

[Sample Constitution for a Christian Science Organization (CSO)]

## **Constitution of the “Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_”**

### **Article I. name**

This organization shall be named “Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_. Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_, a registered student organization of the University of \_\_\_\_\_ ( ), may be referred to as CSO.

### **Article II. Statement of Purpose**

#### **Section 1. Guiding Principles**

The purpose of the Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ is to promote a spiritual perspective to life and campus issues at ( ).

#### **Section 2. Objectives**

The objectives of the Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be the following:

- To hold nondenominational interactive group meetings where students can discuss spiritual ideas, insights and experiences regarding life and campus issues at ( );
- To bring “Speakers with a Spiritual Perspective” to the ( ) campus to discuss issues important to ( ) students;
- To make the book, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, and its ideas available and accessible to all ( ) students.

### **Article III. Responsibility**

The Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ shall comply with all University of \_\_\_\_\_ policies and procedures as detailed in Student Rights and Responsibilities, The Student Organization Handbook, as well as local and national laws.\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \* Religious Organizations must also include the Chaplain’s Association Code of Ethics.

### **Article IV. Membership**

#### **Section 1. General Membership**

A. Membership of the Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be open to all University of \_\_\_\_\_ students in Good Academic Standing who have paid their Student Activity Fee. Non-voting memberships may be extended to interested faculty, administrators, staff members, and alumni of the University.

B. Active membership in the Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as those students who are currently ( ) students and are recorded in the organization’s membership list.

C. Benefits of membership: all active members have the right to vote.

#### **Section 2. Officers**

A. The Officers of the Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ shall consist of a President,

Treasurer, and Clerk.

- The President shall conduct all meetings and is responsible for all public communications about CSO ( ) events.
- The Treasurer shall manage and report on CSO ( ) finances, and assist the President.
- The Clerk shall keep minutes at CSO ( ) business meetings.

B. Eligibility Requirements: All Officers must be members of CSO ( ). The President must also be a member in good standing of The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts.

## **Article V. elections**

### **Section 1. Timeline**

An annual meeting to elect Officers will be held in \_\_\_\_\_. The Officers will determine the date, time and place of this meeting so as to maximize attendance, and will communicate the date, time and place of the meeting to the members.

### **Section 2. Procedures A. The President shall conduct the election.**

B. All members who meet the eligibility requirements for a given office are eligible for nomination and election.

C. Any member may make a nomination of any eligible member.

D. All members present may vote. Absentee voting, if in writing and signed by the voting member, is permissible. The nominee receiving a simple majority of the total votes cast is elected to that office. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, then a second ballot will be taken between the two nominees with the greatest number of votes. The nominee with the greater number of votes in this ballot is then elected to the office.

### **Section 3. Term**

The length of the term of office for Officers will extend to the next annual election meeting.

### **Section 4. Installation**

Installation of new Officers will occur immediately upon their election at the annual election meeting.

### **Section 5. Vacancies/Succession**

If a vacancy occurs in the position of Treasurer or Clerk, that position will be filled by the President until a special election meeting can be held according to the rules in Section 2 above. This special election should occur within 1 month of the occurrence of the vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the position of President, a special election meeting must be held as soon as possible to fill the vacancy, and conducted according to the rules in Section 2 above.

## **Article VI. Advisor**

The Advisor of the Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be a full-time faculty member, administrator, or staff member at the University of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Article VII. Meetings**

### **Section 1. General**

General member meetings may be held as needed, but will occur at least twice each school year. The Officers are responsible for setting and communicating the time and place of these meetings.

### **Section 2. Officers**

Officer meetings will be held as needed, but will occur at least twice each school year, in preparation for each of the two general member meetings.

### **Section 3. Special**

Special meetings will be held as needed, and may be called by the President, or by a request of at least five of the members.

## **Article VIII. Committees**

### **Section 1.**

Standing committees may be established by the President, as necessary.

### **Section 2.**

Special committees may be established by the President, as necessary.

## **Article IX. Discipline**

### **Section 1.**

Reasons: including but not limited to argumentativeness, prejudice towards others, religious denominationalism.

### **Section 2.**

Process: Any two members may make a written request to the President for disciplinary action.

### **Section 3.**

Consequences: the Officers review the case, and take the appropriate action: no action; warning; probation; or removal from membership.

## **Article X. Impeachment**

### **Section 1. Petition**

Two-thirds (2/3) of the Officers must agree or two-thirds (2/3) of active members must sign a petition to ask for impeachment.

### **Section 2. Process**

Active members, the Officer(s), or Advisor being impeached must be notified at least two weeks in advance of the impeachment hearing. The impeachment hearing must occur while classes are in session.

### **Section 3. Hearings**

The moderator of the impeachment hearing will be the President. The moderator cannot be the Officer being impeached or the impeacher. If the President is being impeached, the Clerk will serve as the moderator. Three-fourths (3/4) of active members must be present in order for the impeachment hearing to begin. Each side will be given the opportunity to present its case and the active members may ask questions. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of active members present is needed for impeachment.

## **Article XI. Amendments**

### **Section 1. Submission**

Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the President in writing for submission to the active members for a vote. The eligibility requirement that the President be a member in good standing of The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts, may not be changed.

### **Section 2. Vote**

A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members is needed for adoption.

### **Section 3. Final Approval**

Amendments must be presented to the Committee on Student Organizations for approval prior to implementation.

## **Article XII. Dissolution**

### **Section 1. Process**

The Christian Science Organization at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ may be dissolved after dissolution is approved by the Officers and by a vote of a majority of the active members, provided that a notice of the vote on dissolution is furnished to the active members at least sixty (60) days prior to the vote.

### **Section 2. Obligations**

Upon dissolution, the Officers will utilize assets of the organization to pay all obligations and expenses of the organization. Remaining funds will be paid to The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts under whose Manual provision (Article XXIII, Section 8) this CSO exists and operates.

### **Section 3. Approval**

Notice of dissolution must be presented in writing to the Committee on Student Organizations.