

University of Evansville's P.R.I.D.E Constitution

Article 1: Mission Statement

Section 1: Definition

University of Evansville's chapter of People Respecting Individual Diversity Everywhere (UE P.R.I.D.E.) is an organization focusing on issues of Gender and Sexual Minorities along with their Allies (GSMA) for students, faculty, and staff of this University. It strives to be a safe place for all kinds of people, and an ally to all other forms of diversity.

Section 2: Membership

Membership to UE P.R.I.D.E. is open to all currently enrolled University of Evansville students, staff, and faculty as well as community members regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, academic status, major, or any other minority status. Membership can be revoked only in the event in which a member has caused harm or slander (as defined by the current executive board and Advisor[s]) to any other member or the group as a whole. This can be but is not limited to: actions or verbal remarks made during meetings or outside of meetings either on or off campus, or by alternative sources such as email, Facebook, or text messages. This is to ensure that meetings remain a safe and inclusive place for all members. No fees will ever be collected by the chapter in return for membership. Individual attendance is not to be recorded in any manner, and membership is not to be recorded except for the confidential contact list and the Center for Student Engagement roster. Both these lists are kept on a volunteer basis in which individuals can request to be added or removed at any time. These regulations are in place in order to protect the identity of individuals who may feel threatened by open membership in this organization. An active member is defined as any member who has attended a majority of the general meetings during a semester. A member can be considered active while studying abroad if they were an active member the previous semester. Active status will be determined by the current executive board at the time of elections.

Section 3: Goals

The primary goal of UE P.R.I.D.E. is to provide a safe and encouraging environment for the University of Evansville's community to discuss GSMA issues. The secondary goal of UE P.R.I.D.E. is to enrich the local GSMA community and to continue the movement for equality in the local area. It is to obtain these goals by promoting GSMA-friendly activities and by engaging and hosting events for the educational enhancement of GSMA awareness and rights. The organization will do this by hosting on-going annual events (as defined in Article 3). It is also to provide weekly meetings at which local and national issues can be discussed, presentations given, and activities enjoyed. The organization's executive board and core group (as defined in Article 2) is to provide a resource and support for members during times of questioning or life-defining events.

Article 2: Officers

Section 1: The Advisor(s)

The position of Advisor(s) is to be held by one or more current University of Evansville faculty or staff member as required by the University's policy on extracurricular organizations. The Advisor(s) is responsible for those duties that are required by the University's Center for Student Engagement. They are responsible for monitoring elections and group events. The Advisor(s) is chosen from a pool of willing candidates as such a need may arise, before the start of the academic term in which they will assume the position. The tenure of an Advisor may only end at the requested resignation by the Advisor or by a *quorum* vote (as defined in Article 2, Section 8) of the membership of the organization. A period of two months shall be required for notice of resignation in order to allow sufficient time to establish a new Advisor. All new Advisors are to be confirmed and registered as such before the beginning of the new academic term, so as to avoid disruption in the functioning of the organization.

Section 2: Co-Presidents

The Co-Presidents are to be two elected members of the organization who have been active for at least 2 semesters. The responsibilities of the co-presidents are as follows: holding weekly meetings, complete any paper work which is needed for proper functioning of the organization, and organizing and running the annual philanthropy and other campus events (as defined in Article 3). Requirements for holding this position are a willingness to make a commitment of at least three hours a week for the running of the organization, the willingness to participate in any extra activities the group may choose to engage in, and a willingness to serve members as a mentor and a friendly face in any time of personal need. It is mandatory that the co-presidents are the last people to leave the premises after meetings or events in order to verify that the University's facilities used by the organization are maintained and in proper order. The Co-Presidents are to work together to ensure that all University policies are being strictly adhered to. This includes the proper registration of the organization, events, advertising, and soliciting as defined by the Center for Student Engagement. They are also responsible for coordinating the maintenance of all property which belongs to the organization.

