

Grinnell Vegans Constitution

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1 Name

- The name of this organization is Grinnell Vegans

2 Purpose

- Grinnell Vegans aims to build community around, promote, and organize/participate in activity towards an anti-speciesist and vegan world in the Grinnell community, globally, and nationally. This will be accomplished through:
 - Advocating and creating space for vegans on campus and in town by:
 - * hosting events to normalize vegan life such as vegan community potlucks and outreach
 - * advocating for better vegan options in all aspects of campus life (dining, academics).
 - * advocating for better vegan options in the town by interacting with local businesses and people.
 - Participating in animal rights activism happening locally and in the world outside of Grinnell including:
 - * Tabling and other outreach for vegan and animal welfare causes such as Veganuary, campaigns in Iowa against factory farms, Anonymous for the Voiceless, etc.
 - * Participating in similar outreach and advocacy in the Iowa area in cooperation with other animal right organizations.
 - * Participating in nonviolent direct action animal rights campaigns both locally and in the broader community.
 - Enabling animal rights advocates on campus to make a difference through:
 - * Exploring evidence based tactics for:
 - Leading effective conversations about animal rights issues with carnists.
 - Supporting animal rights organizations and leading animal rights activism.
 - * Making it easy to participate in animal activism.
 - * Making available educational materials (pamphlets, websites, etc.) on animal-related issues.

3 Membership

3.1 Membership Requirements

- Anyone may be a member of Grinnell Vegans, regardless of ethical/dietary perspective and will be welcomed to join events organized by the group so long as they engage respectfully.
- To be a voting member of Grinnell Vegans, the member in question must be vegan or some derivative thereof (eg. freegan, but not vegetarian).

3.2 Anti-Discrimination Policy

Grinnell College is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe and nondiscriminatory educational and working environment for all College community members. It is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in matters of admission, employment, and housing, and in access to and participation in its education programs, services, and activities. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, religion, disability, creed or any other protected class. Discrimination and harassment on any of the bases covered by state or federal anti discrimination statutes is unlawful and a violation of GrinnellCollege policy.

4 Officers

4.1 Note on officers

Grinnell Vegans was founded with ideas of decentralization and direct democracy in mind, and aims through maximum inclusion in deliberative processes and decision making to engender a sense of ownership in all members of the group, whether officers or not. Although these officer positions are present in the groups constitution both for SGA compliance and organizational reasons, they are not meant to have any more ultimate power over the group than any other voting member.

4.2 Positions

- Grinnell Vegans will have members filling the three student government mandated roles on a school-yearly basis:

- Primary contact, in charge of managing the `vegan@grinnell.edu` email address, co-running voting processes, and being the default representative of the group for outside inquiries.
- Secondary contact, in charge of supporting and filling in for the primary contact as needed, tracking voting membership, and co-running the voting processes.
- Treasurer, in charge of drafting and submitting the budget to voting members and student government every semester.

4.3 Elective Procedure

- Every spring semester after spring break, a call will go out both over email and at any community-building events such as potlucks for applications to fill these positions.
 - Voting members can submit applications to these positions including:
 - * The position(s) that the person is applying to (and if multiple, which they'd most like).
 - * a short blurb about why they feel they would fill the position well.
 - * Any additional information they'd like others to know.
- After two weeks, a poll will be sent out to all voting members for each role including the information included in applications.
 - Voting members will choose their top three candidates for each position.
- Either after all voting members have responded to the polls, or using the polling information as it stands at 12:00 AM the Sunday before finals week, winners will be calculated and announced.
 - Winners will be decided for the positions in this order:
 1. Primary representative
 2. Secondary representative
 3. Treasurer

- To determine election winners, the candidate receiving the most first choice rankings wins.
 - * If someone’s first choice for a category has already been elected to a previously determined role, their second choice counts as a first choice for the purposes of that election.
 - * If someone’s second choice for a category has already been elected to a previously determined role, their third choice counts as a first choice for the purposes of that election.

4.4 Removal Procedure

- If an officer wishes to resign for any reason, they may do so.
- If a voting member(s) wishes to remove any officer, they may start a process to do so.
 - A special meeting will be organized by this/these member(s), any officers that they do not have grievances with, and any other voting members wanting to be involved.
 - * During this meeting, the member(s) wishing to remove an officer, and any others wishing to will be able to speak on the removal process should they want to.
 - * At the end of the meeting, or at some point later, the officers not being considered for removal will send out an email to all voting members with testimonies from all parties wishing to give it and a yes/no poll for the removal of the officer in question.
 - If after either two weeks from the email being sent out, or when a simple majority of voting members have voted in either direction, the answer with the most votes will be enacted, and the officer in question will either be removed or maintain their position.
- If an officer resigns or is removed from their position, a voting procedure for their role, ran by the remaining officers is triggered, which aims to emulate normal elective procedure in section 4.3 given any extraneous circumstances.

5 Meetings

- Regular meetings will be held every week, alternating between group meals in the D-Hall, and community potlucks.

6 Amendments

- If a of a voting member(s) wishes to amend the constitution, they may start a process to do so.
 - A special meeting will be organized by the member(s) wishing to amend the constitution, the officers at the time, and any other voting members wanting to take part.
 - * During this meeting, the member(s) wishing to amend the constitution, and any others wanting to speak to will be able to give comment on the amendment process.
 - * At the end of the meeting, or at some point later, officers will send out an email to all voting members with testimonies from all parties wishing to give it and a yes/no poll for the amendment in question.
 - If after either two weeks from the email being sent out, or when a two thirds majority of voting members have voted in either direction, if the amendment has received a two thirds majority in favor, it will be enacted.