

## **Why Not Us?**

### *Organization Constitution*

#### **Article I – Definition**

##### **Section 1 – Name**

- i. The name of this organization shall be: **Why Not Us?**

##### **Section 2 – Purpose**

**Why Not Us?** shall have the following objectives:

- i. Educate the Allegheny College community members about the sexual violence and rape culture that affects all members of this community.
- ii. Engage members of the Allegheny College community through campus-wide events, discussions, and collaborative efforts. **Why Not Us?** will work with Allegheny College administrators to ensure that our campus community can best support survivors of sexual violence, and work to end rape culture.
- iii. Empower those in our community to work to end rape culture, step up when they witness instances of injustice, and to support survivors of sexual violence.
- iv. Collaborate with other campus organizations to influence campus policy and climate with the goal of ending rape culture.

#### **Article II – Membership**

##### **Section 1 – Eligibility**

- i. Membership shall be open to any member of the Allegheny Community.

##### **Section 2 -- Rights of Membership**

- i. Members have the right to vote on events and actions sponsored by the club as a whole.

##### **Section 3 – Status**

- i. Membership status will be given to those who attend 3 general assembly meetings AND either two additional general assembly meetings or 2 events hosted/co-hosted by **Why Not Us?**.
- ii. To retain membership, 3 general assembly meetings must be attended, in addition to 3 events sponsored/co-sponsored by **Why Not Us?** every semester.

- iii. Members who will be unable to attend the 3 required meetings necessary to retain membership (for medical leave, study abroad, internships, etc.) will be given dormant membership status by the leadership team after explaining the circumstances for the absence. Dormant membership allows the member to retain membership, but will lose voting rights during their dormant period. Once the student attends three general assembly meetings they will have their full membership reinstated.

### **Article III – Leadership Team**

#### **Section 1 – Definition**

- i. The leadership team shall consist of two Presidents with equal responsibility (referred to as Co-President's), Public Relations Chair, Treasurer, Event Coordinator, Attorney General.
- ii. Should the group be small enough, the Co-President's shall discuss combining the duties of the Co-Presidents and the Attorney General under the title of Co-Presidents.

#### **Section 2 – Duties of Officers**

The duties of the officers shall be as follows. *It is expected that all officers regularly attend general assembly meetings, exceptions will be made on a case by case basis.*

- i. **Co-President's** shall split their responsibilities as they see fit. Together they are responsible for the following:
  - a. Preside over meetings.
  - b. In charge of all internal communication, which includes communication with Allegheny students and college employees.
  - c. In charge of overseeing all internal and external coordination of events and meetings and the overseeing of the activities of all officers and members of the organization.
  - d. Liaison to ASG representing **Why Not Us?**.
- ii. **Public Relations Chair** shall be responsible for the following:
  - a. The taking and distribution of minutes
    - i. If the Public Relations Chair is not present, another officer will take the minutes.
  - b. Taking of attendance at all meetings and events.
    - i. In the absence of the Public Relations Chair, another officer will take attendance and forward the data to the Public Relations Chair.

- c. Notifying members of all meetings and events.
  - d. Maintain current mailing and membership lists.
  - e. Carry out other such assignments as the Co-President's may prescribe.
  - f. Lead the public relations committee, which will have control of all **Why Not Us?** social media accounts, website, and create/distribute a monthly newsletter.
- iii. **Event Coordinator** shall be responsible for the following:
- a. Collaborate and communicate with outside organizations, offices, and individuals in collaboration with the Co-President's.
  - b. Coordinate all internal and external events, which includes but is not limited to: Room reservation, food & drinks, collecting materials for events, and organizing event/meeting clean up/tear down.
  - c. Carry out other such assignments as the Co-President's may prescribe.
  - d. Oversee the Event Coordination Committee.
    - i. The Event Coordination Committee shall meet regularly with the Event Coordinator to plan events, campaigns, and other activities throughout the semester.
  - e. Collaborate with the Public Relations Chair to assist in distribution of posters and other materials.
- iv. **Treasurer** shall be responsible for the following:
- a. Maintain an accurate record of the budget and all transactions and report this record to active members.
  - b. Correspond with ASG on budgetary and monetary matters in conjunction with the Co-President's.
  - c. Carry out other such assignments as the Co-President's may prescribe.
  - d. Represent **Why Not Us?** at yearly ASG budget meetings.
- v. **Attorney General** shall be responsible for the following:
- a. Interpret constitutionality of all club actions.
  - b. Works with the leadership team to validate proposed committees on constitutional basis.
  - c. Hold hearings for impeachment of officers.
    - i. Impeachable actions include but are not limited to: lack of attendance, not fulfilling obligations, not complying with ASG rules, not following the Allegheny College statement of community.
    - ii. If the Attorney General is being charged, members making the claim go to the Co-President's. Any member (including officers) can make an impeachment claim, but all claims must be seconded by a general member.

