

Young Democratic Socialists at Iowa

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATION

1. The name of the organization shall be Young Democratic Socialists at Iowa, hereafter referred to as “the Chapter.”
2. The Chapter shall be the chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America at the University of Iowa, the youth wing of Democratic Socialists of America.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE & MISSION STATEMENT

1. Our mission is to educate and organize students and young people and to play a helpful and principled role in the movement for social justice. Within and throughout this struggle, we will articulate and defend the idea that true human liberation is impossible under capitalism. We seek social change which extends democracy into all aspects of life -- social, political, and economic. This is the struggle for democratic socialism. Our vision of socialism is profoundly democratic, feminist, and anti-racist.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the organization shall be open to any member of the campus community, including students, faculty, and staff, at University of Iowa who ascribe to the core values of our chapter organization as described in our mission statement.
2. Eligibility for membership or appointed or elected student officer positions in this organization may not be limited on the basis of race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental handicap, ancestry, or medical condition.
3. Chapter Membership is defined by members who have expressed interest in joining and attended three meetings per semester
 - a. For new semesters, voting rights can carry over for members of the previous

semester within the first 6 meetings

4. Members in Good Standing shall be those who comply with the requirements of Chapter Members and who are members in good standing with the national DSA.
 - a. Members in Good Standing shall have full voting rights on elections of the Steering Committee and on amendments to the Club Constitution.
5. *In no aspect of its programs shall there be any difference in the treatment of persons on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification which would deprive the person of consideration as an individual. The organization will guarantee that equal opportunity and equal access to membership, programming, facilities, and benefits shall be open to all persons. Eighty percent (80%) of this organization's membership must be composed of UI students.*

ARTICLE IV: STEERING COMMITTEE & DUTIES

1. The Steering Committee shall be composed of one (2) Co-Chairs, which shall be the Presidents of the organization for the purposes of administration with the University of Iowa, one (1) Secretary, one (1) Treasurer.
2. To be eligible for the Steering Committee, candidates must be members of DSA/YDSA.
3. Candidates will nominate themselves, or accept a nomination from another member, no later than one week prior to the date of the election.
4. Elections shall occur on a meeting date one month prior to the end of the Spring semester.
5. All elections shall be first-past-the-post.
 - a. In the event that no candidate reaches a majority, a runoff will take place between the candidates with the highest vote totals will take place immediately afterwards.
 - b. In the event of a tie, successive votes will be held until a winner is determined.
6. The term of the Steering Committee shall last one academic year.
 - a. Steering Committee vacancies shall be filled via special election, to be announced within one week of a Steering Committee seat becoming vacant, and held no later than two weeks after the announcement.

7. Steering Committee members may be subject to recall by petition with signatures of one-half of the chapter's Members in Good Standing, as listed in the last membership list submitted by the chapter to the DSA national office. Submission of such a valid petition shall trigger a recall election to be held no later than 30 days from receipt of that petition by the Steering Committee. The meeting for a recall vote shall be properly noticed to the membership.
8. New positions on the Steering Committee shall be created after a majority vote of the Steering Committee and a majority vote of the members in good standing at a general membership meeting.
9. The duties of the Chairs shall be:
 - a. To facilitate meetings
 - b. To reserve space for meetings, events, and tabling
 - c. To communicate with members of the YDSA National Coordinating Committee, staff, and members of YDSA's national subcommittees
 - d. To attend any university functions mandatory for organization presidents
 - e. To coordinate with the Secretary for at least bi-weekly updates to send via email to everyone on the organization's email list
 - f. To serve as the liaisons to Iowa City DSA as representatives of the chapter.
10. The duties of the Secretary shall be:
 - a. To take minutes at general meetings
 - b. To send meeting minutes to everyone on the organization's email list with twenty-four (24) hours of a meeting's end
 - c. To maintain a list of active members and build an email list
 - d. To coordinate with the Chairs for at least bi-weekly updates to send via email to everyone on the organization's email list
 - e. The Secretary shall record, publish, and retain results of votes taken by the chapter.
11. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:
 - a. To manage any funds of the organization
 - b. To maintain an active log of the chapter's income and expenditures
 - c. To fill out university funding request forms when necessary
 - d. To serve as lead organizer for fundraisers conducted by the Chapter
12. "Rule of Cooperation"
 - a. All Steering Committee Members must work in conjunction with each other to the

best of their abilities. No person should struggle alone and cooperation is expected with every member to run an effective organization. Any Steering Committee member may choose to work on a small project alone, but they may not be refused help if it is an approved project. It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to work with other Steering Committee members when they need help on a project and at least one Co-Chair is expected to step in when there is an aid requested or disagreement.

