

The Constitution of The Baptist Student Union of  
The University of Virginia's College at Wise

Preamble

The Christian witness of the Baptist Student Union in this institution of higher learning is in response to our Lord's command to make known the Gospel to all men. This witness is an integral part of the nature and mission of the church. The role of the churches is indispensable to the maturing spiritual, moral, and intellectual lives of students and faculty members.

Because the university should be engaged in the search for truth, of which God is the source, the Christian perspective is essential to the realization of the ultimate purpose of higher education.

The Baptist Student Union believes that the unique nature of the university situation demands a specialized ministry to the individuals in the campus community with their need for redemption and Christian nurture.

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as the Baptist Student Union of the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Article II: Objective

The objectives of this organization shall be:

1. To Lead students and faculty members to commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. To involve them in responsible church membership and in denominational understanding and participation.
3. To guide them in worship and devotional experiences.
4. To involve them in the study of the Biblical faith and Christian life.
5. To guide them in Christian witnessing.
6. To involve them in experiences of Christian community, characterized by acceptance, love, care, support, and trust.
7. To involve them in Christian social life and recreation.
8. To lead them to participate in Christian world missions.
9. To lead them to accept and practice the principles of Christian stewardship.
10. To lead them to examine academic disciplines from a Christian perspective.
11. To enlist and train them for a life of Christian service.

Article III: Membership

Membership shall consist of all persons involved in and related to the academic community who have a desire to involve themselves in and to participate in the Baptist Student Union of the University of Virginia's College at Wise. The organization is open to all students.

## Article IV: Meetings

The meetings of this organization shall include at least one weekly meeting, and other meetings at anytime the officers or the membership of the organization deem necessary.

## Article V: Executive Council

### Section 1. Composition

The Executive Council shall be composed of the President, Program Vice President, Communications Chairman, Witness and Worship Chairman, Summer Missions Chairman, Local Missions and Social Concerns Chairman, Fellowship Chairman, Music Chairman, Secretary, Faculty Advisor, and Director of Campus Ministry.

### Section 2. Nomination of Officers

A nominating committee composed of a current executive council shall be responsible for the presentation of a slate of candidates for the officers listed in Section 1 of this article. The slate of officers nominated shall be presented at a regular weekly meeting at least two (2) weeks before the election meeting.

### Section 3. Election and Installation

The election of officers will be held at the first regular weekly meeting of the organization in the month of March. Nominations for all officers may be accepted from the floor at the election meeting.

Installation of the elected officers shall take place at the second regular weekly meeting in the month of March.

### Section 4. Tenure and Vacancies

Officers shall serve for a period of one year, beginning at their installation. In the event of the vacancy in the office of President, the Program Vice President shall succeed to the office of President. Any vacancy besides that of President shall be filled by appointment by the President, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote for approval by the entire executive council.

### Section 5. Duties of Officers

#### (1) Duties for all Officers:

Meet regularly with the Director of Campus Ministries to share plans and discuss specific responsibilities.

Serve as a member of the Executive Council.

Report regularly to the Executive Council.

Lead in planning and administering a budget for the committee's activities.

Coordinate the committee's plans and activities with other campus organizations and local churches.

Participate in available leadership training activities.

Maintain a consistent devotional life and pray regularly for all phases of the BSU Ministry.

(2) President:

The primary responsibility of the President is to inspire, direct, and coordinate the efforts of the Executive Council in accomplishing the purpose and objectives. In carrying out this responsibility the President will:

- (1) Preside at the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- (2) Become acquainted with the duties of the members of the Executive Council.
- (3) Appoint all committees and serve as an ex officio member of each.
- (4) Promote state and national BSU activities and emphases.
- (5) Maintain contact and cooperate with the state BSU President, state Director of campus ministry, and National Student Ministries.
- (6) Consult regularly with the Director.
- (7) Develop and implement a continuous plan for enlisting and involving students in the BSU program.
- (8) Provide, with the Director, the overall administration of the BSU.

(3) Program Vice President:

Work with the President, the Director, and all other officers in the promotion and execution of all BSU programs and activities. He/She will lead the executive council in the planning of program for meetings, and will work with the officers in executing their specific activities and responsibilities.