Section 3: Secretary/Historian

The Secretary/Historian is an elected member of the organization who has been active for at least one semester. They are responsible for keeping and maintaining a public record of minutes for all meetings, as well as emailing them to all members afterwards. This office has the right to members' contact information in order to email the group about events and meetings. This office is also responsible for public relations (including social media) and advertisements of any activities UE P.R.I.D.E. may engage in. Finally, this office is responsible for handling UE P.R.I.D.E. archives and maintaining the history of the organization.

Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer is an elected member of the organization who has been active for at least one semester. They are responsible for any financial transactions that the group may undertake. This office is in charge of organizing grants for the annual philanthropy, organizing fundraisers, and controlling and maintaining any merchandise for sale such as shirt, bracelet, and ticket sales. This office must interact with both the Office of Student Accounts and the Office of Accounting and Audit in Olmsted Hall, and the Corporate and Foundation Relations Office in the Igleheart Building in order to maintain receipts and accounting for the organization.

Section 5: Greek Liaison

The Greek Liaison is a member of the organization who also belongs to one of the Greek Organizations and is appointed by the Co-Presidents as needed. This office is intended to keep communication lines open between UE P.R.I.D.E. and the events of all Greek life organizations. This person is also in charge of encouraging all Greek organizations to participate in the annual philanthropy.

Section 6: Webmaster

The Webmaster is to be appointed by the Co-Presidents based upon their technical and computer skills. This person is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the UE P.R.I.D.E. web page. They will also have access to the organization's email/Google account if needed. The Webmaster can define this position by future amendment in order to remain current with technology.

Section 7: Student Government Representative

The Student Government Representative is a member appointed by the Co-Presidents that is able to attend any and all meetings of the Student Government Association. This member must be present at the required amount of meetings and also represent UE P.R.I.D.E. by announcing all events sponsored by UE P.R.I.D.E. to the members at these weekly meetings. They must conduct themselves in a manner that properly represents this organization. This office cannot be held by either Co-President and therefore this individual must relay all important or relevant information to the other members of the organization.

Section 8: Elections/Executive Requirements

All elected positions are elected by simple majority, which is defined as five voting members or more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of voting members, whichever is greater. The term requirements can be suspended or amended by *quorum* majority -- which is defined as $\frac{2}{3}$ of voting members (rounded up) or five voting members, whichever is greater -- in the case that there are willing candidates that do not meet these membership requirements. Annual elections are to be held the first full week of February for all elected positions by closed ballot that is to be counted and monitored by the Advisor. The only position which is not re-elected each year is that of the Advisor. All executive and core group members (defined in section 9) are required to read and update this document by the end of the month in which they were elected this position.

If any executive member is found to be in violation of this constitution, they may, with the approval of the advisor, be evicted from office.

Should the general members of PRIDE at any point feel that the current executive board is dysfunctional in such a way as to be harmful to the organization, any member not on the executive board may put forward a motion to re-vote. If the motion is ratified, as defined as a 2/3 majority vote of the attending membership, the entire executive board is considered impeached. Immediately following the board's impeachment, a new election is to be held, in which any eligible member of the organization, including the recently impeached board members, may run for office. The results of the new election shall then stand as the executive board for the remainder of the term.

Absences of an executive member from meetings and events are excused if at least 24 hours notice has been given. Two unexcused absences will result in a warning. The third unexcused absence will automatically result in the eviction of that member from their position. If an executive position becomes available for any reason, the Co-Presidents will undertake the responsibilities of that position. They will call for elections at the earliest possible convenience. If both Co-President roles become available, the Secretary and Treasurer will undertake the responsibilities of President. They will call for elections at the earliest possible convenience. If needed, the Advisor(s) will assist with the open position's responsibilities and the election process. If all elected positions and the Advisor(s) are unable to continue in their positions, the remaining members of the Core Group (as defined in Section 9) will assume the elected positions and call for elections as soon as possible.

Section 9: The Core Group and Voting Members

The Core Group is defined as the elected officers, the appointed officers, and any member who wishes to represent the organization. The Core Group is to be responsible for the organizational aspects of UE P.R.I.D.E. and to ensure that the group functions smoothly during the weekly general meetings (discussed further in section 10). They are also responsible for preparing all events and activities to be accomplished by the organization as well as establishing committees for these events. All Core Group members are to be familiar with University policies, requirements for organizations, and the constitution of the organization as verified by the Center for Student Engagement. The Voting Members of the organization are the current University of Evansville students in the main body of UE P.R.I.D.E. who attend the weekly general meetings.

