

*Constitution*  
*of the*  
*Demosthenian Literary Society*  
Revised and Ratified March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

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### **Preamble**

Whereas it is necessary in order to fit ourselves for the varied duties of life, to cultivate a correct mode of speaking, and to qualify ourselves through practice to express our views in an effective manner; and whereas experience has abundantly proved that these ends can in no way be more speedily accomplished as by forming a Society for such a purpose; therefore, we the undersigned have organized a Society and have adopted for our government the following Constitution.

### **Article I Name and Object of the Society**

The name of the Society shall be the Demosthenian Literary Society of the University of Georgia. It shall be the object of the Society to promote the cause of science and truth by the cultivation of oratory and the art of debate at weekly meetings.

### **Article II Meetings**

- Section 1. Meetings of the Society shall be held in the Upper Chamber of Demosthenian Hall on North Campus at 7:00 PM on Thursdays when class is in session during the Fall and Spring Semesters.
  
- Section 2. Meetings may be held during the Summer Semester or when classes are cancelled, but such meetings shall be considered unofficial and will neither be entered into the official record of the Society, nor will they require a quorum in order to convene.
  
- Section 3. Quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of all current members.

- Section 4. The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Society except in cases where it conflicts with the Constitution.
- Section 5. Meetings of the Society shall be moved from their assigned date by a three-fourths vote of the Society, provided that there are three-fourths of the full-voting members of the Society present.
- Section 6. The President may call special meetings of the Society, provided that the meeting is announced two weeks before the date of the proposed special meeting. Announcements may be posted in the Lower Chamber. Special meetings may also be called by a three-fourths vote of the Society, provided that three-fourths of the full-voting members of the Society are present and that the vote is taken two full weeks before the date of the proposed special meeting.

### **Article III Parliamentary Procedure**

- Section 1. There shall be a limit of five minutes on the addresses of members and guests unless the Society grants an extension by a three-fourths affirmative vote. The President's Inaugural Address, the Faculty Advisor's Report, the Historian's "History of the Debating Societies" speech, Orations, Declamations, farewell addresses and a prospective member's maiden address shall only be timed for posterity. The clock will be stopped while questions are being asked, and while motions are being voted upon.
- Section 2. A point of information may not be in the form of a declarative statement unless pertaining to a Constitutional matter.
- Section 3. Adjourning the meeting shall require a two-thirds majority vote. Closing debate on a question shall require a simple majority.
- Section 4. Any member may move for reconsideration of any motion, but such a motion may only be made once.

- Section 5. When a sitting President steps down to speak on a resolution, the sitting Vice-President becomes the sitting President.
- Section 6. Roll call debate on a subject of sufficient interest, prominence, or controversy may be initiated at the request of any member in the Society with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Society. The Society may vote to delay the debate for one week in order to permit each member to research the question. All members including officers shall speak. Guests may address the Society after members have spoken.

#### **Article IV Order of Business**

1. Calling to Order of the Society
2. Announcements from the Chair
3. Roll Call
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
5. Recognition of Those Present for the First Time
6. Recognition of Those Present for the Second or Third Time
7. Recognition of Alumni Present
8. Appointment of the Critic
9. Programs
10. Petitions for Reinstatement of Membership
11. Petitions for Membership
12. Committee Reports
13. Special Elections
14. Old or Unfinished Business
15. New Business
16. Adjournment
  - a. The Critic's Report
  - b. Remarks from the Chair
  - c. Remarks from the Floor

#### **Article V Membership**

- Section 1. Any student registered at the University of Georgia shall be eligible for membership in the Society. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender

identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students as stated in the University of Georgia Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Section 2. One may petition the Society for membership after 1) having participated in regular debate at least once, 2) having attended three meetings, two of which must be consecutive, 3) after passing a written membership test submitted to the Judicial Council at least one week in advance, and 4) having delivered a maiden address before the Society. The prospective member shall be admitted into the Society pending an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the full-voting members present, provided a quorum is present. The President shall deliver the Oath of Membership to all new members.

Section 3. A full-voting member shall be anyone who has attended four consecutive meetings of the Society after admission. Full-voting members may vote on any issue before the Society including membership petitions, elections, and constitutional amendments.

Section 4. Voting on all issues before the Society shall be restricted to members on the current roll.

