

# THE BYLAWS OF THE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS SOCIETY AT THE CITADEL

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**Ratified On:**

**Bulldog Democrats' Steering Committee**

**Nov 12th, 2024**

**Student Leadership Council**

**Dec 2nd, 2024**

**The College Democrats Society at The Citadel**

**Feb 27th, 2025**

**Amended On:**

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# **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of The College Democrats Society at The Citadel (CDS), united in common purpose, hereby rededicate ourselves to the principles of liberty, unity, progress, and service - principles that have historically guided our Nation, our College, and the Democratic Party of the United States.

What we seek for our Nation, and hope for all people: individual freedom within a just society. A nation where individual freedom is safeguarded through equitable policies, where justice is realized through inclusive legislation and enforcement, and where all citizens have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to public life. Bound by the United States Constitution and driven by the values of integrity, accountability, and service, we recognize that to lead effectively, one must be both responsive and responsible to the needs and aspirations of others. As members of The College Democrats Society at The Citadel, we pledge ourselves to these ideals: to engage in open honest dialogue, to pursue policies grounded in justice and equality, and to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of a society of free individuals.

Under God/Allah/Yahweh, for these ends, we reaffirm our commitments to the mission of The College Democrats Society at The Citadel to develop principled, ethical leaders who will serve with honor, lead with respect, and uphold the values of democracy and public service.

# **ARTICLE 1 - THE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS SOCIETY AT THE CITADEL**

## **SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP**

Membership:

The CDS welcomes individuals of strong character and moral integrity, regardless of political affiliation. Student Members are cadets and students currently enrolled at The Citadel, while all other members are designated as At-Large Members.

Individuals who fail to adhere to the standards outlined in the list of unacceptable behaviors below are not eligible for membership or participation in the CDS. Provisions for exceptions to new membership or the removal of membership status due to unethical conduct are outlined later in these Bylaws. A record of all barred individuals will be maintained by the Vice President of Logistics.

The following are the type of actions considered incompatible with CDS membership:

- Lying
- Cheating
- Use of illegal drugs\*
- A felony conviction
- A history of violence
- Disrupting CDS events
- Tolerating unethical behavior
- Improper use of CDS funds
- Excessive alcohol consumption or abuse\*
- Cadets with a Class I disciplinary offense
- A history of sexual harassment or assault
- A history of intolerance or discrimination
- Demonstrating political disrespect toward a fellow CDS member

\*The CDS is committed to working with and helping victims of drug and alcohol substance abuse. If you are interested in joining the CDS but are dealing with these challenges, we encourage you to reach out to the Society's Advisor. They can connect you with resources and professionals who can assist in your recovery journey.

### **Loss of Membership:**

A member may be barred from attending CDS events if they engage in immoral behavior or fail to uphold the standards and principles of the Society. In such cases, the Student Leadership Council (the Council) will convene, either in person or via video call, to review the matter and determine whether the accused member should be removed.

The Society's President will lead the discussion while the Society's Advisor oversees the removal process for fairness. The accused member has the optional right to present a verbal and/or written defense, and to be informed of the reason for their potential removal. The Council may also call for other verbal and/or written witness testimonies. A 2/3 supermajority vote of the Council is required to find the accused guilty.

If the Council votes to remove the member, the Society President and Society Advisor will jointly determine the appropriate course of action, which may include a temporary, conditional, or permanent ban from attending CDS events. A record of all barred individuals will be maintained by the Vice President of Logistics.

#### **Petitions for Membership:**

Individuals who believe they have made significant efforts to reform and demonstrate improved character, despite a past history of challenges or personal setbacks, may petition the Student Leadership Council for consideration of membership in the CDS.

In such cases, the Student Leadership Council will convene, either in person or via video call, to review the petition and determine whether the individual is eligible for membership.

The Society's President will lead the discussion. The individual seeking membership must submit a written letter outlining their journey of personal reform. They may also choose to present their story verbally to the Council. The Council may request additional verbal and/or written witness testimonies, if relevant. A 2/3 supermajority vote of the Council is required to approve the individual's membership.

#### **Temporary Restrictions:**

The Society's President has the authority to impose a temporary restriction on a member from attending CDS events if they engage in unethical conduct or if an investigation into a potential ban is underway. This action may be taken without prior approval from the Student Leadership Council.

