Constitution of the Kalamazoo College Democrats

Preamble:
In order to promote a better world, with equality, opportunity, and freedom for all, we dedicate ourselves to the organizing of liberals, progressives and Democrats at Kalamazoo College.

As citizens of today and leaders of the future, we pledge ourselves to promoting the advancement of the ideals, candidates, and elected officials of the Democratic Party on a local, state, and national level.

For these ends and upon these principles, the Kalamazoo College Democrats hereby adopt this Constitution.

Article I. Name and References
Section 1.
The name of this organization shall be the Kalamazoo College Democrats.

Section 2.
The “general assembly” shall consist of all members of the Executive Board and all voting members of the Kalamazoo College Democrats. All references to the “general membership” in this constitution refer to the general assembly.

Article II. Membership Eligibility and Status
Section 1.
All persons who are enrolled in at least one course at Kalamazoo College are eligible to be members of the Kalamazoo College Democrats.
Section 2.
The Kalamazoo College Democrats shall not discriminate on any basis whatsoever and call for full participation without regard to ethnic origin, physical handicap, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic class.

Section 3.
Active Members are those members who have attended at least two consecutive general meetings or scheduled events. Active members are considered full members and are entitled to any and all privileges of membership including ability to vote, eligibility for executive offices, ability to chair committees, and ability to make motions.

Section 4.
Once established as an active member, any member who does not attend three consecutive general meetings will lose their Kalamazoo College Democrats active member privileges unless the absences were excused by the President. Missing scheduled events other than general meetings will not count against members’ voting privileges.

Section 5.
Absences may be excused by the President at any time. Absences may not be unexcused once the President has determined that they are excused. If a member taking an absence does not agree with the President’s ruling, that member may call for a vote at a general membership meeting. The President’s ruling may be overturned by a two-thirds vote by attending members.

Article III. Composition of Offices
Section 1.
Elected Officers shall have general oversight of the activities of the Kalamazoo College Democrats and responsibility for the ongoing affairs of the organization. The elected officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2.
The President shall:
1. Have oversight of all the activities of the organization.
2. Be responsible for ensuring that an Agenda and calendar are designed for the organization.
3. Perform the duties of the leader of a student organization as required by the administration of Kalamazoo College.
4. Be designated as the default contact person for the Kalamazoo College Democrats in interactions with outside parties.
5. Be responsible for ensuring that opportunities are created for all active members to contribute to the organization and to be trained to the extent possible in political activism, as well as in administrative and organizational procedure and policy.
Section 3.  
The Vice-Chair shall:  
1. Be responsible for ensuring that the duties of the President are adequately performed and to share those responsibilities as requested by the President.  
2. Assume the responsibilities of the President when he or she is absent or incapacitated.  
3. Assume the Office of the President in the case of vacancy.

Section 4.  
The Secretary shall:  
1. Record minutes from general meetings and distribute minutes via e-mail to the membership in a timely fashion.  
2. Maintain a record of attendance at general meetings.  
3. Preside as officiator of elections and report the results to the membership.

Section 5.  
The Treasurer shall:  
1. Prepare and defend a quarterly organizational budget in accordance with the policy of the Kalamazoo College Student Commission.  
2. Oversee all fundraising activities of the Kalamazoo College Democrats.  
3. Maintain complete records of all expenditures and receipts.

Section 6.  
The President may recommend any additional Executive Board members. These members will be confirmed by the Executive Board and operate as an Executive Board member.

Section 7.  
All other Executive Board members shall perform such duties that the President or Executive Board may assign.

Section 8.  
Resignations must be submitted in writing to the President. The vacancy of an office shall be filled by the appointment of the President and confirmed by the Executive Board.

Section 9.  
The Executive Board has the ability to create committees as deemed fit.

Article IV. Elected Offices  
Section 1.
The Executive Board shall determine the date of the election at the beginning of spring quarter. The Secretary shall notify active members via e-mail at least two weeks prior to the election. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the voting members present by secret ballot. Officers shall serve one year and shall begin their term of office following 10th week Inauguration.

Candidates for the Elected Offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer must be publicly nominated by another active member at the general meeting prior to or the week before an election is to be held. All active members meet the eligibility requirements for nomination. Nominees may accept nominations for more than one elected office, but may not be elected to more than one.