Section 5. Any member who is absent for three consecutive meetings during a semester, or who is absent for five meetings at any time during a semester, shall be stricken from the roll. Excused absences are permitted at the discretion of the Secretary. An excuse for an absence must be submitted to the Secretary before the meeting immediately following the absence. Otherwise, the absence will remain unexcused. Members who have been stricken from the roll due to excessive absences may be reinstated to the roll upon a three-fourths vote of the Society, provided that a quorum of full-voting members is present.

Section 6. A full-voting member who leaves the University of Georgia or leaves the Society shall be considered an alumnus or alumna member. Upon returning to the Society and becoming properly enrolled in the University again, any alumnus or alumna

member may resume full-voting status upon a vote of three-fourths of the full-voting members present, provided there is a quorum present.

- Section 7. Alumni shall be entitled to all the privileges of members except those of voting, holding office, and being able to have keys to the Hall. When in the Hall they shall be subject to all the rules and regulations that govern the members.
- Section 8. One shall be eligible for honorary membership, who possesses distinguished worth of character and such intellectual attainments as will reflect honor upon the Society. All such proposals for honorary members must be submitted in writing to the Society, and must bear the signatures of at least three full-voting members. Honorary members shall be accepted into the Society by a three-fourths vote of the membership provided a quorum of full-voting members is present. All persons chosen as honorary members shall be notified in writing of their honor by the Secretary.
- Section 9. Honorary members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except voting on any issues before the Society, holding office, and having keys to the Hall.
- Section 10. A leave of absence must be submitted to the President in writing. Any member may be granted a leave of absence at the President's discretion provided it is approved by a majority of the Judicial Council. A leave of absence may not be granted retroactively.
- Section 11. Members who are on a leave of absence shall not be counted toward quorum, may not hold office and must relinquish any offices held, may not vote on matters pending before the Society, and shall not be subject to dues. Officers on leave of absence will have their office treated as vacant and shall be filled by Special Election.
- Section 12. Votes to grant or reinstate membership shall be taken by ball and vase.

#### **Article VI Offices of the Society**

- Section 1. The offices of this Society shall be President, Vice-President, Chief Justice, two Associate Justices, Treasurer, Hall Administrator and Hall Preservationist, Secretary, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Librarian and Custodian. The officers shall rank in the order named.
- Section 2. All officers, save the Historian, the Hall Administrator, the Hall Preservationist, and the Treasurer, shall be elected for a term of one semester. Officers may run for re-election, but no person may hold the same office in the Society for more than two semesters, save that of Associate Justice, which may be held for a total of up to three semesters. No person may hold office on the Judicial Council for more than four semesters. Historians, Hall Administrator, Hall Preservationist and Treasurers shall be elected for a term of one year during Spring Semester elections.
- Section 3. The election of officers shall be held on the meeting before the last regular meeting of each Semester. New officers shall be inaugurated at the next meeting after the meeting is called to order.
- Section 4. No person shall hold two offices at the same time, save for the office of Historian.
- Section 5. All officers shall continue in office until the inauguration of new officers.
- Section 6. A candidate who wins a majority of the votes cast shall be elected to the office.

#### **Article VII Office of the President**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected President provided they shall have been a continuous member for three of the four semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they have earned at least twenty-four points toward a Speaker's Key.
- Section 2. Newly elected presidents shall deliver an inaugural address at the first regular meeting of the Semester they were elected to serve, in which they shall present to each member a specific list of objectives for the Society to accomplish in the coming Semester.

- Section 3. The President shall present a statement of progress toward these objectives by the eighth regular meeting of the semester.
- Section 4. Newly elected presidents shall read the section of E. Merton Coulter's *College Life in the Old South* that deals with Literary Societies before they give their inaugural address.
- Section 5. The President shall hold monthly executive meetings to discuss the state of the Society and pressing business. These meetings shall include the President, the Vice-President, the Chief Justice, the Treasurer, and the Hall Administrator.
- Section 6. The President shall preside over all meetings, assess fines, and enforce the Constitution.
- Section 7. When assessing fines the President must issue the fine in writing within a reasonable period, and include the infraction, the date of the infraction, and the amount owed. The President shall also present a copy of this record to the Historian and Treasurer.
- Section 8. The President shall relinquish the chair when debating any question before the Society and shall not resume the chair until the main motion has been put to a vote.
- Section 9. The President shall appoint an Adlatus who shall advise the President on Parliamentary questions. The Adlatus may also address the Society on parliamentary law whenever necessary
- Section 10. At the beginning of each meeting the President shall appoint a Critic who shall critique and report on the following, before the close of each meeting: errors of grammar and delivery, debate of speakers, and irregularities of officers and individual members.
- Section 11. At the beginning of each Semester the President shall appoint a Censor Morum to investigate the morals and conduct of the members of the Society without respect to time or place, in order to ensure correct behavior on the part of the membership. The Censor Morum shall report the conduct of members before the

