

Hendrix College Amnesty International Bylaws

Approved by committee: 09/16/2010

Purpose

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement, which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience- men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, race, ethnicity, sex, or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. AI opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases and advocated fair and prompt trials for political prisoners. AI is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. Members write letters to government officials all over the world on behalf of prisoners of conscience and attempt to raise campus and community consciousness about human rights violations. In addition to the national duties of Amnesty International, the Hendrix chapter will take on additional projects to help promote and benefit human rights across the community, nation, and world.

Article I: Name

Hendrix College Amnesty International

Article II: Membership

Membership shall be open to any student, faculty member, administrator or staff person regardless of race, sex, creed, national origin, disability, or other status protected under international human rights law. Members are not required to pay dues, but must attend meetings and contribute meaningfully to organized events.

Article III: Officers

Section 1) The group shall have the following offices:

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Urgent Action Coordinator
- D. Communications Coordinator
- E. Special Activities Coordinator
- F. Faculty Advisor

Section 2) Exact duties may shift from year to year based on the needs of the present members. Any member who is willing to accept the responsibilities of a position is qualified to hold it.

Section 3) Officer terms last the length of the school year. Elections for new officers shall be held in the spring and voted on by majority.

Section 4) Vacancies of officers shall be appointed by a majority of group officers or the faculty sponsor.

Article IV: Officer Responsibilities

Section 1) President

The elected president shall call and reside over group meetings, disseminate information from AIUSA headquarters, represent the group at all Student Activities meetings, and keep the faculty sponsor informed of all activities.

Section 2) Vice-President

All financial responsibilities lie with the VP, including recording all financial transactions, proposing the budget, and paying the annual group membership fee to the AIUSA Southern Regional Office. The VP will also lead meetings in the President's absence.

Section 2) Urgent Action Coordinator

The elected UA Coordinator will receive UA appeals, photocopy them, and distribute them to the group at meetings. They will keep track of letters written and inform the group of UA updates. This individual will also create petitions and letters based on urgent actions. They will also bring snacks to the meeting.

Section 3) Communications Coordinator

This elected member will act as a liaison to the campus wide forms of media, and ensure that all events are well publicized both digitally and physically (i.e.- Hendrix Today, Table Talk, Email tree, Facebook, fliers, posters, announcement boards, etc). This officer will also record meeting minutes.

Section 4) Special Activities Coordinator

This officer is a special events coordinator. They shall plan all events outside of letter-writing meetings including lectures, panels, vigils, movie screenings, demonstrations, lobbying, etc. This individual must coordinate with all other officers to ensure their activities are covered in the budget, are well publicized, and are consistent with Amnesty International's core action plan.

Section 5) Faculty Advisor

The Advisor will mentor the executive committee to give financial and administrative insight. They must come to at least one meeting per semester and meeting with the officers at the beginning of the semester. The Advisor is supportive and constructive.

Article V: Finances

All financial responsibility lies with the Vice-President. The organization will obtain funds through Student Senate to be used according to the annual budget proposal. Funding is required for national dues, mailings, stamps, publicity, and other needs as they arise.

Article VI: Amendments

Any member may propose a change to the constitution at a meeting. Voting on the change will take place at the next meeting. All members will be notified before that

meeting about what is taking place so they have a chance for input. If at least sixty percent of those present vote for the change, the amendment will be considered in effect immediately.

Date of Revision: 1/28/2011

Revised by: President- Molly McGuire

Revision confirmed by:

VP- Grace Arnold

UA Coordinator- Katy Brantley

Communications Coordinator- Maria Balduf

Special Activities Coordinator- Linh Chuong