

The Constitution of *The Critic*:

PREAMBLE

The Critic will serve to provide quality journalistic and editorial content to the Vermont State University - Lyndon campus through current platforms. It will deliver a range of opinions while keeping a high standard of journalistic integrity and self-respect. It will serve the interests of the students of VTSU - Lyndon and strive to keep them informed, educated, and entertained.

ARTICLE I

Name

The club will be referred to as *The Critic* in all instances.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section A. Types of Membership

There will be three types of membership within the club:

- Contributors are free to submit content to be reviewed for publication, use *The Critic* spaces and resources, and attend meetings/socials. If a Contributor wishes to seek voting privileges, they must attend two General Board meetings within the semester prior to the vote or seek Staff membership. Contributors do not have requirements for attendance, participation, or contribution to the club to maintain their membership status.
- Staff are considered a full-time member of the club, and in addition of all the privileges that Contributors have, they possess voting rights and are expected to attend meetings regularly and participate without absence. To gain and maintain Staff membership status, one must publish two contributions and attend two General Board meetings per academic semester. Contributions may include but are not limited to articles, pictures, art, and videos.
- Executive Board members have all privileges and duties of the other roles, as well as the responsibilities of their position as listed in Article III, Section A. They have stricter attendance and professional conduct expectations. They are voted in by a majority of the total membership once a year.

Section B. Membership Qualifications

All voting Contributors, Staff, and Executive Board members must be current students of Vermont State University - Lyndon. Contributors may be local community members, alumni, staff, faculty, or community members of the Vermont State Colleges System at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion.

Section C. Non-Discrimination Statement

The Critic or any part thereof shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, veteran's status, marital status, or any other status protected by law. *The Critic* will also not discriminate based on political views or affiliation.

Section D. Selection of Members

- Staff membership will be automatically granted upon a *The Critic* member reaching the milestone of publishing two contributions and attending two meetings within a single semester time period.
 - One or more members of the Executive Board are expected to notify the club member of their promotion through official university email.
 - Club members may accept or deny Staff membership at their personal discretion.
- Executive Board positions will be voted on by 11:59 pm, March 31st of the spring semester.
 - Responsibilities of the Executive Board and each individual position shall be presented to the General Board at least one (1) week prior to elections.
 - Each position that is contested will be voted on by the entire voting body. A simple majority (greater than 51%) is needed for a passing vote.
 - Elections will take place via anonymous written ballot.
 - In the event of a tie, the following procedure will occur...
 - Executive contestants with the highest votes will give final statements and a re-vote will occur. Only those top contestants will be included on the new ballot.
 - If there is another tie, the winner will be determined by activity within the club. Point values of one (1) will be assigned to attendance of general board meetings, publication of contributions, and attendance/assistance of club events. The contestant with the highest point value will assume the executive role.
 - Further tie-breaking measures will occur at the discretion of an assembly of the Editor-in-Chief and Advisor.
 - Following the elections, newly appointed executive board members shall shadow Executive Board Meetings, Office Hours, and the budgeting process of their predecessors for the month of April until their official term in office begins.
 - The new executive board shall assume their positions in full and run the final General Board meeting of the academic year.
- In the event an Executive Board position is vacant during the academic year, and it is more than two months before the end of the spring semester, a mid-term election may occur.
 - Mid-term elections will occur at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Applicants filling out a form stating what position they are running for and why they would be suitable for that position.
 - Applicants sending a resume to the Editor-in-Chief.
 - Applicants presenting their case at the next available club meeting.

- Each position will then be voted on by the entire voting body. A simple majority (greater than 51%) is needed for a passing vote.
 - Elections will take place via anonymous written ballot.
 - In the event of a tie, tie-breaking measures as listed above must be followed.
 - If the vote does not pass, members must wait one month before they may reapply for an Executive Board position.

Section E. Voting Privileges

- Voting Contributors, Staff, and Executive Board have voting privileges on the following issues:
 - Executive Board positions
 - Impeachment proceedings
 - Amendments to the constitution-
 - Any other business the Executive Board deems necessary to have a vote on.
- All votes must be done at an official General Board or Executive Board meeting, recorded in the meeting minutes report. These meetings may occur in-person or virtually through Zoom, Facebook, or other substitute means of face-to-face communication.