Society under committee reports for reproof and correction, and these reports shall be as frequent as necessary. The Censor Morum shall pledge to defend virtue and morality. Failure to fulfill this pledge shall be sufficient grounds for removal by dismissal or impeachment.

### **Article VIII Office of the Vice-President**

Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Vice-President provided they shall have been a continuous member for two of the previous three semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they shall have earned at least twenty points toward a Speaker's Key. Section 2. The Vice-President shall be the ex-officio member of all Committees.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall appoint committee chairs, who shall appoint the members of the committees; these appointments shall be submitted first to the President and subject to presidential approval.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to hold a meeting of all committee chairs on at least two occasions each Semester. The purpose of these meetings shall be to announce and discuss goals for each committee, to assess the progress of the committees, to recognize outstanding contributions, and to work on solutions to any problems.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice-President to keep the President and the Society informed on the progress and the activities of the committees.

Section 6. The Vice-President shall time the speeches and signal the amount of time remaining in a speech to the audience.

Section 7. After any prospective member has given a maiden address before the Society, the Vice-President shall escort all petitioners and guests downstairs until after the vote has been taken. The Vice-President may return to the Upper Chamber for debate after the candidates have been escorted.

Section 8. Before all prospective candidates for an office have given their speech before the Society, the Vice-President shall escort all candidates and guests downstairs until

after the vote has been taken, but the Vice-President may return to the Upper Chamber for debate after the candidates have been escorted.

### **Article IX Office of the Secretary**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Secretary provided they shall have been a continuous member for two of the previous three semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they shall have earned at least fifteen points toward a Speaker's Key.
- Section 2. The Secretary shall keep an alphabetical roll of the members and honorary members of the Society, adding the names of new members as they are accepted into the Society. The Secretary shall announce the presence of a quorum to the President at each meeting.
- Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society, fines, and of the motions proposed to the Society, and shall read at each subsequent meeting the minutes of the preceding meeting.
- Section 4. The Secretary shall compile and publish a telephone and address list of all willing members by the second meeting of the Semester.
- Section 5. Secretaries shall preserve the minutes during their term of office and turn them over properly sorted and neatly labeled, passing on all the necessary papers to the archives at the end of their term.
- Section 6. Secretaries who fail to deliver the completed minutes of their term by the fourth meeting of the following Semester shall forfeit the points they earned as Secretary.
- Section 7. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to obtain or otherwise ensure the obtainment of any Portrait for the Wall of Fame within one academic year.

## **Article X Offices of the Judicial Council**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected to the Judicial Council provided they shall have been a member for two of the previous three semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they shall have earned at least fifteen points toward a Speaker's Key.
- Section 2. The Judicial Council shall be composed of three members, the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. Two members shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 3. The Chief Justice shall be elected by the Society from the three Justices newly elected. The unsuccessful candidates for the position of Justice shall be returned to the Upper Chamber prior to the election of a Chief Justice.
- Section 4. The Chief Justice shall assist during ball and vase voting.
- Section 5. The Judicial Council shall judge all questions concerning the interpretation of the Constitution of the Society. Its decisions shall be final in these questions unless overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Society.
- Section 6. The Judicial Council shall represent the Society in questions arising with other societies concerning intercollegiate and inter-societal debates. In this respect, the Council shall act as a panel to choose the members of the debate team. Any such decision of the Judicial Council may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Society.
- Section 7. The Judicial Council shall keep a public record of all points earned toward Speaker's Keys.
- Section 8. The Judicial Council shall authorize the awarding of Speaker's Keys and diplomas.

