Formatting Guidelines for Drafting Organizational Constitutions and By-Laws:

1. Type with formatting of standard size (8.5” x 11”) with 1” margins all around.

2. Any work submitted for your organization’s file is to be formatted in **Times New Roman, 12 pt font** and in a MS Word Document file.

3. Definitions:

**Constitution:** The system of fundamental laws and principles that prescribes the nature, functions, and limits of a government or another institution.


**By-laws:** a rule adopted by an organization chiefly for the government of its members and the management of its affairs.

--TEMPLATE--

CONSTITUTION OF (name of organization)
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH (CSULB)

Article I. Name of Organization: The name of this organization shall be (name of organization, followed by acronym if applicable). Refrain from starting your organization name with an article of speech (i.e. The) and refrain from starting your organization with the name of the University (i.e. CSULB or Cal State Long Beach).

Article II. Statement of Purpose:

Section 1. Insert Statement about your group. This statement should be at least one paragraph in length, specifically addressing the purpose and mission of your organization.

Section 2. To promote ethical leadership and academic achievement, and to cultivate civic responsibility.

Section 3. To provide the students opportunities for association and interaction with the faculty and administration of CSULB and with the members of the community.

Article III. Authority:

Section 1. This organization is a recognized student organization at California State University, Long Beach and adheres to all campus policies as set forth in the CSULB Campus Regulations Handbook (www.csulb.edu/regs). (Required)

Section 2. This organization is affiliated with [name of national or other off-campus organization]. (A copy of the national or off-campus organization’s constitution and bylaws must be filed with the Office of Student Life and Development.) [If there is no affiliation, simply state: This organization is not affiliated with any national or off-campus organization]

Section 3. This organization may establish Standing Rules to govern administrative and procedural matters (such as time and location of meetings, etc.). Standing Rules shall not conflict with these constitution and bylaws. Standing Rules may be adopted, amended, or temporarily suspended by a majority vote present at
an organization meeting where a quorum is present (advance notice is not required).

**Section 4.** The rules contained in the most recent version of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority for this organization and shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

**Article IV. Membership:**

**Section 1.** All student organizations are required to publish an anti-discrimination clause that includes at least the following language:

Eligibility for membership or appointed or elected student officer positions shall not be limited on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity/expression, marital status veteran status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability. The organization shall have no rules or policies that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity/expression, marital status veteran status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability.

*(Required)*

**Section 2.** Membership in the organization shall be open to all those regularly-enrolled CSULB students who are interested in membership. Each regular member has equal rights and privileges.

*(Required)*

**Section 3.** By California State University policy, no more than 20 percent of the membership shall be individuals who are not CSULB students (e.g., faculty, staff, community members, students at other colleges, etc.). Such members have all membership privileges except for the right to vote or hold office.

*(Required)*

**Section 4.** For the organization to be recognized by CSULB a minimum of five (5) matriculated CSULB students (who are currently enrolled in at least one class) need to be regular members.

*(Required)*

**Section 5.** Members *[shall or shall not]* be required to pay dues as voted by the membership.
Section 6. Members shall be required to attend at least [%] of the organization’s regularly scheduled meetings.

(Optional)

Article V. Officers:

Section 1. The elected officers of the Executive Board shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Chair, [etc].

Section 2. Qualifications necessary to hold office in this organization are as follows:

To be eligible for and to hold major and minor student officers or representative positions, candidates must meet the minimum requirements of the CSU policy titled “Minimum Qualifications for Student Office Holders,” AA-2012-05, dated March 27, 2012.

(Required)

A candidate for office must be carrying a minimum of six (6) undergraduate units or three (3) graduate units of regular university credit per semester at CSULB.

(Required)

All student representatives must be matriculated at the university, maintaining a minimum overall, on-campus cumulative 2.0 grade point average (GPA) at all times, and a 2.0 GPA in every semester while in office, and in the semester prior to running for office, and not be on probation of any kind.

(Required)

Undergraduate students are allowed to earn a maximum of 150 semester units or 125 percent of the units required for a specific baccalaureate degree objective, whichever is greater. Graduate and credential students are allowed to earn a maximum of 50 semester units or 167 percent of the units required for the graduate or credential objective, whichever is greater. Students holding over that number of units will no longer be eligible.

(Required)

Article VI. Meetings:

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be scheduled at least bi-monthly during the academic year.
Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or a member. All members must be given a minimum of 48 hours notice, weekends and holidays excluded, prior to the meeting time.

Section 3. Business cannot be conducted unless quorum of the membership is present.

Article VII. Executive Board: *(optional to include)*

Section 1. The elected officers shall constitute the executive board of the organization and each shall have one vote. The advisor(s) shall be ex-officio, non-voting members.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet no less than once a month during the academic year. Meetings of the board shall be open to any member.