Section F. Termination of Membership

- Contributors and Staff members may be removed from *The Critic* or have their membership status demoted...
 - If there is material evidence of a club member breaking the rules set forth in this constitution, in which the Executive Board and club Advisor may meet and come to a consensus of grounds of removal or demotion.
- Executive Board members may be removed from *The Critic* or have their membership status demoted if the following impeachment process is followed...
 - Impeachment proceedings begin once a petition with at least half of the voting body in favor is delivered to the Executive Board and club Advisor.
 - The petition must outline the reasoning of the impeachment.
 - If the petition is formulated against the Editor-in-Chief or Student Government Representative, the petition must outline a successor and the successor must sign the petition.
 - If the reason for impeachment is not due to a failure to uphold the constitution, the club Advisor will decide whether there are grounds to continue the impeachment process or if other methods of restorative justice may be sought out.
 - At the next general board meeting, there will be a vote on the matter mediated by the club Advisor.
 - A two-thirds (66%) or greater majority vote of those present is sufficient protocol of impeachment.
 - In pursuing Editor-in-Chief and/or SGA Representative impeachments, if voting requirements have been met, and the requirements for impeachment are followed as they are written in the constitution, then there will be a one week transition

period between the old leadership to the new leadership. After one week from the vote, the successor assumes the vacated role.

- In pursuing the impeachment of an Executive Board role without the need of a successor, mid-term elections may take place as written in Article II, Section D.
- The impeached person is not able to serve on the Executive Board for the remainder of the academic year.

ARTICLE III

Officers (Executive Board Members)

Section A. Elected Officer Responsibilities

Executive Board officers...

- Shall have access to *The Critic's* Google account for official record keeping.
- Are allowed up to two (2) unexcused absences per semester in attendance of any club meeting.
 - Unexcused is defined as unrelated to academia, VTSU affiliated extracurriculars events, or other job hours.
 - Unexcused is also defined as a personal reason without notice before a meeting.
- Shall attend a minimum of one (1) club sanctioned event per semester.
- Shall hold a minimum of two (2) office hours.
 - In those office hours, Executive Board officers are required to maintain general care for the office space.
 - Actions performed during office hours must be recorded on the Office Hours Table.
- Shall handle any relevant paperwork or other responsibilities as assigned.

Additional responsibilities per role on the Executive Board are as follows:

- President / Editor-in-Chief:
 - Shall be the official spokesperson of *The Critic*.
 - Shall be responsible for daily operations of *The Critic*.
 - Shall manage the social media and the overall web presence of *The Critic*.
 - Shall manage the staff.
 - Shall be responsible for all budgetary and editorial decisions.
 - Shall be responsible for recruiting new members.
 - Shall serve one (1) additional office hour.
 - Shall draft a meeting agenda document 24 hours prior to a meeting.
 - Shall work with the Associate Editor to assign tasks to staff members.
 - Shall work with the Associate Editor to review submitted articles prior to publication.
 - Shall work with the Treasurer to create a budget request report and presentation ahead of the annual Student Government budgeting process in the spring semester.
 - Shall be the sole executive member to decree any Executive Order.
 - Shall fill in for, or delegate the role of, any Executive Board member who is unable to perform their duties.

- Shall act as point-person and organizer of any *The Critic*-sponsored event, unless otherwise delegated.
- Shall have access to *The Critic*'s university email, TheCritic@VermontState.edu, for official communications and subscriptions.
- Vice President / Associate Editor:
 - Shall work with the Editor-in-Chief to assign tasks to staff members.
 - Shall keep track of all stories currently in progress and be responsible for communicating with staff members regarding story deadlines and due dates.
 - Shall work with the Editor-in-Chief to review submitted articles prior to publication.
 - Shall fill in for the Editor-in-Chief in the event they are unable to perform their duties.
 - Shall oversee the maintenance of *The Critic*'s office space and physical archive collection.
 - Three (3) copies of any *The Critic* edition shall be kept for archival purposes.
 - One (1) copy of any *The Critic* edition shall be given to the Samuel Reed Hall Library for archival purposes.
 - Shall oversee one (1) "special project" as decided by a meeting between them and the Editor-in-Chief.
 - Shall have access to *The Critic*'s university email, TheCritic@VermontState.edu, for official communications and subscriptions.
- Secretary:
 - Shall keep accurate account of all members' status within the club.
 - Shall keep accurate account of all meeting minutes.
 - Meeting minutes are defined as start and end times, attendance, discussion, and official votes.
 - Shall distribute meeting minutes, meeting reminders, and event advertisements with club members via university email.
 - Shall maintain an archive of all previous club records relating to the above secretarial responsibilities.
- Treasurer:
 - Shall keep account of the budget and all club assets.
 - Shall keep account of all fundraising.
 - Shall work with the Editor in Chief to create a budget request report and presentation ahead of the annual Student Government budgeting process in the spring semester.
 - Shall act as the Alternative SGA Representative should the role be vacant or the individual not able to perform their duties.
- SGA Representative:
 - Shall attend all SGA meetings and take accurate account of all events transpiring there.
 - Shall familiarize themselves with the SGA agenda, previous meeting minutes, and other relevant documents prior to the meetings.
 - Shall publish articles summarizing SGA meetings.

