University of North Dakota
Freethinkers of The University of North Dakota
FUND

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1.

The name of this organization established by this constitution shall be, Freethinkers of the University of North Dakota - FUND

Section 2.

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

A. Promote and practice the open, rational, and scientific examination of the universe and our place in it.
B. Encourage that ethics and morality can be meaningfully based on rational and humanistic ideals and values.
C. Promote skeptical inquiry.
D. Provide a community for atheists, agnostics, humanist, skeptics, naturalists and other freethinkers.
E. Organize activities, such as forums for discussion, guest speakers, and debates that educate The University of North Dakota and surrounding community.
F. Foster acceptance of freethinkers and advocate for the separation between church and state.

Section 3.

This organization shall be affiliated with The Secular Student Alliance. The rules and regulations of the national constitution shall be followed when not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the University of North Dakota. When inconsistencies are present, this organization shall adhere to the rules and regulations of the University of North Dakota. A letter of affiliation is attached to the constitution.

ARTICLE II. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Section 1.

Membership in Freethinkers of the University of North Dakota shall Comply with the University’s nondiscrimination statement as stated in the Code of Student Life.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

A. Anyone may become a member who:

1. Is a student at the University of North Dakota.
2. Is a faculty/staff member at the University of North Dakota.
3. Is an interested community member.
4. Has paid the required membership fees (in Bylaws).

B. Voting members shall consist of all members who:

1. Have paid the required dues.
2. Have fulfilled the attendance requirements (in Bylaws).

C. Non-students cannot vote on the following:

1. Election or removal of officers.
2. Removal of members.
3. Amendments to the constitution.

D. No academic credit shall be offered for participation and/or membership in this organization.

Section 2. Removal of Members

A. Grounds for removal of members may include:

1. Violation of University Policy.
2. Violation of the UND Code of Student Life.
3. Non-payment of dues.

B. A member may be removed by the following process:

1. A petition to remove the member should be submitted to the President. Such a petition must contain the signatures of the voting members and will be assessed with majority rule. When such a petition is received, the President shall call a meeting of the organization to decide upon removal.
2. The grounds for removal are to be presented by the President at a regular or special meeting of the organization.
3. The member in question shall be provided an opportunity to present a defense either in person or in writing.
4. Voting is not to occur until after a presentation of the grounds and defense have been made. In order for a vote for removal to take place, at least half of the voting membership must attend the meeting, and a majority vote of the members present at that meeting is required for removal.
Section 3.
A. Members may appeal their removal, but the appeal must be made within two weeks of the vote for removal by requesting the President to call a special meeting of the organization. The President shall notify all members of this meeting, which is to occur at least three weeks and not more than six weeks after the appeal request is received by the President.

A. The decision to repeal the vote for removal shall require at least majority of the voting membership to attend the meeting, and 2/3 vote of the voting members present at the special meeting.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization will be:

A. President.
B. Vice President.
C. Secretary.
D. Treasurer.

Section 2. In order to be eligible to hold an office in this organization, the following qualifications must be met.

A. The candidate must be a student member of the organization.

B. The candidate must have held membership in the organization for at least one month before officer eligibility becomes available. This requirement does not apply for the first year of the organization.

Section 3.
A. The officers of the organization shall be elected for a term of one semester.

B. There will be no restrictions placed on the number of terms of office a member may hold.

C. Elections will be held once per academic semester.

D. Election to office will be by plurality of the voting members present.

Section 4.
A. The President shall be the principal executive officer and shall have the following duties:

1. To preside at all meetings of the organization.
2. To call special meetings of the organization, when required.
3. To submit an Officer Roster Card at the beginning of each semester to the Student Involvement Office.
4. To schedule meetings, classes, and group related lectures.
5. To prepare and file any report required by the University.

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6. To appoint committee chair people subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
7. To perform other duties as specified.
8. To prepare and maintain a manual/binder related to the office and to review all materials in the transition of the incoming President prior to giving up the office.
9. Maintain contact with national affiliate regarding organization progress.

B. The Vice President shall have the following duties:

1. To assume the duties of the President (until a special election can be held) in the event of a vacancy in the office.
2. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Standing Committees of the organization.
3. To plan the officers' orientation and organization retreats.
4. To perform other duties as assigned by the President or as specified.
5. To prepare and maintain a manual/binder related to the office and to review all materials in the transition of the incoming Vice President prior to giving up the office.
6. Cast tie-breaking vote if necessary.

C. The Secretary shall have the following duties:

1. To keep a record of all members of the organization.
2. To keep a record of all activities of the organization.
3. To keep and distribute minutes of each meeting of the organization.
4. To notify all members of meetings.
5. To handle all official correspondence of the organization.
6. To perform other duties as assigned by the President or as specified.
7. To prepare and maintain a manual/binder related to the office and to review all materials in the transition of the incoming Secretary prior to giving up the office.
8. Plan events, fundraisers, speakers, and other events of the organization, and to obtain appropriate facilities for these activities.

D. The Treasurer shall have the following duties:

1. To keep all financial records of the organization.
2. To prepare and submit financial reports to the members.
3. To prepare the annual budget and all budget requests for funds.
4. To submit financial records for an annual audit to the Student Involvement Office at the end of each Spring semester.
2. To become familiar with University accounting procedures and policies.
3. To perform other duties as assigned by the President or as specified.

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4. To prepare and maintain a manual/binder related to the office and to review all materials in the transition of the incoming Treasurer prior to giving up the office.

