

Bylaws of American Association of University Women of North Carolina

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of the organization is American Association of University Women (AAUW) of North Carolina (NC).

ARTICLE II. Government

The Bylaws of AAUW govern NC in all its practices. The bylaws of NC do not conflict with the Bylaws of AAUW. Every amendment to the Bylaws of AAUW becomes effective and binding on NC.

ARTICLE III. Purpose

The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The purpose of AAUW NC is to further the AAUW mission, program, and policies within NC and promote, encourage, and coordinate the work of the AAUW branches within NC.

ARTICLE IV. Use of Name

Section 1. Policies and Program. The policies and program of AAUW is binding on all members, and no member will use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or program. A policy or program is changed using established channels.

Section 2. Proper Use of Name and Logo. Only individuals and groups acting in a lawful and ethical manner, consistent with AAUW policies and procedures, may use the name and logo of AAUW. States and branches that are delinquent in filing required tax, corporate, and/or bylaws documents with AAUW and/or the IRS are prohibited from public use of the name and logo. The AAUW Board of Directors may impose further sanctions for misuse of name, including loss of AAUW affiliation, especially concerning any statement or action that misrepresents or jeopardizes the tax status of AAUW.

Section 3. Individual Freedom of Speech. The freedom of speech of the individual member to speak a personal opinion in the member's own name is not abridged.

Section 4. Violations. Violation of the Use of Name policy results in action taken in accordance with AAUW policy.

ARTICLE V. Membership

Section 1. Membership Eligibility. A graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduated schools at qualified universities of the United States is eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership. Such membership is granted upon payment of AAUW dues. Provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to membership. Refusal to admit an eligible graduate to branch membership results in loss of recognition of a branch.

Section 2. Branch Member. A branch member is a national member of AAUW who is also a member of AAUW NC and a branch. Members are entitled to vote, hold office, and participate in all branch and NC activities and programs.

Section 3. State Member. A state member is a national member of AAUW who is also a member of a branch of AAUW in North Carolina. All members of branches are required to pay NC branch and state dues to AAUW NC. Members are entitled to vote, hold office, and participate in all branch and NC activities and programs.

Section 4. Partner Member. College/university partner members are qualified educational institutions, including two-year or community colleges that pay annual dues to AAUW. Each college/university member appoints one or two representatives who each have the membership benefits of a national member. Representatives of college/university partner members, who choose to join a branch in NC, have all the same rights and privileges as other members of NC.

Section 5. Life Members

- a. **Paid Life Member.** Paid life members of AAUW, as defined in AAUW policy, who are branch members within NC, are required to pay annual state and branch dues.
- b. **Fifty-Year Honor.** Any branch member who has paid AAUW dues for fifty (50) years becomes a life member and, thereafter, exempt from payment of Association, state, and branch dues.

Section 6. Student Affiliates. An undergraduate student enrolled in a regionally accredited educational institution is eligible for student affiliation. Student affiliates are entitled to attend branch, state, and Association meetings and receive the publication distributed to all members of AAUW. Affiliates may not vote or hold office. Fees for student affiliates are established by the AAUW Board of Directors. State fees are established by the state Board of Directors. Branch fees are established by the branch Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI. Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year corresponds with that of AAUW and begins July 1.

Section 2. Dues

- a. The annual state dues for branch members are fixed by a two-thirds vote of eligible voters at the annual state meeting. The State Board of Directors must provide written notice of dues' changes to all members thirty (30) days before the annual meeting. Dues include a subscription to the state and Association publications distributed to all members. Such dues are payable to state treasurer on July 1. Dues of new members may be accepted any time.
- b. **Reciprocity.** All states have a reciprocal membership policy. Payment of any additional dues is waived for a transferring member whose current dues have been paid to another state.
- c. College/university members pay no state dues.
- d. A branch member, recognized by AAUW between December 1 and June 30, pays state dues at half the annual amount.
- e. New members or former members, who have not renewed for two or more years, pay one-half the annual due when paid to the state treasurer between January 1 — March 15.

Section 3. Budget. The annual budget for the state is prepared by the Treasurer/Finance Committee, approved by state Board of Directors, and sent to the membership no later than thirty (30) days before the start of the fiscal year.

Section 4. Financial Review. The elected officers of the state control funds to assure their safekeeping and accounting and are responsible for the safekeeping and accounting of all monies in the state treasury. An annual review of the state treasury is conducted. The state sets and maintains policies and procedures to control financial records consistent with generally accepted accounting procedures and principles; and federal, state, and local laws.

ARTICLE VII. Officers and Committees

Section 1. Elected Officers. The elected officers of this state are President (Administrative Officer), Branch Advocate, Vice President, and Treasurer (Financial Officer). Two (2) people may be elected to these positions to serve as a team in these positions.

