

Peace Action Binghamton University Constitution

March 7, 2013

PREAMBLE:

Peace Action Binghamton University is a non-partisan student group dedicated to empowering student advocates and take action on issues of peace and justice. Through education, grassroots organizing, and action campaigns, we work to promote informed student activism on campus and build leadership among young people in the peace movement.

- 1 Organize actions, events, and projects on issues of peace, education on the human and financial costs of war, the abolition of nuclear weapons, and the funding of human needs over militarism.
- 2 Work with Peace Action activists in our local chapter and state affiliate to mobilize student ideas and actions and help build leadership among young people in the peace movement.

GROUP PURPOSE:

- 1 **TRAIN** students to be effective social advocates and grassroots organizers.
- 2 **EDUCATE** young people on peace and justice issues, while keeping students informed on recent peace related news and events.
- 3 **EMPOWER** students to campaign for action and policies that will help our communities and our world become a safer, more peaceful place.
- 4 **CONNECT** students to larger community of young and professional activists who share a similar interest for peace and conflict resolution.
- 5 **Affiliations:** Peace Action Binghamton University is affiliated with Peace Action New York State (PANYS) as part of an ongoing project of the Peace Action Fund of New York State (PAFNYS). PAFNYS is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting the non-violent resolution of conflict, the abolition of nuclear weapons, halting the global spread of conventional arms, building a human rights culture and supporting human needs instead of militarism.

Peace Action Binghamton University works closely with PANYS and its local chapter, Broome County Peace Action. PANYS is a 501(c)4 membership organization comprised of sixteen local chapters, all of which work with elected officials and candidates to generate legislative change for the public good. As the state affiliate of Peace Action National, PANYS and its local chapters operate independently but within the guiding principles of Peace Action National. Similarly, Peace Action Binghamton University's affiliation with PAFNYS and PANYS enables us to operate under the guiding principles of Peace Action, while remaining a fundamentally student-driven group whose campaigns are decided upon and carried out by students.

Peace Action Binghamton University is part of a larger state network of student chapters, called New York – Student Peace Action Network (NY-SPAN). As part of this network, we have access to educational materials, campaign resources, and organizational support provided by PAFNYS, PANYS, and Peace Action local chapters.

ARTICLE I: *Name of your organization.*

- 1 **Peace Action Binghamton University**
- 2 **Acronyms:** Peace Action BU or PABU

ARTICLE II: *Membership*

- 1 Membership in this club is open to all students. (Community members cannot be members, but may be “volunteers” approved by the University volunteer listserv)
- 2 A person may become a voting member of the club at any time during the academic year by signing a written confirmation of his/her membership. A voting member must be able to commit to attending at least 5 scheduled meetings throughout the academic year.
- 3 The policy of our chartered organization is not to engage in policies or practices that serve to discriminate against or give preference to any student on the basis of their age, color, creed, differently-abled status, marital status, national origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status in regards to membership and participation in an organization’s activities. According to the United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit decision in *CLS v. Walker*, Universities may not force organizations to open their leadership to students who do not share in an organization's purposes, however, general membership of an organization must continue to remain open to all students and others as outlined in the constitution of the Student Association at the State University of New York at Binghamton.
- 4 The Advisor shall be a full-time Binghamton University faculty member, staff member, or administrator. Responsibilities of the Advisor include: periodically attend club meetings and activities on campus, offer leadership and guidance, provide council in regards to the guidelines and procedures for student clubs/organizations, serve as a liaison between the club and Binghamton University, supervise club travel, and assist with overseeing club budget.

ARTICLE III: *Executive Board*

- 1 The Executive Board is comprised of the elected officers holding said titles: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee Chairs. Members on the Executive Board must be able to attend official club meetings and fulfill his/her stated duties.
 - a The **President** shall preside at all meetings, coordinate all activities of the organization, delegate club activity tasks to members, and serve as point person to the Student Government and the Office of Student Activities or Affairs.

- b The **Vice-President** shall manage club elections, assist the president with his/her duties and assume the duties of the president if he/she is unable to for good reason.
 - c The **Treasurer** shall manage the research, handling, and recording of all present, past and future club expenditures and payables.
 - d The **Secretary** shall take minutes during club meetings, maintain an up-to-date membership roster, and manage all internal correspondence.
- 2 One person may not hold more than one e-board position at a time.
 - 3 President, Vice President, and Treasurer must be undergraduate students and are positions that cannot be held by more than one person (Co-presidents **not** allowed).
 - 4 At least 4/5 of the e-board must be undergraduate students

ARTICLE III, SECTION 1: *Executive Board Elections*

- 1 Elections are to be held before May 1st.

A member must be nominated by his/her peers within the club in order to be considered an official candidate for the upcoming election. The results of the election must be announced no later than the first week of May.

