
The Freedom Forum
of Modesto Junior
College
Constitution
&
Bylaws



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Constitution

Preamble

We are the Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan political science club, established and maintained by the students of Modesto Junior College. Our main purpose is to promote and encourage political awareness and involvement amongst the students and community of the greater Modesto area in relation to local, state, national, and global politics.

Article I

Name

Section I: The name of this Modesto Junior College Student Organization shall be the Freedom Forum.

Article II

Motto

Section I: The motto of the Freedom Forum shall be "Where Politics Has No Party."

Article III

Membership

Section I: Membership is available to any currently enrolled Modesto Junior College student with an interest in political science.

Section II: There will be a one time \$5 membership fee charged to all members, this fee may be waived by the Faculty Advisor, President, or a simple majority of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Section III: Applications will be made available to interested students by the President.

Section IV: Honorary lifetime membership will be extended to all Freedom Forum founders and officers, both past and future.

Article IV

Membership Privileges

Section I: All active club members will be granted free access to all Freedom Forum events.

Section II: All active club members will receive club memorabilia and merchandise free of charge.

Section III: All active club members will have full access to all scholarships, awards, and events in which the Freedom Forum is involved in.

Article V **Student Organization**

Section I: The Freedom Forum is an officially chartered Modesto Junior College Student Organization, and will thereby be compliant with all governing policies set forth by its administration.

Section II: The Freedom Forum is a subsidiary organization of the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College, and will thereby be compliant with all governing policies set forth by its Student Senate and Inter-Club Council.

Article VI **Officers**

Section I: The affairs and facilitation of the Freedom Forum shall be conducted by an Executive Board of six officers, and overseen / approved by the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Section II: The Executive Board of the Freedom Forum shall consist of the President, Vice President, Inter-Club Council Representative, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Faculty Advisor.

Section III: In accordance with the Club Charter Packet of the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College, the active membership of the Freedom Forum shall consist of a minimum of ten currently enrolled Modesto Junior College students.

Article VII **Term of Office**

Section I: All officer terms, with the exception of the Faculty Advisor, shall be one year. Ranging from Spring Semester, April to Spring Semester, April.

Section II: All officer terms, with the exception of the President, may be held multiple times.

Section III: The Presidents term shall be no longer than one year. Ranging from Spring Semester, April to Spring Semester, April.

Section IV: In the event that any officer is forced to step down or be removed, a special election will be held to fill the position. The newly elected officer will serve out the remainder of the term.

Section V: The Faculty Advisor shall be a constant standing position within the club, and shall have no term or term limit.

Article VIII
Place of Business

Section I: In accordance with the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College: Constitution and Bylaws, the Freedom Forum and its subsidiary organizations (excluding charter organizations) shall conduct all official business at any location at Modesto Junior College.

Article IX
Meetings

Section I: All meetings of the Freedom Forum and its subsidiary organizations shall be open to the public in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Section II: All meetings of the Freedom Forum and its subsidiary organizations shall be conducted only when a quorum of a majority of the active membership is present.

Article X
Bylaws

Section I: Provision for the establishment of Bylaws to this Constitution is hereby authorized.

Section II: The active membership of the Freedom Forum shall reserve the right to implement within these Bylaws any positions, boards, and committees seen fit by this organization with a 2/3 majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Article XI
Amendments

Section I: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a 3/4 majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Section II: Such proposed amendments shall be read in completed form at the first meeting of the Freedom Forum following their proposal. A referendum shall be held on the proposed amendment between one and two weeks following the formal reading.

Authored by Andrew J. Campbell ~
Ratified on July 4th, 2013

Bylaws

Article I **Executive Authority**

Section I: *Executive Board*

Clause A: Executive authority shall be vested in the President who shall be responsible for the enforcement of all Freedom Forum rules and regulations.

Clause B: The Executive Officers of the Freedom Forum shall serve as the membership of the Executive Board.

Clause C: The Executive Board shall be responsible for the planning, budgeting, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all Freedom Forum finance, operations, and activities.

Section II: *President*

Clause A: The President or his/her designee shall serve as the Chair of all Freedom Forum meetings and shall prepare the agenda for meetings at which he/she presides.

Clause B: The President shall represent the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board at all times and places where such representation is required, requested, and agreed upon by the active membership of the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board.

Clause C: The President shall make appointments to all club committees when necessary, and serve as an *ex-officio* member of all club committees, and be responsible for ensuring full participation of all club members he/she appoints.

Clause D: The President shall be responsible for maintaining the Freedom Forum's nonpartisan stance on all issues related to local, state, national, and global politics.

