

YDSA@UWM Constitution

Article I. Organization Name

1. The name of the organization shall be the Young Democratic Socialists of America at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, here forth referred to as YDSA@UWM.

Article II. Organization Purpose

1. YDSA@UWM is a section of the Young Democratic Socialists of America and, as such, is bound to the principles and governance of YDSA as prescribed in the YDSA constitution and bylaws.
2. YDSA@UWM is a chapter of the Youth Section of DSA that shall serve to further the following aims:
 - 2.1. To build the power of students, campus communities, and youth to fight for equality, justice, and democratic socialism.
 - 2.2. To develop, determine, and promote the policies and positions of YDSA and DSA.
 - 2.3. To provide support and assistance to chapters of YDSA, to assist and support the organization of new chapters, and to facilitate cooperation between chapters within Wisconsin.

- 2.4. To promote DSA among students, campus communities, and youth.
- 2.5. To educate and train YDSA@UWM members to prepare them for a lifetime of organizing in the service of a democratic socialist future.

Article III. Membership

- 1. Membership is open to any person under the age of 30 who is based in the greater Milwaukee area. Only active, dues-paying members of the DSA will be entitled to hold office.
- 2. This organization and its members comply with the MKE DSA's non-discrimination policy and related regulations.
 - 2.1. A member that is in violation of the MKE DSA's non-discrimination policy will be subject to sanctions or removal by the steering committee, without a vote from general membership.
 - 2.2. A member may be removed from membership by a 2/3 vote of the general membership, such a vote to be taken at a meeting for which proper notice has been given, due process has been observed and the removal is included on the agenda.
 - 2.2.1. Members may be removed from YDSA@UWM membership if they are found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization, or if they consistently engage in undemocratic,

disruptive behavior or if they are members of any external organization that publicly endeavors to undermine the efforts of the organization made according to the decisions of its internal democracy, or if they are found to be employed or contracted as a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer.

- 2.2.2. Members shall retain the right of freedom of association amongst themselves and the right to organize internal caucuses, factions, or groups that express support for or opposition to existing or new organizational policies in a comradely fashion and without inhibiting the work or democratic functioning of the organization.

Article IV. Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee is the body of elected officers and appointed, observational members who oversee the executive functioning of the chapter.
2. The Steering Committee officers shall consist of two Co-Chairs, one Secretary, one Treasurer, up to two Outreach Officers, and up to two Harassment & Grievance Officers. The Steering Committee observational members shall consist of one Head of Security.
3. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for the following:
 - 3.1. Administering chapter affairs.

- 3.2. Overseeing implementation of membership decisions.
- 3.3. Facilitating relationships with other organizations.
- 3.4. Any other duties related to the general functioning and maintenance of the chapter that are not covered in the constitution or bylaws.
- 4. The appointed, observational members shall be responsible for the functional necessities outside of leading the chapter.
 - 4.1. Observational members shall not have voting power in Steering Committee meetings.

Article V. Chapter Subgroups

- 1. Chapter subgroups shall include the following:
 - 1.1. Working groups defined as groups which are formed to carry out short term tasks/goals of the chapters work.
 - 1.2. Committees defined as groups which are formed to oversee and carry out the long term needs and goals of the chapter.
- 2. Chapter subgroups oversee the implementation and operation of specific chapter tasks and goals.

Article VI. Amendments

1. The Constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Members present at a Meeting, or by written ballot sent to all Members.
2. Any group of no less than five (5) Members may propose Amendments to be considered at a Meeting by petition submitted to a Co-Chair or the Secretary.
3. The Steering Committee or general membership may propose Amendments to be considered at a Meeting by majority vote.

YDSA@UWM Bylaws

Article I. Meetings

1. General Meetings

1.1. The chapter shall hold weekly general meetings at a set time and day of the week which is to be determined by the steering committee at the beginning of each semester.

1.2. The general meeting is the chapters operating legislative body

1.3. The co-chairs will create an agenda for each meeting and present it to the steering committee for approval.

1.3.1. The co-chairs may temporarily delegate the creation of the agenda to another member of the steering committee .

1.4. Members may submit an item for the general meeting agenda to a co-chair or the secretary.

1.5. In urgent matters, the agenda may be revised after its publication, but will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority Steering Committee vote.

