

Constitution of A Modest Proposal

Last modified Tuesday, 21 November, 2006

ARTICLE I NAME OF THE PUBLICATION

The publication shall be called “A Modest Proposal,” hereinafter called “AMP” or the “Publication”.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE OF THE PUBLICATION

The purpose of AMP is to provide an open forum for students to discuss ideas and promote change at UTD. The Publication exists primarily to communicate the ideas, opinions, and concerns of the average UTD student. AMP seeks to be a catalyst for positive change at UTD and not simply a collection of self-gratifying articles. It is principally an opinion-based paper that whose objective is to persuade and inform. More than all else, AMP upholds the virtue of its Constitutionally-protected right of freedom of speech, which it balances with a sober understanding of its responsibility to print only the whole, unadulterated truth.

AMP shall engage in self-censoring to determine whether an article goes beyond the reasonable limits of appropriateness, tastefulness, and accuracy. While AMP is intended to be an open forum for students, it is not obligated to print any article that is submitted for consideration. AMP retains the right to reject an article on the basis that it is inappropriate or poorly written. Any article that would reflect badly on the Publication or damage its good standing may be refused. Such judgments of suitability are made at the sole discretion of the editors and, if necessary, by majority vote of the members in good standing. All opinions expressed in AMP are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of UTD, the editors, or the Texas system.

AMP does not exist for the benefit of any individual or to promote any one ideology. AMP shall not be used by any for-profit institution to sell its products to students. Any movies, bands, events, or products endorsed in an article are done so at the discretion of the writer and are intended solely for the benefit of UTD’s students.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP IN THE PUBLICATION

Members of AMP are called “contributors”.

1. Membership of AMP shall consist of any current UTD student who submits an article to AMP for publication or contributes to any aspect of publishing the paper. Membership shall be open to students of The University of Texas at Dallas regardless of sex (unless specifically exempt by law), race, color, religion, age, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Contributors receive no payment for articles submitted to the Publication.

2. In order to be considered a member in good standing, a student's name must appear in at least three editions of AMP, one of which must have occurred in the most recent long semester. If a student's name appears in less than three editions of AMP, or if the student has not contributed in the most recent long semester, that student is not considered a member in good standing and is not eligible to vote.

ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION

Editors are the official administrators of the Publication and are elected by the members of AMP. There may be no less than three and no more than five editors at any one time. There shall be no distinguished titles for the Editors and no editor-in-chief, though each may serve different roles in the paper depending on his background and experience. Refer to the Election Code for specific guidelines on the editor election process.

1. **Terms of Office:** The Editors shall serve terms of one semester. A mid-semester election may be called to review the suitability of editors for the position or to fill a vacancy. An editor elected during a mid-semester election shall serve until the end of that semester and then must be re-elected. Editors may be re-elected to an unlimited number of terms.
2. **Election to Office:** Elections shall be held before the beginning of each semester via the internet. Members in good standing (see Article III, section 3) are eligible to vote and to run for the editor position. A vote of 50% or better in favor of election is required to elect an editor. Editors must be re-elected prior to the beginning of each semester; their positions as editors do not carry over from the prior semester without a vote of the members. Other rules specific to the election of editors can be found in the Election Code (see Article IV of the By-Laws).
3. **Removal from Office:** A mid-semester review may be held to determine whether an editor is unsuitable to hold office. If an editor is unable to fulfill his or her duties, or if a three-fourths(?) vote decides it, the editor may be removed from office. In order for the vote to effectively remove an editor, there must be a quorum of AMP members and in that quorum there must be three-fourths in favor of removal.
4. **Duties:** The Editors shall
 - A. Preside over all general meetings.
 - B. Review the submitted articles for each issue and determine what will be published.
 - C. Oversee editing and production of the Publication.
 - D. Maintain and occupy the office provided by UTD.
 - E. Confer regularly with the Publication's advisor(s) and UTD administrators.
 - F. Oversee any other administrative duties and make all decisions for which a vote of the members would be inappropriate.

ARTICLE V ADVISERS

1. Selection: Advisers will be selected by the Editors. Any faculty member whose background, experience, or position at UTD is deemed relevant to the needs of the Publication may be selected for adviser.
2. Responsibilities: Advisers' responsibilities include
 - a. Signing all forms required by UTD for the Publication.
 - b. Providing general oversight for the Publication.
 - c. Advising the Publication on the suitability of content and reviewing the Publication on a monthly basis to determine whether any content in the paper is beyond reasonable limits for appropriateness, tastefulness, and accuracy.
 - d. Communicating with UTD on behalf of the Publication.
3. Adviser's responsibilities shall not include: selecting editors, deciding on content of the Publication, and censoring or otherwise limiting material that the Publication may print, even if such material calls into question policies or problems at UTD. Such responsibilities fall to the editors and to the members in good standing.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

Meetings shall be held at least once a month prior to the article submission deadline to discuss article ideas, make announcements, and take care of any business for the paper. Meeting dates shall be determined by the Editors and announced to the group in advance. Members and non-members are able to attend all general meetings. Editors shall meet on a regular basis as needed.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

1. Procedure: Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any member in good standing or by any of the Editors. The amendment's final wording shall be drafted by the Editors and submitted for approval to the members in a special meeting. The amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote to be added to the Constitution. The Bylaws shall be amended in the same way.
2. Prohibition of Amendments: Amendments may not change the Publication's non-profit status or endorse any policy that conflicts with UTD's stated policies or applicable local, state, or federal laws. Amendments may not undermine the self-governance of the Publication, including its ability to select its own editors or determine the appearance and content of the Publication, except when the decisions of the Publication would violate applicable laws or be deemed excessively inappropriate.

By-Laws of *A Modest Proposal*

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ARTICLE II DUES

Members are not expected to pay dues to the Publication.

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ARTICLE IV ELECTION CODE

(Fill in from election code)

ARTICLE V QUORUM

A quorum shall be considered 50% or more of the members in good standing.