A temporary restriction may not exceed one month. Any restriction lasting longer than one month must be formally approved by the Student Leadership Council. The Vice President of Logistics will maintain a log of all temporary restricted individuals.

#### **Hiatus of the Society:**

In exceptional circumstances where the society is unable to operate for an extended period due to one or more of the following conditions: the absence of an appointed Society Advisor, a lack of significant membership, a formal request by The Citadel administration.

The Chairman of the Bulldog Democrats may declare the Society to be in hiatus. During this hiatus, the management and control of the society's resources, including financial assets and records, will be transferred to and retained by the Bulldog Democrats' Steering Committee.

While in hiatus, the bylaws of the Society will be temporarily suspended, and all procedural decisions, including those related to governance and operation of the society, will be determined solely by the Bulldog Democrats' Steering Committee.

Once the Society is reestablished, and the hiatus is formally ended, the bylaws will resume in full effect, and governance will revert to the processes outlined in these Bylaws.

## **SECTION 2 - RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Privacy Rights:**

The CDS values the privacy of its members' political views and recognizes the importance of a respectful, non-discriminatory environment. Members should feel free to express their political beliefs without fear of being treated differently. Whether a member identifies as a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or holds any other political views, their treatment within the CDS and on The Citadel campus should not be influenced by these beliefs.

When joining the CDS, each new member will select a privacy level from the following options: Public, Neutral, or Confidential. If a member wishes to change their privacy level at any time, they may contact the Vice President of Logistics. Members who choose the Confidential privacy level will receive society emails via Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) to maintain privacy, and the Student Leadership Council will make efforts to accommodate any additional privacy needs.

To ensure privacy during meetings, CDS meetings are a no-person-camera zone. Only members of the Student Leadership Council are authorized to take photographs during official events.

#### **Society Patch & T-Shirt:**

Active members of the CDS are eligible to receive a society patch and/or t-shirt. To qualify, members must be in good standing and have attended at least three CDS events during the year. The Student Leadership Council may also require members to contribute a payment to cover the cost of the patch and/or t-shirt.

The Society's President has the discretion to award one free society patch each semester to a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the CDS.

#### **Club Fees:**

The CDS will never require membership fees. However, the Student Leadership Council may levy an entrance fee for specific events to cover costs. Any fees or voluntary contributions to the CDS should be directed as follows:

- Venmo: Send donations to the CDS's official Venmo account at [[BulldogDemocrats](#)].
- Checks: Make checks payable to the "Bulldog Democrats" and submit them to the Society's Advisor. The subject line must be "Bulldog Democrats." The CDS and Bulldog Democrats cannot accept checks without this notation.

## **ARTICLE 2 – STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

# **SECTION 1 - STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

## **Composition:**

The Student Leadership Council is composed of elected Student Members, chosen by the larger student body of the CDS. The Council is led and directed by the Society's President, who serves as its primary leader. The Society's Advisor provides guidance and wisdom, acting as the Council's main source of support.

The Council is made up of the following positions:

- President
- Advisor
- Vice President of Operations
- Vice President of Logistics
- Vice President of Communications
- Secretary of Art & Culture (Optional)
- Secretary of Photography & Video (Optional)

## **Responsibilities:**

The Student Leadership Council holds overall responsibility for the affairs of the CDS, in accordance with the provisions set forth in these Bylaws. These responsibility includes, but is not limited to:

- Organizing and coordinating CDS events
- Managing articles for the CDS newsletter
- Collaborating with other political organizations
- Formulating and distributing official CDS statements
- Removing unethical actors from the ranks of the CDS
- Maintaining the CDS's digital footprint & infrastructure
- Networking with local, state, and national political leaders
- Representing the interest of Democrats on The Citadel campus
- Coordinating volunteer and internship opportunities for members
- Sponsoring events to promote the principles and values of the CDS
- Working in partnership with the CDS's Steering Committee
- Developing and implementing the CDS's campaign and marketing strategies

## **Board Decisions:**

Each member of the Student Leadership Council has designated responsibilities. However, if a situation arises where Council members are unable to agree on how a specific member should fulfill their responsibilities, a vote will be conducted. Additionally, the following matters require a vote by the Student Leadership Council:

- Issuing a CDS policy
- Issuing an official CDS statement
- Implementing a CDS marketing strategy
- Approving the annual Charter every October
- Approving a society symbol, patch, t-shirt, etc.
- Amending the CDS Bylaws (require an amendment vote)
- Removing a CDS member (requires a supermajority vote)
- Accepting a member with a challenging past (requires a supermajority vote)

All votes, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, will be conducted in a manner determined by the Society's President. This may include in-person voting, video calls, phone calls, or text. For a vote to be valid, a quorum of the Student Leadership Council must be present. A quorum is defined as all members present, minus one. If a Council position is vacant, it does not count toward the total required for quorum.

