

The Constitution of the University of New Hampshire Linux Club

PREAMBLE

The Linux Club exists to provide a community for students whereby they can expand their knowledge surrounding the use of GNU/Linux Operating Systems. This community should strive to include students ranging from new users who want to start learning how to use a Linux operating system, to super users who want to sharpen their deep-seeded knowledge and wish to collaborate on higher-level projects.

ARTICLE I– NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the University of New Hampshire Linux Club, hereafter referred to as the Linux Club.

Section 2: The officers of the Linux Club shall make up the Executive Board of the Linux Club hereafter referred to as the “Board.”

ARTICLE II– PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a community space through which members and visiting parties can learn and develop skills with the Linux operating system.

Section 2: The purpose of the Board shall be to organize learnings opportunities for members and visitors, maintain a schedule of events, maintain a roster of members, organize votes as it relates to over-all direction of the club, provide a welcoming presence to new and returning members of the club, and regularly communicating decisions, events, and direction with members of the club.

ARTICLE III– MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The general body of this organization must be comprised mostly of UNH students. The specific requirements of membership are that members are students of either part-time or full-time status of a University System of New Hampshire member school.

Section 2: The specific process for becoming a member of the Linux Club is to attend meetings and enroll in receiving club emails through the Wildcat email list when possible. An exception is granted for enrolling in the club email list when a student or member is otherwise unable to enroll in the list.

Section 3: The privileges and responsibilities of membership are the proposal of topics for discussion during meetings, as well as leadership and presentation of discussions and topics as approved by the Board. Likewise, members are responsible for maintaining a civilized environment. Members are encouraged to participate in fundraising efforts, and are welcome to propose ideas for fundraising opportunities. Senior members are encouraged to provide mentorship to junior members of the club. In order to maintain voting rights within the organization, members must have attended a minimum of two of the prior four meetings within the current semester. No general membership votes shall be held during the first two meetings of the semester.

- Section 4: Any member may be removed from their position by a two-thirds vote of the Board due to failure to fulfill responsibilities within the club, and or maintain a civilized environment. Any member removed from the organization may appeal to the general membership. If their appeal is approved by a three-fourths vote of the membership, said member shall be considered reinstated.
- Section 5: Membership rules of the Linux Club shall not be contrary to the University of New Hampshire nondiscrimination policy as outlined in the *Students' Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities*.
- Section 6: The Linux Club values the input of community. Community members may attend organization events and or meetings, but they may not vote or hold officer positions. Community members shall include all individuals that support the club and the club's efforts.

ARTICLE IV– OFFICERS

- Section 1: The Linux Club shall have a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Technical Officer, Chief Developer, and Advisor. These officers shall comprise the Board and must be listed as officers on the organization's Wildcat Link page.
- Section 2: All officers must be members of the Linux Club and current students at University of New Hampshire, Durham campus.
- Section 3: All officers must be either Undergraduate or Graduate students.
- Section 4: The term of office shall be from January 1st to December 31st of the same year.
- Section 5: Election of officers shall be held annually during the first three weeks of November.
- Section 6: Officers are elected via an email vote submission to the current board during a meeting, with the President voting only in the instance of a tie. The contestants must be given an opportunity for a 3-minute speech during the meeting of the voting. If the Presidential election results in a tie, the winner shall be determined by a best-of-three Rock-Paper-Scissors duel. The club President shall count the votes, with two randomly selected witnesses, and present the final results to the Board and newly elected officials, followed by the General Membership of the club.
- Section 7: One month notice is required to be provided by members of the Board prior to the elections for positions to the Board, with a reminder to General Members each week leading up to the election.
- Section 8: Members wishing to run for an officer position may self-select a position they wish to run for, or be nominated by their peers. In the event of peer-nomination, the individual may choose to decline the nomination. Individuals may only run for one officer position per semester.
- Section 9: Any officer may be removed from their position by a two-thirds vote of the Board. If a Board member shall fail to perform their listed duties, or violate the rules of the organization, they may be removed from office. Any officer removed from office may appeal to the general membership. If their appeal is approved by two-thirds vote of the membership, said officer shall be considered reinstated.

Section 10: Any vacancy which may occur in an office shall be filled by appointment by the foremost ranking Board member pending ratification at the next Board meeting, which is to be set at a time agreed upon by current members of the Board.

ARTICLE V– DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: President

1. The president shall be the chief executive officer.
2. The president shall appoint all committee chairpersons.
3. The president, with approval of the Board, directs the budget.
4. The president shall notify the members of the Board of their duties.