- Section 9. The Judicial Council shall judge and organize the Orations and Declamations. While allowed to participate, no council member shall be eligible to win.
- Section 10. The Judicial Council shall keep an up-to-date copy of the Constitution in the Library of the Hall at all times.
- Section 11. The Judicial Council shall evaluate membership tests and advise the president of the results. The Judicial Council shall keep on file a copy of the correct answers to the membership test.
- Section 12. The Judicial Council shall keep a record of the minutes of all Council meetings which shall include the Justices present, the motions made to the Council, the major points of the arguments for and against, the votes and any statements made by the Justices.
- Section 13. The Chief Justice shall inspect the Treasurer's books and approve the status of the Society's finances at least once a Semester.
- Section 14. The Chief Justice shall distribute a copy of the Constitution to new members.
- Section 15. The Chief Justice shall grant all keys and shall maintain a file of all extant contracts for keys to the Hall. The Chief Justice shall also maintain a list of all those who have received a current working key through the society, and shall verify this list with that of the Treasurer at least once a semester so as to account for every key made for the society. Removal from the list shall only occur when a key is returned or proven to be damaged beyond working condition. Lost keys shall be reported to a member of the Judicial Council and further action shall be on a case by case basis.
- Section 16. Should the Judicial Council lack a quorum, any question that would normally be sent to the Judicial Council should be presented to a majority vote of the Society.
- Section 17. In any question directly involving a Justice, that Justice shall not be counted in determining a quorum of the Judicial Council or in the vote on that question.

#### **Article XI Office of the Treasurer**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Treasurer provided they shall have been a continuous member for two of the previous three semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they shall have earned at least fifteen points toward a Speaker's Key. They shall be elected during the Spring Semester elections to serve the following year.
- Section 2. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all financial dealings of the Society. These records shall be available to members upon request.
- Section 3. For purchases exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00), under no condition shall the Treasurer spend the Society's funds without approval of the finance committee.
- Section 4. By the end of each month, the Treasurer will deposit any hall rental donations received from the Hall Administrator.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect all dues.
- Section 6. The Treasurer shall have the authority to appoint one deputy to aid with the execution of the duties of the office. In the event that the Treasurer is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Treasurer will act as interim Treasurer until such a time as a special election for that office can be held.

#### **Article XII Office of the Hall Administrator**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Hall Administrator provided they shall have been a continuous member for two of the previous three semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they shall have earned at least fifteen points toward a Speaker's Key. They shall be elected during the Spring Semester elections to serve the following year.
- Section 2. The Hall Administrator will have the power of appointing a deputy and an assistant to aid with the execution of the duties of the office. In the event that the Hall Administrator is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Hall

Administrator will act as interim Hall Administrator until such a time as a special election for that office can be held.

- Section 3. The Hall Administrator shall be responsible for renting the Hall. The Hall Administrator shall maintain records of rental contracts. Hall Administrator shall also be responsible for letting renters into the hall. The Hall Administrator will be permitted two extra keys, marked solely for use as Hall Administrator, and an assistant who may allow renters into the Hall when the Hall Administrator is unable to do so.
- Section 4. The Hall Administrator shall maintain a list of all those who have received a current working key through the society, and shall verify this list with the Chief Justice at least once a semester so as to account for every key made for the Society. Removal from the list shall only occur when a key is returned or proven to be damaged beyond working condition.
- Section 5. The Hall Administrator will maintain a calendar available to all members that lists all of the scheduled hall rentals and other Society related events. The Hall Administrator shall regularly keep the Society informed of upcoming hall rentals.
- Section 6. The Hall Administrator will keep a record of all renters who disrespect or damage the Hall. This record may be taken into account when renting the Hall.
- Section 7. At the end of each month, the Hall Administrator will give the Treasurer any hall rental donations collected.

### **Article XIII Office of the Hall Preservationist**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Hall Preservationist provided they shall have been a member for two of the previous three semesters immediately prior to that semester in which they will serve, and provided further, that they shall have earned at least twelve points toward a Speaker's Key. They shall be elected during the Spring Semester elections to serve the following year.
- Section 2. The Hall Preservationist will have the power of appointing a deputy and an assistant to aid with the execution of the duties of the office. In the event that the

Hall Preservationist is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Hall Preservationist will act as interim Hall Preservationist until such a time as a special election for that office can be held.

