

## Constitution of the *American Agora*

The following constitution establishes the *American Agora*.

1. The *American Agora* is a public affairs commentary and debate journal dedicated to elevating discourse about important issues.
2. The *American Agora* is open to all people and will not discriminate in their membership selection on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, personal appearance, disability status, marital status, family responsibility, political affiliation, source of income, or other rights secured by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
3. The *American Agora* is bound to adhere to University policies as well as local and federal laws.
4. The *American Agora* shall value the autonomy of individual writers and respect their right to choose the topics and arguments of their writing, unless such topics or arguments violate anti-discrimination policy, University policy, local or federal law, or standards of professionalism.
5. Membership in the *American Agora* shall be granted as described in this constitution and in any *American Agora* by-laws.
6. The following shall constitute the Editorial Board of the *American Agora*.
  - a. Editor-in-Chief.
    - i. The Editor-In-Chief shall be the chief executive of the *American Agora*. They shall have the authority to decide whatever matters arise in the organization within the scope of this constitution and the by-laws of the organization.
    - ii. The Editor-In-Chief shall serve as the President of the Executive Board pursuant to American University Policy.
    - iii. The Editor-In-Chief shall be elected as follows, except in the case of Article 12:
      1. The Editor-In-Chief shall be elected in the April preceding their term, in a date agreed upon by a majority of the Editorial Board
      2. The members of the Editorial Board will elect the Editor-In-Chief.
      3. The election shall follow a ranked-choice format. Members of the Editorial Board will rank their first, second, and third-choice candidates. If a candidate wins a majority of the first-choice votes, they become the new Editor-In-Chief. If no majority is reached with first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated; second-choice candidates become the effective choice on ballots listing the eliminated candidate as the first-choice. A new tally is conducted with the adjusted ballots, and this process is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of votes and becomes Editor-In-Chief.
    - iv. In the event that the Editor-In-Chief resigns before the end of their term, an election for the new Editor-In-Chief shall occur as soon as possible using the same format described in Article 6(a)iii.

- v. The Editor-In-Chief shall serve a term of the academic year and the summer thereafter.
- b. Managing Editor.
  - i. There shall be as many Managing Editors as the Editor-in-Chief sees fit, who shall head the editorial branch, which manages the editing of submitted articles, and serve as the principal deputy for the Editor-In-Chief.
  - ii. The Editor-In-Chief shall serve as the Vice President of the Executive Board pursuant to American University Policy.
  - iii. The Managing Editor shall be appointed by the Editor-In-Chief in August, and serve a term of the academic year and the summer thereafter.
  - iv. In the event that the Managing Editor resigns before the end of their term, the Editor-In-Chief shall appoint a new Managing Editor as soon as possible.
- c. Director of Administration.
  - i. There shall be one Director of Administration, who shall head the administrative branch, which manages the administrative duties of the organization.
  - ii. The Director of Administration shall serve as the Secretary of the Executive Board pursuant to American University Policy.
  - iii. The Director of Administration shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Editor-In-Chief.
- d. Chief Editorial Columnist.
  - i. There shall be one Chief Editorial Columnist, who shall head the columnist branch, which writes articles for publication, and serve as the highest-ranking writer.
  - ii. The Chief Editorial Columnist shall serve on the Executive Board pursuant to American University Policy.
  - iii. The Chief Editorial Columnist shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Editor-In-Chief.
- e. Deputy Editor.
  - i. Deputy Editors shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Editor-in-Chief and work under the Managing Editor in the editing department.
  - ii. Deputy Editors shall assist in the editing process in whatever way the Managing Editor directs them.
  - iii. [clean up language] Four positions: domestic affairs, foreign affairs, economic affairs, and on-campus affairs.
- f. Secretary.
  - i. The Secretary shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Editor-In-Chief and complete tasks as directed by the Editor-In-Chief.
  - ii. The Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the Executive Board pursuant to American University Policy.
- g. A person may hold at most one position under this article.

7. The following shall be positions outside the Editorial Board.

- a. Deputy Director.
  - i. Deputy Directors shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Editor-in-Chief and work under the Director of Administration in the administration department.

- ii. Deputy Directors shall assist in administrative duties in whatever way the Director of Administration directs them.
- b. Contributing Staff Writer.
  - i. Contributing Staff Writers shall be appointed by the Editor-In-Chief, Managing Editor, Deputy Editor(s), or the Chief Editorial Columnist and work in the writing department.
  - ii. Contributing Staff Writers may have their position changed to Guest Contributor at the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief.
  - iii. Contributing Staff Writers shall write and publish material for the *American Agora*.
  - iv. Contributing Staff Writers must accept the right of the *American Agora* to not publish any material for any reason.
  - v. Contributing Staff Writers must relinquish all rights to material published in the *American Agora* to the *American Agora* organization, subject to the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief.
- c. Guest Contributor
  - i. Guest Contributors shall be appointed by the Editor-In-Chief, Managing Editor, Deputy Editor(s), or the Chief Editorial Columnist and work in the writing department.
  - ii. Guest Contributors may have their position changed to Contributing Staff Writer at the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief.
  - iii. Guest Contributors shall write and publish material for the *American Agora* on a less-frequent basis than Contributing Staff Writers.
  - iv. Guest Contributors must accept the right of the *American Agora* to not publish any material for any reason.
  - v. Guest Contributors must relinquish all rights to material published in the *American Agora* to the *American Agora* organization, subject to the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief.
- d. A person may hold any position under this article, regardless of any other position held by that person.

8. Pursuant to American University policy, a majority of members of the *American Agora* must be people officially connected with the University, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

#### 9. Advisor.

- a. Pursuant to American University policy, the staff/alumni advisor of the *American Agora* may provide advice to all members of the *American Agora* and act as a connection point between American University and the *American Agora*.
- b. The staff/alumni advisor shall be invited by the Editor-in-Chief.

#### 10. Meetings.

- a. Formal meetings of members of the *American Agora* may be called by the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Chief Editorial Columnist, or Director of Administration.
- b. If such a meeting is called, the Editor-In-Chief or someone they select will handle logistical organization for the meeting.
- c. If a member at such a meeting insists on using parliamentary procedure pursuant to American University policy, Robert's Rules of Order shall be used according to [robertsrules.org](http://robertsrules.org).

- i. If parliamentary procedure is used according to Article 10(c), the Editor-in-Chief shall be the presiding officer. If the Editor-in-Chief is not present, the Managing Editor shall be the presiding officer. If neither the Editor-in-Chief nor the Managing Editor are present, the Director of Administration shall be the presiding officer. If none of these officers represent, the meeting shall be canceled.
11. By-laws for the *American Agora* may be written or amended by the Editorial Board. Each by-law shall require a majority vote, with a majority of the Editorial Board constituting a quorum. All members of the Editorial Board must be notified if a by-law is written or amended.
  12. A person may be removed from the organization by a majority vote of the Executive Board for any cause or at the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief if they fail to fulfill their duties for an extended period of time, not shorter than sixty days.
  13. This constitution may be amended upon a two-thirds consensus of the entire Editorial Board.
  14. Election of the Editor-In-Chief and appointment of positions shall immediately follow the ratification of this constitution.
  15. This constitution shall be ratified upon a two-thirds consensus of the Editor-In-Chief, Managing Editor, and Director of Administration.

RATIFIED February 27, 2020 by  
 Mark Lu, Editor-In-Chief  
 Lana Green, Managing Editor  
 Ben Mermel, Director of Administration