Clause E: The President or his/her designee shall countersign all documents that are in relation to the finance, operations, and activities of the Freedom Forum.

Clause F: The President shall be responsible for monitoring the attendance of all club members and officers.

Clause G: The President shall stand as the Freedom Forum's *Advisor Search Committee Chair*.

Clause H: The President shall reserve the right to appoint Acting Executive Officers, for a non-renewable period not exceeding thirty days, should a position be vacant. This is to be done in the event that an Executive Officer is removed or steps down during a time when the active membership of the Freedom Forum is incapable of electing a new officer.

Section III: *Vice President*

Clause A: The Vice President or his/her designee shall serve as the Chair of all Executive Board meetings and shall prepare the agenda for all meetings at which he/she presides.

Clause B: The Vice President shall represent the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board at all times and places where such representation is required, requested, and agreed upon by the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board.

Clause C: The Vice President shall assist the President and all other Executive Officers in the execution of their duties.

Clause D: The Vice President or his/her designee shall stand as the Freedom Forum's *Membership Director*.

Clause E: The Vice President or his/her designee shall stand as the Freedom Forum's *Communications Director*.

Clause F: The Vice President or his/her designee shall stand as the Freedom Forum's *Parliamentarian*, and will thereby maintain order at all Freedom Forum and Executive Board meetings.

Clause G: The Vice President will stand as the Freedom Forum's *Advisor Search Committee Vice Chair*.

Clause H: The Vice President shall make recommendations to the President, on matters pertaining to the appointment of Club Committee members and Acting Executive Officers.

Clause I: The Vice President shall fulfill the duties of the President in his/her absence.

Section IV: *Inter-Club Council Representative*

Clause A: The Inter-Club Council Representative shall represent the Freedom Forum at all meetings of the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College's Inter-Club Council.

Clause B: The Inter-Club Council Representative shall report back to the Freedom Forum on all matters related to the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College and its Inter-Club Council.

Clause C: The Inter-Club Council Representative shall reserve the right to offer his/her representation on one or more Standing Committees within the governing structure of the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College. In the event of this, the Inter-Club Council Representative will report back to the Freedom Forum on matters related to the Standing Committee he/she is appointed to.

Clause D: The Inter-Club Council Representative will stand as the Freedom Forum's *Advisor Search Committee Secretary*.

Clause E: The Inter-Club Council Representative shall represent the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board at all times and places where such representation is required, requested, and agreed upon by the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board.

Section V: *Treasurer*

Clause A: The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining club finances, and will make regular reports to the Freedom Forum on its finances.

Clause B: The Treasurer shall be responsible for investigating possible revenue, fundraising, and savings, and will report back to the Freedom Forum of his/her findings.

Clause C: The Treasurer shall be responsible for advising the Freedom Forum on matters pertaining to finance.

Clause D: The Treasurer or his/her designee shall stand as the Freedom Forum's *Fundraising Committee Chair*.

Clause E: The Treasurer shall represent the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board at all times and places where such representation is required, requested, and agreed upon by the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board.

Section VI: *Secretary*

Clause A: The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping minutes at meetings of both the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board as well as distributing minutes to all appropriate persons.

Clause B: The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining all documents pertaining to the Freedom Forum, and will create a digest for future Administrations and their Secretaries.

Clause C: The Secretary shall represent the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board at all times and places where such representation is required, requested, and agreed upon by the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board.

Article II
Orders of Succession

Section I: *Orders of Succession*

Clause A: Should the President resign or be removed from office the order of succession goes as follows: Vice President, Inter-Club Council Representative, Treasurer, and then Secretary.

Clause B: Upon the resignation or removal of the President, the next in line in the order of succession shall, if the position of President be accepted, assume the position of President. This process will continue until the office of President is filled. Should the position remain vacant after the conclusion of this process, the Faculty Advisor shall assume the duties of the club Presidency until the active membership of the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board can elect a new President.

Clause C: Club committees may elect a Vice Chair from the ranks of its membership to serve in the absence of the regular Chair.

Article III
Officer Elections

Section I: *Nominations*

Clause A: All active club members may be nominated to hold office. The nomination must come from another active club member.

Clause B: In the occasion that there is more than one nomination for an officer position, the nominees are to give a speech on their merits for being elected to the office.

Section II: *Voting*

Clause A: All active club members with the exception of the President are

entitled to a vote. The President may only vote in the event of a tie.

Clause B: All votes are to be cast by secret ballot.

Clause C: All votes cast by secret ballot will be tabulated by the Faculty Advisor. Immediately following their tabulation, the Faculty Advisor will announce the results (announcing the winner and runners up. The number of votes cast for each candidate will be excluded from the announcement).

