

Our Constitution

Article 1: Name and Purpose

This organization shall be known as "Secular Students of Miami", and referred to as "the organization" within this document.

The purposes of the organization shall be to 1) promote and practice the open, rational, and scientific examination of the universe and our place in it, 2) promote the idea that ethics and morality can be meaningfully based on rational humanistic ideals and values, 3) promote skeptical inquiry, 4) provide a community for atheists, agnostics, humanists, skeptics, naturalists and other secularists, 5) organize activities, such as forums for discussion, guest speakers, and debates that educate Miami University and the surrounding community, 6) foster acceptance of secular people, and 7) advocate for the separation between church and state.

Article 2: Members

- Non-voting membership shall be open to all Miami University students, faculty, and staff, and community members. Only students may be voting members.
- **Commitment to Non-discrimination:** The organization is committed to full compliance with MU code on non-discrimination, and will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veterans' status.
- **Anti-hazing Statement:** The organization is committed to full compliance with MU code on anti-hazing. MU code states the following:
 - **06X.101.A.** In the University context, the term "hazing" typically refers to actions directed toward or required of individuals new to a group or community by those who are established within the group. Hazing is a broad term encompassing a multiplicity of actions and activities which do not contribute to the positive development of a person; or which inflict or intend to cause mental or bodily harm or anxiety; or which demean, degrade, or disgrace a person.
 - **06X.101.B.** Hazing is based on the premise that some members are less equal than other members and, therefore, less deserving of respect. It is rationalized by the philosophy that membership is earned, not learned. Hazing especially undermines new member education programs by eroding the atmosphere of mutual respect and trust necessary for groups to contribute to the positive personal growth of all members.
 - **06X.101.C.** Hazing is strictly prohibited by University policy and state law.

Article 3: Officers/Executive Board

- **The Chair** shall 1) organize and preside over meetings, activities and events, 2) be the official representative for the organization, 3) maintain contact with related outside organizations, 4) ensure this Constitution is followed, 5) have the final word in all decisions where a vote is not specifically called for in this document, 6) break any tie vote. 7) maintain the website and keep it up to date.

- **The Events Coordinator** shall 1) plan, organize, and coordinate events for the organization, 2) be responsible for reserving appropriate spaces for events, 3) thank all presenters.
- **The Treasurer** shall 1) be responsible for all financial matters, 2) be responsible for keeping records and possession (on behalf of the group) of all merchandise, 3) keep the organization current with all paper work that needs to be filed with Miami University, 4) prepare a budget for the following academic term by the last meeting of the current academic term 5) if there is not an appointed secretary, the Treasurer shall take on the roles of processing membership requests and keeping a current roster of all members.
- **The Secretary** shall 1) record the results of all votes taken, 2) record briefly what occurred at each meeting, 3) collect attendance at each meeting, 4) process membership requests, 5) keep a current roster of all members.
- **The Social Chair** shall 1) organize social gatherings officially sponsored by the club, 2) encourage members to informally socialize with each other outside of club-sponsored events.
- **Elections:** Officers shall be elected at least a month before the end of each Spring term. Members shall be notified of a pending election at least one month in advance. Nominations can be taken from the floor. Only voting members that plan to remain voting members during the next year are eligible to run. Election shall occur by secret ballot of voting members. The candidate with the most votes wins; uncontested candidates win by default. Terms shall begin at the general meeting following the election, and shall last until the terms of the next officers begin. There is no limit on the number of terms an individual may hold office.

Article 4: Funding

The organization has the power to levee annual dues against the membership. The dues must be approved by a majority vote of the membership at a normal business meeting.

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