Debate Club

Article I- Name and Purpose

Debate Club has been established for the purpose of The UMBC Parliamentary Debate Society (UMBC PDS) actively encourages all University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) students to participate in debate. The UMBC PDS seeks to better the logical argumentation and public speaking abilities of the UMBC community through parliamentary debate and to promote interest in debate competition. The UMBC PDS thrives on competition, and to this end its members compete weekly throughout the academic year on the circuit of the American Parliamentary Debate Association (APDA).

Article II- Scope

This organization is subject to the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, as well as to the President of the University and his/her designee.

Article III- Membership

A UMBC student can become a member of this organization by:

- Attending at least 1 meeting

Membership in this organization is open to any UMBC undergraduate student (without restriction of GPA requirement, try-outs, etc.).

Membership in this organization will not be denied because of race, color, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, disabled veteran or veteran status, national origin, or religion.

Article IV- Officers and Elections

a. Officers

The officers of Debate Club shall be the President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The duties of the President shall include:

- developing and managing events
- developing and managing projects
- exploring and sharing the history of the organization
- serving as the organization's official representative for communicating with SGA and UMBC staff

The duties of the Vice-president shall include:

- managing communication within the group
- managing public relations
• exploring and sharing the history of the organization
• assuming the role of President in the event of the President's absence or incapacity

**The duties of the Treasurer shall include:**

• managing fundraising
• developing and managing events
• developing and managing projects
• managing the organization's funds and ensuring compliance with all financial rules and guidelines

**The duties of the Secretary shall include:**

• managing member recruitment/retention
• managing communication within the group
• managing public relations
• recording and archiving information from meetings and activities

b. Elections

All officers shall be elected to a term of one year starting and ending on May 1st.

Elections will be held between April 15th and April 30th. In addition, in the case that a vacancy occurs in any of the elected positions identified in this Article, an election will be held to fill the position.

At least 7 days notice shall be given to all members before the annual election meeting.

Nominations shall be initiated from the floor and elections done by a ballot where the person with the most votes wins.

Officers may be removed throughout the year by a 2/3 vote of the other members present at a meeting.

Before the vote, the individual(s) proposing to remove the officer will explain the specific reasons for the proposed action, which must involve misconduct or failure to fulfill officer responsibilities, and the officer will have the opportunity to respond.

**Article V- Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of all members present at the meeting. All amendments must be approved in accordance with Student Government Association policy before becoming legally binding.

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**Organization Type**

Intellectual Sports

**Organization Funding Status**

Funded