Section III: *Officer Requirements*

Clause A: All Executive Officers must be currently enrolled Modesto Junior College students maintaining a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

Clause B: The President must have been a active member for at least one semester prior to his/her nomination.

Clause C: No two electable Executive positions may be held simultaneously.

Section IV: *Elections*

Clause A: Elections are to be held in April, and will be facilitated by the out going President.

Article IV
Faculty Advisor

Section I: *Advisor Duties*

Clause A: The Faculty Advisor or his/her designee shall attend all meetings of the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board.

Clause B: The Faculty Advisor or his/her designee shall countersign all documents in relation to the finance, operations, and activities of the Freedom Forum.

Clause C: The Faculty Advisor or his/her designee shall attend all Freedom Forum events.

Clause D: The Faculty Advisor shall conduct eligibility checks of all the Executive Officers at his/her discretion.

Clause E: The Faculty Advisor shall stand as the Freedom Forum's *Rules Committee Chair*, and will thereby assist the Vice President in his/her duties as the Freedom Forum's *Parliamentarian*.

Section II: *Advisor Authority*

Clause A: The Faculty Advisor shall be granted no vote within the meetings of the Freedom Forum and/or its Executive Board.

Clause B: The Faculty Advisor shall reserve the right to cast an advisory vote when necessary.

Clause B: The Faculty Advisor shall reserve the right to veto any decision / legislation by submitting a written statement of his/her objection to the President by the next regular meeting following the passing of said decision / legislation. This decent may then be over turned by a 3/4 majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Article V
Club Committees

Section I: *Club Committees*

Clause A: All Club Committees within the substructure of the Freedom Forum will function on an *Ad Hoc* basis (active only when necessary, and dealing only with the matter assigned to them at that time).

Clause B: Any active club member may call for the activation of a Club Committee. The decision will then be put to a vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Clause C: All Club Committees, when active, will elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and a Secretary (if they are not already designated by these Bylaws).

Section II: *Advisor Search Committee*

Clause A: As stated in Article I, Section II, Clause G: the President will stand as the Chair.

Clause B: This committee will be made up of five members: the Chair (President), Vice Chair (Vice President), Secretary (Inter-Club Council Representative), and two more voting members.

Clause C: This committee will be responsible for leading the search for a new Faculty candidate to fill the position of a resigning or removed Faculty Advisor. After a candidate is found, he/she will be subject to the approval and ratification of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Section III: *Events Committee*

Clause A: The Chair of this committee will be elected from its membership upon its first meeting of the new term.

Clause B: This committee will be made up of six members: the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, two more voting members, and the President (as stated in Article I, Section II, Clause E: the President will serve as an *ex-officio* member of all club committees, and will thereby have no vote).

Clause C: This committee will be responsible for the planning, budgeting, coordinating, and implementing of all Freedom Forum events.

Clause D: This committee shall provide debriefing reports on its events to the Executive Board to identify opportunities for improvement of said events.

Clause E: *Joint Subcommittee on the Annual Scholarship Dinner* - This subcommittee will be formed and operated in conjunction between the Events Committee and the Fundraising Committee. All members of both committees will collaborate on this project, but both committees will nominate two members from their respective committee to establish and operate the subcommittee.

Section IV: *Fundraising Committee*

Clause A: As stated in Article I, Section V, Clause D: the Treasurer or his/her designee will stand as the Chair.

Clause B: This committee will be made up of four members: the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and the President (as stated in Article I, Section II, Clause E: the President will serve as an *ex-officio* member of all club committees, and will thereby have no vote).

Clause C: This committee will be responsible for researching possible opportunities for the Freedom Forum to raise funds, and will thereby

coordinate with the Events Committee to implement fundraising strategies at club events.

Clause D: *Joint Subcommittee on the Annual Scholarship Dinner* - This subcommittee will be formed and operated in conjunction between the Events Committee and the Fundraising Committee. All members of both committees will collaborate on this project, but both committees will nominate two members from their respective committees to establish and operate the subcommittee.

Section V: *Rules Committee*

Clause A: As stated in Article IV, Section I, Clause E: the Faculty Advisor or his/her designee will stand as the Chair.

Clause B: This committee will be made up of four members: the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and the President (as stated in Article I, Section II, Clause E: the President will serve as an *ex-officio* member of all club committees, and will thereby have no vote).

Clause C: This committee will be responsible for establishing, maintaining, interrupting, and altering this Constitution and its Bylaws. As well as any other standing orders or club policies that may be implemented in the future.

Article VI
Meetings

Section I: *The Freedom Forum*

Clause A: The Freedom Forum shall hold regular meetings once weekly at times when school is in session, unless otherwise decided by a majority of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Clause B: Special meetings, when necessary, may be called by the President and/or the Faculty Advisor.

