

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PARTY OF THE LEFT

PREAMBLE

We, the Party of the Left, are a community devoted to political discourse. As such, we seek both to develop our Members as people and leaders, and to develop a new vision of the American Left. Our means are spirited discussion and formal debate of the politics, policies, and philosophies that divide our community. We value intellectual integrity: the willingness to examine one's innermost beliefs in a manner that is both honest and rigorous. Internally, we compete to present compelling visions of the Left. Externally, we test our ideas and abilities against our ideological opponents. We seek to bring discourse to the outside world, and the outside world to discourse. Together, we strive to advance the Party, the Yale Political Union, and the Left.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Party of the Left is for life.

Section 2: Members shall be eligible to vote at all Party meetings and caucuses unless otherwise specified.

Section 3. To become a Member of the Party of the Left, an individual must qualify as a voting Member of the Yale Political Union for the Party of the Left. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the chair. Candidates will be nominated for Membership at a Nominating Caucus.

Section 4. Membership status may only be conferred through an official induction proceeding at an Induction Caucus.

Section 5. Membership status may only be revoked through an official expulsion proceeding at an Expulsion Caucus.

Section 6. All individuals participating in the ratification of this Constitution are founding Members.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers elected by the Party shall be the Chair, Vice of the Left, and Chief of Staff. The officers appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the Advisory Board shall be the General Secretary, and An Activist.

Section 2: Additional officers may be appointed by the Chair with the advice of the Advisory Board as necessary.

Section 3: Any undergraduate Member shall be eligible to hold Party office.

Section 4: Elective officers shall serve a term of one fall or spring semester, commencing upon election to office.

Section 5: The Chair shall appoint, with the advice and consent of Advisory Board, a replacement for any elected officer who is removed, incapacitated, or has resigned, who shall serve until such time as the Party, in Caucus assembled, elects a successor.

Section 6: The Vice of the Left shall succeed the Chair in the event of the Chair's removal, incapacitation, or resignation.

Section 7: Officers shall be elected at an Election Caucus.

Section 8: Elected officers may only be removed from office through an official removal proceeding at an Impeachment Caucus.

Section 9: All appointed officers serve at the discretion of the Chair.

ARTICLE III: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The Chair shall be the leader of the Party of the Left, and is charged with representing the Party in all external and official matters. All officers of the Party are accountable to the Chair.

Section 2: The Vice of the Left shall promote the intellectual and social life of the Party, and particularly the intersection of the two, and shall assist the Chair at the Chair's direction.

Section 3: The Chief of Staff shall encourage attendance and participation at all Party and Union events. The Chief of Staff shall also fulfill the duties of Treasurer, as required by Yale University.

Section 4: An Activist shall assist the Chair by leading outreach and coordination with pertinent organizations on and off campus, and shall assist in the formulation of debate resolutions.

Section 5: The General Secretary shall chronicle the life of the Party of the Left.

Section 6: Additional duties may be added to each office at the discretion of the Chair.

ARTICLE IV: ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1: Members of the Advisory Board shall include all officers enumerated in this Constitution and all Sometime Chairs, as well as the current President, Speaker, Director of Campus Relations, Director of Development, Vice President, and Floor Leader of the Left of the Yale Political Union, should they be Members of the Party of the Left.

Section 2: All meetings of the Advisory Board shall be open to all members of the Party unless otherwise specified by the Chair.

Section 3: The Chair shall call meetings of the Advisory Board.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1: The Chair shall have authority to call meetings of the Party of the Left.

Section 2: The Chair shall preside over all Party meetings.

Section 3: Robert's Rules of Order, as understood within Party tradition, shall be the parliamentary authority for settling disputes in the meetings and caucuses of the Party, except in cases provided for in this Constitution.

Section 4: Speeches and questions on the floor shall not be censored on account of ideological content.

ARTICLE VI: CAUCUSES

Section 1: Whenever any caucus shall be called, the Advisory Board shall ensure that a good faith effort shall be made to contact all undergraduate Members of the Party of the Left at Yale. In the case of a Ratification Caucus or Expulsion Caucus, these efforts shall extend, in as much as is possible, to the entire Membership of the Party. No caucus shall convene with less than seventy-two hours advance notice.

Section 2: The Advisory Board shall have the authority to call Nominating Caucuses and shall do so at least once per semester. The motion to nominate to Membership shall require a two-thirds majority of those present to pass.

Section 3: The Advisory Board shall have the authority to call Induction Caucuses and shall do so at least once per semester. The motion to induct to Membership shall require

a majority of Members present to pass.

Section 4: The Chair shall have the authority to call Election Caucuses and shall do so at least once per semester. Voting shall be restricted to undergraduate Members present, and a majority vote shall elect each officer.

Section 5: The Advisory Board shall call an Impeachment Caucus upon receipt of a petition signed by half of the undergraduate Membership and the Chair. In the case of impeaching the Chair, a petition of half of the undergraduate Membership and two sometime Chairs shall compel an Impeachment Caucus. The officer must be formally charged and given opportunity to defend herself at the Caucus. The motion to remove from office shall require a three fourths majority of those present to pass. Quorum for an Impeachment Caucus shall consist of one half of the undergraduate Membership at Yale.

Section 6: The consensus of all undergraduate Members of the Advisory Board not themselves facing expulsion shall be necessary to call an Expulsion Caucus. No Expulsion Caucus shall convene with less than seven days advance notice of the proceedings. The Member faced with expulsion must be formally charged and given opportunity to defend herself at the Caucus. The motion to expel requires the unanimous vote of all undergraduate Members present, excluding the charged Member. Quorum for an Expulsion Caucus shall consist of two thirds of the undergraduate Members at Yale.

Section 7: The Advisory Board shall call a Ratification Caucus upon receipt of a petition signed by a majority of undergraduate Members at Yale and two additional Members of the Advisory Board. The Ratification Caucus shall be called within no more than a fortnight of receipt of the petition and no Ratification Caucus shall convene with less than seven days advance notice of the proceedings. The motion to ratify an amendment to this Constitution shall require the vote of a number of Members equal to two-thirds the undergraduate Membership of the Party. Quorum at a Ratification Caucus shall consist of one-half of the undergraduate Membership.

ARTICLE VII: FUNDS

Section 1: Funds of the Party of the Left shall be used primarily for publicity, but may also be used for food, refreshments or other incidentals.

Section 2: All party funds not provided by the Undergraduate Organizations Funding Committee shall be collected by voluntary contributions as necessary.

Section 3: In the event of the dissolution of the Party of the Left, all Party funds shall be distributed to the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to this constitution shall be made at a Ratification Caucus.

Section 2: All proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chair in writing.

Section 3: The text of and justification for the proposed amendment must be made publicly available to the entire undergraduate Membership no less than one week before the Ratification caucus. A good faith effort shall also be made to convey the text and justification to the entire Membership, in as much as possible.