



# FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

*Working for Women's Equality*

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## **CONSTITUTION (BYLAWS) OF [Name of School] Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the [Name of School] Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, establish this Constitution on [Date Ratified].

### **ARTICLE I. Name**

1. The name of this organization will be [Name of School] Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, henceforth referred to as the local campus group.
2. This organization will be a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-partisan, voluntary organization associated with the Feminist Majority Foundation.
3. The name Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance may be used only with the approval of the Feminist Majority Foundation. The Feminist Majority Foundation shall have the power to withdraw permission for use of the name Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance at any time that the local campus unit or its officers or members fail to conduct themselves within the purpose and principles of the Feminist Majority Foundation or fail to adhere to the standards set by the Feminist Majority Foundation for local campus units.

### **ARTICLE II. Purpose**

The purposes of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance of [Name of School] will be:

1. To establish a broad constituency to work in pursuit of feminist ideals -- social, political, and economic equality for women and men, girls and boys.
2. To study and take action on national, state, local, and campus feminist issues and concerns.
3. To provide leadership and career building opportunities for feminist students.
4. To educate the college/university community about feminist issues.
5. To enhance the feminist community on campus.

### **ARTICLE III. Principles**

1. The Feminist Majority Foundation promotes equality between women and men and boys and girls, and supports constitutional and statutory measures to gain full equality locally, statewide, nationally, and globally.
2. The Feminist Majority Foundation supports safe, legal and accessible abortion, contraception, and family planning, including Medicaid funding and access for minors.
3. The Feminist Majority Foundation is dedicated to achieving civil rights for all people, including affirmative action programs for women and people of color.
4. The Feminist Majority Foundation supports lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gay rights.
5. The Feminist Majority Foundation does not permit discrimination on the basis of sex, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, size or disability.
6. The Feminist Majority Foundation promotes non-violence and works to eliminate violence against women.



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7. The Feminist Majority Foundation encourages programs directed at the preservation of the environment, clean air and water, the elimination of smog, toxic and hazardous wastes, chemical and nuclear weaponry.

8. The Feminist Majority Foundation supports workers' collective bargaining, pay equity, and the end of sweatshops.

## ARTICLE IV. Local Campus Unit Standards

1. Any undergraduate student of **[Name of School]** who agrees with the Feminist Majority Foundation's purposes and principles as stated above may apply for official membership in the local campus unit. A member can apply by filling out a membership form (Membership Form for Activists) and submitting it to the campus group or directly to the Feminist Majority Foundation. We will strive to maintain a balance between students of all ages. Criteria for participation in the unit include written agreement with the organization's principles, commitment to participate in unit activities, and leadership/activist experience or potential.

2. The local campus unit may not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, ethnicity, or disability, and affirmatively seeks to achieve diversity among participants.

3. Within two years of its formation, the campus unit shall maintain a membership of at least twenty people.

4. The campus unit shall establish a faculty and staff team of advisors.

5. The campus unit shall hold at least one meeting per week during the school year.

6. The campus unit shall make efforts to establish links with feminist individuals and organizations within the community and on campus.

7. The local campus unit shall have be considered a fully chartered Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance when it submits it's signed and dated constitution and proof of campus charter to FMF. The group will then receive a certificate of charter and welcome packet from FMF.

## ARTICLE V. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee of the campus unit shall be comprised of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recorder.

2. The Executive Committee of the campus until may also include a Publicity Chair, Events Chair, Media Chair, Recruitment Chair, Communications Chair, Community Outreach Chair, Equality & Diversity Chair, Web Chair, and Class Representatives.

3. Each executive board member shall have specific responsibilities as outlined below but none will hold more or less power than other officers.

**President/FMLA Coordinator:** The President presides over general FMLA meetings; acts as a spokesperson for the group; chairs the executive committee; and acts as a liaison to faculty, administration, student government, and the Faculty/Staff team.

**Vice President/Co-President:** The Vice President is the liaison with the Feminist Majority Campus Organizer. The Vice President is also responsible for recruiting the faculty and staff team.

**Treasurer:** The Finance Chair is responsible for handling all accounting for the group, submitting budget proposals, applying to the school for grants or other funding, and planning at least two fundraisers a year. The Finance Chair reports on the status of the accounts at each meeting.

**Recorder:** The Recorder is responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings and submitting them to the group e-mail list and Campus Organizer.



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**Publicity Chair:** The Publicity Chair coordinates the advertisement and publicity of events and is responsible for ensuring the visibility of the group on campus and turnout to FMLA actions and events. The Publicity chair also works closely with the Recruitment Chair during recruitment drives.

**Events Chair:** The Events and Retention Chair is responsible for coordinating and consulting with appropriate committees in planning FMLA events and actions. Additionally, the Events Chair is responsible for introductions of new members at every meeting, planning social events, and strategies for boosting group morale. The Events and Retention Chair also works with the Recruitment Chair in planning events for the purposes of recruitment. Maintains ongoing communication with Campus Organizer during all event planning.

