



**The 2019 Constitution of the
League of Independent Organizations**

Preamble

We, the constituent organizations of the League of Independent Organizations, guided by the principles of freedom, equality, and justice, and fostered by a collaborative pursuit for unity in diversity, do solemnly ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

Vision

The League of Independent Organizations envisions an Ateneo student body, administration, and community that respects the individual liberties, protects the vested rights, and promotes the creative purposes of all student organizations in the University.

Mission

The League of Independent Organizations strives for equality and justice for independent organizations in the University. It seeks to protect and promote the rights and welfare of its constituent organizations through forwarding their interests, representing and defending them in official student and university bodies, and providing support and information crucial to their development.

Goals

The League of Independent Organizations seeks to:

1. Protect and promote the rights and welfare of its constituent organizations;
2. Contribute to the advancement and development of its constituent organizations;
3. Develop effective discourse between independent organizations and relevant University bodies; and
4. Facilitate the creation of a university environment that respects and supports the purposes of independent organizations.

Specifically, LIONS seeks to:

1. Negotiate with official student and university bodies to allow its constituent organizations to receive funding from the Student Activities Fund;
2. Negotiate with official student and university bodies to expand the rights of its constituent organizations including but not limited to:
 - a. Reservation and use of school facilities;
 - b. Organizational and institutional support and aid;
 - c. Attendance and participation in official university functions, meetings, and assemblies; and
3. Establish university protocols that prohibit negative prejudice and discrimination against its constituent organizations.

Foundational Provisions

Section 1. Identity

This binding constitution of the student organization established in pursuit of the aforementioned Vision and Mission shall declare said organization to be henceforth known and referred to as the League of Independent Organizations, abbreviated as LIONS.

Section 2. Jurisdiction

LIONS shall by nature of its vision and mission be established as the official autonomous government of unaccredited student organizations in Ateneo de Manila University.

Section 3. Affiliations

LIONS and its constituent organizations shall not be directly answerable to the Council of Organizations of the Ateneo unless any of the constituent organizations choose to vie for accreditation. Furthermore, LIONS and its constituent organizations shall not be directly answerable to the Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng mga Paaralang Loyola ng Ateneo de Manila except in matters relating to the Sanggunian's exercise of general oversight and organizational aid.

Section 4. Organizational Structure

LIONS shall follow an organizational structure as illustrated in Annex "A" of this Constitution.

Membership

Section 1. Membership

All constituent organizations of LIONS must be recognized Loyola Schools student groups, excluding all officially accredited student organizations, student campus political parties, athletic groups, and official student arms of Loyola School offices.

Section 2. Membership Status

All constituent organizations shall be subject to an evaluation by the Council at the end of every year. This evaluation shall be based on the criteria determined by the Council at the start of their term in office. Based on this evaluation, a constituent organization will be granted or revoked membership.

Section 3. Application for Membership

Applications for membership may be made at any point during the school year. Applying organizations must express intent to become a member of LIONS through the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the highest executive officer of the applying organization and the LIONS Coordinator. Membership will be granted or not granted upon the deliberation of the Council.

Section 4. Resignation of Membership

A constituent organization which wishes to resign its membership from LIONS shall present a letter to the Council containing its reasons for resignation and the signatures of all executive officers of the said organization.

Section 5. Termination of Membership due to Accreditation

The membership of a constituent organization will be terminated on the event of gaining official accreditation for student organizations. The said organization shall present a letter to the Council confirming its accreditation and containing the signatures of all executive officers of the said organization.

Section 6. Reapplication for Membership

A constituent organization that resigns from LIONS is not barred from reapplying. Similarly, a previous LIONS organization that loses its accreditation status is not barred from reapplying. If the said organization wishes to reapply, it must undergo the same membership application process.

Rights and Responsibilities of Members

Section 1. Responsibilities of Constituent Organizations

All constituent organizations of LIONS shall commit itself to:

- a. Upholding the principles and objectives of LIONS;
- b. Abiding by the rules and regulations of LIONS;
- c. Attending and participating in assemblies and activities of LIONS and its fellow independent organizations; and
- d. Consulting and mobilizing its members on issues, projects, and other matters relating to the rights and general welfare of LIONS and its constituent organizations.

