



## **Niagara University Diversity Advocates**

### **Constitution**

#### **Preamble:**

As a student organization Diversity Advocates will work with Niagara University, within University guidelines in the student organization handbook, to promote positive solutions to advance University goals and assist on advancing future goals surrounding diversity.

#### **Article I: The Purpose of the Diversity Advocates of Niagara University**

The purpose of the Diversity Advocates is to promote and celebrate diversity as a strength and not a weakness; to educate and promote awareness at Niagara University about diversity issues; to explore diversity issues on campus and in surrounding areas; to provide a support as a point of contact, for fellow students who feel marginalized, and to have an overall positive impact regarding diversity on our campus. Our support will come in through listening, sharing, educating, and encouraging. The diversity advocates shall not duplicate the function of established offices, departments or other groups operating on campus; rather we are working along with them to advance diversity. We are students helping students. These are our goals, and as members of the Diversity Advocates we affirm that we will follow these guidelines to the best of our ability.

#### **Article II: Compliance with University Mission**

The Diversity Advocates will operate in complete compliance with Niagara University's Catholic and Vincentian mission statement. We will promote diversity so that Niagara University's goals, values, and mission to apply to all individuals.

#### **Article III: Faculty Advisors**

There shall be a faculty advisor appointed to assist the group in fulfilling its purpose. The faculty adviser shall hold a seat on the Faculty and Student Engagement Committee and the University Diversity Advocates are not duplicative of the efforts of other offices or groups on campus.

#### **Article IV: Structure**

Because the group's activities are intrinsic to the University's diversity initiatives and concerns with group rights that are protected under the law, the group will operate as a student organization mandated and funded through the university administration (similar to Campus

Programming Board, NUCAP, and MISA). It will be sponsored and funded through the office of the Executive Vice President, but will operate in accordance with the same administrative processes as outlined in the NU Club, Organization Handbook and Advisor Handbook.

The administrative liaison for the group will be the Chair of the University Diversity Committee.

### **Article V: Membership**

All Niagara University students that are interested in positively promoting diversity and improving social issues on and around campus are welcomed to join. Officers must attend every meeting, and members may not miss more than one meeting a month to be considered official members.

### **Article VI: Officers**

The officers are in charge of the overall direction of the organization. They are led by the president; however, no officer (president included) is allowed to make any decision that goes against the majority of the will of the Diversity Advocates.

### **Article VII: Duties of Officers**

President: The President is in charge of the Diversity Advocates. She/he is responsible for calling meetings, delegating duties to other members, overseeing the other officers, and making sure that the group stays in line with its goals. Also, the president is responsible for being the representative of the Diversity Advocates on the Niagara University Diversity Committee which includes but is not limited to the duties of providing proper two way communication regarding diversity efforts and issues between students and faculty, administration, and staff.

Vice President: The Vice President is responsible for assisting the President, and being the acting President when overseeing President is unavailable. In addition, the Vice President is responsible for overseeing the community service requirements and other miscellaneous tasks as necessary or as delegated.

Chief of Staff: The Chief of Staff will be the right hand assistant to the President and will be responsible for tasks such as reserving rooms for meetings and events, managing our webpage on the University site, apparel orders, and any other necessary tasks or those delegated.

Secretary: the Secretary is in charge of minutes, attendance, e-mailing minutes to officers, publications, all other written materials needed, and upkeep on the Diversity Advocates Facebook group page.

Treasurer: the Treasurer is responsible for keeping the organization's budget account in line, paying bills, and other financial matters needed for the Diversity Advocates to function.

### **Article VIII: Election of Officers**

Officers will be elected by members of the Diversity Advocates for the duration of one term, lasting from the first day of the fall semester and ending the next fall semester when elections are held once again. All members are eligible to run for officers if they have attended a majority of

the meetings at the time of the election and have paid their dues. Elections will be decided by a plurality of votes. Officers are not limited to one term.

#### **Article IX: Dues**

All members are required to pay dues at the selected deadline date by the treasurer to be announced at the first meeting, usually around sometime after midterms. The dues are as follows: fifteen dollars for the semester or twenty-five dollars for the year. The Diversity Advocates will rely on our dues, budgets and fundraising for the financial resources needed to fund programs and events.

#### **Article X: Hazing**

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing includes but is not limited to physical, sexual, verbal, digital, and any other form of harassment that brings harm to, or could harm, an individual. Anyone participating or aiding in acts defined as hazing will be turned over to Niagara University. For complete a compliance code on hazing, refer to New York State Law.