

Constitution

Preamble

As the student wing of the Democratic Party, we, the College Democrats of America, hereby dedicate ourselves to organizing college students from across the nation in order to inspire and assist the participation of young Americans into the political process and the Democratic Party. We strive to better our country and to promote the principles of equality, opportunity, social justice, and freedom within a just and strong society. As college students, we dedicate ourselves to representing the interests of students and youth within the political process.

As Democrats, we aim to promote the principles of our party. As part of our mission, we call for full participation without regard to sex, race ethnic origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. For these ends and upon these principles, we, Democratic college students, do hereby associate ourselves and adopt this Constitution as College Democrats of America.

Article 1: Name, Purpose, and Membership

Section I. Name: The name of this organization shall be the "College Democrats of America," hereinafter referred to in the document as CDA.

Section II. Purpose: The CDA, as the collegiate arm of the Democratic Party, pledge to support the philosophy and purpose of the Democratic Party. Furthermore, the CDA declare their intention to support efforts to increase the participation of college students in Democratic Party affairs. To these ends, the CDA shall educate and train their members so that they may be better able to:

- A. Educate students about the philosophy of the Democratic Party;
- B. Work with Democrats across the country to achieve the goals of the CDA and the Democratic Party; and
- C. Work to bring more people into the political process.

Section III. Members: The name of this organization shall be the "College Democrats of America," hereinafter referred to in the document as CDA. Members of the CDA organization shall consist of the following entities:

- A. The Executive Board;
- B. The National Council;
- C. The chartered State Federations;
- D. The chartered Campus Chapters; and
- E. CDA Alumni Association

Section IV. Structure: The CDA shall serve as an umbrella organization for chartered

State Federations and chartered Campus Chapters. While the CDA will coordinate with each organization, they remain separate entities under the CDA. The overall structure of the CDA shall be as follows:

A. The Executive Board shall consist of: The President, Vice President, Student Director of Membership, Student Director of Political Affairs, Student Director of Communication, Student Director of Development, Student Director of Programs, and National Council Chair. The Executive Board shall have responsibility for determining the direction and goals of the CDA.

B. The National Staff shall work with elected officers to achieve CDA goals. The Executive Director shall appoint staff as needed with consent of the Executive Board to execute CDA goals. The President, Vice President, and National Staff shall run the day-to-day operations of the CDA.

C. The National Council shall be the official voice of state federations within CDA and shall advise the Executive Board on the direction and goals of CDA.

D. The chartered State Federations shall act as liaisons to the chartered Campus Chapters and shall coordinate statewide events.

E. The chartered Campus Chapters shall be the most basic and fundamental unit within the CDA.

F. The CDAAA shall advise the Executive Board and assist in fundraising.

Article 2: Executive Board

Section I. Authority and Responsibility: The Executive Board shall have responsibility for determining the direction and goals of the CDA. Decisions of the Executive Board may be overridden only by a three-fourths vote of all members of the National Council.

Section II. Composition: The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Student Director for Communications, Student Director for Membership, Student Director for Political Affairs, Student Director of Development, Student Director of Programs, and National Council Chair. Nonvoting (ex-officio) members shall be the National Parliamentarian, who shall be appointed by the National Executive Board, President emeritus, chair of CDAAA, and CDA Director of Technology. In the event of a tie, the CDA Executive Director gets a vote. In the event of a tie with no Executive Director, the President gets an additional vote.

Section III. Governance: The Executive Board shall be governed as specified in the CDA Bylaws.

Section IV. Duties: The officers of the College Democrats of America shall perform duties as required by the CDA Bylaws.

Article 3: National Council

Section I. Definition: The purpose of the National Council shall be to provide a voice for State Federations and the grassroots organizing within the organization. The chair, vice chair, and secretary of the council will be elected on an annual basis by the membership of the National Council at the national convention. In the event that no chair, vice chair, and/or secretary is elected at the national convention, a chair, vice chair, and/or, secretary will be elected at a subsequent meeting, as determined by the Executive Board.

Section II. Purpose: The National Council members shall make themselves available to the Executive Board and staff for advice and shall have a right to cast an advisory vote. The National Council can provide an advisory opinion to the Executive Board by a 2/3 vote. The Executive Board shall seek input and direction from the National Council so that the National council can advise the CDA agenda and goals.

Section III. Membership: The membership of the National Council shall include all state federation officers.