Section 2. Rights of Constituent Organizations

Each constituent organization of LIONS shall have the right to:

- a. Attending and participating in all assemblies and activities of LIONS;
- b. Representing itself and its members to the Council;
- c. Having its members run for elected office in the Coordinating Body;
- d. Receiving support in matters of representation, logistical and financial concerns, and general grievances;
- e. Seek accountability from the Council and Coordinating Body;
- f. Initiate the impeachment of appointed and elected officials of LIONS on any of the following grounds:
 - i. Any willful violation of the Constitution or its by-laws;
 - ii. Gross neglect of duty;
 - iii. Abuse of power, usurpation of authority, or insubordination
 - iv. Misuse of funds, unconscionable expenditures, or fraud committed in the course of official duties;
 - v. Mismanagement, inefficiency, or incompetence;
 - vi. Graft and corruption;
 - vii. Gross moral misconduct in the course of official duties.
- g. Proposing amendments or revisions to this Constitution; and
- h. Repealing its membership from LIONS.

Attainment of Office and Tenure

Section 1. Code of Electoral Procedures

All electoral procedures and requirements for candidacy shall be governed by the rules and regulations in this Code.

Section 2. Number of Appointed and Elected Officers

There shall be exactly one (1) representative of each constituent organization to the Council. Furthermore, there shall be exactly one (1) Coordinator, one (1) Secretary General, one (1) Director for Special Efforts, and one (1) Director for Promotions.

Section 3. Commission on Elections

The graduating members of the Coordinating Body shall serve as the Commission on Elections for the purposes of elections of LIONS officers.

Section 4. Appointments for the Council

- a. The highest executive officer of each constituent organization shall be appointed as the representative of the organization to the Council.
- b. The incumbent Council representatives must submit a letter to the Commission on Elections containing the name and signature of the succeeding highest executive officer of their respective organizations, following their elections and subsequent inductions within their respective organizations.

Section 5. Candidacy for the Coordinating Body

- a. Candidacy for Coordinating Body positions will be open to all students of the Loyola Schools except freshmen of that school year.
 - i. Candidates must not be the highest executive officer of any organization or body within the Loyola Schools.
- b. Eligible members of LIONS organizations who wish to run for office must submit the following:
 - i. Personal written statement of the candidate, including the candidate's intent, desired position, and reasons for candidacy;
 - ii. Curriculum vitae; and
 - iii. Platform
- c. The deadline for the filing of candidacy and submission of requirements is fourteen (14) days prior to the election date set by the incumbent Coordinating Body.
- d. The Coordinating Body will process submitted documents and approve the application of the candidates. They will release the list of approved candidates three (3) days after the deadline for the filing of candidacy and submission of requirements.

- e. Upon release of the list of candidates, candidates must participate in the Miting de Avance to present their platforms to the members of all LIONS organizations.

Section 6. Elections for the Coordinating Body

- a. Only Council representatives of each constituent organization shall be allowed to vote during the elections.
- b. The elections proper should be:
 - i. Held on a school day and is at least one (1) day after the Miting de Avance;
 - ii. Conducted through secret ballots;
 - iii. Done during the duration set by the Commission on Elections.
- c. A majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast by a quorum, of which is at least two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) rounded down of the total number of members of the Council, is required to consider an elections valid.
- d. In case of a tie, graduating officers of the Coordinating Body shall be allowed to vote to break the tie.

Section 7. Declaration of Election Results

The newly-elected set of officers shall be declared by the Commission on Elections no later than seven (7) days after the elections proper.

Section 8. Induction of Officers

The newly-appointed and newly-elected set of officers shall be sworn into office by the Commission on Elections no later than fourteen (14) days after the declaration of election results.

Section 9. Tenure

The term of office of a LIONS officer shall commence upon taking their oath of office and shall remain in office until after the newly-appointed and newly-elected set of officers are inducted into office.

Vacancies

Section 1. In the case of vacancy in the offices within the Coordinating Body due to abstention in elections, special elections shall be held. If there are no still no change in the results, a run-off election will be held. Only a maximum of two run-off elections can be held.

Section 2. In the case of vacancy following the provisions in Section 1, the incumbent Council shall provide a list of candidates from their respective members. Snap elections for the vacant seats shall be held immediately.

Section 3. In the case of a vacancy in the Council due to death, unfortunate disability, resignation, impeachment, or disposition from the University, the respective constituent organization shall appoint its next highest executive officer as its Council representative.

Section 4. In the case of a vacancy in the Coordinating Body due to death, unfortunate disability, resignation, impeachment or disposition from the University, the Council shall provide a list of candidates from their respective members. Snap elections for the vacant seats shall be held immediately.