(4) Worship and Witness Chairman:

Shall serve as chairman of the worship and witness committee which meets regularly to plan and evaluate BSU worship and evangelism activities. He/She will lead the committee to plan regular on-campus worship experiences for students; he/she will provide opportunities for students to understand the place and meaning of worship in the total Christian life; constantly encourage the development of regular devotional life on the part of all students; provide a place and time for students to pray and meditate in solitude; lead in the planning of worship activities held in connection with BSU retreats and other off-campus activities; provide witness training for students who need to learn how to share the Christian faith in person-to-person relationships; provide leadership for special witnessing emphases on the campus; provide leadership for regular visitation programs among non-Christian students for the purpose of establishing relationships that will allow Christian students to share the Christian faith; work with missions chairman to plan and carry out off-campus witnessing emphasis.

(5) Communications Chairman:

Shall serve as chairman of communications committee, which meets regularly to plan and evaluate communications activities of BSU; provide adequate publicity of all BSU activities to all students; lead communications committee to maintain consistent contact with BSU Committee chairman to insure the communication of all activities to relevant constituents; provide news releases concerning BSU activities to campus newspapers, community newspaper, and state Baptist paper; produce a BSU newsletter and or newspaper; maintain up-to-date BSU scrapbook containing clippings, pictures, and other items of historical interest and value; lead communications committee to develop and implement a comprehensive public relations program.

- (6) Summer Missions and Ministries Chairman:  
Shall work closely with the president and the Director, and the Department of Campus Ministry in coordinating, planning, and promoting BSU Missions and Ministries at UVA at Wise. He/She will work with study committee to provide opportunities for students to understand the nature of the Christian world missions; lead BSU in student mission fund-raising program; encourage students to become involved in special student missions projects (BSU sponsored or Home Missions Board).
- (7) Local Missions and Social Concerns Chairman:  
Shall serve as chairman of ministry committee which meets regularly to plan and evaluate ministry activities; lead ministry committee to make periodic survey of needs that can be met by students (thru counseling, friendship, tutoring, medical aid, food, clothing, shelter, drug information, expectant mothers, etc.); lead BSU to maintain effective ministries that are designed to meet specific needs; provide training activities for students who will become involved in the student ministry projects; work with the director to provide students with opportunities to understand the Christian's role as a minister; lead social action to determine those areas of social concern on the campus, within the campus community, and in the world to which the Christian speaks and on which BSU should take a positive stand.
- (8) Music Chairman:  
Shall be reasonable accomplished in the field of music and shall assume the responsibility for the music at all regular weekly meetings, worships, and other BSU activities. He/She shall work closely with the President, Director, and worship-witness chairman.
- (9) Fellowship Chairman:  
Shall serve as chairman of the fellowship committee; be responsible for dinners at regular weekly meetings; coordinate with President, Director, and any other appropriate officer, and social project to make money.
- (10) Secretary:  
Shall keep accurate records of the meetings of the Executive Council and regular meetings. He/She shall also do such corresponding as requested by the council.
- (11) Faculty Advisor:  
The primary responsibility of the faculty advisor is to serve as a liaison between the college administration and the BSU. Seeking to carry out this responsibility, the faculty advisor will interpret to the faculty and administration the work of the BSU, assist the BSU in working within the framework of school regulations, serve as advisor to the executive council, and provide needed leadership when the BSU is without a Director.

#### Section 6. Attendance and Duties

All members who assume the responsibility of an office within the executive council of the BSU will be committed to attending and participating in all regular and called meeting of the executive council. All officers who may be unable to attend a regular or called meeting of the executive council will send a representative in his/her place and / or a report from his/her committee. If an officer is unable or unwilling to execute the duties and responsibilities of his office, the secretary on the direction of the President and Director, will communicate in writing to the officer in question, as to his/her absence and intentions in executing the duties and responsibilities of the office assumed. Appropriate action will then be taken by the council, which will include further written communication to the officer, and if necessary, removal from office.

#### Section 7. Special Elections

In the event elected officers are vacated, the President shall hold an election with nominations from the floor at the first regular weekly meeting after the meeting at which the officer has submitted a written resignation.

### Article VI Amendments

Section 1. Proposals for amendments to this Constitution may be submitted in duplicate by an active member of the BSU, and must be conspicuously posted by the secretary for two weeks prior to the time of voting on their approval.

Section 2. Voting shall take place at the regular meeting two weeks after the proposals are posted. Approval shall require the assenting vote of 2/3 of the members present.

### Article VII Other Constitutions

This constitution replaces all previous constitutions and / or documents of organization for the Baptist Student Union of The University of Virginia's College at Wise. This constitution becomes effective immediately upon ratification.