5. Manage funds/scholarships that might be given to the group from national affiliate.

Section 5.

A. In the event of a vacancy in an office other than the President before the expiration of a full term, a special election shall be called by the President within one week to fill the vacancy.

B. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President before the expiration of a full term the Vice President shall ascend to the office of the President for the remainder of the term.

Section 6.

A. Grounds for removal of an officer may include:

1. Violation of University policy.
2. Violation of the UND Code of Student Life.
3. Failure to perform the duties of the office as set forth in the constitution of the organization.
4. Failure to uphold the provision of this constitution.

B. An officer may be removed by the following process:

1. A petition to remove the officer(s) in question should be submitted in writing to another officer. Such a petition must contain the signatures of 50% of the voting members of the organization. When such a petition is received, the President, or if the President is the subject or one of the subjects of the petition the next highest ranking officer, shall call a meeting of the organization to decide upon removal.
2. The grounds for removal are to be presented by the officer in charge at a regular or special meeting of the organization.
3. The officer(s) under review shall be provided an opportunity to present a defense either in person or in writing.
4. Voting is not to occur until after a presentation of the grounds and defense have been made. In order for a vote for removal to take place, at least half of the voting membership must attend the meeting, and a 2/3 vote of the voting members present at the regular or special meeting.

Section 7.

Appeal of Removal of Officer

A. An officer may appeal his/her removal, but such appeal must be made within two weeks of the vote for removal by requesting a special appeal meeting of the organization. The President, or Vice President if the President is the officer being removed, shall notify all members of this meeting which is not to occur less than three weeks and not more than six weeks after the appeal request is received.
B. The decision to repeal the vote for removal shall require at least half of the voting membership to attend the meeting, and a 2/3 vote of the members present at the meeting.

Section 8. Changes in Officers.

All changes in officers or mailing addresses shall be submitted to the Student Involvement Office within two weeks of such a change.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section 1. Advisor Selection

A. The Advisor to this organization must be a member of the UND faculty or staff.

Section 2. Role of the Advisor

A. The Advisor must co-sign all financial transactions of the organization.
B. The Advisor shall assist the officers and the members in accomplishing the purpose of this organization.
C. The Advisor shall regularly review the financial records of the organization and forward mailings to the appropriate officers.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1.

A. Business meetings of the organization shall be called by the President upon her/his discretion during the academic year.

B. Non-business meetings for the purpose of instruction, discussion, debate, or other activities shall be held on the minimal basis of a biweekly schedule.

Section 2. Special Meetings:

A. Special meetings may be called by the President upon one week notice to the members.

B. The President shall call a special meeting when requested 25% of the voting membership.

Section 3. Quorum:

A. A quorum at business meetings shall consist of 25% of the voting membership.

B. Quorum is not required to hold non-business meetings such as discussion meetings, lectures, debates.

Section 4.
The Parliamentary Authority for this organization shall be Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Management of this organization shall be vested in an Executive Committee responsible to the entire membership to uphold this constitution.

Section 2. Membership:

Membership shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Advisor.

Section 3. Meetings:

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a semester to organize and plan future activities and agenda items for meetings.

Section 4. Quorum:

A quorum of this committee shall consist of 2/3 of the voting members.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Authority to Establish Special Committees:

The President shall have the authority to appoint any special committees, with the approval of the Executive Committee, as well as meet the needs of the organization.

Section 2. Special Committees

These committees may include, but are not limited to the following:

A. Public Relations: This committee shall coordinate the advertising and publicity of the group and its events, maintain contact with local media outlets, create and maintain a list of those interested in joining the organization.

B. Development Committee: This committee shall keep records of all organizations and individuals who have given money to the organization, periodically solicit those who have given money to the organization before for additional funds, identify and pursue potential new sources of funding.

C. Webmaster Committee: This committee shall maintain the organization webpages, coordinate with other group members to make sure the information is up to date, and moderate all listservs for the organization.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE
Section 1.

A. All funds from University sources must be deposited and maintained in a University of North Dakota account.

B. The President and/or the Treasurer shall be authorized to sign all financial transactions dealing with organization funds.

C. The Advisor of the organization must co-sign all financial transactions of the organization.

D. The financial records/ledger of the on-campus account must be submitted for an annual audit to the Student Involvement Office at the end of the Spring Semester.

E. Financial records must be audited by the national organization.

ARTICLE X. BYLAWS

Section 1. Provision for Bylaws:

A. The organization may approve bylaws for the specific operation of the organization.

B. No bylaw shall be adopted that is contrary to the provisions of the national affiliate.

Section 2. Vote Required:

A. The organization may adopt, amend, or rescind any bylaw by a 2/3 vote of the membership.

B. Any proposed bylaw must be publicized to the members at the beginning of the meeting at which it is going to be voted upon.

Section 3. Bylaws:

A. Membership fees will cost each member $10.00 per academic semester or $15.00 per academic school year.

B. Members must attend at least one meeting every six weeks in order to vote and maintain membership.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

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Section 1. 

Ratification:

A. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall be presented to the members at least one meeting prior to the meeting at which the vote shall be held.

B. Ratification of an amendment to this constitution shall require a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled business meeting of the organization and all amendments to this constitution shall be approved by the Student Policy Committee before they take effect.

This constitution was approved by the organization’s members on 9/29/11.

[Signatures]

President

[Signature]

Officer

[Signature]

Advisor: Charles W. Miller

[Signature]

Assistant Program Director for Student Involvement

Date approved by Student Policy Committee: 9/29/11