

# **CONSTITUTION FOR THE DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization is the Doctor of Plant Medicine Student Organization. This organization will utilize the acronym DPMSO in all publicity materials and correspondence.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purposes of the Doctor of Plant Medicine Student Organization are as follows:

1. To commit to the improved management of plant pests (arthropods, pathogens, weeds, etc.) through integrated systems, thus promoting healthy plants, people, and environment.
2. To promote world-wide awareness and interest in the Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) degree and encourage cultural diversity among students therein so that DPM expertise may become widespread and may benefit people internationally.
3. To increase public knowledge and understanding of status, achievements, and goals of the program.
4. To explore and keep students abreast of scholarship, internship, and career opportunities.
5. To stimulate interest among and provide opportunities for interaction with faculty and students of the departments participating in the Plant Medicine Program.
6. To foster fellowship, integrity, leadership, and excellence among the DPM students.

## **ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

Upon approval by the Center for Student Activities and Involvement, the Doctor of Plant Medicine Student Organization shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. The DPMSO shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University's regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

## **ARTICLE IV. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

In compliance with the University of Florida Non-Discrimination Policy (Regulation 6C1-1.006), the DPMSO will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

## **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the DPMSO is open to enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

Section A: The elected officers of the DPMSO shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Historian. A Graduate Student Council Representative will be appointed on a voluntary basis.

Part 1: The President shall preside at all meetings and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees. The President shall have the authority to create any committees that he/she deems necessary to execute the purposes of the organization. The President shall have the authority to cancel regular meetings and to call special meetings. All meetings must be announced before they take place.

Part 2: The Vice-President shall serve as an aide to the President and shall perform the duties of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, in her/his absence or inability to serve.

Part 3: The Treasurer shall receive and manage all monies of the DPMSO; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization. The Treasurer shall present a financial statement at every meeting of the DPMSO and at other times when requested by the President or Vice President.

Part 4: The Secretary shall record the minutes of all the general DPMSO body meetings along with officer only meetings. He/she shall be responsible for creating an agenda for all general body meetings, verifying attendance of members at meetings, maintaining the public face DPMSO via social media, and shall perform other duties as may be delegated.

Part 5: The Historian shall act as a liaison between past DPMSO officers and the new officers. He/she is responsible for assisting the other officers with DPMSO publicity such as programming event flyers. The role of Historian may only be fulfilled by a DPM student that has served as a past officer. If no eligible candidate runs for the Historian during the election of the new officers, and interest is shown by a DPM student who has not yet held a position in DPMSO, the past officers may vote to make an exception. If majority rules in favor of the exception, the student may add his/her name to the ballot for voting by DPM students as with the other officer positions. If majority rules opposing the exception, then an existing officer must step up and fulfill the role for at least one semester. After which, another election may be hosted should interest by another officer or student arise.

Part 6: The Graduate Student Council Representative will be voluntarily appointed from the DPM student body. He/she must consistently attend the mandatory Graduate Student Council (GSC) meetings to maintain DPMSO status as an official student organization recognized by Student Government. He/she will report any useful GSC information discussed at the meeting to DPMSO officers for inclusion in the meeting minutes for DPM students. If unable to attend a GSC meeting, another officer will attend in his/her place.

## **ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS**

Section A: Nominations for all officers will take place annually from the members before the first meeting in January. Any member may nominate any other voting member, including himself or herself. Nominations may also be made during the election meeting prior to closing of nominations.

Section B: Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer.

## **ARTICLE VIII. FACULTY ADVISOR**

The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The Faculty Advisor shall be a current faculty member of the Plant Medicine Program (PMP). The Faculty Advisor shall not have voting privileges. The Faculty Advisor shall be nominated by student members and confirmed by a majority vote of the members. In the event that the current Faculty Advisor can no longer fulfill his/her duties, another current faculty member of the PMP shall be nominated by student members and confirmed as Faculty Advisor by a majority vote of the members.

## **ARTICLE IX. FINANCE**

There shall be no collection of dues from members. A Finance Committee consisting of at least the President and Treasurer shall identify needs and prepare and submit a request for funding from Student Government towards the end of the school year. If Student Government funds are granted, they shall be used to fund the activities of the organization according to the rules pertaining to spending by student groups.

## **ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

In the event that this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Plant Medicine Program.

## **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the President. Notice of the proposed amendment must be given prior to the next meeting. The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. The amendment shall be subject to approval of the Center for Student Activities and Involvement.