Section IV. Officers: The officers of the National Council shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The officers shall be elected at the annual CDA Convention at a time and place determined by the National Council Chair in consultation with the CDA President and Executive Director.

Section V. Governance: The National Council shall be governed as specified in the CDA Bylaws.

Article 4: State Federations

Section I. Definition: Each chartered State Federation shall be composed of the majority of the chartered Campus Chapters within that state. Only one chartered State Federation per state will be recognized by the CDA.

Section II. Purpose: as member organizations of the CDA, chartered State Federations shall be dedicated to organizing the chartered Campus Chapters within their states to further the interest of the CDA and the Democratic Party. Each chartered State Federation shall extend members to all chartered Campus Chapters. For the purpose of this Constitution, Students Abroad, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and all other United States territories containing Democratic students shall be considered separate states.

Section III. Member Certification: State Federations shall be certified and decertified as specified in the CDA Bylaws.

Article 5: Campus Chapters

Section I. Definition: Chartered Campus Chapters shall be the most basic and

fundamental unit within CDA. There may be only one Campus Chapter per college campus.

Section II. Purpose: As member organizations of the CDA, chartered Campus Chapters shall be dedicated to educating members of their college community about the philosophy of the CDA and organizing them to further the interests of the Democratic Party. Each CDA Campus Chapter shall extend membership to all registered college students who wish to be known as College Democrats regardless of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. For these purposes, a "college student" shall mean an undergraduate or graduate student including those on approved temporary leave or absence from their college.

Section III. Chapter Certification and De-certification: Campus chapters shall be certified and decertified as specified in the CDA Bylaws.

Article 6: National Staff

Section I. Definition, Purpose, and Membership: The Executive Director shall be selected upon the advice and consent of the Executive Board and pertinent DNC officials. The Executive Director shall have authority, with the advice and consent of the President, to appoint assistants as s/he sees fit. The Executive Director shall, along with the President and Vice President, be responsible for the implementation of the goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board.

Article 7: Honorary Council

Section I. Definition: Honorary Council members selected by the Executive Board will be comprised of due paying members. The Executive Board will select an Honorary Chairman(s) to chair the Honorary Council no more than two months after the National Convention.

Section II. Purpose: The members of the Honorary Council shall assist CDA in fundraising and achieving its political goals.

Section III. Membership: The Honorary Council will consist of an Honorary Chairman and due paying members of the Honorary Council.

Article 8: CDA Alumni Association

Section I. Definition: The CDAAA shall be a volunteer advisory council made up of CDA alumni.

Section II. Purpose: The members of the CDAAA shall make themselves available to the Executive Board for historical reference. Its purpose shall be to provide fundraising resources and serve as a historical reference. The CDAAA shall also assist exiting CDA members as they transition to membership within the Young Democrats of America.

Section III. Membership: The CDAAA will select a chairperson; in the event that a chairperson is not selected the President of the CDA shall appoint one to fill the vacancy.

Section IV. Structure: Members of CDAAA may construct their own bylaws in order to further the objectives of the association as outlined in this constitution.

Article 9: Standing Committees of the National Council

Section I. Purpose: shall advise the membership on revisions and amendments to the CDA Constitution. The committee shall present such recommendations annually at the National Convention.

Section III. Committees: The Standing Committees of the National Council shall be the Constitution & Bylaws and Legislative Action Committees.

Section IV. Constitution & Bylaws Committee: Constitution & Bylaws Committee shall advise the membership on revisions and amendments to the CDA Constitution. The committee shall present such recommendations annually at the National Convention. Membership of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall be made up of one (1) member from each region appointed by the Regional Chair in accordance to the regions defined in current Article 11. The chair shall be appointed by the National Council Chair from the membership of the committee and confirmed by the National Council. Proxies shall be allowed upon written notification from the regional representative that they will be absent from the meeting to the National Council Chair with the name and state of the individual that will be serving as proxy. Only state federation presidents from same region as the absent member shall be eligible to serve as proxies.

Section V: Legislative Action Committee: Legislative Action Committee shall develop initiatives to achieve the legislative and platform goals of the CDA. Membership of the Legislative Action Committee shall be made up of one (1) member from each region appointed by the Regional Chair in accordance to the regions defined in current Article 11. The chair shall be appointed by the National Council Chair from the membership of the committee and confirmed by the National Council. Proxies shall be allowed upon written notification from the regional representative that they will be absent from the meeting to the National Council Chair with the name and state of the individual that will be serving as proxy. Only state federation presidents from same region as the absent member shall be eligible to serve as proxies.