The Council

Section 1. Composition

The Council shall be composed of representatives that are the respective highest executive officers of each constituent organization.

Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities of the Council

- a. Formulate, review, approve, or reject policies, programs, and projects of LIONS;
- b. Enjoy full deliberating rights, including the right to vote;
- c. Exercise general oversight on initiatives of LIONS and its constituent organizations;
- d. Process membership application of unaccredited student groups;
- e. Grant or withdraw membership of constituent organizations;
- f. Try, investigate, and impeach appointed or elected officials of LIONS;
- g. Call for functions, meetings, and assemblies consisting of all LIONS members or any fraction thereof;
- h. Attend and support all LIONS activities to the best of their abilities; and
- i. Meet monthly or as often as necessary to discharge its functions.

Section 3. Power and Responsibilities of the Representatives

- a. Serve as the official representative of the organization they represent;
- b. Maintain liaison between the constituency of his/her organization and LIONS;
- c. Protect the autonomy of his/her organization;
- d. Attend and participate in functions, meetings, or assemblies of LIONS; and
- e. Perform such other functions as the Council may so direct.

The Coordinating Body

Section 1. Composition

The Coordinating Body shall be composed of the Coordinator, the Student Representative, the University Representative, the Secretary General, and the Director for Internal Affairs.

Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities of the Coordinating Body

- a. Execute the policies, programs, and projects of LIONS;
- b. Call for functions, meetings, and assemblies consisting of all LIONS members or any fraction thereof;
- c. Attend and support all LIONS activities to the best of their abilities;
- d. Meet monthly or as often as necessary to discharge its functions;
- e. Break any ties in decisions points of the Council; and
- f. Perform such other functions as the Council may so direct.

Section 3. Powers and Responsibilities of the Coordinator

- a. Act as the official spokesperson of LIONS at any function, meeting, or assembly;
- b. Serve as the Chairperson of the Coordinating Body;
- c. Preside over any official function, meeting, or assembly called by the Council;
- d. Oversee all functions and progress of the Coordinating Body;
- e. Act as the signatory for all official LIONS documents;
- f. Represent LIONS and its organizations at any meeting with the Sanggunian, COA, and any administrative office of the University;
- g. Decide on behalf of LIONS in any Sanggunian, COA, and University deliberations, in accordance to the demands and concerns of the Council;
- h. Oversee the creation and the workload structuring of the Committee of Promotions in the event that the role of Director of Internal Affairs is not filled;
- i. Serve as the Financial Officer of LIONS and the Sectoral Representative to the Sanggunian;
- j. Absorb the functions of the Director for Special Efforts, with liberty to use the ad hoc function for smaller specific subroles of the Director for Special Efforts (e.g. project heads), with regards to conceptualization and overseeing; and
- k. Perform such other functions as the Council may so direct.

Section 4. Powers and Responsibilities of the Secretary General

- a. Conduct clerical and logistical functions for all activities of the League;
- b. Receive and consolidate all grievances from the constituent organizations;
- c. Propose solutions to these grievances to be effectively discussed with the Council;
- d. Forward and discuss all necessary information to the Council;
- e. Facilitate the membership of constituent organizations;

- f. Head the social media efforts and pages of LIONS in the event that the position of Director for Promotions does not get filled;
- g. Head the room management functions and systems of the Coordinating Body; and
- h. Perform such other functions as the Council may so direct.

Section 5. Powers and Responsibilities of the Director for Promotions

- a. Communicate and disseminate decisions of the Council, announcements from the Sanggunian, COA, the Office of Student Activities, and other necessary information to all constituent organizations;
- b. Create and releases publication and promotional materials of LIONS; and
- c. Perform such other functions as the Council may so direct.
- d. If nobody applies for the position, the Coordinator will create a Committee of Promotions which will be composed of the equivalent VP of Promotions of each LIONS Organizations;
 - i. The Committee of Promotions will be the ones in charge of making LIONS publications and promotional materials.
 - ii. The system for how the Committee of Promotions will work will be decided on by the Coordinator and the involved promotions officers.

Section 6. Powers and Responsibilities of the Director for Special Efforts

- a. Conceptualize projects and events depending on the needs of the council
- b. Facilitate the application and directing of project teams taken from LIONS organization members to plan and execute the projects
- c. Perform such other functions as the Council may so direct.

Section 7. Powers and Responsibilities of *Ad Hoc Positions*

According to the diagnosed needs of the LIONS organizations, the structure set in place might not be able to handle new tasks.

