

Constitution for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences Students Organization

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The Department of Atmospheric Sciences Students Organization (DASSO) is a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign student organization and shall abide by the University's rules and regulations regarding student organizations.

The objectives of this organization are as follows:

- Serve as a forum for students to voice their opinions/concerns
- Serve as a conduit between the Department of Atmospheric Sciences (DAS) students and the DAS faculty and staff
- Serve as a conduit between the DAS students and the University
- Serve as a conduit between the DAS students and the Champaign-Urbana community
- Serve as a vehicle to communicate/collaborate with other Atmospheric Sciences student groups at other universities
- Promote and, when necessary, coordinate social activities within DAS
- Promote and, when necessary, coordinate professional activities within DAS
- Promote the welfare of all DAS graduate and IPS students

Membership

A student is permitted membership into DASSO if (s)he meets one of the following requirements:

- Graduate student in DAS¹
- Individual Plan of Study (IPS) student in DAS²

Dues

Although both the Organizational and Departmental dues will be administered by DASSO they will be used for distinct purposes and entitle the payee to a distinct set of privileges.

- Organization dues
 - Dues paid for active membership into the organization (see Membership Levels below for a description of "active" membership)
 - These funds will support the operations of the organization (e.g., photo copying) and will fund student-only activities
- Departmental dues

¹ Acceptance into any department as a graduate student requires a formal procedure of admission at the departmental level.

² Acceptance into any department as an IPS student requires a formal procedure of admission at the departmental and college levels.

- Dues paid by all DAS personnel for participation in department-wide functions
- These funds will be used to support all department-wide activities coordinated by the organization (e.g., holiday parties and picnics)

Membership Levels

- Inactive
 - Graduate students and IPS students who have NOT paid the Organization Dues
 - Ineligible to vote but allowed to participate in all discussions related to departmental or Organization issues
- Active
 - Graduate students and IPS students who HAVE paid the Organization Dues
 - Allowed to vote
 - Allowed to serve as officers and committee members

General Assembly Meetings

- A general assembly meeting, defined as a meeting open to all active and inactive members, should be held *at least* once per semester.
- The tentative agenda items must be announced no less than **1 week** before the meeting.
- All voting shall be done at general assembly meetings.

Officers

- All officers are permitted to conduct transactions to the Organization account.
- Terms of office shall last 1 year and shall begin at the start of the fall semester following the spring semester in which the election took place.
- President
 - Oversees the operations of the organization
 - Establishes ad hoc committees
 - Calls and organizes regular general assembly meetings
 - Establishes the election committee for officer elections and amendment voting
 - Serve on both the Social committee and Academic and Professional committee
- Secretary
 - Serve as the student representative at faculty meetings
 - Records the minutes of all general assembly meetings
 - Disseminates meeting minutes to all active and inactive members
 - Counts the votes for any policy referenda
 - Serve on the Academic and Professional committee
 - Serve as the president pro tem in the absence of the president
- Treasurer
 - Collects and manages both organizational and departmental dues
 - Serve on the Social committee

Permanent Committees

All committees should designate a chairman who will serve as the primary liaison between the committee and the president and the committee and the general membership.

- Social committee
 - Composed of no fewer than 2 members
 - Permanent membership
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Responsibilities include, but are not restricted to, the organization of the following activities:
 - Seminar refreshments
 - Spring and fall picnics
 - Holiday parties
 - Pay day dinners
 - Happy hours
- Academic and professional committee
 - Composed of no fewer than 2 members
 - Permanent membership
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Responsibilities include, but are not restricted to, the following:
 - Selects forecast contest coordinator
 - Coordinates snow pool contest
 - Selects the student designated seminar speakers
 - Coordinates community service activities (e.g. Daily Illini forecasts)
 - Selects DAS representative for university student organization

Officer Elections

- Date of election
 - Approximately **4 weeks** before the last day of spring semester classes
- Announcement of candidacy
 - All candidates shall be announced no later than **1 week** before the election.
 - All candidates shall be encouraged to submit in writing a platform that shall be disseminated at least **1 week** prior to elections.
- Nominations
 - A candidate can be nominated by his/her peers or by himself/herself.

Voting protocol

- The issue or candidate receiving the most votes will win the election.
- Policy referenda
 - The policies under consideration shall be announced no less than **1 week** before the election.

- The quorum³ for policy referenda shall be >50% of the active members.
- The voting method shall be hand raising.
- Officer elections
 - The announcement of officer elections shall be no less than **2 weeks** prior to the date of the election.
 - The quorum for officer elections shall be >2/3 of the active members.
 - The voting method shall be paper ballots.
 - Election committee
 - No less than **1 week** prior to elections, the president shall nominate two active members who are not on the ballot to serve on the election committee.
 - The election committee shall be announced no less than **1 week** prior to the election.
 - The election committee is responsible for coordinating the election including,
 - Making ballots
 - Counting votes
 - Archiving ballots for 1 week
 - Absentee voting
 - Absentee voting is allowed for active members no less than **72 hours** before the election.
 - Votes should be submitted to the chair of the election committee in writing (submission through e-mail is allowed).

Constitutional Amendments

- Amendment proposal
 - More than 15% of the active membership must support the proposal of an amendment for it to be voted on.
 - Proposal methods
 - Voting
 - Amendment proposal voting shall follow the protocol for policy referenda voting.
 - Petitioning
 - Shall take the form of a list of signatures submitted to the president
- Amendment voting shall take place at the same general assembly meeting that officer elections are held.
- The announcement of amendment voting shall be made no less than **2 weeks** prior to the election
- The quorum for amendment voting shall be >2/3 of the active membership.
- The voting method shall be paper ballots.

³ Strictly defined, a quorum is the minimum number of members who must be present for a valid transaction of business. Since the most important “transactions” undertaken by this organization require voting we have defined the quorum as **the minimum number of active members that must be present at the time of voting for a vote to take place.**

- Approval of an amendment requires the affirmative votes of $>2/3$ of the votes cast.
- Absentee voting is allowed following the protocol set forth under Officer Elections.