Article 11: National Convention

Section I. Definition: A National Convention shall be held on an annual basis at a date set by the Executive Board and majority consent of the National Council no more than 14 months after the last convention.

Section II. The purposes of the National Convention are:

- A. To educate CDA members and the public about the philosophy of the Democratic Party;
- B. To train CDA members in political techniques;
- C. To allow CDA members to meet their fellow CDA members from across the nation;
- D. To elect the President, Vice President and the five Student Directors; and
- E. To induct new members into the CDA Alumni Association.

Section III: Governance: The National Convention shall be governed by the CDA Bylaws.

Section IV: A Chartered Campus Chapter or State Federation may host the National Convention. Host proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Board no less than four months prior to convention. Executive board maintains the right to make the final decision on the location of the National Convention.

Article 12: Regions

Section I: Regional Composition: There shall be Regions based off the regional system implemented by the Association of State Democratic Chairs.

Section II: Duties: Regional Chairs shall perform duties as required by the CDA Bylaws.

Section III: Regional Chairs shall be nominated for each region by the National Council Chair and must be approved by a majority of the state federation presidents/chair of that region. Vacancies shall be filled by the mode of original selection through conference call of state federations.

Article 13: Base-vote Caucuses

Section I: Base-vote Caucuses: Caucus chairs will be appointed by the Executive Board with the advice of the National Council. The Executive Board may decide to create or dissolve a caucuses by majority vote. Base-Vote Caucuses shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary at each CDA Convention. In the event of a vacancy in the Chair position, the Vice Chair shall become Caucus Chair. In the event of a vacancy in the Vice Chair position, the Secretary shall become Vice Chair. In the event of a vacancy in Secretary, the remaining officers shall select a replacement. If all positions are vacant the President shall appoint the officers in consultation with the National Executive Board

Section II: Duties: Base-vote Caucus Chairs shall perform duties as required by the CDA Bylaws.

Article 14: Parliamentary Authority

Section I. The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the CDA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the CDA may adopt.

Article 15: Amendments and Bylaws

Section I. Amendments: This constitution and bylaws can be amended by:

A. Unanimous votes in favor in two consecutive Executive Board Meetings, provided that the chartered Campus Chapters later vote in a two-thirds majority at the National Convention in favor of the amendment.

B. Bylaws for the CDA can be adopted or amended by: A two-thirds (2/3) vote at the National Convention of those chartered Campus Chapters present (For these purposes, each chartered Campus Chapter shall have one vote); or unanimous votes in favor in two consecutive Executive Board meetings, provided that the chartered Campus Chapters later vote in a two-thirds majority at the National Convention in favor of the amendment.

C. The National Council may propose amendments to the Bylaws to the Executive Board or General Membership with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. The Executive Board may approve a proposal of the National Council using the procedure set forth earlier in this section but with a single unanimous vote rather than two.

Bylaws of the College Democrats of America

Article 1: Name, Purpose, and Membership

Section III: Members

Section III (a). Membership with the College Democrats of America is open to any fulltime or part-time student enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program without regard to sex, race ethnic origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. Membership is open to any student who, within a period of six months, has been an undergraduate student or will be a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

Article 2: Executive Board

Section I: Governance

Section I (a). DNC Members: The National President and National Vice President of the CDA shall each be of the opposite gender and a voting member of the Democratic National Committee.

Section I (b). Meetings: The Executive Board shall meet on a regular basis determined by the President or the majority of the Executive Board.

Section I (c). Annual Strategic Plan: No later than one month following the National Convention, the Executive Board shall establish a set of goals for the year in which every officer will be assigned official duties. All officers will be required to submit bimonthly written reports to the Executive Board, and the National Council detailing their pursuit of these objectives.

Section I (d). Quorum: A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a majority of the elected officers of the Executive Board members present, in person, by conference calls, or by electronic communication.

Section I (e). Vacancies: A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board dies, resigns, or is removed from office. If the vacancy is the Vice President or one of the Student Directors, the President shall appoint a successor with the majority consent of the remaining Executive Board. If the vacancy is the President, then the Vice President is the automatic replacement.