Section 10: Meetings

Meetings among the general members and the public are called General Meetings and are to take place weekly. In special circumstances, the Co-Presidents may declare this meeting to remain open only to students and the Advisor(s), if approved by unanimous decision. These meetings include event topics such as National Coming Out Day, National Day of Silence, National Suicide Prevention Week, and Transgender Day of Remembrance. Any attendee may be asked to leave the meeting if they are deemed by 3 elected officers to be a threat to the emotional and/or physical safety of other members. In addition to the General Meeting, Core Group members are also to meet on a weekly basis at meetings which are open to all members,

unless the board wishes to call a replacement meeting during a given week. The Co-Presidents may also call additional meetings of any kind as deemed necessary. If specific problems should arise, the Co-Presidents are able to call an Executive Meeting. These meetings include elected positions of the organization (Co-presidents, Secretary/Historian, Treasurer); however, these meetings are to be conducted only in rare circumstances as needed.

Section 11: Amendments

This document is to be changed via amendments which are to be proposed during Core Group meetings. All amendments are required to be passed by unanimous vote of all Executive members and by the Advisor(s). Amendments must also be approved by *quorum* majority during general meetings.

Article 3: Activities

Section 1: Organization Fair

UE P.R.I.D.E. will participate in the university's annual organization fair, which occurs during Labor Day weekend. Members of the Core Group will have a table and information to advertise the group.

Section 2: National Coming Out Day

UE P.R.I.D.E. will annually engage in activities to celebrate National Coming Out Day, which is held in the second week of October. The Core Group will hold activities including, but not limited to, the Coming Out Panel and discussion around the fall intermission. The panel shall be set up by the Core Group.

Section 3: Drag Show (Philanthropy)

All University of Evansville non-academic organizations are required to engage in local philanthropy. UE P.R.I.D.E., being such an organization, will register in an annual philanthropy entitled UE Drag Show. The drag show will be UE P.R.I.D.E.'s primary philanthropy in which all proceeds must benefit local non-profit organizations which adhere to the goals of the organization. The drag show will be supplemented with an educational health fair that will be attended by the benefiting non-profit groups as well as other GSMA organizations. The event will be open to all community members and therefore must be monitored by local security and police. The Core Group will obtain grants and door prizes from local businesses, prepare decorations, book local performers, prepare advertising and ticket sales, and work with the Office of Technology Services and the Center for Student Engagement in order to obtain equipment and proper facilities in which to conduct the philanthropy. Benefiting organizations will be funded via a check request through the Office of Accounting and Audit. The event will be held annually on the first Saturday in December. All participating performers must sign a waiver in which university policies are thoroughly stated. In order to ensure that the event upholds university policies, an Advisor and elected officers must be present at the event.

Section 4: Religion and Sexuality Panel

UE P.R.I.D.E. will conduct a Religion and Sexuality Panel during the Spring term. The panel will consist of university and community members who vary in religious backgrounds in order to promote the idea that religion and sexuality are not mutually exclusive. The Core Group will select this panel and take the necessary steps in advertising the event.

Section 5: Other Events

UE P.R.I.D.E. shall endeavor to engage in as many education and political activities as it may find time to pursue such as National Day of Silence and Safe Zone Training. It shall also endeavor to engage in GSMA related events in the local Evansville, Indiana community. These activities, along with all other mentioned activities, are open to all members of UE P.R.I.D.E. and may be made open to the University of Evansville community and/or local community as need or choice demands. Any additional annual activities may be added to the constitution by amendment.

Article 4: Ratification

This document will go into effect upon its acceptance by the University of Evansville Center for Student Engagement. The document is to be signed in a setting which the other executive members are present to bear witness.

Print

Signature

Date

Advisor:

Advisor:

Co-President:

Co-President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Last Updated: April 10, 2014