The Society's Advisor does not count toward the total required for quorum nor vote on decisions made by the Student Leadership Council, except in the case of a tie. In such cases, the Society Advisor serves as the tiebreaker.

## **SECTION 2 - COUNCIL POSITIONS**

### **Society President**



The Society's President serves as the executive leader of the CDS and is expected to exemplify the highest standards of character and morality. They coordinate regularly with the Society's Advisor, the Bulldog Democrats' Chairman, external organizations, and other campus groups to further the CDS's mission. The President leads CDS events and Student Leadership Council meetings, ensuring smooth operations and alignment with the Society's goals. They are responsible for introducing guest speakers during CDS meetings and representing the CDS to the broader campus community. The President also provides guidance and delegates tasks to other members of the CDS to promote the principles and values of the organization on The Citadel campus.

#### **Vice President of Operations**

The Vice President of Operations serves as President Pro Tempore in the temporary absence of the Society President during CDS events. They are responsible for organizing and planning society events and activities. The VP of Operations also oversees the CDS Council elections in October and any special elections for vacancies. For external organizational purposes, the VP of Operations is considered the society's Secretary. The ideal VP of Operations should be skilled in event planning, club organization, and leadership.

#### **Vice President of Logistics**

The Vice President of Logistics is responsible for maintaining the CDS's technological infrastructure, including digital documents and the membership log. They will also record meeting minutes when necessary. For external purposes, the VP of Logistics is considered the society's Secretary/Treasurer. The VP of Logistics should have experience with spreadsheet programs (such as Excel or Google Sheets), a strong interest in technology, and an understanding of finance and budgeting.

#### **Vice President of Communications**

The Vice President of Communications manages the Society's social media presence, newsletter, recruiting, and marketing strategy. They work directly with the Secretary of Art & Culture and the Secretary of Photography & Video to ensure cohesive messaging and branding. The VP of Communications should possess strong writing skills and experience in social media promotion and public relations.

### **Secretary of Art & Culture:**

The Secretary of Art & Culture assists the VP of Communications in creating visually appealing social media content and marketing materials. This role also involves contributing to the overall cultural and artistic direction of the Society's communications. The Secretary of Art & Culture should be a student with an interest in art, digital design, culture, religion, and/or history.

### **Secretary of Photography & Video:**

The Secretary of Photography & Video supports the VP of Communications by capturing photos and videos during society events. This role may also involve editing and producing multimedia content for social media or marketing purposes. The Secretary of Photography & Video should be a student with experience in photography, video editing, and multimedia production.

## **SECTION 3 - SOCIETY ADVISOR**

The Society's Advisor serves as the voice of wisdom and guidance for the members and student leadership of the CDS. The Society's Leadership Council will conduct a search for the Advisor and agree on who they would like to serve in this role. Once they agree to serve, the Society's Advisor must meet all requirements and training set by The Citadel for a club advisor.

In this role, the Society's Advisor acts as a mentor to the Society's President and the Student Leadership Council, offering counsel and support to help develop principled leaders. The Advisor plays a key role in fostering the values of leadership, integrity, and civic engagement, and works to cultivate leaders who will contribute to the future of the nation.

Should the Society's Leadership Council find grounds to remove the Advisor, the President will work with the Student Affairs Office to make the change.

## **SECTION 4 - LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

Elections for all Student Leadership Council positions will be held in early October. The current Vice President of Operations is responsible for overseeing the election process. All Student Members of the CDS shall constitute the electorate. Although the Instant-Runoff Voting (IRV) system, a ranked voting method that simulates a series of runoff elections to determine a single winner through multiple rounds of elimination, is preferred, the Vice President for Operations may offer a more efficient way of voting for Student Leadership Council's approval based on circumstances.

The Vice President of Operations will announce the start of the election period on the first Monday of October and will begin gathering candidate information via email. Each candidate must submit their full name, a brief description (no longer than 600 characters), and a professional photo (to later be used on the CDS website if elected).