Section II: *The Executive Board*

Clause A: The Executive Board shall hold meetings only when necessary, and may be called by the President and/or Faculty Advisor.

Section III: *Club Committees*

Clause A: All Club Committees shall hold meetings only when necessary, and may be called by the Chair of said committee and/or the President.

Section IV: *Attendance*

Clause A: Attendance at all Freedom Forum, Executive Board, and Club Committee meetings will be monitored and documented by the President.

Clause B: Excused absences shall be defined as providing notice to the President, Vice President, or Faculty Advisor of an inability to attend a meeting.

Clause C: Lack of attendance on behalf of the Executive Officers may result in their immediate removal from their officer position. Lack of attendance in this instance shall be defined as having the number of unexcused absences total more than 1/4 of a semester. Or having the number of excused absences total more than half a semester.

Clause D: Lack of attendance on behalf of a member may result in them losing

their status as an active club member. Lack of attendance in this instance shall be defined as having the number of unexcused absences total more than half a semester. Or having the number of excused absences total more than 3/4 of a semester.

Article VII **Discipline**

Section I: *Declaration of the Right to Remove*

Clause A: In the event that an Executive Officer is no longer adequately performing the duties of his/her position, or is no longer maintaining eligibility to be an officer, the President or any other active member may call for their immediate removal. The removal of said officer must then be confirmed by a majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum, or a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section II: *Declaration of the Right to Revoke Active Status*

Clause A: In the event that a club member is no longer attending regular meetings, as defined in Article VI, Section IV, Clause D, the President or Faculty Advisor may call for their status as an active member to be revoked. The removal of said status must then be confirmed by a majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum, or a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board. Active status may later be regained by attending two consecutive meetings.

Article VIII **Fiscal Matters**

Section I: *Annual Budget*

Clause A: The Freedom Forum Shall maintain a balanced annual budget.

Section II: *Expenditures*

Clause A: All expenditures shall be granted upon a majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Section III: *Reimbursements*

Clause A: All authorized representatives of the Freedom Forum and its Executive Board shall be reimbursed in their capacity as representatives of the Freedom Forum.

Article IX **Nonpartisan Organization**

Section I: *Nonpartisan Organization*

Clause A: The Freedom Forum at all times and places is meant to function as a nonpartisan political science club for the students of Modesto Junior College, and will thereby take no organizational stances on any matters related to local,

state, national, or global politics.

Clause B: At times when it is deemed necessary, this rule may be suspended by the following procedure: The President or any other active club member shall submit a written statement at the next regular meeting, expressing the grounds for forfeiting the clubs nonpartisan position. The President will then facilitate for a vote of the active membership. This requires a 3/4 majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum. The written statement will then be submitted to the Faculty Advisor for approval or rejection. In the event that the statement fails to get the approval of the Faculty Advisor, the decent may be overturned by a unanimous decision of the Executive Board.

Article X **Charter Organization**

Section I: *Declaration of a Club Charter Program*

Clause A: The Freedom Forum and its membership hereby allow for the establishment of a Club Charter Program. In which interested parties (attending schools other than Modesto Junior College) may establish a Freedom Forum like organization.

Clause B: This Club Charter Program will be extended to other California Community Colleges, California State Universities, and University of California Campuses.

Clause C: All interested parties must complete and submit both a Freedom Forum Club Charter Application and all necessary paperwork allowing them to be recognized as an official student organization on their respective campus.

Clause D: Upon the completion of the Freedom Forum Club Charter Application, the ratification of their charter will be put to a vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Clause E: Upon the ratification of a new Freedom Forum Charter Organization. The active membership of said charter organization must then elect club officers from their ranks. As well as author and adopt a constitution and bylaws, similar to those of the Freedom Forum of Modesto Junior College.

Clause F: Upon the election of club officers and adoption of a Freedom Forum of Modesto Junior College similar constitution and bylaws, said charter organization will be free to function within the rules and regulations of their governing documents.

Article XI **Parliamentary Procedure**

Section I: *Delegation of Authority*

Clause A: All proceedings and matters not covered in this Constitution and Bylaws shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, new revised.

Article XII **Amendments**

Section I: *Amendments*

Clause A: Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by a $2/3$ majority vote of the active membership of the Freedom Forum.

Clause B: Such proposed amendments shall be read in completed form at the first meeting of the Freedom Forum following their proposal. A referendum shall be held on the proposed amendment between one and two weeks following the formal reading.



Authored by Andrew J. Campbell ~
Ratified on July 4th, 2013