ARTICLE V: CHAPTER ADVISORS

1. *Advisors of registered student organizations are preferred to be members of the University of Iowa faculty or administrative professional staff or be affiliated with a local, regional, national, or international affiliate of DSA or YDSA; but membership to these groups is not a requirement.*

ARTICLE VI: FUNDING AND FINANCES

1. The organization shall be funded through the following means: fundraisers, chapter dues, contributions and scholarships from Democratic Socialists of America, fundraisers, and any approved financial assistance granted by the University of Iowa.
2. All money transactions must be approved by the Treasurer.
3. The Steering Committee shall maintain a record of all financial transactions and accounts. These records shall be made available at any time by the request of any YDSA national officer and will be reported regularly to the membership of the Chapter.
4. ***The chapter is required to deposit all receipts in and make disbursements through the Student Organization Business Office, Fraternity Business Services, or Recreational Services. Upon dissolution, state money and mandatory student fees revert back to the granting organization. Inactive organizations will be considered dissolved after five years of no account activity. Revenue generated dollars or "00 funds" must be divided as stated in this Constitution and carried out by our leadership. Our organization's remaining revenue generated dollars or "00 funds" will be divided or disbursed to the Iowa City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, or if Iowa City DSA is no longer operational, to the national Democratic Socialists of America. If this organization has dissolved and revenue generated dollars or "00 funds" have not been***

divided as stated in this Constitution by five years from last account activity, funds in our "00 account" will revert to an account specified for this purpose within student government(s). These funds will then be available for distribution through student government(s) guidelines in accordance with University of Iowa policy.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings of the organization shall be held weekly. The day of the week and time will be determined at the beginning of every semester.
 - a. Meeting times may be changed by a majority vote of membership
 - b. Reasonable effort will be made to hold all meetings via the hybrid model, both in-person and via voice or video chat, to accommodate those that cannot attend in-person. Remote attendees shall have the same input and voting privileges as in-person members.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Steering Committee. Votes and elections may not occur at such meetings.
3. Agendas for meetings shall be prepared by the Steering Committee and will be available at the request of members before a meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: POWERS

1. The Chapter shall have committees of temporary or permanent nature created if deemed necessary by membership. The formation of such committees shall be approved by a majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting.
2. Chapter members may form Working Groups around specific areas of interest. Creation of a Working Group shall require the expressed interest of at least 5 chapter members submitted to the Steering Committee. Working Groups shall abide by all rules of the chapter, University, and DSA. Working Groups may decide their own structure, and shall give regular reports to the chapter either to the Steering Committee or the general membership at general meetings.
3. The Chapter shall operate as a non-profit association and no profits may accrue to any individual within the organization.
4. Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, decisions of the organization shall be made

by a simple majority of those present and voting, with those abstaining from the vote not figuring into the determination of the majority required.

5. For purposes of any election, the ballot submission method of the current eligible voting membership shall be private ballot (likely a folded index card or piece of paper). Votes that are not pertaining to a leadership election of the chapter may be taken publicly via voice vote, raised hands, etc. Votes will be counted immediately by the Steering Committee in the presence of members, and recorded by the Secretary.
6. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised may guide the Chapter in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or the Bylaws or standing rules of the organization.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the Steering Committee at the previous regular meeting.
2. All amendments or changes to this constitution must be reflected in an updated constitution that must be submitted to the Office of Leadership, Service, & Civic Engagement by the Chairs located at 157 Iowa Memorial Union.

ARTICLE X: HARASSMENT POLICY

1. This chapter shall follow the national DSA's [Harassment, Bullying and Conflict Management in DSA](#) policy, such as the [DSA Code of Conduct and the DSA Grievance and Harassment Policy \(Resolution 33\)](#).
2. The Steering Committee will make the maximum effort to comply with the above standards based on our organization's capacity.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

1. Should the organization be dissolved due to lack of interest or other reasons, it is the responsibility of the current president to notify the University's administrative office or the designee responsible for the oversight of registered student organizations that they have

disbanded and provide reason. The treasurer is responsible for ensuring all fundraising dollars go to **Iowa City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America**, and if they are no longer operational, the national **Democratic Socialists of America**, and notifying the University's administrative office or the designee responsible for the oversight of registered student organizations that any allocated funding left will not be used.

ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION

1. This constitution was ratified on October 11, 2022.