

Constitution  
of the  
University of Maryland at College Park Delegation Chapter  
Maryland Student Legislature

*Preamble*

We, the students of the University of Maryland at College Park, in order to encourage awareness, interest and participation in the Legislative Process, while maximizing the potential of the Maryland Student Legislature at the University of Maryland at College Park, do hereby establish, institute and ordain this Debate Forum and its Constitution in order that our purpose be realized to its fullest extent.

*Article One: Name*

The name of the organization shall be the Maryland Student Legislature at the University of Maryland at College Park henceforth referred to as the UMCP Delegation Chapter to the Maryland Student Legislature.

*Article Two: Purpose*

The UMCP Delegation Chapter is established to:

1. Provide a model statewide simulation of the Maryland State Government and General Assembly affording a “hands on” experience in the Governmental and Legislative process through assemblance as members of Executive and Legislative Bodies.
2. Grant an opportunity to write, research and debate issues of local, state, national and international importance.
3. Provide a forum for Parliamentary Debate through recognition of the importance to the Right of Freedom of Speech and Expression.
4. Influence Government & Politics by actively participating in an environment of political activism and healthy deliberation with appreciation of the concept of representative government.
5. Educate, enable and encourage students at the University of Maryland at College Park in political participation by engaging campus and civic leaders on the issues of the day.
6. Fulfill its responsibilities of ability by the policies and procedures of the University of Maryland at College Park realizing the duties of citizenship.

*Article Three: Membership*

Section 1: Membership Eligibility

1. Membership shall be limited to those persons officially connected with the University of Maryland at College Park as registered enrolled students.
2. All students, full or part-time are eligible.
3. All students, regardless of age, color, creed, disability, gender, gender identity or genetic information, national origin, physical or mental condition, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation are eligible.

## Section 2: Active Membership

1. Guidelines for Active and Voting Member Status:
  - A. Be in good financial standing with the University of Maryland at College Park;
  - B. Payment of Delegation Chapter Dues, to be determined by the Delegation Chapter, to the UMCP Delegation Treasurer;
  - C. Attendance of at least 50% of all regularly scheduled meetings and attendance of at least two State Conferences during the MSL Calendar Year;
  - D. Participation in a majority of the activities sponsored by the UMCP Delegation Chapter unless the activity directly interferes with either economic or scholastic affairs.
2. All active voting members are granted rights and privileges to speak and vote in any forum of the MSL Programmatic Body.
3. Active Voting Membership privileges cease when said member is no longer registered and enrolled at the University of Maryland at College Park.

## Section 3: Delegation Chapter Officers

1. The elected positions of the UMCP Delegation Chapter shall be:
  - A. Delegation Chairperson (DCP): Duties include:
    1. Preside and represent the Delegation Chapter at all Meetings and Functions of the University of Maryland at College Park and the Maryland Student Legislature;
    2. Calls to order and presides over Delegation Chapter Meetings;
    3. Supervises tasks and work of the Delegation Chapter Officers;
    4. Prepare Monthly report to the MSL Office of Governor detailing Delegation Chapter activities;
    5. Coordinate mock debates on Delegation Chapter and MSL Legislation;
    6. Renew recognition with the UMCP Office of Student Activities;
    7. Appoint any members to positions or projects.
  - B. Vice-Delegation Chairperson (VDCP): Duties include:
    1. Preside and represent the Delegation Chapter at all Meetings and Functions of the University of Maryland at College Park and the Maryland Student Legislature in the absence of the DCP;
    2. Preside over Delegation Chapter Meetings in absence of the DCP;
    3. Spearhead recruitment of new Delegation Chapter Membership;
    4. Review all UMCP Legislation sent to the MSL Attorney General;
    5. Register members for MSL Legislative Events and coordinate the Delegation Chapter's desired Committee and Chamber assignments.
  - C. Delegation Treasurer (DT): Duties include:
    1. Collect and Record all monies acquired and disbursed by the Delegation Chapter;
    2. Create and Submit Budgets to the UMCP Student Government Association, in conjunction with the DCP, for funding considering:
      - a. Projected Registration Fees for all MSL Events approximating potential maximum attendance;
      - b. Projecting Event expenses in Lodging and Travel Costs;
      - c. Projecting Items for Office Supplies, Recruitment and Room Reservations in connection with Event Hosting and yearly maintenance;
      - d. Past funds owed to MSL, Inc. or the University of Maryland at College Park from the previous years.
    3. Handle all Delegation Chapter Accounts and Financial Transactions;
    4. Coordinates all Delegation Chapter Fundraising Projects.
  - D. Delegation Secretary (DS): Duties include:
    1. Document all official Business and Minutes conducted by the Delegation Chapter, excluding mock debates;

2. Keep Administrative Records of the Delegation Chapter and secures yearly mailing and office space;
3. Notifies all members of Delegation Chapter Meetings;
4. Maintains database of all Delegation Chapter Members.