**Media Chair:** The Media Chair acts as a liaison to campus and community press, garnering press coverage for the group whenever there is an opportunity, including every FMLA event or action as well as letters and editorials submitted to local newspapers. The officer shall collect copies of all press coverage to send to the group's FMF Campus Organizer and to save for FMLA records. The Press Chair works closely with the Publicity Chair and the President or the Event Spokesperson to ensure consistency in message for all major events and actions.

**Recruitment Chair:** The Recruitment Chair is a leadership position recommended for a sophomore/second year student. She/he is responsible for consistent recruitment; planning events to increase membership throughout the year; contacting potential new members to inform them of meetings and events; and working with faculty and staff on strategies to improve recruitment. The Recruitment Chair should make an effort to ensure a diverse membership. The Recruitment Chair is also responsible for collecting FMLA Membership Forms, mailing them to the Campus Organizer, and maintaining copies for the groups' use.

**Communications Chair:** The Communications Chair is responsible for maintaining the group listserv and keeping the FMLA membership informed via email. The Communications Chair works closely with the Web Manager and submits FMLA information/pictures to the Campus Organizer for consideration for the *Choices* E-Zine and the online Journalism Center at [www.FeministCampus.org](http://www.FeministCampus.org), as well as other reports detailing events and projects the FMLA has undertaken.

**Community Outreach Chair:** The Community Outreach Chair acts as a liaison and outreaches to local women's rights and progressive organizations, as well as feminist community members in the local area; coordinates all activities in which the group works with community organizations.

**Equality & Diversity Chair:** The Equality Chair is responsible for ensuring that the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance is representative of the school's student body in terms of sex, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, and disability. The Equality Chair coordinates programs that focus on issues of diversity and the elimination of discrimination on campus and the greater community. She or he is in charge of on-going coalition building with other groups on campus, organizing an alliance of all progressive groups on campus (if one does not exist on campus), and actively participating in this progressive alliance. The Equality Chair works closely with the Recruitment Chair during recruitment drives.

**Web Chair:** The Web Chair works with the Feminist Majority Foundation's Online Campus Organizer to develop and maintain an online office/website. The Web Chair will learn how to set up, add, and update pages to the group's online office/website; checks [www.feministcampus.org](http://www.feministcampus.org) weekly to provide updates at meetings and publicize chats and online trainings; and brings information from the bimonthly e-zine to the share with the group. The Web Chair may collaborate with the Campus Team to host an online chat with group members during the academic year. The officer ensures that all group members have online usernames/passwords and teaches members how to use the *Choices* Campus Community website.

**Class Representatives:** Each class year may be represented on the executive committee by one or more Class Representatives. Each Representative is responsible for attending executive committee meetings and assuming responsibility for other tasks as needs arise.

4. Officers and members must be currently registered undergraduate students in good academic standing. Officers must be members for at least one term (quarter, trimester, or semester) prior to election, except for the first year that the local campus unit is established.



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## ARTICLE VI. Meetings and Procedures

1. Member in Good Standing/Voting Eligibility
  - A. Members who attend at least 50 percent of the regularly scheduled meetings, are enrolled in the campus at an undergraduate level during the academic year, and have been members for at least 30 days are considered members in good standing and are eligible to vote on organizational matters and in local campus unit elections.
  - B. Graduate students, non-members, and non-students are welcome to observe and participate in open campus group meetings, but may not hold offices or vote on organizational issues or in elections.
  - C. All members must complete a membership form and thereby affirming that they support the principles of the Feminist Majority Foundation.
2. Election of Officers
  - A. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the eligible voting members of the local campus group. Elections will be held on an annual basis during March, at a meeting comprised of a quorum (40%) of the organization's members. Special elections may also be held as needed to fill executive committee vacancies.
  - B. All voting shall be done by secret ballot.
  - C. Officers shall serve for the academic year following their election.
  - D. Results of all elections and officer contact information must be submitted to the Feminist Majority Foundation.
  - F. Elections will be held annually during March, Women's History Month.
3. Removal of Officers: Any officer of the local campus group who violates the organization's purpose or Constitution, injures the organization, or fails grievously to fulfill duties as stated may be removed from office by the following process:
  - A. Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting prepared to speak in her/his own defense;
  - B. Written notification to the membership; and
  - C. Seventy-five percent of the voting membership must be in attendance to vote on the removal of an officer. A two-thirds majority vote of members present is necessary to remove the officer.
  - D. *Robert's Rules of Order* will govern the removal or dismissal of officers.
4. Removal of Members: Any member of the local campus unit who violates the organization's purpose or Constitution or injures the organization may be removed from the group by the following process:
  - A. Written notification to the member of the request, asking the member to be present at the next meeting prepared to speak in her/his own defense;
  - B. Written notification to the membership; and
  - C. Seventy-five percent of the voting membership must be in attendance to vote on the removal of a member. A two-thirds majority vote of members present is necessary to remove the officer.
  - D. *Robert's Rules of Order* will govern the removal or dismissal of members.
5. Replacement: Should an officer resign or be removed, a special election will be held one month after written notification of all voting members.
6. Meetings: Regular group meetings will occur on a weekly basis at a time to be selected at the beginning of each academic term. Alternate between program meetings and executive committee meetings.

