

LISSO CONSTITUTION

Preamble

The students of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa hereby establish the student chapter of the American Library Association, which shall, from now on, be called the Library and Information Science Student Organization with LISSO serving as its acronym.

Article I: Purpose

Article II: Membership

Article III: Officers and Duties

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Article I: Purpose

1. Facilitate and encourage participation in the American Library Association (ALA), work to promote scholarly achievement and professional awareness among its members, and promote active, imaginative research in the field of Library and Information Science.
2. Increase awareness and use of the resources provided by the ALA to its members.
3. Provide a local forum for the exchange of ideas and information about trends, issues, and opportunities in the profession.
4. Promote involvement in professional activities beyond the classroom.
5. Develop skills and relationships that will enable students to have a creative impact within the profession.

Article II: Membership

1. All students admitted to and enrolled in the School of Library and Information Science at The University of Iowa are automatically members of LISSO and will have full voting rights on all LISSO governance decisions. Membership in ALA or ILA is not required for membership, but it is strongly encouraged.
2. LISSO will guarantee that equal opportunity and access to membership, programming, facilities, and benefits shall be open to all persons. In no aspect of this organization shall there be any difference in the treatment of persons because of their race, national or ethnic origin, creed, color, disability, age, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, or any other classification which would deprive a person of consideration as an individual.

Article III: Officers and Duties

1. All current LISSO members are eligible to run for office.
2. The President will coordinate activities between LISSO and other organizations, set and run meetings, count the votes of the election, and delegate responsibilities to other board members as needed.
3. The Secretary shall be in charge of notes at meetings, general correspondence, notifying people of meetings, and aiding in program and conference coordination.
4. The Treasurer will aid the Secretary, collect dues and membership fees, if any, maintain the organization's financial records, and present financial reports.
5. The Social Chair will aid the other officers, maintain LISSO's social networking accounts, and plan and coordinate social events with members of LISSO and SLIS faculty.
6. The Executive Board shall consist of the above Executive Officers and the Faculty Advisor as Member Ex-Officio. The Executive Board reserves the right to set up committees as necessary to aid in their functions.

Article IV: Committees and Other Positions

The following committees and positions will be filled each year during the annual election process:

1. The Recruitment and Promotion Committee, which shall coordinate student recruitment and program promotion with the appropriate SLIS faculty and staff.
2. The Committee for SLIS Spaces, which shall oversee the use and maintenance of all the common SLIS spaces such as the Gunther Commons, the shared kitchen, and any SLIS bulletin boards.
3. GSS Representative(s) who will serve as the SLIS representatives to the Graduate Student Senate and perform all duties requires as such.

Article V: Advisor

The advisor for the student chapter of the American Library Association will be:

1. A current member of the faculty at the University of Iowa.
2. A current member of the American Library Association.

Article VI: Activities

1. At the beginning of each semester there will be an organizational meeting. Subsequent meetings will be held as necessary throughout the semester.
2. Meetings shall be planned and convened by one or more member of the executive board. Some of the meetings may be held with all LISSO members present, while others may be solely among the executive board; the meeting attendee make-up shall be dependent on the nature of the meeting. Meetings may be for professional development, entertainment, and/or consideration of LISSO business.
3. Activities and programs sponsored by the chapter will be open to individuals who are not LISSO members.

Article VII: Elections

1. Offices will be held for one full academic year.
2. Nominations for offices will be accepted one month before the election.
3. Nominees may announce their intent to run for office or may be nominated by other LISSO members. All nominees will have the right to accept or refuse their nomination.
4. Incoming Officers will assume their duties in the semester following that of their election.
5. Incumbent officers may be re-elected if continuing on in the program for another full academic year.
6. Only current LISSO members who plan to continue in the SLIS program for at least another semester are eligible to vote.
7. Votes will always be cast via anonymous and blind ballots to avoid coercion. To encourage all LISSO members to vote, the General Election will be held through paper ballots which will be distributed to each student's mail box. Voting will remain open for one week, and ballots are to be submitted to a ballot box placed in the SLIS office.
8. In the event of a vacancy, the executive board will nominate an interim officer to serve until the next membership meeting, where only those present may vote on the replacement candidate(s).
9. The Executive Board may remove any individual holding an office by a majority vote. Appropriate cause and evidence must be provided to the Executive Board so that an investigation can be conducted. If an officer is removed, an election, as outlined in number eight above, must take place.

Article VIII: Finances

1. Funds shall be raised through annual budget requests and fund raising activities.
2. Only designated members of the Executive Board shall have the ability to authorize expenditures.
3. Upon dissolution, group fees shall be divided in a manner deemed appropriate by the Student Association Business Office.

Article IX: Amendments & Ratifications

1. The constitution may be amended at any LISSO general meeting, provided that the amendment(s) shall have been submitted at the last general meeting in writing.
2. Amendments to the constitution will be voted on and passed by a majority vote of the members in attendance at the meeting.
3. A majority of those present is necessary to ratify this constitution.