

Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association Constitution

Preamble:

We, the members of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association, hereby associate ourselves to provide information on veterinary medicine to those interested in the field and to obtain useful knowledge through interacting with each other about various ways in which we can become better candidates for veterinary school.

Article I: Name

The name of this society shall be the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association.

Article II: Purpose

Section 1. To meet the needs of Pre-Veterinary students, and those considering the veterinary field, in exploring the opportunities in veterinary medicine, and familiarizing them with what to expect and what is expected in the pre-veterinary curriculum, veterinary college, and as veterinarians.

Section 2. To foster a community of support and friendship among individuals with varying backgrounds and interest, that uplifts and aides each other in obtaining like-minded goals for the betterment of themselves, the community, and the veterinary field.

Section 3. By presentation of pertinent information regarding curriculum, scholastic requirements and other information, the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association will endeavor to promote a higher scholastic standard and to strengthen qualifications of the individual entering veterinary college.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association shall be limited to persons officially connected with the University of South Carolina-Columbia as faculty, staff, or students. Students enrolled in the spring semester under the above conditions who have pre-registered for the fall semester, as well as students enrolled in the summer classes, are eligible for summer membership.

Section 2. The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Section 3. A person may become an active member by paying the yearly or semester dues designated by the Executive Committee, and fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Active Members must have 6 points by the end of each semester. Points may be earned in the following ways:
 - A. Meetings: 1 point
 - B. Fundraising events: 1 point
 - C. Community service events: 1 point
 - D. Test File: ½ point per class (MAX 3!; MUST INCLUDE: syllabus, ALL Tests, All Quizzes, and CORRECT answers!)

This criteria may be altered as needed by the Executive Committee. Any alterations must then be voted on by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of active members.

Section 4. New members will not be subject to the above point requirements until one semester has passed during which they are to obtain credit for the above criteria. New members will therefore only be required to pay the yearly or semester dues to be considered an active member.

Section 5. Failure to pay dues or complete the above requirements will not and cannot terminate a student's membership to the society, only he/she can do that himself/herself. However, voting rights and activities to be determined within the society will be limited to only those students who fulfill the above criteria.

Article IV: Organization

Section 1. The officers of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association shall be elected from the active members. Any students seeking to hold or holding office must maintain the cumulative GPR requirement for graduation and remain in good standing in their respective college.

Section 2. The elected officers of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Chair, Webmaster/Historian, and Activity Chair. These positions shall comprise the voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Elections:

- A. All officers shall be elected on or before April 1 of each year, and shall serve one-year terms.
- B. All officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast. Only active members are eligible to vote. If no candidate for an office receives a majority of the votes cast, then only the top two candidates will be placed on a second ballot for that office until a majority is reached.
- C. A quorum of one-half (1/2) of the active membership shall be reached for all meetings where officer nominations or elections take place.

Section 4. Officer's Duties

- A. The President of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association shall preside over all meetings (both general and executive), and have the authority to appoint all committee chairpersons, to create new committees, to nominate a faculty advisor to be approved by the active members, and to act as a spokesperson for the organization. The president is also responsible for obtaining and scheduling a room in advance for any meetings or events, and completing and turning in all required university paperwork.
- B. The Vice President shall preside at all Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association meetings in the President's absence, and upon his/her resignation, shall become the president of the organization for the duration of the term. The Vice President will support the President in all Special Projects, and is responsible for the scheduling of speakers.
- C. The Secretary shall handle and keep a record of all Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association business and correspondence, including, but not restricted to: recording minutes at all Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association meetings; keeping an up-to-date file on all members; informing members of all Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association meetings and activities. This position may be combined with the duties of the Treasurer.
- D. The Treasurer shall handle all financial transactions of the organization, including, but not restricted to: the collection of dues; managing all bank accounts; recording all transactions in the appropriate books; managing any and all merchandise of the organization (t-shirts, etc.). This position may be combined with the duties of the Secretary.
- E. The Publicity Chair shall create and initiate all campaign activities to foster interest in the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association, inform local veterinarians and the community of any and all activities the organization is engaged in, and attract new membership to the organization. He/she will be responsible for working with the Activities Chair in promoting all events for the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association. This position may be combined with the duties of the Activity Chair.
- F. The Webmaster/Historian shall maintain and update regularly the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association Website, along with any and all other official web presences. He/she is also responsible for taking/collecting pictures throughout the year of events and activities that the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association takes part in. At the end of the year, the Webmaster/Historian is responsible for presenting a scrapbook and/or slide show of all pictures taken throughout the year to the members of the organization.
- G. The Activity Chair shall be responsible for organizing and scheduling at least two (2) fundraising and service events per semester for the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association, and making members aware of any and all tasks

required of them. This position may be combined with the duties of the Publicity Chair.

Section 5. The Faculty/Staff Advisor to the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority vote of a quorum of active members. The Faculty/Staff Advisor must be selected from full-time faculty or administrative staff members at the University. The Advisor shall serve as a liaison with the University, and help in the transition period between officers. The Advisor will be invited to and notified of all Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association meetings and activities. In addition to the Faculty/Staff Advisor there shall also be a licensed Veterinarian to serve as advisor and share in the responsibilities for the Faculty/Staff Advisor listed above.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1. The first meeting of the fall semester shall be held within two weeks after classes start.

Section 2. Regular meetings shall be held bi-weekly during the school year at a time set by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Action on any business, old or new, requires a quorum of one-half of the active membership of the organization.

Article VI: Dues and Finance

Section 1. The Executive Committee will establish the dues for the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association on or before the first meeting of the fall semester. The Treasurer must receive payment of dues within one month of the first day of class of each semester to be an active member of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association.

Section 2. The Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association will finance its activities through membership dues, fundraising projects, donations, and may apply for funds from the Senate Finance Committee after the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association has been registered for one year and are eligible.

Article VII: Resignation & Removal from Office

Section 1. If an officer feels that he/she is unable to perform the duties of their position to the best of their abilities they must notify the Executive Committee of their intent to resign. He/she must then retain the position until a replacement may be found and elected by the active members.

Section 2. A Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association officer whose dereliction of duty adversely affects the operations of the organization shall be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee or removal from office.

Section 3. A written request stating the reasons for dismissal and signed by at least three (3) active members of the organization must be submitted at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 4. Before the next regularly scheduled meeting, written notification of the request and the reasons for dismissal must have been given to the offending officer, who should come to that meeting prepared to speak.

Section 5. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all active members is required to remove the officer from office.

Article VIII: Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution is binding to all members of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association but is not binding unto itself.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing by any active member of the Gamecock Pre-Veterinary Association at any regular meeting at which two-thirds (2/3) of the active members are present.

Section 3. Proposed amendments shall be voted upon only after one regular meeting following the introduction of the proposal.

Section 4. Proposed amendments will become effective following a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the active members.

Article IX: Ratification

The undersigned student(s) of the University of South Carolina, after a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of active members, do hereby agree to follow the guidelines of this Constitution.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____