Section 3. Approval by the President and the Treasurer is needed for all disbursements of $250.00 or less, which are not first brought before the organization for approval. Expenditures in excess of $250 must have majority approval of the organization.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall serve as a planning committee.

Article VIII. Succession of Officers:

Section 1. In the event of permanent incapacitation, resignation, or removal from office, the line of temporary succession shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity chair, [etc].

Section 2. Upon the vacancy of any office, a new candidate will be elected at the next regular meeting or at a special meeting.

Article IX. Hazing Prohibition: *(Required)*

This organization shall prohibit all members and officers from engaging in hazing or committing any act that injures, degrades or disgraces any fellow student.

Section 48900 of the Education Code

SEC. 4. Section 245.6 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

245.6. (a) It shall be unlawful to engage in hazing, as defined in this section.
(b) "Hazing" means any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current, or prospective student of any school, community college, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

(c) A violation of this section that does not result in serious bodily injury is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars ($100), nor more than five thousand dollars ($5,000), or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or both.

(d) Any person who personally engages in hazing that results in death or serious bodily injury as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (f) of Section 243 of the Penal Code, is guilty of either a misdemeanor or a felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment in county jail not exceeding one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison.

(e) The person against whom the hazing is directed may commence a civil action for injury or damages. The action may be brought against any participants in the hazing, or any organization to which the student is seeking membership whose agents, directors, trustees, managers, or officers authorized, requested, commanded, participated in, or ratified the hazing.

(f) Prosecution under this section shall not prohibit prosecution under any other provision of law.

SEC. 5. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Matt's Law" in memory of Matthew William Carrington, who died on February 2, 2005, as a result of hazing.

Article X. Discipline of Members (Required)

Section 1 This organization shall comply with Title 5, Section 41301, Student Conduct Code.

Section 2 All complaints alleging violations of the Student Conduct Code, Title 5, section 41301, et seq., shall be investigated pursuant to Executive Order 1073 and/or 1074 (in cases involving allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment or retaliation based on protected status). Investigations and other proceedings under Executive Orders 1073 and 1074 shall be conducted by campus administration, not student organizations, and this organization shall refer any complaints alleging subject matters covered by Executive Orders 1073 and 1074 to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Section 3 Complaints may also be brought to the attention of the Executive Board or the Office of Judicial Affairs. A written charge may be filed with the Executive Board or the Office of Judicial Affairs.
The Executive Board or the Office of Judicial Affairs shall review the charges and may conduct a preliminary investigation if deemed appropriate. If the preliminary investigation concludes that misconduct appears to have occurred, the Executive Board or the Office of Judicial Affairs shall conduct a hearing on the matter. The member alleged to have engaged in the misconduct shall be given at least 72 hours notice of the hearing and be given an opportunity to present a defense. By a majority vote, the Executive Board or the Office of Judicial Affairs shall determine whether misconduct occurred. If it determines that misconduct did occur, the Executive Board or the Office of Judicial Affairs shall prepare a report to the membership of its findings and recommended sanctions, which may include expulsion, suspension, or lesser sanction(s) including, but not limited to, a reprimand, removal from office, a fine or corrective remedies.

Section 4

The membership shall review the hearing report in executive session, and the member accused of misconduct shall have an opportunity to rebut the information in the report. After providing a statement to the membership, the member accused of misconduct shall leave the room for the remainder of the deliberations.

Section 5

The membership shall vote first on whether the member has engaged in misconduct. If by a two-thirds vote, the membership determines that misconduct has occurred, the membership shall then by a two-thirds vote, determine appropriate sanction(s). The accused member shall be immediately notified of the outcome.

Section 6

By a two-thirds vote, the membership may reinstate a member who has been suspended or expelled.

Article XI. Method to Amend and Renew the Constitution:

Section 1. Proposed constitutional amendments made by a member shall be presented to the organization, in writing, one meeting before it may be voted upon.

Section 2. Approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular meeting shall pass a proposed amendment.

Section 3. Approval by the University is needed to change the constitution. (required)

Section 4. Constitutions must be renewed with the University every 5 years. (required)
Bylaw I.  

Membership:

Section 1. Indicate what types of membership are available in the organization.
For example: There shall be two types of membership in the organization: regular and honorary.

Section 2. Explain how someone becomes a regular member. For example:
New members must complete a membership form, pays dues (if any), and submit these items to the organization secretary.

Section 3. Any member of the CSULB faculty and staff who has rendered outstanding service to the organization may be conferred with honorary membership by receiving a majority vote of the organization. Honorary members are ex-officio.

Bylaw II.  