2. Onboarding Meetings

2.1. The chapter will hold onboarding meetings for new members at least 4 times throughout the academic year.

- 2.2. The outreach officers and education committee are responsible for the planning and facilitating of the onboarding meetings.

Article II. Members

1. General membership shall serve as the highest decision making body of the chapter.
2. Members will be considered those who pay dues to the DSA, are affiliated with the UW-Milwaukee YDSA according to the YDSA, are under the age of 30, and who live in the greater Milwaukee area.

Article III. Officer and Delegate Elections

1. Nominations for steering committee officer elections will take place during the second-to-last general meeting of the spring semester.
 - 1.1. Only dues-paying members who are in good standing may nominate themselves or others for steering committee positions.
2. Elections for officer positions will take place during the final general meeting of the spring semester.
3. All officers must have a current membership status. All Steering Committee officer positions shall be elected by a majority vote of dues paying members.
 - 3.1. Officers shall hold their position until the next officer of their position is elected at the last general meeting of the Spring semester.

- 3.2. Elections shall be held online via a service specified by the Steering Committee prior to any election. Paper ballots will be provided to members upon request.
4. In the event of a vacant steering committee position, the following procedure will be followed:
 - 4.1. The steering committee may appoint an interim officer by a majority vote until a new officer is elected.
 - 4.2. The steering committee will call for a special election immediately, following the procedures defined in Sec. 1-3.
5. The number of Harassment & Grievance Officers shall be elected based on the size of membership:
 - 5.1. If the chapter consists of 50 or fewer affiliated members, the chapter shall elect one (1) Harassment & Grievance officer in accordance with the bylaws governing officer elections
 - 5.2. If the chapter consists of 50 or more affiliated members, the chapter shall elect two (2) Harassment & Grievance officers in accordance with the bylaws governing officer elections.
6. The duties of the officers of the SC shall be defined in Article IV of the bylaws.
7. Observational members of the Steering Committee shall be appointed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the elected Steering Committee officers.

Article IV. Steering Committee

1. Chapter Officers shall consist of the following:
 - 1.1. Two (2) Co-Chair;
 - 1.2. Secretary;
 - 1.3. Two (2) Outreach Officers;
 - 1.4. Treasurer;
 - 1.5. Harassment & Grievance Officer(s), here forth referred to as "HGO(s)".
2. A steering committee member will be considered "resigned" by meeting any of the following:
 - 2.1. Any steering committee member may resign upon giving written notice to a Co-Chair or Secretary, effective on receipt unless otherwise specified in the notice.
 - 2.2. A steering committee member will be deemed to have resigned by missing three (3) consecutive Steering Committee meetings unless excused from those meetings. The Secretary shall notify that steering committee member of an opportunity to be reinstated at the next Steering Committee meeting by majority vote if providing just reason for such absences and demonstrating continued interest in serving on the Steering Committee.
3. Termination of a steering committee member may be initiated by a majority Steering Committee vote or by a petition signed by no less than ten percent (10%) of all Members. Termination shall require a two-thirds (2/3) Member vote. Grounds for

termination include but are not limited to gross incompetence, willing mismanagement of funds, consistently acting or encouraging action in contravention of Chapter best interests, or other similar misconduct of a significant nature.

4. The duties of the officers of the SC shall be as follows:

4.1. The Co-Chairs shall:

- 4.1.1. Be the chief spokespeople and contacts of YDSA@UWM;
- 4.1.2. Be responsible for coordinating the administration and policy of YDSA@UWM;
- 4.1.3. Preside over meetings.
- 4.1.4. Provide meeting notices and agendas;
- 4.1.5. Be the point of contact for external organizations.

4.2. The secretary will:

- 4.2.1. Record meeting minutes;
- 4.2.2. Maintain internal documents such as minutes of meetings, original bylaws, and amendments to bylaws;
- 4.2.3. Provide meeting notices and agendas;
- 4.2.4. Be the point of contact for external organizations.