Section 3. The Hall Preservationist shall be responsible for the preservation of the Hall and its furnishings. The Hall Preservationist shall maintain records of expenditures and actions regarding the Hall and specific furnishings that are worth more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 4. The Hall Preservationist shall be responsible for the proper movement of furnishings and valuable items of the Society.

Section 5. In the event that property of the Society is damaged or destroyed, the Hall Preservationist shall document the damage(s) as clearly as possible and shall submit an incident report including the estimated worth of damage(s) to the Judicial Council for review and applicable disciplinary procedures.

Section 6. The Hall Preservationist shall deliver a report to the Society regarding the state of the Hall, its furnishings, and any preservation projects of current relevance at least once per semester.

#### **Article XIV Office of the Historian**

Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Historian, provided they shall have been a continuous member for two semesters prior to the semester in which they will serve. The Historian shall be elected during the Spring Semester elections to serve the following year.

Section 2. The Historian shall prepare a written history of the Society covering the year for which they are elected. This history shall be read to the Society at the annual Spring Banquet.

Section 3. The Historian shall place the Historian's report, all newspaper articles, historical papers, and correspondence pertaining to the Society in the current correspondence file in the Georgia Room of the University's Main Library.

- Section 4. The Historian shall maintain the scrapbooks of the Society, securing newspaper articles, autographs, and other matters of interest to the Society.
- Section 5. The Historian shall deliver a speech once each Semester on a topic of interest pertaining to the history of the Society or debating societies in general.
- Section 6. The Historian will have the responsibility of acting as the Society's liaison to the Archives, and will be responsible for taking important Society documents to the Archives for safekeeping.
- Section 7. The Historian shall have the authority to appoint one deputy to aid with the execution of the duties of the office. In the event that the Historian is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Historian will act as interim Historian until such a time as a special election for that office can be held.

#### **Article XV Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Sergeant-at-Arms provided they are a full-voting member of the Society.
- Section 2. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall prevent disruption in the Hall, eject unruly or boisterous members, visitors, and trespassers, assist in the voting by ball and vase, and assist in collection of fines and dues, if necessary.
- Section 3. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall prosecute officers for neglect of duty, entering into the minutes the names of the defendants and offenses for which they stand charged, and notifying them in writing at least one week before the trial.
- Section 4. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall not consume any intoxicants during the All-Night Meeting, and will ensure that the Demosthenian Literary Society remains in accordance with the University alcohol policies.

## **Article XVI Office of the Librarian**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Librarian provided they shall have been a continuous member for at least one full semester prior to the one in which they will serve.
- Section 2. The Librarian shall have custody of the Society's manuscripts, catalogue the Society's books, update the library database, and supervise the library.
- Section 3. The Librarian shall give at least one Librarian's Address before the last regular meeting before elections, informing the Society of the books which are late or missing from the library and the fines amassed on these books. The Librarian shall have the responsibility of collecting the books and the fines, assisted if necessary by the Treasurer and the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Section 4. The Librarian shall have the authority to appoint one deputy to aid in the execution of the duties of the office. In the event that the Librarian is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Librarian will act as interim Librarian until such a time as a special election for that office can be held.
- Section 5. The Librarian shall have the power to suggest books for the Society to buy and to replace books that have been lost or stolen.
- Section 6. The library shall be divided into three sections: the society archives, a reference section, and a circulation section.
- Section 7. Regular reference books may be checked out and removed from the Hall for a twenty-four hour period with the permission of the Librarian. The late fee shall be one dollar (\$1.00) per day. The archival books may not be removed from the Hall under any circumstances. The penalty for this offense shall be five dollars (\$5.00) per day.

- Section 8. Books in the circulation section may be checked out for two weeks and renewed for an additional two weeks through the Librarian. These subsequent renewals are subject to termination by the Librarian on the demand of a Society member who desires to use the book. Books in the circulation section may not be removed from the Hall unless they have been checked out. The penalty for overdue books shall be a fine of ten cents (10¢) per day including breaks in the academic year. A fine of five dollars (\$5.00) will be levied in addition to the replacement cost of the book for books that were lost or damaged.
- Section 9. The procedure for checking out a book shall be as follows: Members shall sign their name, date, the title, and the author of the book in the record book placed in the library. Books shall be checked in by the Librarian or by placing them in the marked area.
- Section 10. The Librarian shall re-shelve books which have not been checked out.
- Section 11. Library regulations shall be posted in the library. Use of the library shall mean that the user agrees to abide by the rules. For gross and repeated violations of these regulations, library privileges may be revoked by the Librarian.