Section I (f). Removal: Executive Board members may be removed in the following manner:

A. Cause for Removal: Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of constitutionally assigned duties, being convicted of a felony, or upon other grounds found by all of the other members of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause; and

B. Process for Removal: To begin the process for removal, a member of the Executive Board must motion for the Board to recommend to the National Council. If therecommendation is approved by a majority of the entire Executive Board, a recommendation is sent to the National Council. In order for an officer, including the National Council Chair or Vice Chair, to be impeached, two thirds of every chair of every chartered state federation must vote for removal. Two-thirds of participants on a National Council conference call or at a National Council meeting is not sufficient. The National Council may also initiate impeachment (separate from the recommendation from the Executive Board). For an Executive Board impeachment initiated by the National Council a quorum vote is established at 30 states present. A two thirds majority is needed to recommend impeachment to the Executive Board. The Executive Board then must vote on the impeachment of the Executive Board officer by a two-thirds majority.

Section II: Duties

Section II (a). Duties of the President: The President shall:

A. Attend and preside over meetings of the Executive Board, be responsible for determining the goals and direction of the CDA, and provide quarterly reports to the Executive Board and regular reports to the National Council (One email, at least two months prior to Convention, shall include a summary of major projects of the College Democrats);

B. With the assistance of National Staff, and Vice President be responsible for the implementation of the goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board;

C. Appoint ex-officio members of the Executive Board with the advice and consent of the Executive Board except for Regional Chairs, who shall be appointed by the Executive Board;

D. Submit bimonthly reports to the Executive Board and the National council, as specified in Article 2, § III (c) of these Bylaws.

Section II (b). Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President Shall:

A. Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the direction and goals of CDA and provide bimonthly reports to the President;

B. Along with the National Staff and President, be responsible for the implementation of the goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board; and

C. Assume the office of the President upon the President's death, removal, resignation, or incapacitating disability.

Section II (c). Duties of the Student Director of Membership: The Student Director of Membership shall:

A. Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the goals of the CDA, and provide bimonthly reports to the President;

B. Along with the National Staff and President, be responsible for the implementation of the membership goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board.

Section II (d). Duties of the Student Director of Political Affairs: The Student Director of Political Affairs shall:

A. Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the goals of the CDA, and provide bimonthly reports to the President;

B. Along with the National Staff and President, be responsible for the implementation of the political goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board.

Section II (e). Duties of the Student Director for Communications: The Student Director of Communications Shall:

A. Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the direction and goals of the CDA, and provide bimonthly reports to the President;

B. Along with the National Staff and President, be responsible for the implementation of the communications goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board;

C. Record and distribute the minutes of the Executive Board meetings; and

Section II (f). Duties of the Student Director of Programs: The Student Director of Programs shall:

A. Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the goals of the CDA, and provide bimonthly reports to the President;

B. Along with the National Staff and President, be responsible for the implementation of the programming goals of the CDA, as set by the Executive Board

Section II (g). Duties of the Student Director of Development: The Student Director of Fundraising/Development shall:

A. Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the goals of the CDA, and provide bimonthly reports to the President;

B. Along with the National Staff and President, be responsible for the implementation of the fundraising goals of the CDA as set by the Executive Board.

Article 3: National Council

Section I: Governance

Section I (a). National Council Chair: The National Council Chair shall: Attend Executive Board meetings, advise in determining the goals of the CDA, and provide monthly reports to the President; and shall assist the Executive Board in initiation of new State Federations and assist communication between and amongst existing State Federations. There shall also be a National Council Vice Chair, who shall assist the National Council Chair in his or her duties and be elected under the same procedures as the National Council Chair as set forth in Article 3 § III of the Constitution. There shall also be a National Council Secretary, who shall assist the National Council Chair and Vice Chair in his or her duties as well as be the official correspondent and record keeper of the National Council. The Secretary shall also be charged with maintaining the roster of the National Council and shall be elected under the same procedures as the National Council Chair as set forth in Article 3 § III of the Constitution. The National Council Chair, ~~and~~ Vice Chair, and Secretary shall assist in providing organizing tools to bolster state federation organizing.

Section II (b). Meetings: The National Council shall meet at the national convention and at regular intervals determined by the National Council Officers and CDA Executive Director. A call has to be announced at least three days in advance. Voting can only take place if quorum is present. Quorum shall be established as 15 states present. Section IV (c). Voting: Each state federation shall receive two votes in business before the Council.