- a. The Executive Committee is comprised of the four or more elected officers.

- b. The President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, determines Standing and Ad Hoc committees and appoints their chairpersons.

Section 2. Qualifications for Office. The above-mentioned officers and chairpersons must be members of AAUW North Carolina.

Section 3. Terms of Office. The term of each officer begins on July 1; however, the incoming or continuing President may call meetings of the incoming officers and chairpersons prior to July 1 for the purpose of approving appointments and making plans for the coming year. Elected officers will serve for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected or appointed and have assumed office. No elected officer will hold the same office for more than four (4) consecutive years.

Section 4. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy in the office of President whether by resignation or upon death, will be filled for the unexpired term by the following order:
 - i. The Vice President
 - ii. Branch Advocate
 - iii. If neither Vice President or Branch Advocate accepts the position, the nominating committee presents a nominee to be elected by the Board of Directors
- b. A vacancy in any office other than President is filled for the unexpired term by an appointment of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. Duties of Officers

Section 1. Duties. Officers perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, by AAUW's job descriptions, and those specified in the Policy Statement.

- a. **President.** The President represents NC in activities of AAUW. The President is responsible for submitting such reports and forms as required by AAUW. The President is the official spokesperson for NC.
- b. **Vice President** The Vice President performs such duties as the President and Board direct.
- c. **Branch Advocate** The Branch Advocate is the liaison between the board and the branches. This officer leads the Presidents' Council, comprised of the Branch Presidents in the state. The Branch Advocate calls and leads meetings of the Presidents' Council and reports to the Executive Committee. The Branch Advocate performs such other duties as the President and Board direct.
- d. **Treasurer** The Treasurer is responsible for the collection of state dues and the accounting of all funds of the state. The Treasurer meets all specified deadlines.

Section 2. Responsibilities Any of the elected officers may also have the responsibility of heading committees or task forces as decided by the executive committee. The committee or task force chairs are members of the Board of Directors of AAUW-North Carolina.

- a. The Presidents' Council has the responsibility to report to the Board, through the Branch Advocate, branch activities, and actions.
- b. All official branch meetings and board meetings are recorded by someone other than the contacts for finance and administration. The president ensures these minutes are filed so they are available on request.
- c. If the board votes to remove an officer elected by the membership, the removal is not valid until approved by the Presidents' Council.

Section 3. Committees or Task Forces. Committees or task forces are created by the elected officers for the needs of the state organization. These committees or task forces may, but do not need to, include committees listed in the policies of AAUW NC.

ARTICLE IX. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations

- a. Suggestions from members and branches for nominations are submitted in writing to the chair of the nominating committee at least four months before the annual state meeting. The chair reports to the members of the committee all names received.
- b. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election, provided the nominee has consented.

Section 2. Elections

- a. All members in good standing at the Annual State Meeting elect Officers.
- b. Election is by ballot except when there is only one (1) candidate for an office, in which case the election may be by voice vote.
- c. A majority of the votes cast is necessary for election.
- d. The President and Branch Advocate are elected in odd years; the Vice President and Treasurer in even years.

ARTICLE X. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Presidents' Council

Section 1. Composition

- a. The Executive Committee and the appointed committee chairs comprise the Board of Directors.
- b. The elected officers comprise the Executive Committee.
- c. The Presidents' Council, led by the Branch Advocate, consists of the presidents of branches within AAUW-NC.

Section 2. Powers and Duties

- a. **State Administration.** In accordance with the bylaws and convention action, the Executive Committee has the general power to administer the affairs of the state and to initiate and carry out its programs and policies. It acts for the state between annual meetings and national conventions.
- b. The Board of Directors can establish policies and procedures consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and federal, state, and local laws to control the financial records of the state and may adopt rules to govern its proceedings.
- c. **Branch Supervision**
 - i. **Creation** Upon recommendation of the state President, the state governing board has the authority to approve in writing the application of any group of graduates qualified to form a branch within the state, under the AAUW Bylaws.
 - ii. **Forfeiture** The State Executive Committee reviews the findings of any branch, which appears to have forfeited its right to continue as a branch under the AAUW Bylaws and recommends action to be taken. If there is no branch contact, the state may initiate the process of discontinuance of the branch.
 - iii. **Special support to one branch** The state may give special support to one branch, which is established to serve the entire state. This support may include appointing members of the state to fill the branch positions required by AAUW. This support is in accord with the bylaws of the branch. Those members appointed by the state to serve in branch roles are required to join the branch.

Section 3. Meetings and Quorum

- a. **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of the state are held at least once a year at the call of the president and at such time and place as she/he designates.

