**
- 2. Honorary Membership shall be conferred to any and all currently enrolled students of other Minnesota State Colleges with the following restrictions:**
  - a. May not vote or hold office in campus-based decisions.**

- b. Will not benefit from privileges/monies/funds provided from the Student-life fee account charged to current **Minnesota State University Moorhead**.
- c. Honorary membership numbers will never equal or exceed the number of Full Members at any given time.
- d. May NOT act on the Organizations Behalf.

## **Section H. Member Removal**

1. Any member may be removed from the organization:
  - a. For actions which violate the purpose of the organization.
  - b. For actions which violate MSUM Student Conduct Code.
  - c. For actions which violate University policies.
  - d. When no longer enrolled as a student.
  - e. Conduct unbecoming the secular values of this organization (ex. proselytizing or conversion attempts at meetings)
2. Members may be removed by the following process:
  - a. Written charges by a member are to be presented to the Executive Board.
  - b. The Executive Board will notify the member of an opportunity for the member to respond to charges at the next regular meeting.
  - c. The meeting must have quorum present and only active members may participate in the vote.
  - d. Voting for removal is to be done by secret ballot within 3 weeks of the meeting.
  - e. A 2/3 vote is required for removal.
  - f. The member must be notified immediately of the outcome of the vote.

## **Section I. Member Appeal**

1. If the member wishes to appeal the vote for removal, they must send a written letter of appeal to the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance advisor within two weeks of the decision.
2. The advisor and the Executive Board will review the appeal and notify the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance and the member in no more than one week of the decision.

## **ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS**

### **Section A. When Elections are Held**

1. Annual elections shall be held Second to last meeting of the Spring Semester.

### **Section B. Nominations**

1. Nominations of candidates for MSUM – Secular Student Alliance officer positions shall be nominated by a MSUM – Secular Student Alliance active member or by self-nomination. Nominees for officer positions must be MSUM – Secular Student Alliance active members for no less than 3 consecutive meetings.

### **Section C. Election Procedure**

1. The officers shall be elected by means of a secret ballot with the exception of Black Staff. Voting shall take place after the close of nominations for each office. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of those MSUM – Secular Student Alliance active members present, provided quorum is met. **The Office of Student Activities shall be notified of any officer changes that occur following the election.**
2. **Office of Black staff shall only be awarded by 2/3 vote of Executive Board.**

**Section D.**

**Term of Office**

1. The term of office for each officer shall be one academic year.

**ARTICLE IV.**

**OFFICERS**

**Section A.**

**Officer Qualifications**

1. **Minnesota State University Moorhead requires a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA for each officer.**
2. **Office of Black staff shall be required to successfully demonstrate knowledge of popular theistic arguments and counter-arguments by verbal assessment from Executive board.**

**Section B.**

**Officer Duties**

1. The officers shall consist of a **President, Vice President, Black Staff**. The officers shall be responsible for all administrative duties of the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance. These officers will be known as the Executive Board.
2. **The President shall:**
  - a. Establish and maintain operational procedures of the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance.
  - b. Call meetings.
  - c. Vote in all decisions affecting the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance.
  - d. Register the student organization each fall during the annual student organization registration process.
  - e. Coordinate preparation and distribution of flyers, handouts, and publications.
  - f. Send/transmit all official correspondence.
  - g. Check the organization's mailbox in the OSA.
  - h. Represent on behalf of the Organization.
3. **The Vice President shall:**
  - a. Assist the President with all administrative duties and assume those duties in the absence of the President.
  - b. Keep accurate and detailed records of all meetings and affairs.
  - c. Responsible for the safe confidential information of active members.
  - d. **Receive and distribute MSUM – Secular Student Alliance funds upon the authorization of the President and Advisor, in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the University.**
  - e. Make financial reports at the regular meetings.

- f. Coordinate all fundraising activities.
- g. If the student organization receives Student Activity Budget Committee funding, the Vice President will remain in contact with the Activities Business Manager.**
- h. Represent on behalf of the Organization

**4. The Black Staff shall:**

- a. Be responsible for over-seeing all Fire-brand Atheist activities that aggressively promote secular values through social deconstruction of theistic arguments.
- b. Over-see formal/informal debate curriculum and adversarial speaking engagements.
- c. Update and maintain catalogue of theistic arguments and counter-arguments.
- d. Upon special discretionary vote by Executive Board, allowed temporary immunity of unbecoming conduct, up to but not violating Minnesota State University Moorhead Student Code of Conduct, for the purposes of social satire, parody and other special activities as directed by the Executive Board.
- e. Represent on behalf of the Organization

**Section C.**

**Vacancy in Office**

- 1. Vacancies occurring in any of the elected offices other than the President shall be officially filled during a special election called for by the President.
- 2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President will become the President and there will be a special election to fill the Vice President office.
- 3. If the Vice President declines to succeed, then a special election shall be held to fill the office of the President for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 4. The election procedure for filling the unexpired term of a vacant office shall be the same as the normal procedure for elections.
- 5. Vacancies within office of Black Staff shall be directed and handled by Executive Board

**Section D.**

**Officer Removal**

- 1. Any officer may be removed from office:
  - a. For failure to carry out the responsibilities of that office.
  - b. For actions which violate the purposes of the organization.
  - c. For actions which violate MSUM Student Conduct Code.
  - d. For actions which violate University policies.
  - e. When no longer enrolled as a student.
  - f. Conduct unbecoming the Secular Values of this organization.
- 2. An officer may be removed by the following process:
  - a. Written charges by a member are to be presented to the Executive Board.

