

Constitution of Horticultural Sciences Students Club

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is Horticultural Sciences Students Club (HSSC).

Article II. Purpose Statement

The primary purpose of this organization is to create an environment for graduate and undergraduate students at the Horticultural Sciences Department within the University of Florida can meet and interact with one another on a social and intellectual level. These goals shall be achieved through club meetings, social gatherings, and seminars on topics related to the field of horticultural sciences.

*This organization shall be not for profit or non-commercial in nature.

Article III. Compliance Statement: Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, Horticultural Sciences Student Club shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Horticultural Sciences Student Club shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University's regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Article IV. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Non-Discrimination Horticultural Sciences Student Club agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

Section B. Sexual Harassment Horticultural Sciences Graduate Student Club agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment.

Section C. Hazing Horticultural Sciences Student Club agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

If this organization becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, Horticultural Sciences Student Club will report it immediately to Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, or the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Article V. Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment. All members will receive a copy of this constitution and sign an acknowledgment term, by which confirms the reading and acceptance of this current Constitution. An **active/full member** is eligible for the travel grant or educational trip benefits if the following set of requirements are fulfilled:

- Have **at least 75% attendance of the meetings** from Fall to application deadline;

- If the member joined UF in Spring or Summer, the member isn't eligible for the current year's travel grant or Summer trip. Therefore, the member needs to put in a full year of service to be eligible, fulfilling the 75% meeting attendance required until application deadline;
- A full year of service for any member will be considered from the first attended meeting for the member;
- All members are encouraged to **actively participate** of the sale events held by the Club (i.e. Strawberry Sale), garden day, and socials. Each member is **required to fulfill at least 3 shifts of work at the Sale**. Unloading is considered as 1 shift.
- Volunteer services will count up to the discretion of the officers. Off campus students should get alternate opportunities to make up for on campus club activities and volunteer services.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1: The elected officers shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Part 1: The President is responsible for presiding over meetings and acting as the official representative of the club.

Part 2: The Vice-President is responsible for all Presidential duties in the event the president is unable to fulfill his or her role.

Part 3: The Treasurer is responsible for handling funds, whether collected or distributed for formal or informal events, as well as, maintaining accurate records of all financial transactions.

Part 4: The Secretary is responsible for recording minutes at the meetings, as well as maintaining important documents for the club.

Section 2: The officer positions will be filled through a nomination being offered, followed by the nominee accepting. A vote will then be held in the event of more than one person is nominated for a position. First years are not eligible for an office position, unless veterans are not in enough number or have extrapolated the time of permanency in the position. Any member of the organization may make nominations.

Section 3: Officers will hold office from the beginning of the Fall semester through the end of the Spring semester, at which time elections will be held for all positions. There will be no limit to the number of terms any single person can be re-elected. Any disagreements/changes over the constitution will be voted on by officers. In the event of a tie, the officers will ask the faculty advisor for a tie breaker.

Section 4: The office of Faculty Advisor is to be agreed upon by more than 50% of all members. The faculty advisor may then accept or decline the position. The faculty advisor should be one whose ideals are aligned with the organizations purpose and is willing to serve as a source of information and advice for the club. A Faculty Advisor will never take decisions on behalf of the group or overpower officers' decision.

Section 5: The Faculty Advisor will support the club members in fulfilling the purpose of the club, be a resource for ideas and advice, and represent the club to the community and the University of Florida as needed.

Section 6: The impeachment of an officer can only occur when 2/3 of all the full members of the club vote in approval. The Faculty Advisor must also agree to the impeachment.

Article VII. Elections

Section 1: Elections of new officers will take place September of every year.

Section 2: Any **active/full club member** can be nominated for any office.

Section 3: Members who are running for office must accept the nomination.

Section 4: Officers must be elected by simple majority by a hand vote. If a tie between running members for a position occurs, a brief two-minute speech will be required by each running member

and a revote will be conducted thereafter. This process will be repeated until a running member is chosen by majority hand vote.

Section 5: If an officer decides to step down from office, a different officer will temporarily fill the position, as decided by the remaining officers. An emergency club meeting will be held at which point an election for the position will occur. The election will proceed as stated above.

Article VIII. Faculty Advisor

The faculty advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The faculty advisor should attend executive and general meetings; however, the faculty advisor may not vote in any Horticultural Sciences Student Club matters. The faculty advisor shall be nominated by the officers and confirmed by a majority vote of the members. The faculty advisor will serve a term of two (2) academic years. In the event that the faculty advisor is unable to continue in their position, officers may nominate a replacement at any time, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the members.

Article IX. Finance

HSSC will not require membership dues; however, it will raise funds through sales and similar activities, for travel to leadership conferences, t-shirts, and field trips. Members are expected to participate in these fundraising activities. The fundraisers are held to stimulate the members to engage conversation and professional relationship with growers, as well as development of soft skills during the sale. All the funds are directed towards an educational trip and/or travel grant. Only eligible members will receive the benefit for one or other activity.

Member's application for travel grant shall be submitted by the deadline and no past year's funds will be recovered. All the submissions will be analyzed by the officers and individual answers will be send to all the applicants. If funds aren't claimed till last day of classes for next Spring semester, it will be part of club's savings for the following year.

Article X. Dissolution of Organization

In the event this organization dissolves, all funds left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Horticultural Sciences Department.

Article XI. Amendments to Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of this organization. Any amendment proposed must be done in writing and voted upon by all members. No less than 2/3 of the members must agree to the amendment.