4.3. The outreach coordinators will:

- 4.3.1. Oversee the chapters recruitment efforts;
- 4.3.2. Administer social media accounts;
- 4.3.3. Organize and send event notices and press releases

4.3.4. Oversee internal chapter communications

4.4. The treasurer will:

4.4.1. Oversee chapter finances;

4.4.2. Keep an updated record of the chapter's donations and purchases;

4.4.3. Make disbursements to members who make purchases on behalf of the chapter;

4.4.4. Provide report of cash balance and transactions to co-chairs or steering committee upon request.

4.5. The HGO(s) will:

4.5.1. Abide by duties and regulations outlined in the [YDSA@UWM Harassment & Grievance Policy](#).

5. The duties of the appointed members of the SC shall be as follows:

5.1. The Head of Security shall:

5.1.1. Marshall and manage marshalls at demonstrations and events;

5.1.2. Coordinate with the security leads of external organizations;

5.1.3. Facilitate the training process for interested marshalls and security volunteers;

5.1.4. Maintain YDSA@UWM's bailout sheets.

Article V. Working Groups and Committees

1. Chapter subgroups may be created by the steering committee, or by a majority vote at a general meeting.
2. Chapter subgroups shall have a chair who is appointed by a majority vote of the general membership.
3. Chapter subgroups shall be answerable to the steering committee and the general membership and shall have only the decision making authority which is granted to them upon their creation.
4. The general membership may dissolve a chapter subgroup by a majority vote.

Article VI. Harassment, Grievances, and Disciplinary Action

1. All members, chapter meeting attendees, and HGO(s) are bound to abide by the UWM YDSA Harassment & Grievance Policy, which can be found [here](#).
2. Members and chapter meeting attendees may report any and all violations of the chapter code of conduct to the following email address: uwmysahgo@gmail.com
3. If any member or meeting attendee feels that their report requires escalation or that its investigation within the UWM YDSA will be insufficient or impartial, they may

make their report to the Milwaukee DSA HGOs at grievance.mkedsa@gmail.com, or to National DSA HGOs at nationalgrievanceofficer@dsausa.org.

4. Disciplinary actions are to be executed based on a 2/3rds vote of the Steering Committee.
 - 4.1. Disciplinary actions are to be made on the recommendation of the sitting Harassment & Grievance officer barring exigent circumstances (e.g. extreme violations of the Code of Conduct may result in immediate disciplinary action).
 - 4.2. Disciplinary actions may include:
 - 4.2.1. Suspension from chapter meetings and activity in chapter communications for a defined period of time, relative to the severity of the offense;
 - 4.2.2. Suspension of specific activities at chapter meetings or within chapter communications (e.g. the subjects of disciplinary action may be permitted to attend meetings, but prohibited from speaking);
 - 4.2.3. Explanation of violating conduct and decisions of the Steering Committee at general meetings or within chapter communications, with consent of the filing party;
 - 4.2.4. Permanent expulsion from chapter membership;
 - 4.2.5. Referral of the conduct and disciplinary action to the Milwaukee DSA or National Y/DSA, with recommendation for further disciplinary action;

- 4.2.6. Any attempt to intimidate, coerce, or dissuade filing parties or any named parties in any complaint from interacting with HGO(s) or grievance operations should be reported to HGO(s) and should result in immediate suspension or expulsion by 2/3rds vote of the Steering Committee.
- 4.3. Disciplinary actions may be appealed only once, following the execution of the disciplinary action, within a time limit of, at maximum, 4 years following the disciplinary action.
 - 4.3.1. Members or meeting attendees, current and former, are to submit their appeal to the chapter HGO email, listing their full contact information, original reason for disciplinary action, and any explanation they deem necessary or useful to the HGO(s).
 - 4.3.2. HGO(s) may recommend reversal, amendment to, or reaffirmation of disciplinary action by 2/3rds vote of the Steering Committee.
 - 4.3.3. Appeals by accused parties are not to be made to the Milwaukee HGO(s) or National Y/DSA HGO(s).
- 4.4. The UWM YDSA is not bound by the disciplinary recommendations of National DSA or Milwaukee DSA HGO(s), and may make their own recommendations and conduct their own disciplinary actions that may differ from external recommendations.

Article VII. Amendments

1. The Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation can only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Members present at a Meeting, or by written ballot sent to all Members.
2. Any group of no less than five (5) Members may propose Amendments to be considered at a Meeting by petition submitted to a Co-Chair or the Secretary.
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