

The Linux Club at Kennesaw State University Constitution

2025-2026

Article I – Name

Section 1 – The formal name of this organization shall be *The Linux Club at Kennesaw State University*, but for the sake of brevity will be hereafter referred to as *LCKSU* in this document and in common parlance. This includes any merchandising or public facing branding.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1 – The purpose of the *LCKSU* shall be the following:

- a. Promote the proliferation of Linux and other Unix-like systems among the student body and general public.
- b. Familiarize members with the Linux operating system and its components and those of other Unix-like systems, and develop members' skills with Linux and Unix-like systems so that they are prepared to interact with them in their professional careers and personal lives.
- c. Promote the familiarity and proliferation of Free and Open Source software among our members, the student body, and the general public.
- d. Facilitate the growth and development of the Linux software ecosystem by contributing to free and open-source software that benefits the Linux community, either through code contributions or monetarily.
- e. Provide online services for KSU students and *LCKSU* members by self-hosting.
- f. Act as a medium through which students interested in Linux based operating systems and other Unix-like systems may exchange knowledge and form connections with each other.

Article III – Affiliations

Section 1- Kennesaw State University:

- i. This organization is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) at Kennesaw State University, but is not part of the University itself.
- ii. In all correspondence and publications, it may refer to itself as an organization at Kennesaw State University, but not as part of Kennesaw State University itself.
- iii. *LCKSU* accepts full financial and production responsibility for all activities it sponsors.
- iv. *LCKSU* agrees to abide by all pertinent Kennesaw State University policies and regulations, including the most current RSO Manual and Student Codes of Conduct. Where Kennesaw State University policies and regulations and those of RSO differ, the policies and regulations of Kennesaw State University will take precedence.
- v. *LCKSU* recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – This organization is open to any person that attends at least one course at either one Kennesaw State University's campuses or online, regardless of major. This includes students of the Marietta Georgia Highlands College that attend courses at Kennesaw State University's Marietta campus.

Section 2 – In order to ensure that *LCKSU* continues as a strong, vibrant organization capable of achieving its goals, members of *LCKSU* have the following obligations:

- a. Demonstrate at least a passing interest in Linux, Unix-like systems, free and open source software, and a willingness to get involved in *LCKSU* activities.
- b. Active participation in *LCKSU*'s meetings and events.

Section 3 – All members of *LCKSU* shall have the following rights:

- a. Full and equal voting rights in *LCKSU* elections.
- b. The right to propose amendments to *LCKSU* policies.
- c. The right to propose new policies for *LCKSU*.
- d. The right to propose an amendment to the *LCKSU* constitution.
- e. The right to run for a position as an officer.
- f. The right to participate in committees.

- g. The right to request to form a committee.
- h. The right to voice opinions, negative or positive, about *LCKSU* activities, policies, and committees.
- i. Free access to *LCKSU* operated services and resources.
- j. The right to terminate membership in *LCKSU*, pending any outstanding financial or material obligations.

Section 4 – *LCKSU* is a public facing organization that actively engages in the KSU community. As a result, non-members of *LCKSU*, not including non-students or non-faculty of KSU, are also entitled with certain rights with regard to their interactions with *LCKSU*. Their rights are as follows:

- a. The right to apply for membership in *LCKSU*.
- b. The right to attend *LCKSU* events and meetings.
- c. The right to seek assistance from members of *LCKSU* for any Linux related issues or questions they may have.

Section 5 – Membership of *LCKSU* is conditional. In order for a member to be expelled, they must be voted out of the organization by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of their peers. The vote to expel a member will last approximately one week, during which the member under risk of expulsion will be placed on probation, limiting their access to *LCKSU* services and resources and the rights afforded to them by this constitution. Expulsion votes are anonymous. An expulsion vote will take place in the following events:

- a. Failing to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Article IV Section 1 of this document
- b. Failing to fulfill the obligations expected of members as defined by Article IV Section 2 of this document.
- c. Infringing upon the rights of members or non-members as outlined in Sections 3 and 4 of Article IV of this document.
- d. A total of 3 grievances are filed against a member by other members of *LCKSU* to the club's leadership committee.
- e. The leadership committee determines that a filed grievance necessitates a vote of expulsion.
- f. Repeated filing of frivolous grievances to the membership committee.
- g. Extraordinary circumstances.

