

Constitution

The Constitution of “**The Common Ground Collective**” at the University of California,
Los Angeles

Humanity is plagued by division. While diversity of ideas is crucial to any democratic system, our unwillingness to deliberate with those of varying opinions is creating a continuously enlarging rift that is becoming more problematic by the day. This rift is exacerbating society’s issues and preventing action. From various backgrounds, beliefs, and positions, we unite here with the collective goal to alleviate society’s communication gap: to move forward, we must find common ground.

Article I - General Provisions

1. The name of this organization shall be the “**The Common Ground Collective**” at UCLA.
2. The membership of this organization shall consist of any UCLA undergraduate or graduate student.
3. A registered member is defined as one who attends meetings on a regular basis.
4. The financial records of this organization shall be made available to university administrators upon request.
5. “**The Common Ground Collective**” does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. This also prohibits sexual harassment.

Article II - Purpose

1. Informing UCLA students about modern policy in the United States by establishing an open floor for deliberation, and creating a common ground between groups while not negating the importance of varying views. Our core values include:
 - a. Non-partisanship: Finding a way to bridge the gap between a spectrum of varying policies.
 - b. Encouraging civil deliberation and productive discourse.
 - c. Overcoming policy gridlock. Better to have a central policy than no policy at all.
 - d. Focusing on making necessary concessions.
 - e. Finding middle ground.

As of 5/6/24

- f. Promoting political awareness: get more members to actively become involved with current political topics and learn more about the political sphere through discourse.
- g. Inform people dissuaded by politics to join in a neutral environment so they can form their own opinions.
- h. Policy movement, but not removing polarization.
- i. Inform UCLA students of current United States policy and its effects on the greater globe.

Article III - Executive Board

- 1. President
 - a. Overseeing Club Activities
 - b. Setting Meeting Times
 - c. Leads Meetings
 - d. Leads Vote for Approving various tasks
 - e. Organize Board Meetings
 - f. President creates agenda for the club
 - i. Requires approval by the board
 - g. General Board member task assigned by the President
- 2. Vice President
 - a. If President can't attend meeting, they fulfill President's tasks
 - b. Reserving Spaces for Events
 - i. Requires approval by board
 - c. Reaching out to other clubs for partnerships
 - i. Requires approval by board
 - ii. Informing the proceedings of the club.
 - iii. Leading interclub interactions.
 - d.
- 3. Treasurer
 - a. Create and maintain a budget
 - b. Ensuring financial records are up to date
 - c. Inform the President and Board of financial concerns
 - d. Raising funds for the club
 - i. Applying for University funding
 - e. Balancing budget as appropriate
 - i. Requires approval by the board
- 4. Secretary
 - a. In charge of taking attendance at club meetings and events.
 - b. Keep a detailed record of club proceedings and events through note-taking.

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- c. Creates flexible schedule
 - i. Schedules must be run past board
- d. Sends out meeting reminders
- 5. Head of Public Relations
 - a. Controls various social media and mailing list
 - i. Update social media with meeting times and events.
 - ii. Sends out field polls for public forum
 - b. Advertise Events
 - i. Social media, socials, Enormous Activities Fair, as well as on Bruin Walk.
 - c. Setting up Social Events
 - d. Designing Slides
 - e. Assist Vice-President in interclub relations.
 - f. In charge of pictures during events/meetings
- 6. General Board:
 - a. Open to anyone who wants to apply
 - b. Unlimited amount of members
 - c. Assists the Executive Board as requested by the President
 - i. Once assigned by President they report to their respective board member

Article IV - Procedures

- 1. Board Meetings
 - a. Will consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Head of Public Relations, and General Board members.
 - b. All board members will provide general updates at each meeting as well as ideas for upcoming events and meetings.
 - c. Topic of Public Forum voted upon
 - i. 3/5 vote needed
 - d. Who will be Moderator at the upcoming Public Forum
 - i. 3/5 vote needed
 - e. Topic of Discussion for Mock Congress voted upon
 - i. 3/5 vote needed
 - f. Who will be Speaker at the upcoming Mock Congress
 - i. 3/5 vote needed
 - g. Discuss Disciplinary Action
 - i. Depending on the severity, we will discuss removal of member from the club
 - ii. 4/5 decision needed
 - iii. Deciding if person violated code of conduct

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- h. Discuss Awards
 - i. MVP Award
 - 1. Given to one person each Public Forum and Mock Congress
 - 2. Small candy prize attached
 - 3. 3/5 vote needed
 - i. Approve Next Week's Agenda
 - i. Agenda is Drafted by President
 - ii. 3/5 vote needed to approve
- 2. Voting Privilege
 - a. All votes pertaining to club policy will only include executive board members

Article V - Amendment Process

- 1. 3/5 Executive Board to pass
- 2. The head of Public Relations sends out a general message must go out to inform all members of the decided amendment.
- 3. Any board member can submit amendment proposals during Board Meetings.

Article VI - Board Admissions

- 1. As board expands, it will become necessary to admit new members into it
- 2. Screening Process
 - a. Short Google Form created by board
 - b. Interview with the Executive Board
 - i. 3/5 must approve

Article VII - Vacancies

- 1. In case of three unexcused absences per quarter will to a board-wide discussion of dismissal and a vote.
 - a. Board vote required: 4/5 vote

Article VIII- Public Forum

- 1. Focused on pressing topics
 - a. Decided by Board
 - b. Field poll with general members to influence decisions by the board
- 2. The discussion focused on finding common ground, not changing the starting opinion
- 3. Moderator of discourse
 - a. Fulfilled by a board member.
 - b. They will keep the discussion civil.
 - c. Respectful language is required.

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- d. If a fight breaks out or the discussion gets heated it is the moderator's job to end it and allow for cooler heads to prevail.
 - e. The moderator's job is to control time limits on talking to their best discretion (they establish time limits).
 - f. The moderator picks the next speaker. Tries to distribute talking to their best discretion.
 - g. Deal out strikes and punishment appropriately.
4. General Participants
- a. Try to stay under established time limits.
 - b. Keep respectful language.
 - c. Respect others' opinions.
5. Punishment
- a. 4-strike system
 - i. Strike 1: Verbal warning from moderator
 - ii. Strike 2: Asked to sit out of the remaining discourse
 - iii. Strike 3: Required to leave the current forum
 - iv. Strike 4: Board discussion about expulsion from the club.
 - 1. Requires 4/5 vote (as mentioned in Article IV)