The Secretary shall preside as the officiator of elections. Prior to elections for each elected office, each Candidate will be allotted not more than five minutes to speak. The order of elections shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

Should no candidate receive a majority (greater than one-half of voting active members), a run-off shall be held between the top two vote-getters. In the event of a tie the current elected officers shall each cast blind tie-breaking ballots.

Section 2.
Inauguration shall be defined as the retirement of current elected officers and the initiation of the officers-elect to their respective elected offices. Between elections and Inauguration, the elected officers will make efforts to prepare the officers-elect for the duties and responsibilities of their positions. Inauguration shall occur at the conclusion of 10th week of spring quarter. Prior to taking office, officers-elect must affirm the following oath of office in the presence of the membership:

I, [insert name here], in assuming the office of Kalamazoo College Democrats [insert office here] pledge to uphold the Constitution of the Kalamazoo College Democrats, and complete the specified duties and responsibilities of said office to the best of my abilities.

Elected officers shall be expected to act in accordance with the oath of office for the duration of their term.

Article V: Impeachment Process
Section 1.
If an Executive Board member has three consecutive unexcused absences from general meetings, a voting member of the organization may initiate the impeachment process.

Section 2.
If an Executive Board member fails to adequately execute the duties of that position, a voting member of the organization may initiate the impeachment process.
Section 3.
Impeachment process: The Executive Board member shall be notified no later than two weeks prior to when the impeachment vote is to take place and why, set by the President or Secretary, and be made aware of who initiated the impeachment process against them. For Presidential impeachment proceedings, the Secretary shall set the date of the vote, for all other impeachment proceedings, the President shall set the date. The initiating member shall be given an opportunity to state reasons for the impeachment proceeding. The Executive Board member shall be given an opportunity to state his or her objections to impeachment before the attending members prior to vote.

Section 5.
Impeachment vote: A vote by secret ballot will take place. Impeachment will take place on a two-thirds vote by attending voting members.

Section 6.
If impeachment is decided, in the case of the President, the Vice President assumes the duties of the Presidency and appoints a new Vice President. In all other cases, the President appoints a new Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. This appointee shall serve the remainder of the impeached member’s term.

Article V. Official Meetings
Section 1.
General meetings shall be held at a scheduled time and occur at least once monthly while school is in session. The time and place of general meetings shall be set by the President. Additional general meetings may be scheduled as necessary.

Elected members and committees shall be encouraged to schedule meetings outside of general meeting times, but any such meeting must be open to all active members.

Section 2.
The President shall preside as moderator of the general meeting. Meetings of the Kalamazoo College Democrats shall follow parliamentary procedure as outlined in the most recent version of Robert’s Rules of Order, unless deemed unnecessary by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

Article VI. Intra Virem (Within the Scope and Powers)
Section 1.
The Kalamazoo College Democrats shall represent the interests of Kalamazoo College students, faculty, and staff on the local, state, and national level by actively supporting or opposing issues, initiatives, and candidates that help student interests. Toward this end, the Kalamazoo College Democrats may consider official endorsement of partisan or non-partisan candidates, legislative proposals, or ballot issues.
Section 2.
The Kalamazoo College Democrats shall educate and train students so that they may understand and be able to articulate the philosophy of the Democratic Party, register voters on campus and in the community, and assist in the election of local, state, and national Democrats. Toward this end, the Kalamazoo College Democrats may charter with Democratic umbrella organizations such as the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party (KCDP) and the College Democrats of America (CDA). It shall be understood, however, that individual members of the Kalamazoo College Democrats cannot be obligated to participate in specific activities of the Democratic Party nor to endorse anything particular endorsed by the Democratic Party. Such participation and endorsement shall always be voluntary.

Article VII. Constitutional Ratification and Amendments

Section 1.
Any active member may propose an amendment to the Constitution of the Kalamazoo College Democrats to the Executive Board for consideration. If approved, a vote to amend the constitution will occur at the next general assembly meeting.

Section 2.
This constitution shall be ratified or amended when two-thirds of active members approve so at a special general assembly meeting called by the Executive Board.

Section 3.
This constitution shall remain in effect until rescinded by action of voting members with a three-fourths supermajority.

Duly amended by the Kalamazoo College Democrats Executive Board of 2011-2012.
Darrin Camilleri President
Emily Walsh Vice President
Abby Miner Secretary
Hagop Mouradian Treasurer