

Criminology, Law & Society Student Association
Drafted on: September 14, 2009

Article One NAME OF ORGANIZATION

- The name of the organization shall be the Criminology, Law & Society Student Association (CLSSA)

Article Two PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

- The purpose of this organization is to connect students of the Justice, Law, and Crime Policy program with one another, to share research and professional interests, and to provide an organizing body for professional development opportunities.

Article Three MEMBERSHIP

- Membership in this organization will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, sex or age.
- Membership is open to all students in the Justice, Law, & Crime Policy program at George Mason University (GMU), or to graduate students affiliated with research centers situated in the Department of Administration of Justice.
- All active members must be currently enrolled GMU students with a minimum academic achievement record defined as a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.
- There are two types of membership: Active and Honorary.
- **Active** members are currently enrolled JLCP students, or other GMU graduate students affiliated with research centers situated in the Department of Administration of Justice, who meet the minimum academic achievement record guidelines. All current JLCP students who meet the minimum academic achievement record are recognized as active CLSSA members. GMU graduate students affiliated with research centers situated in the Department of Administration of Justice are recognized as active members by contacting a CLSSA officer in writing to convey their wish to join the CLSSA and attending at least two business meetings per semester. Active status entitles the holder of such to partake in any and all functions produced by CLSSA. Only active members are able to vote on organization matters, propose amendments to this constitution, and nominate and elect officers.
- **Honorary** members are alumni of the JLCP program and other graduate students who were active members at the time of graduation from GMU. Honorary status entails the allowance of the holder to attend all meetings, however does not entitle the holder to vote on organization matters or participate in elections.

- Membership cannot be revoked from Honorary members. Active membership can be revoked from any members who do not attend at least two business meeting per semester. Active membership can be revoked from any CLSSA member if the member fails to meet the minimum academic achievement record.

Article Four OFFICERS

- The officers of the CLSSA (known collectively as the Executive Board) will consist of the following:
- The President will develop the agenda, call to order, and oversee all business meetings. The President will oversee all votes. Additionally, the President will generally oversee the operation of the organization. The President is responsible for all paperwork, permits, and litigation directed toward the organization.
- The Vice President will assist the President in the managing of business meetings, and will, in the absence of the President, take over Presidential duties. The Vice President is also responsible for the recruitment of new members and will provide general organization information to potential members.
- The Secretary will take record of the organization's activities. This includes, but is not limited to, taking minutes of each meeting and gathering and storing members contact information. The Secretary is also responsible for publication and dissemination of organization decisions, information, and actions.
- The Treasurer will be concerned with all of the organization's financial matters. This may include, but is not limited to, dues collection, the creation of the organization's budget, the appropriation of monies not included in the budget, the maintenance of the budget, the payment of monies owed by the organization, any accounts held by the organization, and the compilation of a bi-annual budget report to the Executive Board.
- All officer candidates must be enrolled in the JLCP program. Officer positions consist of approximately one calendar- year appointments, beginning in June and lasting through May of the following year. The President is limited to two consecutive one-year terms. Other officer positions have no term limits.
- If at any time a member at all feels that an officer need be removed, they must present their case for removal to the officer in question and to the rest of the organization during a regularly scheduled meeting. The member (plaintiff) is then allowed to call the issue to vote, and this member may not be silenced under any condition. A three fourths majority vote of members present is required to remove the officer, and if this is achieved during the meeting, the officer is immediately relinquished of his/her title, and the Executive Board will appoint a CLSSA member to serve the remainder of the term.

- The primary Advisor shall be a member of the JLCP faculty or staff at George Mason University.
- The Advisor will be appointed by the Administration of Justice (ADJ) department. There are no term limits for the Advisor.
- If at any time any member feels that the current advisor need be removed from their duties they are to notify one of the officers, in writing, at least two (2) days before the regularly scheduled meeting. The officers must then meet as a group and decide what action needs to be taken. The officers will then address the organization as a whole and call forth a vote, of which a three fourths majority is required to officially remove the advisor. At this time, if the Advisor is removed, a new advisor will be appointed by the ADJ department.
- The Advisor's role is to offer guidance and support for the organization, but the advisor does not have a vote in official or unofficial matters.

Article Five ELECTIONS

- Elections will take place each April. The date will be announced each year in January.
- Nominations will be solicited from the membership in February of each year. Nominations will be accepted until three (3) weeks prior to the official election. Nominations must be provided to the Secretary in writing (either hard copy or email). There are no restrictions on self-nomination.
- Those who are nominated must provide a short biography and a paragraph detailing why they wish to serve in the position they are seeking. This information must be provided to the Secretary three (3) weeks before the election. Information on candidates will be distributed to the membership at least one (1) week before the election.
- Votes will be collected using secret ballots at a special election meeting. Votes will be counted by a selected committee that includes at least one officer and one general member, and is overseen by the current President. Votes will be kept on file for twenty-four (24) months. If the election results in a tie, a runoff election will be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The votes will be recorded on ballots provided by the organization. The results will be tabulated again by the Secretary, and supervised by the President and Vice President.
- New officers will work alongside the current officers through the end of the semester to familiarize themselves with operating procedures and paperwork. The new officers will begin their tenure at the beginning of the summer and will last through the end of the following spring semester.

Article Six MEETINGS

- The CLSSA will meet once a month.
- The President will preside over the meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice President will preside over the meetings.

- The quorum is the simple majority of the active membership plus one officer.
- Special meetings can be called by any officer or member with at least 7-days notice. An agenda must be provided to the officers by the person calling the meeting at least 48 hours in advance.
- The CLSSA will follow the parliamentary rules of order as outlined in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article Seven FINANCE

- The amount of dues and the method of collection will be decided by a majority vote of the Executive Board at the beginning of each school year for annual dues.
- If dues are required, they will be collected by the Treasurer at regular meetings.
- Finances will be handled at the discretion of the Treasurer, with oversight provided by the President.

Article Eight AMENDMENTS

- This Constitution may be amended whenever it is felt necessary by petition of either an active member or officer.
- The amendment is to be presented to the Secretary at least one week before the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- The Secretary will then present the amendment to the membership at the meeting and the amendment will be voted on at the meeting. A majority vote is required for approving an amendment. The amendment will take effect as soon as it has been voted for.
- The Office of Student Activities must review all amendments in the same manner as a completely new constitution.

Article Nine RATIFICATION

- This constitution shall become effective upon approval by a three-fourths vote of the membership, the Council of Student Umbrellas, and the Director of Student Activities.