#### Section 4: Delegation Chapter Officer Elections & Service

1. Elections may occur yearly prior to, but no later than, two weeks following the conclusion of the MSL Annual Session.
2. Election Eligibility:
  - A. All candidates must be students in good standing registered and enrolled attending the University of Maryland at College Park;
  - B. Candidates must:
    1. Have attended at least one MSL State Event;
    2. Have attended a majority of the regularly scheduled Delegation Chapter Meetings.
3. Election Process
  - A. All non-appointed Delegation Chapter Officers shall be elected yearly and the Election process shall be conducted according to Guidelines established by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised;
  - B. Elections will begin with the Offices in the following order: DCP, VDCP, Treasurer and Secretary;
  - C. At the Delegation Chapter Elections, the DCP or highest ranking Active Voting Graduating Member, shall take nominations from any Active Voting Member duly seconded by another Active Voting Member;
  - D. Candidates will have the ability to present a formal speech of intent prior to the Elections;
  - E. Delegation Chapter Officers are elected, by secret ballot voting, based on a simple majority of the Active Voting Members present with no proxy or write-in ballots permissible;
  - F. In the event an Active Voting Member is elected for both a Delegation Chapter position and a MSL Council of State position, he or she may surrender the Delegation Chapter position to the runner up in the Delegation Chapter Election or commence with a new election for the vacant Delegation Chapter position.
4. Delegation Chapter Officer Vacancy:
  - A. If a Delegation Chapter Officer resigns, the DCP shall appoint their replacement until a new Election can be held;
  - B. If the DCP resigns, the VDCP shall assume the position of DCP and an election for VDCP shall be conducted;
  - C. Any Delegation Chapter Officer in violation of this Constitution may be removed by the following process:
    1. Written request of at least 10 members of the Delegation Chapter, based on grounds of malfeasance, misfeasance or non-feasance to MSL;
    2. Written notification to the Delegation Chapter Officer of the request asking said Delegation Chapter Officer to be present at the next meeting and be prepared to respond to the request;
    3. Two-Thirds(2/3) vote of the Active Voting Membership present is required for removal of said Delegation Chapter Officer.

## *Article Four: Events & Meetings*

#### Section 1: Legislative & Programmatic Events

1. At all MSL Legislative Events, there shall be a representative of the UMCP Delegation Chapter led by one of the Delegation Chapter Officers:

- A. All Active Voting Members shall adhere to all professional standards of attire and decorum;
  - B. All Active Voting Members attending a MSL Legislative Event are encouraged to engage in deliberation through debate and questioning;
  - C. All Active Voting Members are encouraged to author or co-author a piece of legislation once during a current Legislative Year.
2. Delegation Chapter Meetings:
- A. Delegation Chapter Meetings shall be held weekly at a consistent on-campus location throughout the year;
  - B. Delegation Chapter Meetings shall be conducted by general parliamentary procedure in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

## *Article Five: Maryland Student Legislature, Incorporated*

The UMCP Delegation Chapter shall adhere to all directives, guidelines, procedures, regulations and rules issued by MSL, Inc. as long as it does not conflict with any directive, guideline, procedure, regulation or rule issued by the University of Maryland at College Park, in which case the latter shall supersede.

## *Article Six: Amendments*

Section 1: This Constitution is binding to all members of the UMCP Delegation Chapter.

Section 2: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in writing by any Active Voting Member of the Delegation Chapter at any regularly scheduled meeting where two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Voting Members are present.

Section 3: These amendments will be placed on the agenda for the next regular Meeting of the Delegation Chapter.

Section 4: Proposed amendments will become effective following approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Delegation Chapter Active Voting Membership present.

