

Speak Bylaws

Promoting Debate, Public Speaking, Education, and Advocacy

(Effective upon Student Bar Association approval, Oct. 7th, 2014)

Article 1. Name and Purpose

§ 1.1 Name

The name of this organization shall be Speak.

§ 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To promote debate, public speaking, education, and advocacy;
2. To support educational programs and trainings for members of the VLS community as well as local and regional partners;
3. To increase participants' confidence in oratory, critical thinking, and diplomatic dissent.

Article 2. Membership

§ 2.1 Membership

Membership is open to:

1. All members of the Vermont Law School community;
2. Members of the Lawrence Debate Union at the University of Vermont;
3. Local, regional, and national community partners.

Article 3. Officers

§3.1 Executive Officers

In addition to other responsibilities, the executive officers shall have the collective power and duty to provide executive direction for the organization and ensure its smooth operation.

A. President

Duties and responsibilities:

Speak Bylaws

Promoting Debate, Public Speaking, Education, and Advocacy

(Effective upon Student Bar Association approval, Oct. 7th, 2014)

1. To call to order and act as presiding officer of any regular or special meetings of the organization;
2. To appoint chairs of committees with majority consent of membership;
3. To issue instruction to the committees and to ensure that their duties are faithfully executed;
4. To approve the budget allocations provided by the Treasurer;
5. To keep the organization informed;
6. To determine the agenda for meetings;
7. To perform other duties as assigned by the membership from time to time.

B. Vice President

Duties and responsibilities:

1. To perform the duties of President in the event of her/his absence;
2. To succeed to the Presidency, should that office become vacant;
3. To perform other duties as assigned by the membership from time to time.

C. Treasurer

Duties and responsibilities:

1. To have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the organization;
2. To ascertain funding for group events;
3. To deliver funds promptly as they are allocated and requested;
4. To prepare the budget for presentation to the organization;
5. To keep and manage permanent records of all receipts and expenditures of the organization;
6. To perform other duties as assigned by the membership from time to time.

D. Secretary

Duties and responsibilities:

1. To take minutes of all regular and special meetings of the organization;
2. To record attendance at all meetings for inclusion in minutes;
3. To share all minutes with the organization members and preserve minutes in a secure location;
4. To notify the members of all meetings;
5. To gather and maintain historical records of the organization;
6. To perform other duties as assigned by the membership from time to time.

Speak Bylaws

Promoting Debate, Public Speaking, Education, and Advocacy

(Effective upon Student Bar Association approval, Oct. 7th, 2014)

E. Webmaster

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. To maintain the organization's website with current information regarding organization activities and information;
2. To be the liaison to the SBA webmaster;
3. To perform other duties as assigned by the membership from time to time.

Article 4. Election of Officers

Elections for Executive Officers will take place in compliance with the following:

1. Elections for Executive Officers shall be held within one week of recognition by the Student Bar Association and on the last week of classes for every year thereafter.
2. Any Executive Officer position left vacant during the year between elections shall be filled by special election.
3. All elections shall be by secret ballot. This can be done either electronically or in person, depending upon the availability of the members.
4. To be elected to an officer position, one must have a simple majority of the vote.
5. Candidates may run for more than one position, but may not hold more than one office. If they win a particular office, they will be removed from subsequent candidacy.
6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to conduct the Executive Officer elections. In the event that there is no Secretary, it shall be the duty of the President to conduct elections.
7. A vote to remove an officer must be announced at least one meeting in advance and requires two-thirds of all voting members approval of the removal of the officer. Election of a new officer will follow the guidelines previously listed,

Article 5. Committees

The President shall establish committees assigned to accomplish specific tasks or to be responsible for specific events or programs of the organization.

We currently have no sitting committees, though with a majority vote of the Board, initiated by any of our at-large members or the Board, any committee is possible.

Speak Bylaws

Promoting Debate, Public Speaking, Education, and Advocacy

(Effective upon Student Bar Association approval, Oct. 7th, 2014)

Article 6. Meetings

Meetings shall take place regularly as determined by the membership of the organization.

Committees may meet more frequently.

Article 7. Bylaw Amendments

§ 7.1 Procedure

Any member of the organization may propose amendments to the bylaws. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the organization in writing at a regular meeting.

§ 7.2 Ratification

Adoption of proposed amendments occurs only by a 2/3 vote of a quorum of members consisting of more than 50% of the members of the organization.

§ 7.3 Emergency Amendments

Amendments may be made at any time when an emergency so requires, by an unanimous vote of the officers (which shall include a vote by the President) and shall be considered temporary for a thirty (30) day period to allow for ratification under §7.2.

Article 8. Effective Date

These Bylaws take effect immediately upon approval by the Speak membership and take the place of all other Bylaws.