- iii. If the Attorney General is making a claim, they must have a general member second their claim and will bring it to the highest officer that is not being charged (the order is Co-President's, Public Relations Chair, Event Coordinator, Treasurer, Attorney General, )
- d. In charge of validating membership.
- e. In charge of keeping meetings orderly through constructive dialogue and who has the floor for discussion.
- f. Appoint the election committee and ensure the nomination and election process is run constitutionally.
  - i. The Attorney General will convene a special election committee of two members, who must be approved by a majority from the leadership team (half +1%). These committee members will assist the Attorney General with the election, including vote counting, advertising of the position, and any other tasks assigned to them. None of these members may also be running for the position.
- g. Carry out other such assignments as the Co-President's may prescribe.
- h. Should organizational membership be below 15 people, the Co-Presidents may assume the role of Attorney General. The impeachment process would then go as follows:
  - i. If the one or both of the Co-Presidents are being charged, members making the claim go to the Public Relations Chair. Any member (including officers) can make an impeachment claim, but all claims must be seconded by a general member.
  - ii. If the Co-President (s) is/are making a claim, they must have a general member second their claim and will bring it to the highest officer that is not being charged (the order is Co-President's, Public Relations Chair, Event Coordinator, Treasurer, Attorney General, )
- i. Shall oversee the Rules Committee, which will conduct an annual review of the constitution. All proposed changes will be proposed to the general assembly two weeks before general elections, and adapted prior to the start of the incoming leadership team's terms. All changes must be approved not only by **Why Not Us?**, but also through ASG channels.

### Section 3 – Removal of Officers

- i. Process of impeachment and removal is as follows: One club member brings a claim to the Attorney General which is seconded by another member. If an officer brings a claim, a general member must second it (not another officer). If the Attorney General is bringing a claim, see Article 3: Section 2, v.c. The Attorney General should then check the validity of the claim in the constitution. If the claim is valid, the Attorney General will start the impeachment processes in the next general assembly meeting. The accused will then be given ample time (20 minutes) to defend themselves against questions and accusations. After the trial the members of the club will vote on the removal of the accused. If half + 1% vote for removal, the accused shall be removed. (For instances in which the Attorney General is accused, see Article 3, Section 2, v.c.ii) The same will hold true should the Co-President's act as the attorney general.

#### **Section 4 – Vacancies and Succession**

- i. In the case of a vacancy on the leadership team the Co-Presidents will appoint a club member to fill the position at the next general assembly meeting. This person will be confirmed by a majority (half +1) of the members.
- ii. In the case of a vacancy of one or both Co-Presidents, the Attorney General will oversee an election within two weeks of the vacancy.
  - a. The Attorney General will convene a special election committee of two members, who must be approved by a majority from the leadership team (half +1%). These committee members will assist the Attorney General with the election, including vote counting, advertising of the position, and any other tasks assigned to them. None of these members may also be running for the position.

### **Article IV – Voting and Elections**

#### **Section 1 – Voting**

- i. The quorum necessary for voting shall be 50 plus 1% of the members present.
- ii. All orders of business shall be resolved or approved by a majority of the members present.
- iii. Motions made during a general assembly meeting may not be voted on until the next general assembly meeting, unless the matter is deemed imperative for club order and function by the leadership team.

