

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE BRITE DIVINITY SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

We, the members of the Brite Divinity School Student Association, desiring to establish an effective structure of constructive responsibility, with appropriate policies and procedures necessary for the proper conduct of Student Government, in order to provide services to fulfill the needs of the Brite Divinity School Student Body, do hereby establish this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### Purpose

The Brite Divinity School Student Association, hereinafter referred to as the Brite Student Association, shall be composed of those members of the Brite Divinity School Student Body who have paid the Student Association fee as established by the policies of Brite Divinity School.

As such, the Student Association fees are functionally used to achieve the purpose of the Brite Student Association. The purpose of (BSA) is to be an intentional community that helps to form and support a diverse community and to give voice to all persons and concerns so as to create an atmosphere of advocacy, nurture life-long connections, and support the intellectual and spiritual life of the community. This is so we can form an intentional community.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### Offices

##### Section 1.

The leadership of the Brite Student Association shall be provided by the Executive Board.

##### Purpose and Function of Executive Board Offices:

The Executive Board of the Brite Divinity School Student Association, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Board, shall act as a connecting bridge between faculty, staff, administration and the student body by facilitating dialogue. As such, the Executive Board is a governing body that helps a spirit of community flourish. The Executive Board is composed of representatives in the student body who are, as such, voting members. Whereas, any students paying student government fees are invited to participate and attend all regularly scheduled meetings but are not voting members.

To live out said purpose and function, the Executive Board of the Brite Student Association will hold regularly scheduled forums for all student body persons to present formally any issues. Any students paying the student association fee, however, are still given agency in the regularly established meetings and as such are invited to participate and give voice to any discussions, but still remain as non-voting members. In addition, the only official responsibilities to be held by the Executive Board of the Brite Student Association are as such:

- 1) Planning and executing a Disorientation Lunch or Dinner for all incoming students both Spring and Fall Semesters
- 2) Helping to facilitate Community Conversation
- 3) Promote avenues of community building within the student body
- 4) Other various duties as elected by the governing board of executives

All other duties asked of the association are to be given to the executive board with a right of refusal.

##### Section 2.

The voting members of the Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, General Secretary, Community Liaison, and at least three (3) General Representatives. In the Spring term of

each year, the person serving as Moderator-Elect shall be a member of the Executive Board of the Brite Student Association. Additionally, the Board may include appointed members including but not limited to the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees or Chairpersons of any Ad Hoc Committees. Appointed members shall serve as ex- officio, non-voting members of the Executive Board for the duration of such committees.

#### Section 3.

To be eligible to seek election or appointment to any of the positions of the Executive Board, individuals: must be paid in full with regard to their Student Government fees;

- A. must be enrolled for all regular (spring and fall) semesters during their term in office;
- B. must not be subject to any **academic** or **disciplinary** suspension by the Seminary or University. Becoming subject to any such academic or disciplinary suspension at any time during their term of office or appointment will automatically remove individuals from such office or appointment;
- C. may not hold the same Executive Board position for more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of both the Moderator and Moderator-Elect positions which may not be held for more than one term;
- D. who desire to run for the office of Moderator-Elect while currently holding the position of Vice-Moderator, General Secretary, Community Liaison, and General Representative on the Executive Board, must resign such office prior to seeking election as Moderator-Elect;
- E. may also seek simultaneous nomination and appointment as Brite Student Representatives to General Committees; and
- F. must be enrolled as full- or part-time students.

#### Section 4.

The term of the above-elected Executive Board positions, with the exceptions of the Moderator- Elect and Moderator positions, shall run from June through May, with their elections being held the previous March. The Moderator-Elect term shall run from March to May, with its election being held during the February prior. At the end of said elect term, this person shall assume the office of Moderator; the term shall run from June through May concurrently with the other elected positions.

#### Section 5.

Election and appointment of Brite Student Association Executive Board members shall be as prescribed by the Brite Student Association Election Code, and procedures listed in the Brite Student Handbook.

#### Section 6.

The duties of the Executive Board shall consist of:

- A. proposing issues to the Brite Student Association for discussion and/or action;
- B. executing Brite Student Association decisions either institutionally or operationally;
- C. presenting a budget as necessary for approval to the Brite Student Association;
- D. attending meetings of the Executive Board and any other meetings called by Moderator; and
- E. those duties delineated for each Executive Board position under Article III of this Constitution.

### ARTICLE III

#### Officers and Their Duties

##### Section 1.

The duties of responsibilities of the Moderator of the Brite Student Association shall consist of:

- A. presiding over all meetings of the Brite Student Association and the Executive Board;
- B. calling all Executive Board meetings as prescribed in the Brite Student Association;
- C. maintaining the orderly transaction of Brite Student Association business as prescribed in this Constitution; and
- D. serving as the liaison between the Brite Student Association and the Administration, Faculty, and

Staff of Brite Divinity School.

Section 2.

The duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Moderator of the Brite Student Association shall consist of:

- A. assuming all responsibilities of the Moderator in his/her absence;
- B. verifying the voting eligibility of those present and voting at all Brite Student Association and Executive Board meetings;
- C. performing the traditional tasks of a Parliamentarian (Inquire as to the correct motion - to accomplish a desired result, or raise a point of order);
- D. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the Moderator;

Section 3.

The duties and responsibilities of the General Secretary of the Brite Student Association shall consist of:

- A. maintaining all Brite Student Association correspondence responsibilities, including but not limited to the official Brite Student Association newsletter *On the Brite Side*;
- B. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the Moderator;
- C. maintaining, recording, and publishing of minutes of all meetings.

Section 4.

The duties and responsibilities of the Community Liaison of the Brite Student Association shall consist of:

- A. collaborating with the Assistant Dean for Common Life in establishing and planning a schedule of discussions for the Brite Student Association in conjunction with academic, chapel, special events, and liturgical calendars;
- B. working in conjunction with the Faculty Representative of the Brite Student Association to assist in providing programming;
- C. search for and plan for engagement with the wider city/state/nation in line with Brite's mission to be witnesses of God's reconciling and transforming love and justice.
- D. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the Moderator.

Section 6.

The duties and responsibilities of the at least three (3) General Representatives of the Brite Student Association shall consist of:

- A. acting as voting members as a part of the Brite Student Association;
- B. providing assistance to needs as delineated in conversations during Brite Student Association meetings; and
- C. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the Moderator

Section 7.

The duties and responsibilities of the Moderator-Elect of the Brite Student Association shall consist of:

- A. utilizing his/her term as Moderator-Elect for experiential training and planning of their successional term as Moderator; and
- B. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the Moderator.

## ARTICLE IV

### Vacancies and Succession

Section 1.

Elected positions shall be declared vacant by resignation, non-compliance of academic or disciplinary code, withdrawal from school otherwise, or through resignation to assume duties as Moderator-Elect.

Section 2.

In the event of a vacancy of any position with the exception of Moderator, the Executive Board of the Brite Student Association shall nominate an individual with her/his consent. If the student nominated is unopposed, that student shall be confirmed through a majority vote of the Brite Student Association. If students are nominated for the same position, the student to fill the vacancy will hold the majority of votes through election by the Brite Student Association.

Section 3.

In the event that the Moderator and Vice-Moderator are simultaneously discharged from office, withdraw enrollment, or are in any way unable to serve in their positions, the order of succession to the position of Moderator will be: General Secretary, Community Conversations Coordinator, and At-Awesome members (as voted by the majority remaining).

## ARTICLE V

### Committees

Section 1.

The Committees of the Brite Student Association may be formed and dissolved at the discretion of the Brite Student Association Executive Board.

Section 2.

The number of Student Representatives to General Committees shall be determined by the Faculty with the concurrence of the Dean of Brite Divinity School.

Section 3.

Student Representatives to General Committees shall be nominated and appointed by the Moderator in conference with the Dean of Brite Divinity School and the Chairperson of each Seminary Committee.

Section 4.

The duties and responsibilities of the Student Representatives to the General Committees shall consist of, but are not limited to, faithfully and honorably representing the students of Brite Divinity School on their respective General Committees.

## ARTICLE VI

### Resolutions

Section 1.

Any member of the Brite Student Association desiring to make a resolution shall submit a finished document (with all attending documentation) to the Brite Student Association General Secretary at least two days in advance of the Brite Student Association Executive Board and provide a signatory to that Brite Student Association Executive Board meeting to request a public forum to be held.

- A. Upon three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Executive Board of the Brite Student Association, the proposed statement will be passed for Student Body approval. A copy of the proposed change will be placed in a public place, most preferably the office of the Brite Student Association Advisor, for one week.
- B. Within one week of its public display a student-wide ballot will be held requiring a majority endorsement of the proposed statement as a "Brite Student Association Adopted Statement."
- C. If, as a result of the public disclosure, substantial additions, corrections and/or revision are made to the proposed statement, then a revised statement must be resubmitted to the Brite Student Association General Secretary within five days of the posting. The Brite Student Association Executive Board will then hold a called meeting, following the procedures outlined above.

Section 2.

A petition to impeach a member of the Brite Student Association Executive Board may be recognized if presented with a statement of offense, signed by at least 20% (twenty percent) of the members of the Brite Student Association. If, after investigation, the charges are sustained, the member will be removed from office by a 70% (seventy percent) vote of the Brite Student Association Executive Board. The impeached member may appeal this impeachment; this appeal will be sustained or overturned by a majority vote of the Brite Student Association in a special referendum.

## **ARTICLE VII**

Ratification

Section 1.

To repeal or amend this Constitution, proposed changes must first be submitted to the Brite Student Association two weeks in advance of the referendum.

Section 2.

This Constitution may be repealed or amended only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Brite Student Association. Quorum for the vote is those votes cast.

Section 3.

All parts of this constitution and responsibilities of said members are to have the right of refusal in which there is a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Brite Student Association Executive Board.