Constitution of the Student Health Law Association

ARTICLE I
Statement of Purpose

This mission of the Student Health Law Association is to provide a forum for interaction and information exchange among law students with an interest in the legal, ethical, and political issues that arise in the field of health care. The organization serves as the leading authority on health law issues within the student body by sponsoring health law related programs that will benefit our members, the law school community and the general public, and will be a valuable resource for jobs, internships and mentors within the field of health law. In order to serve this purpose, the Student Health Law Association invites speakers to discuss issues relating to health law including health care reform, fraud and abuse, quality care, access to health care, financing and organization, bioethics, medicine, and private health. Because the legal issues associated with health care overlap with many other areas of law such as antitrust, administrative law, federal criminal law, white collar crime, taxation, torts, constitutional law, nonprofit organizations, state and local government law and legislation, this organization benefits a significant number of law students. The Student Health Law Association makes an effort to sponsor health related events such as, THON, Relay for Life and AIDS Awareness. Additionally, the organization coordinates programs to increase the wellness and health of the law students, especially during finals. In these efforts, we hope to work with the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, its employees and its students.

ARTICLE II
Membership

I. Eligibility for Membership: Any student currently enrolled at the Pennsylvania State University-Dickinson School of Law shall be eligible for membership.

II. Duties of Members:
   a. Regular participation by each member in the activities of the Student Health Law Association is required.

ARTICLE III
Meetings

I. There shall be a minimum of three (3) meetings per semester.

II. All members shall be given adequate notice of all meeting times, dates, and locations.

III. Quorum for meetings shall be one third (33%) of the total membership.

IV. The President shall preside over all meetings or appoint someone to preside.

ARTICLE IV
Officers

I. Eligibility of Officers:
   a. Only members that have attended at least one half of the general body meetings in the prior year shall be eligible to be an officer.
   b. All officers must maintain good academic standing.
   c. No Student Health Law Association member may hold more than one office within the Organization at one time.

II. Executive Board: The Executive Board is made up of all elected officers.
a. The Board is responsible for the implementation of the goals and event of the Student Health Law Association.
b. Each member of the Board shall share with the membership any announcements, scholarships, events, training programs, etc. of which he or she has been advised which are pertinent to the goals and activities of the Student Health Law Association.
c. No member of the board shall expend any funds under the auspices of the Student Health Law Association without first announcing the expenditure to the members and obtaining approval of the members.

III. Elected Officers:
   a. President:
      i. The President shall call and hold regular meetings with the Board and the membership.
      ii. The President shall advise the Secretary of the general agenda for the meetings.
      iii. The President shall conduct and lead the meetings.
      iv. The President shall consult and seek the advice and suggestions of the Board.
      v. The President is ultimately held responsible for any action taken on behalf of the Student Health Law Association.
   b. Vice President- University Park Campus:
      i. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.
      ii. The Vice President shall assist the President in all matters.
   c. Vice President- Carlisle Campus:
      i. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.
      ii. The Vice President shall assist the President in all matters.
      iii. The Vice President shall serve as a liaison between members in Carlisle and members in University Park.
      iv. The Vice President shall publicize events and supervise membership at the Carlisle campus.
   d. Treasurer:
      i. The Treasurer shall formulate a budget.
      ii. The Treasurer shall have a list of expenditures and a balance of the account to present when requested.
      iii. The Treasurer shall prepare all requests for organizational funding and submit these to the SBA Budget Committee
      iv. The Treasurer shall sign every receipt before it is submitted for reimbursement.
   e. Secretary:
      i. The Secretary shall produce written minutes of the meetings to be distributed to the members within one week of each meeting. The minutes shall be placed in a 3-ring binder. The purpose is to provide upon request an orderly and concise presentation of the event or meeting to anyone that inquires and to provide a resource for future officers.
      ii. The Secretary shall prepare election ballots.

ARTICLE VI
Elections

I. Generally: Elections shall occur at a meeting called by the Executive Board and specifically scheduled for this purpose. This may be at a regular meeting. Notification of the election meeting shall be given one (1) week in advance.
II. Nominations: Any member may nominate any member eligible to be an officer as defined in Article V. A candidate may self-nominate.

III. Election Process:
   a. At each election meeting, each candidate shall present a platform, stating what he or she intends to do for the upcoming year (goals, fundraising, events, etc.).
   b. All voting shall take place by secret ballot in an order so designated by the Executive Board.
   c. Only members who have attended at least one half of the general body meetings in the prior year may vote.
   d. A simple majority (50%+1) of the members present at the election meeting shall be required to elect an officer.

IV. Run-offs: If no candidate achieves a majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates having the highest number of votes. Run-off elections for any office shall take place immediately after the initial balloting for the office and in the same manner as prescribed in Section III of this Article.

V. Proxy Voting: Members wishing to vote by proxy must register his or her ballot with a member of the Executive Board in writing specifying the office and the person who is to receive the vote for that particular officer. Such votes shall only count if the person named is a candidate for that office.

ARTICLE VII
Removal

I. Generally: A Board member may be removed from office for failure to carry out any of the duties and goals of the Student Health Law Association, as defined herein.

II. Procedure:
   a. A motion to remove an officer must be sponsored by at least two members who have attended at least one half of the general body meetings in the prior year.
   b. Once a motion for removal is made, at the following meeting, one of the members presenting the motion may speak on behalf of the motion while the officer may speak on their own behalf concerning the issue.
   c. Following the presentations, the floor shall be open for questions from the members present at the meeting.
   d. Following discussion, there shall be a secret ballot vote on the motion to remove.
   e. A two thirds (66%) vote of active members present at the meeting is required for removal.

ARTICLE VIII
Vacancy

I. In the event of a vacancy, there shall be an election held at the following meeting following the rules for elections set forth in Article VI.

ARTICLE IX
Amendments to Constitution

I. Amendment to the Constitution:
   a. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Executive Board in writing at least one (1) week prior to consideration by membership.
   b. The sponsor(s) of the proposed amendment shall be given at least five (5) minutes to address the members at the meeting, and opportunity shall be provided for questions and answers.
   c. Proposed amendments are ratified by a 2/3 majority vote in favor by members who have fulfilled the payment of his or her dues obligations as defined in Article III and have attended at least one half of the general body meetings in the prior year.
ARTICLE X
Statement of Non-Discrimination

This organization and its membership shall follow the Penn State guidelines of non-discrimination.