

Registered Student Organization Constitution Project

Working as a group (4-6 people), find an issue that you believe can be addressed by forming a registered student organization on the Illinois State University campus. Next, visit the URL:

<http://www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/studentorganizations/list/all/>

This URL lists all of the current RSOs on campus. Make sure that the proposed group does not share the same ideas and strategies as another organization. The group should then work together to determine:

- The name of the organization
- The goals and purpose of the organization
- Strategies for meeting the organization's goals
- How the leadership of the organization be structured
- The roles, responsibilities, and qualifications for leadership positions
- How the organization will obtain the funding that it needs to achieve its goals
- How an individual may become a member of the organization
- How the constitution will be ratified (i.e. how will the group show that it accepts the constitution?)

Once the group is in agreement on these issues, your group should begin drafting a constitution for your student organization. A template for an RSO constitution can be found at <http://www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/studentorganizations/pdfs/sampleconstitution.pdf>. The leadership structures and procedures that are addressed on this template are **suggestions**. It is important that your group addresses the specific needs and goals of this organization by creating its own unique structure. However, this template is an excellent guide to the types of issues that must be addressed, and addresses the proper structure of an RSO constitution. The basic guidelines for drafting a constitution may be found at

<http://www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/studentorganizations/constitution.html>

The groups should then prepare a presentation (8-10 minutes) discussing the need for this RSO before introducing the goals, purpose, leadership, membership, and funding of the organization as stated in the organization's constitution. Group members should split the time approximately equally among group members. The goal of this presentation is to persuade the members of the audience to join this organization.

All group members will be asked to evaluate the contributions of her/his group-mates. Your participation will be a significant portion of your grade.

How you will be graded (100 points total):

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Constitution | (50 points) |
| | 25 points clarity/25 points creativity & thoughtfulness |

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| Presentation | (35 points) | <p>5 points discussion of all of the bulleted points above</p> <p>5 establishing the need for this organization</p> <p>5 points credibility/relevant to audience/gained attention</p> <p>5 points clarity of presentation</p> <p>5 points organization of presentation</p> <p>5 points delivery</p> <p>5 points overall impression</p> |
| Participation | (15 points) | The grades awarded to an individual by teammates will be averaged along with self-evaluation grade to determine # of points |

Learning objectives

At the end of this project you should be able to:

- 1) analyze your environment and determine where change is needed
- 2) articulate a desire for change as well as a strategy for accomplishing it
- 3) negotiate with others about the goals and strategies of an organization
- 4) use consensus-building strategies in order to generate effective compromises
- 5) explain the format and purpose of a constitution
- 6) responsibly delegate authority to others within an organization
- 7) persuade others of the need and urgency for change within their community

Additional resources:

Alternate template for constitution:

<http://www.union.umd.edu/GSL/organizations/constitution.html>

Sample constitutions:

African Students Organization at the University of Pittsburgh:

<http://www.pitt.edu/AFShome/s/o/sorc/public/html/afsa/aso/aso-contst.html>

Stanford Martial Arts Program:

<http://smap.stanford.edu/docs/Constitution.pdf#search=%22student%20organization%20constitution%22>

Students for Freethought at the University of Wisconsin Stephens Point:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/freethought/Constitution.htm>

Registered Student Organization Proposal Project

Working as a group (4-6 people), find an issue that you believe can be addressed by forming a registered student organization on the Illinois State University campus. Next, visit the URL: <http://www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/studentorganizations/list/all/>

This URL lists all of the current RSOs on campus. Make sure that the proposed group does not share the same ideas and strategies as another organization. The group should then work together to determine:

- The name of the organization
- The goals and purpose of the organization
- Strategies for meeting the goals
- How the leadership of the organization be structured
- The roles, responsibilities and qualifications for leadership positions
- How the organization obtain the funding that it needs to achieve its goals
- How an individual may become a member of the organization

Gather resources that establish the need for this organization on campus or in the Bloomington-Normal area. Each group will be expected to use **three** sources and the results of **one** interview with an individual informed on the issue. Before beginning the interview you must:

- 1) Do your research first. It is very important to be well informed on the issue at hand before you walk into an interview setting.
- 2) Tell your instructor who you plan to interview and why this person's input is important to this topic.
- 3) Obtain a signed copy of the waiver indicating your instructor's approval of the interview.
- 4) Prepare a list of questions to be asked during the interview. Although it is optional whether you show this list to your instructor, he or she may help you to fine-tune the questions so that you get the most out of your interview.
- 5) **Make an appointment** with the person to be interviewed. This is a professional courtesy that is important in gaining legitimacy for your organization. Counting on walking into his or her office and getting an interview unannounced is not only not a sure thing, it is rude and extremely unprofessional. Call or e-mail ahead and make an appointment.

During the interview:

- 1) Take careful notes of the interviewee's responses. You will be expected to report what is said in this meeting verbatim. Should you decide to video or audio tape the interview, you will have to get special permission from the interviewee to do so.
- 2) Be upfront and honest during the interview. Using deception to gain access to an interviewee or to get the answers that you desire is extremely unethical.

- 3) Take note of which answer goes to which question. Failure to do this may result in taking information out of context. This will jeopardize the credibility of your interview and, subsequently, your report and presentation.
- 4) Make sure that the interviewee signs the waiver. It is important that you obtain written permission from him or her **before** beginning the interview.

These sources (including material from the interview) should be integrated into the group's **written report and presentation** in order to justify the need for the organization and to establish credibility.

Each group will be required to complete one three page report detailing the above responses to the above bulleted points and justifying the need for the organization. This report is to be turned in on the same day as the presentation. Please print all of the sources that have been used along with the attached waiver signed by you instructor, the interviewer, and the person to be interviewed.

The group should then prepare a presentation (8-10 minutes) discussing the need for this RSO before introducing the need, goals, purpose, leadership, membership, and funding of the organization. Group members should split the time approximately equally among group members. The goal of this presentation is to persuade the members of the audience to join this organization.

All group members will be asked to evaluate the contributions of her/his group-mates. Your participation will be a significant portion of your grade.

How you will be graded (100 points total):

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Proposal Report | (50 points) | 25 points clarity/25 points creativity & thoughtfulness |
| Presentation | (35 points) | 5 points discussion of all of the bulleted points above 5 establishing the need for this organization 5 points credibility/relevant to audience/gained attention 5 points clarity of presentation 5 points organization of presentation 5 points delivery 5 points overall impression |
| Participation | (15 points) | The grades awarded to an individual by teammates will be averaged along with self-evaluation grade to determine # of points |

Student Learning Objectives

At the end of this project you should be able to:

- 1) analyze your environment and determine where change is needed
- 2) articulate a desire for change as well as a strategy for accomplishing it
- 3) negotiate with others about the goals and strategies of an organization
- 4) use consensus-building strategies in order to generate effective compromises
- 5) interact with expert members of your community in order to create change
- 6) responsibly delegate and share authority to others within an organization
- 7) persuade others of the need and urgency for change within their community