Article 4: State Federations

Section I: Member Certification

Section I (a). Member Certification: State Federations shall apply for a charter by providing the Executive Board with the names of all of the officers of the State Federation with both school and permanent addresses and phone numbers, a list of contacts at the member schools, and the bylaws of the State Federation. In order to charter, a state federation must have an executive board in place, which consists of at least three officers. Alternatively, the CDA Executive Board may appoint a state Executive Board and grant a charter with a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Section I (b). Member De-certification: Chartered State Federation may be decertified in the following manner:

A. Cause for De-certification: Cause for De-certification shall be defined as malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of assigned duties, or upon other grounds by a member of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.

B. Process for De-certification: The Executive Board may decertify a state federation with a unanimous vote.

Article 5: Campus Chapters

Section I: Chapter Certification and De-certification

Section I (a). Chapter Certification: Any organization with an active eChapter on the CDA national website shall be considered a chartered chapter of the CDA.

Section I (b). Chapter De-certification: Chartered Campuses may be decertified in the following manner:

A. Cause for De-certification: Cause for De-certification shall be defined as malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of assigned duties, or upon other grounds by a member of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.

B. Process for De-certification: The Executive Board may decertify a campus charter with a unanimous vote.

Article 6: National Convention

Section I: Governance

Section I (a): Governance: These bylaws shall serve as operating guidelines and procedures for the activities of the CDA Annual National Convention. They can be complemented with rules drafted by the Executive Board only that are consistent with these bylaws. These rules will remain in force until their last assigned function has been completed.

Section I (b): Parliamentary Authority: Except in those instances where exceptions are specifically authorized and enumerated in this document, all business conducted during the course of the National Convention shall be governed under the Newly Revised Edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Section I (c): Certification: When a chartered campus chapter is hereafter referred to in this document, such reference constitutes a chapter which has fulfilled CDA's requirements for chartering. When a chartered state federation is hereafter referred to in this document, such reference constitutes a state organization that has fulfilled CDA's requirements for chartering.

Section I (d): Presiding Officer: The President of CDA shall serve as Presiding Officer of the CDA National Convention, and shall hereafter be referred to in this document as “Presiding Officer.” The Presiding Officer shall establish the order of business for the convention under the guidelines set forth in Article IV of this document. The Presiding Officer may appoint, at his discretion, Chairperson(s) Pro Tempore. All decisions of the Presiding Officer (or Chairperson Pro Tempore) are final, unless 3/4 of the voting delegates in attendance vote to overrule the Presiding Officer.

Section I (e): Parliamentarian: The Presiding Officer shall appoint a Parliamentarian of the Convention. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for making sure that the convention is run in accordance with the rules contained in the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. The Parliamentarian’s interpretation (in coordination with the Presiding Officer) shall be final, unless three-fourths of the voting delegates vote to suspend the rules.

Section I (f): Other Officers: The Presiding Officer of the CDA National Convention may appoint other convention officers as are necessary to run the convention effectively.

Section I (g): Credentials Committee: There shall be a Credentials Committee, its chairperson and membership to be appointed by the Presiding Officer. The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for: Assignment and distribution of the appropriate convention credentials to all National Convention delegates; and the certification of CDA Chartered Campus Chapters and State Federations who are properly registered to vote at the convention. To obtain chapter certification, a representative of a Campus Chapter must present some form of identification (as indicated below) from their school that indicates their undergraduate or graduate status at that institution or that they have graduated in the term preceding convention. The following items/documents are considered legitimate proof of student status for the purposes of registration and receiving official credentials:

- a. Valid Student Identification Card from College/University certifying student status
- b. Letter from the College/University Registrar certifying student status
- c. Valid Student Fee Statement from College/University certifying student status
- d. Official Student Transcript from College/University Registrar certifying student status

Section I (h): Display of Credentials: Convention Credentials must be prominently displayed at all times to gain entry and permit participation in any and all convention activities. Persons not displaying their official convention credential will be prohibited from participation.

Section I (i): Elections Committee: There shall be a three person

Elections Committee, its chairperson and membership to be appointed by the Presiding Officer. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for certifying candidates for National Office as specified in Article 11 § III (m) of these Bylaws.

Section I (j): Platform Committee: There shall be a Platform Committee, its chairperson and membership to be appointed by the Presiding Officer. The Platform Committee shall advise the membership on revisions and amendments to the CDA National Platform at the National Convention.