Section 6 – *LCKSU* officers and committee heads must also abide by this article in a manner equal to their peers, and are **not** entitled with special exemptions or protections from this article.

Article V – Officers, Club Administration, and Roles

Section 1 – *LCKSU* is a hierarchical organization, where different members have differing levels of authority, obligations, expectations, and responsibilities. The governing body for *LCKSU* is called the leadership committee, and is to be composed of five officers. The officials that compose the leadership committee are as follows:

- a. President – The president is the head of the leadership committee and of *LCKSU* as well. The president will have complete and total access to all *LCKSU* resources, services, assets, events, and documents. The president is to be responsible for leading general meetings, organizing events, ensuring that *LCKSU*'s goals are achieved, and will serve as the chief executive of the organization and its reservation delegate. The president is empowered with the ability to veto any proposals, but their veto can be overruled by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority or by the vice president. Any powers and responsibilities not explicitly vested in another position are to belong to the president, who can divest themselves of them as they see fit. The president also functions as head of the leadership committee and will fill any vacant officer roles if needed.
- b. Vice President – The vice president will assume all the responsibilities of the president in the case of their absence, will assist the president in the performance of their duties, and will serve as the Reservation Delegate for the organization. The vice president has the ability to overturn a presidential veto, and is entitled with a tie-breaking vote. The vice president is also responsible for onboarding new members and outreach efforts.
- c. Treasurer- The treasurer will be responsible for all financial activity of the organization including collection of donations, maintaining an accurate balance of the organization's finances, organizing fundraisers, creating a budget to be presented to the club on the first of every month, and serving as a fiduciary for the organization.
- d. Secretary- The secretary is responsible for taking minutes at all organization meetings and publishing them for members to access, and creating and publishing any internal documents as required. The secretary will also be responsible for organizing an agenda for general meetings and organizing any votes or elections.
- e. Communications Officer – The communications officer is responsible for any and all *LCKSU* social media accounts, and moderating and organizing internal *LCKSU* communications such as chat rooms and mailing lists. They shall also be responsible for any promotional materials. The communication officer shall be head of the media committee.

Section 2 – Officers are to be elected for terms of one calendar year starting on Labor Day, following a two week transition period from the previous officer.

Section 3 – Officers can be impeached by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of *LCKSU* members for any reason. A vote for impeachment will last one week. For an impeachment vote to be held, a petition containing signatures from $\frac{1}{2}$ of *LCKSU* members must be presented to the secretary, or to the president if the secretary is to be impeached.

Article VI – Elections

Section 1 – An *LCKSU* wide general election will be held every Labor Day. This election will decide who will serve as officers and determine who *LCKSU*'s advisor will be. Candidates may run for multiple positions but may only accept one. Candidates are to announce their intentions to run one week before Labor Day, and write a small document to present to other members about their intentions once in office and why they think they are fit to be an officer. There are no term limits.

- a. A snap general election may be called under extraordinary circumstances by the president. In a snap election, the voting period will last for 3 days.

Section 2 – In the event that an officer ends their term early, a snap election will be held a week following their departure, with the winner carrying out the remainder of the previous officer's term. During the interim period, the president will appoint a temporary officer or fill in the role themselves. This election will be governed by the same rules as a general election.

Section 3 – In general elections, votes are to be cast anonymously and winners will be decided by a ranked-choice voting system. In other elections, such as internal committee votes and votes on any proposals, a first past the post system will be used, either anonymously or by a show of hands, depending on whichever is more fitting.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1 – *LCKSU* general meetings will occur every week and will last for around an hour. The communications officer will remind members to attend via their student emails on the day of the meeting. Leadership committee meetings will occur every week and will last for an hour. The frequency of other committee meetings is to be determined by the committees themselves.

Section 2 – For general meetings, quorum shall consist of 1/3 of *LCKSU*'s voting members. For committee meetings, quorum shall consist of 2/3 of committee members, with the exception of the leadership committee where quorum consists of all members of the leadership committee.

Section 3 – The revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern meetings of this organization within the requirements of this constitution and bylaws adopted by the membership of this organization.

Article VIII– Advisors

Section 1 – There shall be at least one full time Kennesaw State University faculty or staff advisor who shall serve as an advisor to the organization.