- Shall act as a reporter at a press conference during SGA meetings in a sense that pertinent questions for *The Critic's* audience may be asked.
- Shall accurately represent *The Critic* in meetings and encounters with the SGA.
- Shall present important notes from SGA meetings at the following *The Critic* General Board meetings.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section A. Regular Meetings

- General Board meeting times will be decided upon by the Executive Board before the beginning of the semester. Once decided meeting times will be communicated to club members via email, and to the SGA.
 - Meetings can be canceled at least four hours before the meeting is set to occur by Executive Order and do not require a majority ruling.
 - Meetings canceled within four hours of their occurrence require a majority ruling by the Executive Board members.
- Executive Board meeting times will be decided upon by the Executive Board before the beginning of the semester. Once decided meeting times will be communicated to club members via email, and to the SGA.
 - Meetings can be canceled at least two hours before the meeting is set to occur by Executive Order and do not require a majority ruling.
 - Meetings canceled within two hours of their occurrence require a majority ruling by the Executive Board members.
 - Executive Board meetings must have a quorum of at least three (3) members to occur.
 - If the Executive Board is made up of three (3) members or less, all must be present to host an executive meeting unless given explicit permission to continue by the missing party(ies).

Section B. Special Meetings

- Special meetings may be called in extreme circumstances by Executive Order or by petition of one-half (1/2) of the voting body.
- Special meetings will occur one week after being called for, and all club members will be notified by the standard means of communication.

Section C. Norms of Business Meetings:

- The Editor-in-Chief or their designee will act as moderator on all discussions and has full authority on the proceedings.

ARTICLE V

Advisor(s)

Section A. Selection of Advisor(s)

- An advisor is selected by the Executive Board by simple majority vote.
- An advisor will retain their title until they resign or until the Executive Board picks a new advisor.

Section B. Responsibilities of Advisor(s)

- Shall give advice towards any aspect of the operations of *The Critic* as they see fit and review any print articles before publication.
- Shall keep track of all *The Critic* accounts and passwords.
- Shall have access to *The Critic* Google account for official record-keeping.
- Shall have access to *The Critic*'s university email, TheCritic@VermontState.edu, for official communications and subscriptions.
- Shall mediate conversations of membership termination and demotion as labeled in Article II, Section F.

ARTICLE VI Emergency Clause

Section A. Defining Emergency

- An “emergency” is defined as, but not limited to, the following:
 - local, state, national, or global crisis
 - local, state, national, or global emergency
 - local, state, national, or global pandemic
- Government officials, university President, university Dean of Students, and/or the club advisor can call an emergency.

Section B. Supersede the Constitution

- If conditions for an emergency are met, the club Advisor and Editor-in-Chief have the authority to supersede portions of *The Critic*'s constitution in order to continue regular club activity.

ARTICLE VII Amendments

Section A. Constitution

- Any voting member can present an amendment to the constitution during a General Board meeting.
- There will be a vote for the amendment at the next meeting.
- The amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds (66%) or greater majority.

ARTICLE VIII Bylaws

Section A. Official Means of Communication:

- All important communications will occur over official university email, including all announcements.
- An Executive Board group chat may be created exclusively using Microsoft Teams or another university-sponsored application.

Section B. Article Submission:

- The Editor-in-Chief reserves final judgment in regard to approving any publication in *The Critic*.
- Membership does not guarantee the publication of articles.
- The Editor-in-Chief can retract any article at any time for any reason.

ARTICLE IX
Board of Trustees

- The Board of Trustees is the legal governing body of the Vermont State Colleges System and nothing within this constitution is being constructed to grant the faculty, students, or other body concerned, the authority to act outside the policies of this board.
- The Board of Trustees has the right to suspend any *The Critic* activity as they see fit.