- b. Meetings of the Executive Committee are at the discretion of the committee and President, but must be held at least once a year.
- c. The Presidents' Council meets at the call of the Branch Advocate or upon written request of 20% of the branch presidents.
- d. **Other Special Meetings** Special meetings of the Board are called at any time by the President or upon written request of three (3) members of the Board, provided that at least five (5) days notice of such meeting and its agenda are given to the members of the Board.
- e. **Quorum** The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors is forty percent (40%) of the members, fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee and the Presidents' Council, and fifty percent (50%) of the branches.

Section 4. Voting

- a. Each member of the Board of Directors has one (1) vote.
- b. **Interim Voting.** In the interim between meetings, a vote may be taken at the request of the President on any question submitted electronically, by email, by conference call or in writing. Voting closes fourteen (14) days after the question has been submitted. The members of the Board are notified electronically, by email, by conference call, or in writing of the result. A majority of the Board must vote for the vote to be counted.

Section 5. Minutes At each meeting, or when an interim vote is called, the president is responsible for appointing a member, neither the president nor the treasurer, to take the minutes, record the votes, and file those with the state records.

Section 6. Removal of Officers

- a. The president may rescind any appointment to the board.
- b. Any elected officer may be removed from the office and the board on the recommendation of the board; however, the removal is not valid until approved by the Presidents' Council.

ARTICLE XI. Presidents' Council

Section 1. Composition The presidents of the AAUW branches in NC and the Branch Advocate are members of the Presidents' Council.

Section 2. Meetings and Quorum

- a. The Presidents' Council meets at the call of the Branch Advocate or upon written request of 20% of the branch presidents.
- b. A branch president unable to attend a Presidents' Council meeting may designate another member of the branch as her or his replacement at the meeting.
- c. The quorum for a meeting of the Presidents' Council is representation by 50% of the branches.

Section 3. Voting

- a. At meetings of the Presidents' Council, each branch has one vote.
- b. In between meetings, the Branch Advocate may call for a vote on any issue properly considered by the President's Council using a procedure approved by the Board.

Section 4. Minutes At each meeting, or when an interim vote is called, the Branch Advocate is responsible for appointing a member of the council to take the minutes, record the votes, and file those with the state records.

Section 5. Responsibilities The Presidents' Council develops a process to nominate a slate of officers to be elected at the Annual State Meeting. The Branch Advocate oversees these responsibilities.

ARTICLE XII. Meetings of NC

Section 1. Time, Place, and Notification

- a. The state holds at least one (1) meeting each year to be known as the Annual State Meeting to conduct the business of the state, including election of officers and receiving of reports.
- b. The Executive Committee determines the date, time, and place.
- c. Special meetings may be called by the president, or will be called by the president on the written request of twenty percent (20 %) of the Board of Directors.
- d. Notice of meetings is sent to all branches, members of the state Board of Directors, college/university members, and state national members at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.
- e. All state meetings, including meetings of the Board of Directors, are open and may be attended by any member of the state.
- f. If circumstances prevent the holding of a state meeting, the elected officers of the Board of Directors provide for the conduct of necessary business.

Section 2. Each member in good standing as of the official notice of the meeting may attend and is entitled to one vote at any annual or special meeting of members.

Section 3. Quorum If a majority of the branches is represented by their President or at least one (1) other branch member, the meeting has a quorum.

ARTICLE XIII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised govern the state in all instances in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. Indemnification

Every board or committee member may be indemnified by AAUW NC against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such board or committee members in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding to which the board or committee member may become involved by reason of being or having been a member of the board or committee, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duties. In the event of settlement, the indemnification herein shall apply only when the state board approves such settlement and reimbursement as being in the best interest of AAUW NC. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition and not exclusive of all other rights to which the member of the board or committee is entitled.

ARTICLE XV. Property and Assets

The title for all property, funds, and assets is vested in NC or multi-state structure for the joint use of members and no member or group of members have any severable right to all or any part of such property. Property and assets are not used for any purpose contrary to AAUW. In the event of the dissolution of AAUW NC or the termination of its affiliation with AAUW, all assets of the state or multi-state organization is transferred and delivered to AAUW or to an AAUW-affiliated entity designated by AAUW.

ARTICLE XVI. Amendments to the Bylaws

The provisions of these bylaws not governed by the AAUW Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed amendments have been sent to each branch in the state at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which such amendment is to be acted upon.

Any amendment to the bylaws of the state becomes effective and binding upon all branches within NC. Changes required to bring NC bylaws into conformity with the Bylaws of AAUW will be made without the necessity of a vote of NC. Before being voted on, proposed changes to NC bylaws are sent to the AAUW Bylaws chair for concurrence.

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