Dues: (optional to include)

Dues shall be voted on by the membership.

Bylaw III.  

Officers:

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization. He/She shall be the official spokesperson of the organization, representing policies, views, and opinions of the organization in its relations with the campus and community at large. He/She shall have such further powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization.

Section 2. The Vice President shall preside at the organization meetings in the absence of the President. He/She shall perform all legal duties assigned to him/her by the President. The Vice President shall assume the office of President if the office becomes vacant. He/She shall notify all members of the organization meetings.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall handle all financial affairs and budgeting of the organization, maintaining all necessary accounting records. Said records shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. He/She shall maintain bank accounts in the
organization's name, requiring signatures of both the Treasurer and President for authorized disbursements. All disbursements in excess of $250 require the majority approval of the organization.

Section 4. The Secretary shall take minutes at all meetings of the organization, keep minutes on file and submit required copies to all organization members. He/She shall be responsible for all organization correspondence and shall keep copies thereof on file. He/She shall also act as historian and shall maintain all records of the organization.

Section 5. [Create additional sections to list duties of any additional elected officers.]

Section 6. In the event that an elected officer is unable to fulfill his/her term of office, there shall be an election to fill the vacancy at the next regular meeting or at a special meeting. Any eligible member, including those already holding office, may be nominated for a vacant office. However, an executive officer may hold only one position at a time.

Section 7. Officers may be recalled from office for cause. To initiate a recall election, a petition signed by [specify number, such as one-third of the total number of voting members] must be submitted at a regular meeting and a recall vote shall be taken at the next regular meeting. The officer subject to recall shall be given written notice of the recall at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which the recall vote will be held and shall be given an opportunity to provide a defense. A two-thirds vote is required to remove an officer.

Section 8. Officers shall assume office on [the first day of the semester/session following the election]. The term of office for the officers of the organization shall be for one academic year. No officer is allowed to hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

Bylaw IV. Advisors:

Section 1. There shall be at least one advisor from the faculty or professional staff [appointed or elected] by the organization.

Section 2. The organization shall [elect OR appoint] an individual employed as a faculty or staff member at CSULB to serve as the university advisor to this organization. Auxiliary staff and student assistants are not eligible to serve as advisors. The advisor shall fulfill the responsibilities specified in the Faculty/Staff Advisor Acceptance
of Responsibility Form. Advisors shall serve on an academic year basis or until their successor has been selected.

**Section 3.** The advisors shall serve a term of one year and will be [elected OR appointed] at the same time as the officers of the organization.

**Section 4.** The advisor(s) shall be ex-officio, non-voting member(s). *(required)*

**Bylaw V. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees: (optional to include)**

**Section 1** The organization shall have the following standing committees: [List all standing committees, such as Membership, Fund Raising, Program, Social, Bylaws, Nominations, Finance, Public Relations, etc.]

**Section 2** The duties of each of Standing Committees are as follows: [List the duties for each of the committees listed above.]

**Section 3** The President shall have the authority to establish ad hoc committees as may be necessary from time to time to carry out the work of the organization.

**Section 4** The President shall appoint the chairpersons and members of all committees [Optional: subject to ratification of the membership].

**Bylaw VI. Quorum:**

**Section 1.** The percentage of members that constitutes a quorum shall be fifty percent plus one.

**Section 2.** In voting, a majority shall consist of more than fifty percent of those voting.

**Section 3.** There must be a quorum in order for any official vote or election to occur.

**Bylaw VII. Elections:**

**Section 1.** Elections will be held once each academic year. Date of election to be established by the organization.

**Section 2.** At least one week's notice shall be provided for any meeting at which a regular election is to be held.

**Section 3.** Nominations for officers shall be made at the regular meeting immediately preceding the election. Nominations may also be
made from the floor immediately prior to the election for each office. Members may nominate themselves for an office.

Section 4.  Explain your organization’s process for elections. Show of hands and use of ballots are permissible. Please provide information such as who is able to handle ballots, who will count ballots, and deadline by which ballots must be counted. Ballots must be handled and counted by at least 2-3 individuals who are not running for any elected positions. It is important to include in the bylaws that ballot counting must take place on campus.

Section 5.  A majority of members of the organization shall constitute a quorum for an election.

Section 6.  A majority of all votes cast in the election shall be necessary to elect. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.

Bylaw VIII.  Method to Amend and Renew the Bylaws:

Section 1.  Proposed bylaw amendments made by a member shall be presented to the organization, in writing, one meeting before it may be voted upon.

Section 2.  Approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular meeting shall pass a proposed amendment.

Section 3.  Approval by the University is needed to change the bylaws. (required)

Section 4.  Bylaws must be renewed with the University every 5 years. (required)