Section I (k): Awards Committee: There shall be an Awards Committee, its chairperson and membership to be appointed by the Presiding Officer. The Awards Committee shall be responsible for setting the criteria for the Chapter and State Federation of the Year Awards, judging candidates for each award, and naming the winners.

Section I (l): Agenda: The Presiding Officer shall establish a written agenda for the National Convention which will seek to meet the objectives set forth in the CDA Constitution.

Section I (m): General Floor Sessions: The Presiding Officer is hereby directed to include the following General Floor Sessions into the written convention agenda: There shall be a General Session on Constitution and Platform Revisions; there shall be a General Session on National Officer Elections.

Section I (n): National Officer Elections:

A. Candidate Declaration Period: Candidates for national office shall be able to officially declare their candidacy for a period of one-month prior to convention at a time determined by the Elections Committee. Candidate declarations must be submitted by email or as determined by the Elections Committee in consultation with the National Convention Chair, Executive Director, and Executive Board. Declaration of candidacy statements may be no more than 1,000 words.

B. President and Vice President: Candidates for President must run on a ticket with a candidate for Vice President of the opposite gender. Candidates for President and Vice President on the same ticket must submit their two candidacy statements together. President and Vice President shall be elected as part of the same vote.

C. Write-In Candidates: Write-in candidates shall be accepted when accompanied by a petition signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of convention delegates from CDA Chartered Campus Chapters registered at the time of the Write-In Candidate deadline. All names signed to the petition must be printed and legible. The CDA Elections Committee shall be responsible for verifying that a given candidate has reached the signature threshold. The deadline for submitting a candidate statement and petition shall be determined by the Elections Committee.

D. Qualifications: Candidates for the Executive Board must demonstrate to the Elections Committee that they meet the requirements for membership in Article 1, § III of these Bylaws.

E. Order of Elections: Elections shall be conducted in the following order: President/Vice President, Student Director of Communications, Student Director of Development, Student Director of Membership, Student Director of Political Affairs, and Student Director of Programs.

F. Nominations: The nomination speeches for each the President and Vice President shall be no longer than three minutes. Nomination speeches for the Student Director positions shall be limited to two minutes.

G. Candidate Speeches and Forum: Candidates for CDA National Offices will be expected to participate in a scheduled candidate question and answer forum prior to the election. The open microphone session will be moderated by the Presiding Officer. The rules of the session shall be developed by the Presiding Officer of the convention. During the actual voting session, candidates for President shall speak for no longer than five minutes. Candidates for all other CDA offices shall be limited to three minute statements.

H. Officer Transition: All officers elected will take office following the last gavel of the College Democrats of America National Convention.

Section I (o): Constitution and Platform Revision

A. Deadline for Filing Constitutional or Bylaws Amendments: Members of CDA will be able to file amendments during a one-month filing period determined by the Constitution Committee. Amendments must be submitted by email or as determined by the Constitution Committee in consultation with the Executive Board and Executive Director.

B. Late Amendment Filing: Constitutional or bylaws amendments not received prior to the filing deadline shall be accepted late when accompanied by a petition signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of convention delegates from CDA Chartered Campus Chapters registered at the time of the “late” constitutional amendment deadline. All names signed to the petition must be printed and legible. The CDA Constitution Committee shall be responsible for verifying that the author of a given constitutional or bylaws amendment has reached the signature threshold. Such “late” constitutional or bylaws amendments must be submitted to the Constitutional Committee by a deadline determined by the Constitution Committee.

C. Deadline for Filing Platform Amendments and Resolutions: Members of CDA will be able to file Platform amendments and resolutions during a one-month filing period determined by the Platform and Resolution Committee. Amendments

must be submitted by email or as determined by the Platform and Resolution Committee in consultation with the Executive Board and Executive Director.

D. Late Amendment Filing: Platform planks or resolutions not received prior to the filing deadline shall be accepted late when accompanied by a petition signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of convention delegates from CDA Chartered Campus Chapters registered at the time of the “late” constitutional amendment and platform plank deadline. All names signed to the petition must be printed and legible. The CDA Platform and Resolution Committee shall be responsible for verifying that the author of a given platform plank has reached the signature threshold. Such “late” planks must be submitted to the Platform and Resolution Committee by a deadline determined by the Platform and Resolution Committee.

