

The Constitution of the Skeptics Society

Preamble

The Skeptics Society is a University of Houston student group which seeks to provide a social atmosphere for casual engagement in intellectual discussion of the sciences, philosophy and religion.

Article I. Organization Goals

Section 1. Secular Sanctuary

- i. The Skeptics Society's intends to promote and defend individualism, to help students develop a unique identity and beliefs devoid of socially coercive forces.

Section 2. Religious and Philosophical Tolerance

- i. We aim to educate active members and the student body of the University of Houston of the multitude of religious and philosophical viewpoints and respective criticism of their worldviews, ethical foundations and moral implications.

Section 3. Scientific Understanding

- i. We are of the particular opinion that education of science in general and contemporary scientific research can procure the expulsion of the common misconceptions of science itself; therefore, out of our respect for the sciences, we will devote ourselves to communicating concrete scientific evidence to and defending science across the social and political spectrum of the University of Houston.

Article II. Membership Requirements

Section 1. Open Membership Provision

- i. Membership is open to students, faculty, staff, and community members of the University of Houston regardless of race, national origin, political affiliation, sex, creed or religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran's status.
- ii. Active members will be able to relinquish their own "active" membership role at anytime.

Section 2. Membership Qualification

- i. Students of the University of Houston must maintain at least a GPA of 2.0.

Section 3. Active Members

- i. All persons who attend at least three (3) consecutive meetings will be active members.
- ii. All other persons will be inactive members.

Article III. Membership Conduct

Section 1. General Conduct

- i. All members are asked to engage in discussion topics with tolerance and respect towards any viewpoint expressed by other members regardless of its opinion.
- ii. Any member with an aggressive tendency will be asked to leave the current group meeting of that day.

Section 2. Membership Revocation and Removal

- i. If any member is removed from any two (2) group meetings, their membership will be revoked.

Article IV. Religion Clause

Section 1. Religious Worldviews

- i. The Skeptics Society respects all religious and philosophical world views, equally. Any criticism directed against a belief will be based on the merits of the forwarded propositions of that belief, thereby subjecting it to fair, rational and reasonable criticism.

Section 2. Religious Criticism

- i. All members are asked to respect their fellow member's viewpoint but must be willing to accept religious criticism in the sense that it is a criticism of a philosophy or worldview.
- ii. All members are asked to engage in religious criticism strictly adhering to the principle expressed in Article III Section 1.

Article V. Organization Structure

Section 1. Coordinators

- i. The Skeptics Society will have three (3) organization coordinators who can organize special events, administer group meetings, and grant certain coordinative and administrative powers to specific persons should they be interested in those responsibilities.
- ii. All other active members, including members maintaining officer roles, will share like powers. No specific active member will have internal organization powers greater than another except coordinators, where their powers are carried only in organizing and administering events and meetings.

Article VI. Meeting Structure

Section 1. Meetings

- i. The Skeptics Society will host weekly discussion meetings to engage in topics involving those expressed in the Preamble and derivatives of those conceptual discourses. Meetings will be constituted by formats such as speeches, debates, open forum discussion, etc.

Article VII. Finances

Section 1. Dues

- i. There will be no required financial dues of Skeptics Society members.

Article VIII. Elections and Officer Removal

Section 1. Member Involvement

- i. Only active full-time student members may be nominated and run for elections.

Section 2. Election Nominations

- i. Any active member who is a full-time student may be elected for one officer role including only President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Once elected, the only additional powers granted to these officer roles will consist of responsibility of representing the organization, as the granted role, to the University, i.e. signing paperwork as President or Treasurer, speaking as "President," etc.

Section 3. Elections

- i. Elections will be held at the end of every semester.
- ii. Officer roles will be granted throughout the following semester until the next election is held.

Section 4. Officer Removal

- i. If active members should find it necessary to impeach an officer, said officer can be removed by a 2/3 vote among all active members. The ostracized member must have a chance to speak on his/her behalf prior to the vote.
- ii. Officers not maintaining the responsibility of their role and not attending 3 consecutive group meetings will have their officer status automatically removed.

Article IX. Amendments

Section 1. Amendment Proposal

- i. Amendments to the constitution can be proposed by any active member of the Skeptics Society.
- ii. After the amendment is proposed, it must be debated. A vote will be held before the debate, and a vote will be held after the debate of the proposed amendment.
- iii. A 2/3rd majority among all present, active members for each vote held will be necessary for the proposed amendment pass.

The Skeptics Society