

**Constitution and By-Laws
Eastern Mennonite University
Safe Space**

Article I: Purpose

We as EMU Safe Space desire to be an *open* and *loving* space affirming people of all sexual orientations. We long to engage respectfully with students, faculty and administrators as a presence in our community for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning community, creating safe dialogue on the issue of homosexuality. We commit ourselves to building interpersonal relationships while maintaining a long term vision of equality and justice for the LGBTQ community.

Article II: Membership

Membership is open to anyone who supports the above stated purpose. A person may become a member of Safe Space at any time by alerting one of the officers of their intention of becoming a member. Members are encouraged, but not required, to attend club activities and meetings. In order to maintain a safe space, persons who are found to have views that strongly oppose our purpose may be asked to leave after engaging in discussions with Safe Space leadership.

Article III: Officers

Safe Space leadership will consist of the following: one president (or co-presidents) and one representative from each of the four classes. These members will form the Officers Council. The President will be in charge of making sure that all communication takes place within the group, as well as any public communication. The representatives are responsible for the main work of the organization: planning events, running meetings, and providing for the advancement of Safe Space. Among the representatives the tasks of record keeping and managing funds will be taken care of.

Article IV: Elections

Elections for officer positions will be held at the beginning of each semester or in the event of a vacancy. All student members of Safe Space are eligible to be officers. A member of the group must state their intent to run for office to the group at the time of elections. If an office must be filled and no one nominates him or her self for the position, nominations may be made by the group providing the nominee agrees to running. A majority is required to elect a person to office. In the event that an officer is no longer able to fulfill their duties and must be removed from office, a vote with a 2/3rds ruling of the members will be sufficient to remove the officer.

Article V: Meetings

The Officers Council of Safe Space will meet on a regular basis to discuss events and meetings. It is up to the officers to determine when and how often these meetings will occur, but they must occur at least twice a month. Large group meetings will occur in a relaxed atmosphere in a

neutral space, where all members can come and fellowship.

Article VI: Finances

One of the four representatives will be responsible for managing the funds of Safe Space. As needed, the representative in charge of funds will be responsible for making funding requests from the Student Government Association. He or she will be required to track and report all club financial activities to the group. All budgets must be approved by the entire Officers Council.

Article VII: Adviser

One of the duties of the President at the beginning of their term is to coordinate with the Faculty Adviser or to find an adviser if the current one has no interest in continuing. The adviser must agree with the stated purpose of Safe Space and must be willing to be a contributing member of the group. The adviser is to serve as a sounding board as Safe Space deals with complicated issues. He or she will serve as a link to other faculty and staff and help in dealing with the broader picture of the issue.

Article VIII: Amendments

Amendments may be proposed to the Officers Council by any member of the club. The Officers Council must then approve the amendment and present it to the members of the club. An amendment needs 2/3rds of the membership to pass.

This constitution was ratified on Oct. 28, 2009.