The term length will be one academic year. To continue as an e-board member past one academic year the member must be re-nominated by his or her peers within the club.

- 2 **Election Procedures:** General body members will be notified in advance through email and social media of election to be held in person during general body meeting. Paper ballots will be used and privately voted on. All ballots should be handled and processed by a member of another student group chartered by the Student Association. This external member should be in direct contact with current club president and/or vice president. Candidates are elected by a majority vote. In the case of a tie, candidates will be privately notified and allowed to proceed with a tie-breaker or withdraw. If no candidate withdraws, then a paper ballot vote among the current e-board members will take place, excluding the votes of the tied candidates if they are also part of the current e-board. The candidates and general body members in attendance will be notified of the results at the same meeting during which the election is held, immediately following counting by the third party. All general body members will then be notified of the results through email and social media.
- 3 **Executive Board Resignation:** An officer will be asked to resign if he/she cannot fulfill his/her club duties to the best of his/her ability. If the officer does not voluntarily resign, an E-Board member can individually request a vote to remove the member. The request for removal will pass if a Super-Majority (66.6% or two-thirds) of the E-Board members vote to remove such member through paper ballot vote held during executive board meeting. The officer in question will not be allowed to vote. Prior to vote, the officer in question will be allowed to defend himself/herself through statement not to exceed 2 minutes in length.”

- 4 **Vacancy:** In the event of a vacancy (see Article III, Section 3), a club member may be elected to serve as an 'Interim Officer' through the result of a majority vote of *all registered club members*. The Interim Officer must be able to commit to the position for the rest of the academic school year. If the Interim Officer is elected before January 1st of the academic year, his/her term will be considered complete at the end of the academic year. If the Interim Officer is elected after January 1st of the academic year, his/her term will be considered complete at the end of the academic year.

ARTICLE IV: *Meetings*

- 1 **Body Meetings:** The club will hold regular meetings at least once a month for general purposes. The monthly meeting should be open to all members and invited guests. Elected officials are invited to hold more than one open meeting per month if deemed necessary.
- 2 **Executive Board Meetings:** Elected officers should meet at least once a month, in addition to the regular meetings.
- 3 **Special Meetings:** Elected officers will be allowed to request special meetings to the President and Vice President. The elected officer must submit a meeting agenda and persuasive statement explaining the need for the special meeting as part of their request. The President and Vice President must both agree that the special meeting is reasonable and then the special meeting will be scheduled to take place within two weeks time from date of request.

ARTICLE V: *Standing Committees*

- 1 The **Advocacy Committee** shall be held responsible for proposing issues that the group should advocate and coordinate with education committee to bring forward information about that issue, whether through general body meetings, public events, or tabling/canvassing. Additionally, shall be held responsible for coordinating with the school and/or outside vendors for securing event space, and ensuring event setup and break-down runs smoothly.
- 2 The **Education Committee** shall be held responsible for gathering topics of interest from the members and inform members about these topics at the meetings, as well as create flyers and organize education related events.
- 3 The **Fundraising Committee** shall be held responsible for proposing fundraising ideas and organizing fundraising events, as well as coordinate with Treasurer to assure the student association guidelines are followed.
- 4 The **Multimedia Committee** shall be held responsible for assisting with the creation of any presentations, flyers, videos, and newsletters, as well as ensuring that technical related or powerpoint presentation segments of events run smoothly.
- 5 The **Public Relations Committee** shall be held responsible for promoting the club among students and faculty, as well as coordinating the advertisement and promotion of chapter actions and events on campus.
- 6 The **'ad hoc committees'** may be established through a majority vote by the e-board at any time as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VI: *Grievances*

- 1 Any member has the right to have grievances, or official statements of complaint against the group, addressed at the next scheduled E-Board meeting.
- 2 The Person must email the official statement or grievance within 5 days of the next scheduled meeting to the President. At that meeting, the person may speak a reasonable length of time regarding the grievance. A session proposing solutions, or remedies to the grievance will immediately follow.

ARTICLE VII: *Amendment*

- 1 **Amendment Process:** Amendments to the Constitution should be proposed in writing by a group of voting members and/or elected officers who constitute in number at least 30% of the entire club member roster.
- 2 All proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the Officers and placed on the following meeting's agenda for discussion and voting. Amendments to the Constitution must receive a majority of general body member votes, as well as 75% of the executive board members, for ratification.
- 3 Any amendments to the Constitution must be approved by the Student Association Rules Committee. The Secretary will be charged to inform the Student Association of the changes, which will become effective upon approval by the Student Association.
- 4 The front-page of the constitution must always include the date it was last revised.

ARTICLE VIII: *Ratification*

Ratification: This Constitution shall become effective upon a simple majority vote of the current membership, and chartering of the organization by the Binghamton University Student Association.