## Section 2 – Organization of Elections and Club Voting Procedures

- i. Elections shall be run by the Attorney General and ballots counted by two active members who are not running for any office and approved by the Attorney General with consent of half + 1% of club members.
- ii. Elections must be announced to all members. A series of nominations will take place to name the candidates. All candidates for office shall be allotted equal time in at least one regular meeting in order to address the membership.
- iii. All election voting shall be secret ballot.
- iv. Elections shall be held at the second to last general assembly meeting of the spring semester. Nominations will happen at the general assembly meeting the week prior to the election. If any member/nominee has a schedule conflict with the set election date, they must voice concerns to the Attorney General. The Officers have the power to change the election date and time if given ample time (one week prior to set election date), reason, and opportunity. All active members shall be told of elections three weeks before the meeting in which the voting occurs.
- v. All active members shall be eligible to hold office.
- vi. Elections will be in the following order on election day: Co-President's (individually or together, depending on whether two people are nominated together or separately), Treasurer, Public Relations Chair, Event Coordinator, Attorney General.
- vii. Members must be present to vote. Winners of elections shall be determined by a plurality of votes of those present.
- viii. Members can accept multiple nominations. The allotted 3 minute long speech will account for the position the candidate is running for at that time. The candidate must accept or decline the position they won in the order described in Article 3, Section 2., before the vote of the next position. If the candidate declines, there will be a plurality recount (unless only one candidate remains). If the candidate accepts a position, they terminate their candidacy for all other positions. If a nominee runs uncontested, they are accepting the position and must terminate candidacy for other positions or withdraw from the uncontested position prior to election day.
- ix. On election day, members will also vote yes or no to the current academic advisor (50% plus one). If voted no, it is the responsibility of the newly elected officers to appoint a new advisor who will be confirmed with a yes

or no vote of 50% plus one. The same process applies if an advisor quits or takes leave of absence.

- x. If there is a tie (and each has more votes than all other candidates) the remaining candidates are eliminated. A second vote will take place with the plurality winning. If the candidates tie again, each candidate will be given two minutes to speak as well as one minute for a question and answer session. If there is another tie, the sitting executive board will cast votes to break the tie. If the executive board is an even number, one of the two active members assisting the Attorney General in counting the votes will join the executive board to take out any possibility of another tie. This person will be selected by a coin flip.

## **Article V– Committees**

### **Section 1 – Definition**

- I. Three or more members specializing in a particular issue, program, project, or interest area. Standing committees are headed by leadership team members, which include the Public Relations Committee, the Event Coordination Committee and the Rules Committee.

### **Section 2 – Formation**

- I. Three students approach the Leadership Team with a potential committee idea. The Attorney General will check the constitutionality of the committee. If it is deemed valid, it will be taken to an officers meeting. If the officers deem it valid, it will then be taken to a general assembly meeting to be voted on. The committee is then formed if 50% plus one club members attending the meeting approve.
- II. The head(s) of the committees are decided amongst the committee itself, and will present themselves and their committee idea to the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team may reject a committee head and appoint another club member to the position should the proposed committee head do any of the following: head more than two committees, low attendance (less than 6 meetings a semester), or other reasons approved by the Attorney General.
- III. Each Leadership Team member may convene a committee to assist them in any capacity without a vote from the general assembly. Any committee organized by a Leadership Team member will be lead by that team member.

- IV. All Leadership Team committees may be dissolved by the Co-President's at any time.
- V. A committee chair may be replaced at anytime by a 50% plus 1 vote from the committee members.

### Section 3 – Funding

- i. Committee head(s) will approach the Co-President's with an idea for events or activities. If the Co-President's approve of the request, the Treasurer and committee head(s) will work together to draft a budget proposal. The committee head(s) will go to the next officer meeting with the proposal to seek approval. If approved by the Leadership Team with a 2/3 majority. The idea will be taken to the next general assembly to be voted on by club members. 50 + 1% will confirm the request.

### Article VI – Amendments

- i. The Rules Committee will conduct an annual review of the constitution. This committee will bring potential changes to the General Assembly two weeks prior to a general election. Amendments to this constitution shall occur only after discussion at one regularly scheduled meeting. A 3/4 vote of those present will send any amendments to the Rules Committee of ASG for review who will then choose whether to recommend the proposed changes to the ASG Senate. The ASG Senate will then vote on the confirmation of the proposed amendments with a 3/4 vote.

### Statement of Community

- i. **Why Not Us?** adheres to and embraces the Allegheny College Statement of Community. The statement is as follows:

Allegheny students and employees are committed to creating an inclusive, respectful and safe residential learning community that will actively confront and challenge racism, sexism, heterosexism, religious bigotry, and other forms of harassment and discrimination. We encourage individual growth by promoting a free exchange of ideas in a setting that values diversity, trust and equality. So that the right of all to participate in a shared learning experience is upheld, Allegheny affirms its commitment to the principles of freedom of speech and inquiry, while at the same time fostering responsibility and accountability in the exercise of these freedoms.