On the first Friday of October, the Vice President of Operations will send out a voting poll to all Student Members via email. The Society President may call a CDS meeting before the election period ends to provide candidates with an opportunity to speak to the membership. The voting poll will close at 2400 (midnight) on the second Wednesday of October. The Vice President of Operations will share the election results with the Society Advisor and publish the results to all members by 2400 the following day.

The newly elected Student Leadership Council will assume their positions and responsibilities on the second Friday of October. The newly elected Society President is responsible for completing the Society's annual charter prior to the end of October.

## **SECTION 5 - LEADERSHIP REMOVAL**

### **Removals & Vacancies:**

A member of the Student Leadership Council may be removed from their position and membership in the CDS for immoral behavior or failure to uphold the standards and principles of the society, following the same procedures as for loss of membership. If a member is removed for failing to meet the responsibilities of their position, a 2/3 supermajority vote of the Council is required. The accused leader cannot vote on the outcome of their own removal.

In the event of the removal or retirement of a Student Leadership Council member, the Vice President of Operations must conduct an election within two weeks to fill the vacancy. If the Vice President of Operations is unable to carry out this responsibility, the Society's President will conduct the election instead.

#### **Resignation & Graduation:**

Members of the Student Leadership Council may voluntarily step down or resign from their position at any time. If a member graduates in December, an election will be held to fill the vacancy upon The Citadel's reconstitution in January, with the new member serving until the following October.

If a member graduates in May, the Society's President will appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy until the October election for all positions in August. The Society's Advisor will confirm the Society's President's appointment.

If the Society's President graduates in May, the President prior to their graduation, with the approval of the Society's Advisor, will select a qualified individual to serve as interim Society President until the next election in October.

## **ARTICLE 3 – THE BULLDOG DEMOCRATS**

### **SECTION 1 – ROLE OF THE BULLDOG DEMOCRATS**

The Bulldog Democrats is a political nonprofit organization made up of Citadel alumni, dedicated in part to supporting the operations of The College Democrats Society at The Citadel. This support is provided through financial assistance, physical resources, and experiential opportunities. The operations of the Bulldog Democrats are overseen by its Steering Committee, with leadership provided by the Chairman of the Bulldog Democrats.

### **SECTION 2 – FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The Bulldog Democrats' Steering Committee is responsible for managing all financial matters related to The College Democrats Society at The Citadel. The funds of the CDS will be held in a separate bank account, not linked to The Citadel, which will be managed jointly by the Chairman of the Bulldog Democrats and the Society Advisor. This account will be with an institution based in South Carolina. Only the Chairman and Society Advisor will have access to utilize the CDS's funds.

Donations and monetary contributions to The College Democrats should be directed as follows:

- Venmo: Send one time donations to the CDS's official Venmo account at [[BulldogDemocrats](#)].
- Paypal: Send continuous donations to the CDS's official Paypal account at [[BulldogDemocrats](#)].
- Checks: Make checks payable to the "Bulldog Democrats" and submit them to the Society Advisor. The subject line must be "Bulldog Democrats." The CDS and Bulldog Democrats cannot accept checks without this notation.

In the interest of financial transparency, the Bulldog Democrats' Steering Committee will provide accounting records upon request to any member of the CDS or public. These financial records will also be made available online for public viewing.

## ARTICLE 4 - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws are initiated by the Student Leadership Council and require a supermajority vote for approval. Once an amendment is approved by the Council, the Society's President will email the proposed amendment to all Student Members of the CDS. Student Members will have one full week from the date the amendment is shared to vote on its approval or rejection. If the amendment receives a 2/3 majority vote in favor, it will then be submitted to the Society Advisor for review.

The Society Advisor will ensure that the amendment does not alter any wording or provisions in "Article 2 - Article 3" or "Article 3". If the amendment affects any of these sections, it will be forwarded to the Bulldog Democrats' Steering Committee for their review and vote. The Steering Committee has one week to vote on the amendment. If the Board approves the amendment with a 2/3 majority vote, the amendment will be fully ratified.

If the amendment does not affect these specific sections, the Society Advisor will give the final ratification of the amendment.

## SIGNERS

The image shows five handwritten signatures in black ink. The first row contains four signatures: a checkmark-like mark, an 'X', a stylized 'W' or 'M', and a signature that appears to be 'Bip'. The second row contains two signatures: a large, stylized signature on the left and a signature that appears to be 'Bley' on the right.