- a. The ad hoc position system allows for creation of new positions, according to the Council and LIONS approval, that the Coordinating Body can organize applications for beyond the elections period.
- b. Application requirements will depend on the need and the decision of the Council.
- c. Releasing applications for ad hoc positions can be done at any point of the year.
- d. Ad hoc positions may be institutionalized as an official function of the Coordinating Body, depending on an evaluation of the context of LIONS by the end of the ad hoc position's term.
- e. The Coordinator will be the default facilitator and overseer for ad hoc applications and positions.

Amendments and Effectivity

- Section 1.** Amendments to or revisions of this constitution may be initiated by any member of the Council and Coordinating Body.
- Section 2.** Any such proposed amendments or revisions shall be ratified by a majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast by a quorum, of which is at least two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) rounded down of the total number of members of the Council and Coordinating Body.
- Section 3.** Any amendments or revisions shall take effect on the following school year.

Separability Clause

If any provision of this Constitution be found invalid, the legitimacy of the other clauses shall not be affected, and shall continue in full force and effect.

Transitional Provisions

- Section 1.** After the ratification of this constitution, all incumbent members of the Council and Coordinating Body shall remain in office until after the newly-elected set of Council and Coordinating Body officers shall have taken their oaths of office.
- Section 2.** All By-laws of LIONS, including the Constitution and Codes of Internal Procedures of its bodies, are immediately repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
- Section 3.** This constitution shall take effect immediately after its ratification and shall supersede all previous LIONS constitutions.
- Section 4.** The following matters must be forwarded to the next Council and Coordinating Body:
- a. All resolutions and amendments passed throughout the duration of effect of the previous constitution;
 - b. All files and documentation of decisions, activities, and other relevant information throughout the duration of effect of the previous constitution;
 - c. The Constitution, Code of Internal Procedures, and Code of Electoral Procedures of LIONS.

So ordered, all contents stated herein are hereby sanctioned by the Council and the Coordinating Body of the League of Independent Organizations. As of 01 October 2019, all constituent organizations and Coordinating Body officers under LIONS have duly signed the amendments.

Signed on 16 June 2019:

PIA ISABELLA ZULUETA

LIONS Coordinator, 2018-2019

BRIAN GAN

Junior Fellowship for Financial Literacy

PATRICIA SOLOMON

Secretary General, 2018-2019

ENRICO JOAQUIN LAPUZ

League of Atenean Historians

CLIO BANTA-AO

Ateneans Guided and Inspired by their
Love for Animals

CARLOS MIGUEL AMBROSIO

Loyola Videogame League

JOAQUIN SANTANA

Blue Indie Komiks

VICTOR TIRONA

OpenSource

JULIA MONTESA

Blue Hanguk Society

ICELY DY

Project Kabuhayan

ANGELA MERCADO

BYTE

MAXINE SALITA

Project LAAN

FREDERICK SCHNELL

Contemporary A cappella Singers
Association

AURORA MARIA BEATRIZ NOSCE

Regnum Christi - Love Inspired by Faith
and Encounter

WESLEY ONG

Cuisina

JAIME MIGUEL GOZAR

Tabletop Hobbyists and Interests
Collaborative

KAREEM ASAAD

Fitness Improvement Team

DIEGO NICHOLAS DULCE

Toushin

ANICA SARMIENTO

Habitat for Humanity - Blue Chapter

ANDREA LAUREN CHUNG

User Experience Society

THERESE JUSTINE BRUEL

WriterSkill

Signed on 01 October 2019:

CRISTINA BATALLA

LIONS Coordinator

MIGUEL POLICARPIO

Secretary General

JOHANN CARLO MARASIGAN

Ateneo Car Enthusiasts

KEVYN ANNE LACSON

APO

MIGUEL MARI DOBLES

Blue Bird Improv

DANIEL DAVID MANGUERRA

Blue Symphony Orchestra

JOHN GABRIEL DAGELET

Christ's Youth in Action-Blue

JOHN GABRIEL AGCAOILI

Designer Community

HARVEY SISON

Developer Student Club-Loyola

ALEC WANG

Effective Altruism-Blue

MA. VICTORIA DANICITA LEYBLE

Health Sciences Society

BRIAN SZE

Loyola Finance Association

ALEJANDRO MANOLO MARIA SOLIVEN

Mokoa Animation Studio

THOMAS NICOLO MIÑOZA
Musikero