E. Amendment Standards: All amendments and planks must be type written and of clear language.

F. Implementation of Amendments to CDA Constitution: Any and all amendments to the CDA Constitution or Bylaws, passed during the General Floor Session on Constitutional Revision, will not take effect until after the last gavel of the College Democrats of America National Convention. However, any amendments already approved by the CDA Executive Board and confirmed by the general membership at convention as indicated in 1the CDA Constitution shall continue to remain in effect throughout convention.

Section I (p): Voting Procedures for General Floor Sessions:

A. General Floor Session on Constitution and Platform Revision

1. General Floor Session: The General Floor Session on CDA Constitution and Platform Revision (as specified above) is the official time allotted for amendments, edits, revisions, and review of the CDA Constitution and Platform. Such business will be recognized by the Presiding Officer exclusively during this session and will be deemed out of order by the Presiding Officer prior to and following the General Floor Session.

2. CDA Constitution: All votes on constitutional matters will be allocated and held in accordance and compliance with the CDA Constitution.

3. Roll Call: Each vote on a constitutional matter shall be conducted by roll call vote, directly following a five minute state caucus. During the roll call vote, each state will announce its vote count. In those states where chartered CDA State Federations exist, that State Federation’s President (or their designee) will announce his/her state’s votes. In those states where no chartered CDA State Federations exist, the delegates of that state will, through their own method, select a designated spokesperson to report their votes to the assembly.

B. General Floor Session on National Officer Elections

1. Roll Call: Each election for a CDA National Office shall be conducted by roll call vote, directly following a five minute state caucus. During the roll call vote, each state will announce its vote allocation. In those states where chartered CDA State Federations exist, that State Federation's President (or their designee) will announce his/her state's votes. In those states where no chartered CDA State Federations exist, the delegates of that state will, through their own method, select a designated spokesperson to report their votes to the assembly.
2. Vote Allocation: Each Chartered Campus Chapter may cast three votes for each individual office. Each State Federation may cast two votes for each individual office. Each current executive board member may cast one vote, which shall be recorded with the votes from his or her state.
3. Majority: If a vote for any national office fails to produce a majority of voting delegates, the candidate who received the least number of votes shall be removed from the ballot and a new roll call vote shall be conducted amongst the remaining candidates until a majority of voting delegates is reached.

Section I (r): Quorum: The National Convention may conduct business when at least a majority of the total voting chartered campuses are present. Only delegates registered as members of a given chartered campus chapter may count toward that chapter's presence during Quorum Call.

Section I (s): Debate Limit

- A. Debate on Issues or Questions: Subject only to a motion to limit or extend the time of debate, debate on any issues or questions shall be limited to 5 minutes for proponents of the motion and 5 minutes for opponents of the motion.
- B. Total Debate on Issues or Questions: Total debate on any issues or questions shall not exceed 10 minutes total, unless a motion to extend debate is passed by at least a majority.
- C. Individual Limit: No individual shall be allowed to speak for a period of more than one minute during debate on any issue or question.
- D. Time Extension: If time is extended, it shall be done in such a manner as to maintain equal time for both proponents and opponents of the issue or question at hand.

Section I (t): Amendments to and Suspension of CDA Convention Rules: Amendments to, or suspensions of, the Rules of the Convention may be moved from the convention floor and shall require a three-fourths majority of voting delegates.

Article 7: Regions

Section I. Duties: Regional Chairs shall work with the Executive Board and National Council to: build College Democrats membership in each region; coordinate national initiatives with State Federations; coordinate national initiatives with campus chapters; communicate regularly with membership of the CDA, be a resources to state federations, represent Region on the National level Committee and other committees, task forces, or special projects as needed.

Article 8: Base-vote Caucuses

Section I: Duties: Base-Vote Caucus Chairs shall work to: recruit Caucus members; organize a forum for communication among their caucus; build CDA membership by reaching out to affiliated organizations; ensure that CDA devotes proper attention to issues important to the Caucus; and cultivate future College Democrats leaders.

Article 9: Parliamentary Authority

Article 10: Amendments and Bylaws

Amended by the delegates to the 2006 College Democrats of America National Convention, July 22nd, 2006

Attested:



Ralph Johnson
National Parliamentarian
Chairman, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
College Democrats of America

/s/Grant A. Woodard
Grant A. Woodard
National President
College Democrats of America