

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

We, the members of the Brite Divinity School Student Association Executive Committee, in order to fulfill our responsibilities to the Brite Divinity School student body to the very best of our collective ability, establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I

Statement of Identity

The Brite Divinity School Student Association, hereinafter referred to as the BSA (Brite Student Association), is composed of all members of the Brite Divinity School student body.

Executive Committee Purpose

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

The purpose of the BSA Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the BSA EC) is to provide intentional leadership in supporting the diverse community that is Brite Divinity School. That means remaining faithful to the community ethos and values of Brite Divinity School in respecting all peoples regardless of race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, religious or denominational affiliation/non-affiliation, ability, nationality, immigration status, or other factors. With this comes the responsibility of nurturing an atmosphere of advocacy, developing personal connections, and supporting the intellectual and spiritual life of the Brite Community.

ARTICLE II

Offices

Section 1.

Purpose and Function of Executive Committee Offices:

The BSA EC shall act as a connecting bridge between the student body and the faculty, staff, and administration of Brite Divinity School, while providing responsible and dynamic leadership with the hope of growing and edifying the community at large.

The Executive Committee is composed of representatives of the student body who have been enrolled in Brite Divinity School in the last 12 months and have been confirmed as voting members by the rest of the BSA EC. While any students who have paid student government fees in the last 12 months are invited to participate and attend all regularly scheduled meetings, a student must be confirmed by two-thirds vote of the BSA EC, with quorum being votes cast, to be given voting power. Any student who is currently enrolled at Brite Divinity School may be confirmed to the BSA EC following nomination by a current BSA EC member and seconded by a second current BSA EC member and acceptance of that nomination by the nominee. Voting power is not required to participate in discourse.

To live out said purpose and function, the BSA EC will hold regularly scheduled meetings at a time to be set at the beginning of the semester by the BSA Officers in conjunction with the Associate Dean for Admissions and Common Life. Once the regularly scheduled meeting time is set, it may not be changed without majority vote of the Executive Committee, where quorum is votes cast.

In addition, the only official responsibilities held by the BSA EC are:

- (1) Plan and execute a Disorientation Lunch or Dinner (a meal provided during fall and spring orientations to acclimate incoming students to student life at Brite);
- (2) Facilitate Community Conversation and provide input for the calendar;
- (3) Promote avenues of community building within the student body;
- (4) Other various duties as determined by the BSA EC;

All other requests of the association are to be brought forward by a motion to the BSA EC.

Section 2.

The voting members of the BSA EC shall consist of all those who have been confirmed as voting members by a majority vote of the existing BSA EC (see Article II, Section 1). Following spring elections, a Moderator-Elect and Vice-Moderator-Elect will temporarily join the ranks of officers until assuming their position as Moderator and Vice Moderator as described in Section 4.

Additionally, the BSA EC may appoint temporary officers for certain tasks including but not limited to: the leadership of committees, conducting exploratory research, or carrying out any special projects as prescribed by the board. These appointed officers must be confirmed by majority vote of the BSA EC, where quorum is votes cast, and will serve no longer than a semester without being re-confirmed by the BSA EC. No individual will serve in a particular temporary office longer than one academic year.

Section 3.

To be eligible to seek election or appointment to any of the officer positions of the BSA EC, individuals:

A. must be enrolled for all regular (spring and fall) semesters during their term in office; can be either a full-time or a part-time student;

B. must not be subject to any academic or disciplinary suspension by the Seminary. 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. The offices of Moderator and Vice-Moderator will be elected by the Brite Student Association, with quorum being votes cast, at the end of every year. Polls will remain open for 10 days. If the Moderator or Vice-Moderator is removed according to Article II, Section 3, Point B, then a special election shall be called to elect a new Moderator or Vice-Moderator according to election protocol. Polls will be open for 10 days.

D. The positions of General Secretary and Community Liaison are voted upon by the BSA EC at the end of every year and must be confirmed by a majority vote, where quorum is votes cast.

- E. No person shall hold more than one office at the same time, with the exception of Moderator-Elect and Vice-Moderator elect, as well as temporary appointed offices.
- F. No person shall hold the office of Moderator for longer than one academic year or the office of Vice-Moderator for longer than one academic year.
- G. No person shall hold the office of General Secretary or for longer than two academic years or the office of Community Liaison for longer than two academic years.
- H. No person shall hold any officer position, not including temporary appointed offices, in the BSA EC for longer than a cumulative total of three academic years.

Section 4.

The term of the above elected and appointed Executive Committee positions, with the exceptions of the Moderator-Elect and Vice-Moderator-Elect, shall run from June through May of the next school year, with their elections being held during the Spring Semester at a time confirmed by the Executive Committee. Elections for Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall run for 10 days. The Moderator-Elect and Vice-Moderator-Elect terms shall run from their time of confirmation of vote until the last meeting of the school year, when the previous Moderator and Vice-Moderator will abdicate their positions to the Moderator-Elect and Vice-Moderator-Elect.

Section 5.

The duties of the Executive Committee 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. approving any use of funds from the Brite Student Association budget, with the exception of funding Community Conversation.
 - D. presenting a budget for special project costs exceeding \$200 for approval to the Brite Student Association;
 - E. attending meetings of the Executive Committee and any other meetings called by Moderator;
- and
- F. those duties delineated for each Executive Committee position under Article III of this Constitution.

ARTICLE III

Officers and Their Duties

Section 1.

The duties and 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 Committee;
- B. scheduling special BSA EC meetings;
- C. creating agendas for all meetings;
- D. maintaining the orderly transaction of BSA business as prescribed in this Constitution;

- E. serving as the liaison between the Brite Student Association and the Faculty, Staff, and Administration; and
- F. any other duties as assigned by the BSA EC.