- b. The Executive Board will notify the officer of an opportunity for the officer to respond to charges at the next regular meeting.
- c. The meeting must have quorum present and only active members may participate in the vote.
- d. Voting for removal is to be done by secret ballot within two weeks of the meeting.
- e. A 2/3 vote is required for removal.
- f. The officer must be notified immediately of the outcome of the vote.

**Section E. Officer Appeal**

- 1. If the officer wishes to appeal the vote for removal, they must send a written letter of appeal to the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance advisor within two weeks of the decision.
- 2. The advisor and the Executive Board will review the appeal and notify the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance and the officer in no more than one week of the decision.

**Section F. Non-Discrimination and Harassment Statement and Student Conduct**

- 1. **The officers must inform the members of the Non-Discrimination and Harassment Statement and Student Conduct at the initial meeting. Thereafter, all members shall be responsible for knowing and abiding by these policies.**

**ARTICLE V. ADVISOR**

**Section A. University Requirements of an Advisor**

- 1. **All student organizations are required to have a currently employed MSUM professional faculty or staff advisor working on-campus during the semester(s) of advisement.**
- 2. **If the student organization maintains a University account(s), the advisor(s) is responsible for overseeing said account(s).**
- 3. **If the student organization receives Student Activity Budget Committee funding, the advisor(s) will remain in contact with the Activities Business Manager.**

**Section B. Advisor Duties**

- 1. The advisor's responsibilities include:
  - a. Attendance at 25% of the organization's meetings.
  - b. Attendance at the election meeting.
  - c. Provide tie breaking vote for any member removal vote by deadlocked quorum.

**Section C. Advisor Removal**

- 1. An advisor may be removed from the position:
  - a. For failure to carry out the responsibilities of that position.

- b. For actions which violate the purposes of the organization.
  - c. For actions which violate University policies.
  - d. Conduct unbecoming the values of this Organization.
2. An advisor may be removed by the following process:
- a. Written charges by a member are to be presented to the Executive Board.
  - b. The Executive Board will notify the advisor of an opportunity for the advisor to respond to charges at the next regular meeting.
  - c. The meeting must have quorum present and only active members may participate in the vote.
  - d. Voting for removal is to be done by secret ballot within two weeks of the meeting.
  - e. A 2/3 vote of current active members is required for removal.
  - f. The advisor must be notified immediately of the outcome of the vote.

**Section D.                      Advisor Appeal**

- 1. If the advisor wishes to appeal the vote for removal, they must send a written letter of appeal to the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance Executive Board within two weeks of the decision.
- 2. The Executive Board will review the appeal and notify the MSUM – Secular Student Alliance and the advisor in no more than one week of the decision.

**ARTICLE VI.                      COMMITTEES**

**Section A.                      Standing Committees**

- 1. The Executive Board may form special committees when necessary.

**ARTICLE VII.                      MEETINGS**

**Section A.                      Announcement of Meetings**

- 1. The official means of notifying members shall be agreed upon at the first meeting held after the election of a Executive Board Member with the exception of Black Staff.
- 2. Official notice of the meeting at which the election of officers will take place must be provided to all members not less than two weeks prior to such meeting.

**Section B.                      Quorum**

- 1. Quorum shall be defined as 2/3 of total active membership of MSUM – Secular Student Alliance.
- 2. A simple majority vote is needed for official business to take place, unless stated otherwise, provided quorum is met.

**ARTICLE VIII.                      FINANCES**

**Section A.                      Student Organization Accounts**

1. **It is against University policy for student organizations to have off-campus bank accounts.**

**Section B.                   Dissolution of Organization**

1. **If this group dissolves, all monies allocated by the Student Activity Budget Committee shall be returned to the Student Activity Budget Committee. Any other funds will be dispersed as the group sees fit.**

**ARTICLE IX.               CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

**Section A.               Proposing Amendments**

1. Any active member can propose an amendment to the constitution by submitting a written request to the Executive Board prior to the last meeting of the year.

**Section B.               Amendment Process**

1. Once an amendment to the constitution is submitted to the Executive Board, the amendment must wait until the following membership meeting to be voted on.

**Section C.               Passing an Amendment**

1. Amendments to this constitution shall be adopted by 2/3 vote, provided quorum is met.

**Section D.               Final Approval**

1. **All amendments must be submitted to the Office of Student Activities and subsequently to Student Senate for final approval. A revised copy of the constitution will be placed on permanent file in the Office of Student Activities.**

**ARTICLE X.               RATIFICATION**

**Section A.               Ratification**

1. This constitution will be ratified by 2/3 vote of MSUM – Secular Student Alliance, provided quorum is met.