Section 2: Vice President

1. The vice president shall be the parliamentarian for the organization.
2. The vice president shall assume the duties of the president should the office become vacant, or in the absence of the president.
3. The vice president will keep and have current copies of the Constitution and bylaws and will also be charged with ensuring that the copies of these documents on the Linux Club's Wildcat Link page are also current.
4. The vice president will be responsible for scheduling programs.
5. The vice president shall maintain a complete and accurate account of attendance at meetings and membership status.

Section 3: Chief Technology Officer

1. The chief technology officer shall act as chair of the Research committee.
2. The chief technology officer shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings and the meetings of the Board. Meeting minutes shall contain a general overview of the events which occur at each meeting, with clarification provided upon request.
3. The chief technology officer will provide a copy of the minutes for each officer and keep an archive (paper and/or electronic) of all meeting minutes.
4. The chief technology officer shall propose to the Board at least two lectures or activities related to new and current interests relating to Linux and other Open Source technologies, per semester.

Section 4: Chief Developer

1. The chief developer shall act as chair of the Development committee.
2. The chief developer shall lead any software development projects for the club membership.
3. The chief developer shall propose and lead at least one project per semester.
4. The chief developer shall propose to the Board at least two lectures or activities related to software development on Linux, per semester.

Section 5: Treasurer

1. The treasurer shall act as chair of the Outreach committee.
2. The treasurer shall keep a current record of all financial transactions.
3. The treasurer shall develop quarterly reports containing a list of all receipts and disbursements and distribute them among the membership as requested.
4. The treasurer will be responsible for checking the accuracy of all bills and invoices and paying them correctly and on time.
5. The treasurer will perform other duties as directed by the president.
6. The treasurer shall propose to the Board at least two outreach activities per semester.

Section 6: Advisor

1. The advisor shall assist the group in their execution of roles and responsibilities.
2. The advisor shall provide feedback to the organization regarding its operation and functioning.
3. The advisor shall serve as a resource.
4. The advisor should provide advice upon request, and also should share knowledge, expertise, and experience with the group.
5. The advisor will be a nonvoting member of the organization.
6. Advisors will be subject to the same election and removal procedures as officers.

ARTICLE VI– COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Standing committees of this organization shall be Research, Development, and Outreach.

Section 2: The duties of each of these standing committees shall be to maintain up-to-date information regarding developments within the greater Linux operating system environment, to plan and produce software and software-related guidance for new and existing members, and to perform marketing and outreach related tasks respectively.

Section 3: Committee members are self-selected, and may be removed by committee chairpersons with approval of a simple majority of the board. Committee members may choose to remove themselves from a committee at any time.

Section 4: Additional committees may be formed and dissolved by the organization with a vote of two-thirds general membership as needs arise and either Board members or general members put forward a request to generate a new committee. The Board must approve the creation and dissolution of new committees by a two-thirds majority.

Section 5: Committee chairpersons shall provide updates to the Board during board meetings, but may not vote on Board issues unless the chairperson is an officer of the club listed in Article 5 of this document.

ARTICLE VII– MEETINGS

Section 1: Parliamentary procedure

1. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be followed by the organization in all cases involving parliamentary procedure when it does not conflict with the Constitution.
2. The rules may be temporarily suspended for an individual meeting by a three-fourths vote of the present membership.

Section 2: Meetings

1. At least three days of notice shall be given for each regular business meeting.
2. Special or emergency meetings may be called with less than 48 hours of notice by the Board.
3. The meetings shall include a quorum, order of business, and disposition of the minutes.

Section 3: Voting

1. A quorum will be: 50% of membership.
2. Members of the club who have attended two of the last four meetings shall be permitted to vote. Voting shall take place via email (LinuxClubBoard@wildcats.unh.edu), with two witnesses randomly selected from the general membership of the club.
3. Proxy voting is not permitted.
4. Members may propose to hold votes by a simple majority with a show of hands, so long as 3/4ths of the voting membership and unanimous Board agreement permits such voting. Such voting may only be performed at an individual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII– BYLAWS

Section 1: Bylaws of the organization shall be established and altered by two-thirds of the general members of the club, with a veto of two-thirds majority of the board.

Section 2: Bylaws of the Board shall be established and altered by two-thirds majority of the Board, with a veto granted to the Advisor of the club.

Section 3: Bylaws of the organization and of the Board will be attached to this document if they exist.

ARTICLE IX– AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1: Amendments may be proposed by general members or members of the board.

Section 2: Amendments must be proposed via the club email (LinuxClub@wildcats.unh.edu) at least 48 hours prior to a meeting taking place.

Section 3: Amendments must win by a two-thirds majority of the general membership and a unanimous vote of the Board.

Section 4: The Vice-President is responsible for updating the club constitution on Wildcat Link when an amendment has passed.

ARTICLE X– RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be established by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the membership of the organization.