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 the absence of the Moderator;
- B. acting as the ambassador of the BSA to all other Brite Student Organizations, including but not limited to Brite Black Seminarians, Brite Asian Student Association (BASA), Brite Advanced Program Student Association (APSA), and other official student interest groups for the purpose of cultivating relationships and understanding for the edification of the Brite Community;
- C. identifying advocacy issues; and
- D. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the BSA EC.

Section 3.

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

consist of:

- A. maintaining, recording, and publishing of minutes of all meetings;
- B. maintaining or delegating all Brite Student Association correspondence responsibilities, as assigned by the BSA EC; and
- C. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the BSA EC.

Section 4.

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

consist of:

- A. collaborating with the Associate Dean for Admissions and Common Life in planning a schedule of discussions for the Brite Student Association in conjunction with academic concerns, Community Conversations, chapel, special events, and liturgical calendars;
- B. working in conjunction with the the Associate Dean for Admissions and Common Life to assist in providing programming;
- C. search and plan for engagement with the wider city/state/nation/world in accordance with Brite's mission and ethic to be witnesses of God's reconciling and transforming love and justice; and
- D. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the BSA EC.

Section 5

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

- A. utilizing term as Moderator-Elect and Vice Moderator-Elect for experiential training and planning of successional terms as Moderator and Vice Moderator; and

B. discharging any additional duties and responsibilities as delineated by the BSA EC.

ARTICLE IV

Vacancies and Succession

Section 1.

Elected positions shall be declared vacant by resignation, non-compliance with academic or disciplinary code, or withdrawal from school.

Section 2.

In the event of a vacancy of any position with the exception of Moderator or Vice-Moderator, the BSA EC shall nominate an individual who has given consent. A nominated student shall be confirmed through a majority vote of the BSA EC, where quorum is votes cast.

Section 3.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Moderator or Vice-Moderator, a special election will be called to fill the vacancy according to the protocols in Article II, Section 3, Point C.

Section 4.

In the event that the Moderator is discharged from office, withdraws enrollment, or is in any way unable to serve in their position, the order of succession to the temporary position of acting-Moderator until the time that an election can be held (see Section 3 above) will be: Vice-Moderator, General Secretary, Community Liaison, and voting members (as voted by the majority of the remaining BSA EC, where quorum is votes cast).

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 Committee.

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.

ARTICLE VI

Motions and Resolutions

Section 1.

- A. Any member of the BSA desiring to put forward a motion (an action taken internally by the BSA EC) must state their intention either orally or in writing before the BSA EC. In the event that the member is unable for any reason to present their motion in person, that member may submit their motion to any other BSA member to be presented, with at least one other member to serve as witness.
- B. The motion may then be discussed or amended by the BSA EC as necessary.
- C. The motion must be seconded by another member of the BSA EC to be put to a vote of the BSA EC.
- D. Upon a simple majority vote of the BSA EC, a motion passes.
- E. Either at the discretion of the BSA EC or as otherwise triggered by the Constitution, a motion may be put forward to the student body for approval. Any member of the BSA EC can request for a motion to go before the student body. A motion must be made and seconded to bring a motion before the student body.
- F. A copy of the motion under review will be posted in a public place agreed upon by the BSA EC as well as on social media for at least one week and sent out via email at least one week in advance of the vote.
- G. Within ten days of its public display, a student-wide ballot will be held requiring a majority endorsement of the proposed motion. A quorum is votes cast.
- H. If, as a result of public comment, substantial additions, corrections and/or revision are needed, then a revised motion must be submitted to the BSA General Secretary within ten days following the vote. The BSA EC will then hold a called meeting, following the procedures outlined above.

Section 2.

- A. Any member of the BSA desiring to put forward a resolution (a statement made on behalf of the entire student body) must state their intention either orally or in writing before the BSA EC. In the event that the member is unable for any reason to present their resolution in person, that member may submit their resolution to any other BSA member to be presented, with at least one other member to serve as witness.
- B. The resolution may then be discussed or amended by the BSA EC as necessary.
- C. The resolution must be seconded by another member of the BSA EC to be put to a vote of the BSA EC.
- D. Upon a simple majority vote of the BSA EC, the resolution will be put before the student body for approval.
- E. A copy of the resolution will be posted in a public place agreed upon by the BSA EC as well as on social media for at least one week and sent out via email at least one week in advance of the vote.
- F. Within ten days of its public display a student-wide ballot will be held requiring a majority endorsement of the proposed resolution as a “Resolution of the Brite Student Association.”
A quorum is votes cast.
- G. If, as a result of public comment, substantial additions, corrections and/or revision are needed, then a revised resolution must be submitted to the BSA General Secretary within

ten days following the vote. The BSA EC will then hold a called meeting, following the procedures outlined above.

Section 3.

A petition to impeach a member of the BSA EC may be recognized if the BSA EC is presented with a statement of offense, signed by at least twenty percent of the members of the Brite Student Association. An impeachment committee of at least 3 persons should be created to investigate the charges presented. If, after investigation, the charges are substantiated, the member will be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the BSA EC (where quorum is votes cast) or, in the case of Moderator/Vice-Moderator, by a two-thirds vote of the Brite Student Association (where quorum is votes cast). 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 (where quorum is votes cast); Moderator and Vice-Moderator may appeal for reinstatement to the Executive Committee, but may not appeal for reinstatement to the office of Moderator or Vice-Moderator.

ARTICLE VII

Ratification

Section 1.

Before taking effect, this Constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Brite Student Association, where quorum is votes cast. This Constitution may not be repealed or suspended without a replacement.

Section 2.

To amend or to repeal and replace this Constitution, proposed changes must first be submitted to the BSA EC two weeks in advance of the referendum.

Section 3.

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