Section 2 – Advisors are selected by the president on the day of the general election, and need to be reselected each general election. Advisors can serve for as many terms as they would like to.

Article IX – Committees

Section 1 – *LCKSU* is subdivided into committees to allow for a division of labor and a clear delineation of responsibilities. Any member may create their own committee with approval from the leadership committee. Collaboration between committees is strongly encouraged.

Section 2 – Membership of all permanent committees are open to all members who wish to participate. The heads of permanent committees are outlined in Article V, Section 1.

Section 3 – Committees can be disbanded if it is deemed to be no longer necessary by both the members of a given committee and the president.

Section 4 – Committee heads are responsible for ensuring that their committees achieve their goals and for organizing internal committee meetings, votes, and representing their committees in general meetings.

Section 5 – The responsibilities of the committees are as follows:

- a. The leadership committee is responsible for maintaining *LCKSU*'s organizational health and for determining the direction the organization moves in. They are also responsible for interfacing with other RSO's and long-term planning.
- b. The events committee is responsible for organizing and hosting *LCKSU* events, such as workshops, tutorials, game nights, hackathons, etc.
- c. The media committee is responsible for *LCKSU*'s social media, creating promotional material, designing logos, making videos, or any other media related activity.

Article X – Finances

Section 1 – Members are not required to pay any dues to be part of *LCKSU*, but donations are strongly encouraged. Donations are to be collected by the treasurer.

Section 2 – Donations and any funds raised through fundraisers are to be kept in an account managed by the treasurer, with the account's monthly statements being available to all members. The treasurer will also create a budget for this account that will be voted on by *LCKSU* members. This account will be used to pay for any resources *LCKSU* may require and go towards the *LCKSU* software fund.

- a. The *LCKSU* software fund is a fund that will provide monthly donations towards various free and open source software projects in order to help facilitate the growth of the free and open source ecosystem. In order for a project to be eligible to receive funding, it must be published under an open-source license, have received an update in the past 6 months, and be of some benefit to the general computing public. Projects run by *LCKSU* members and KSU students receive priority for the *LCKSU* software fund.

Article XI – Constitutional Amendments

Section 1 – This constitution may be amended as needed. Any member of *LCKSU* is allowed to propose an amendment. In order to submit a proposal, the member with the proposal must write a rough draft of their amendment and a brief explanation of why they think it is necessary. They shall then submit it to the leadership committee who will then vote on if the proposal shall be considered. If a majority of the leadership committee votes to consider the proposal, an organization wide vote will then be held on the amendment. The amendment must be approved by a majority of the organization for it to be added to the constitution.

Section 2 – A constitutional convention will be held a week before The Division of Student Affairs opens RSO registration for a period of two days. During the first day of the convention, all the members of the organization will discuss the constitution, and evaluate if it needs to be amended or rewritten completely. If it is decided that amendments must be made, then the process described in Article XI Section 1 will apply in an expedited manner, with a 1 day deadline to submit any proposals. If it is decided by a unanimous vote that this constitution must be completely rewritten, then the convention is to be extended for 4 more days while a new constitution is written collaboratively.

Section 3 – Presidential Amendments.

In addition to the amendment process outlined in Sections 1 and 2, the club president shall have the authority to propose amendments to the constitution that can be enacted without a formal vote from the membership. The president must provide a written explanation for the proposed amendment, which will be shared with all members. The amendment will be considered approved and in effect one day after proposal. If an objection is raised within one week of the new amendment being proposed the amendment will then follow the standard amendment process outlined in Sections 1 and 2.

Article XII – Non-Discrimination Policy

Section 1 – Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students as stated in the Kennesaw State University Non-Discrimination Statement. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Article XII- Dissolution

Section 1 - If for whatever reason *LCKSU* should disband, it should be as a result of a unanimous vote by all members. The vote shall last for approximately one week. Abstentions shall not be included in the final vote tally.

Section 2 - Should a vote to disband *LCKSU* succeed, all *LCKSU* digital assets, such as accounts, social media profiles, and servers shall be deleted. Members will have one week to request a backup of any *LCKSU* data they may want. Any public git repositories belonging to *LCKSU* shall be transferred to a new

maintainer, or archived if a suitable one is not found. Any hardware belonging to *LCKSU* shall be completely wiped and given to the remaining members of *LCKSU*, and any financial assets are to be equally distributed among the remaining members.