### **Article XVII Office of the Custodian**

- Section 1. Members of the Society shall be eligible to be elected Custodian provided they shall have been a continuous member for at least one full semester prior to the one in which they will serve.
- Section 2. The Custodian shall maintain the beauty of the Hall and its furnishings by keeping it clean and neat.
- Section 3. The Custodian shall have the ability to announce cleaning meetings and award points, at the discretion of the President, for the participation of members.
- Section 4. The Custodian shall perform or supervise those acts, which are necessary to assist members during meetings.

- Section 5. The Custodian shall put out the flags each morning and take them in each evening barring inclement weather.
- Section 6. The Custodian shall keep an inventory of all Hall property worth more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- Section 7. The Custodian shall have the authority to appoint one deputy to aid in the execution of the duties of the office. In the event that the Custodian is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Custodian will act as interim Custodian until such a time as a special election for that office can be held.

### **Article XVIII Office of the Faculty Advisor**

- Section 1. All faculty employed at the University of Georgia shall be eligible to be elected Faculty Advisor provided they have been employed by the University for at least one year and anticipate remaining employed by the University for at least one year.
- Section 2. The Faculty Advisor serves to guide and mentor the members of the Society, specifically Officers, and to make sure that the Society remains in accordance with University policies. The Faculty Advisor should deliver a Faculty Advisor's Report annually and more often at his or her discretion. The Faculty Advisor's report shall be untimed and shall be delivered as a Program. The Faculty Advisor shall also serve on the Finance Committee.
- Section 3. The Faculty Advisor shall have all of the rights and privileges of a full-voting member. It is suggested that the Faculty Advisor abstain from voting on matters of membership and during trials for impeachment and expulsion.
- Section 4. The Faculty Advisor shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of full-voting members, provided there is a quorum present. The Faculty Advisor shall be elected in the Spring Semester, when necessary. The election procedure for the Faculty Advisor shall be the same as that for other elections, with the following provisions:

A. On the 11th meeting of the Spring Semester, there shall be a vote of confidence to decide upon retention of the current Faculty Advisor, requiring a simple majority of full-voting members present.

B. Nominations for the position of Faculty Advisor shall be submitted by secret ballot on the 12th meeting.

C. The Secretary shall notify the proper University officials of their nominations in writing.

D. Those interested in the position shall address the Society during Special Elections on the 13th meeting.

E. The Secretary shall notify the newly elected Faculty Advisor of their election in writing.

F. Those not elected shall be automatically eligible for honorary membership. The Secretary shall inform the proper University officials of their honorary membership in writing.

### **Article XIX Elections**

Section 1. The procedure for nominations shall be as follows:

A. Three weeks prior to elections, the Secretary shall post in the Lower Chamber a list of members eligible for each office. A member shall be considered eligible only if they are eligible when the list is read three weeks prior to elections. A member may withdraw from nominations and elections at any time.

B. Before the meeting two weeks prior to elections, the Secretary shall post an updated list of members eligible to be elected to each office in the Lower Chamber.

C. Two weeks prior to elections, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall distribute to each full-voting member present in the Upper Chamber an anonymous, paper ballot of members eligible for each office, as provided by the Judicial Council. Each member may nominate one person per office, except in the case of the Judicial Council where a member may nominate three. The ballots shall be submitted by a roll call vote and the Secretary shall note who has voted. After voting, nominations shall be closed for that week.

D. One week prior to elections, if a member has been nominated but has chosen to withdraw his or her eligibility from a given office for that semester, any nominations for that member will be null and void. The ballots will be counted by the Judicial Council immediately following the close of nominations on the second night. The results will be announced and posted in the Lower Chamber the following day.

- Section 2. During special elections, nominations will be held immediately prior on the same evening.
- Section 3. Candidates may be nominated for multiple offices. Any member who receives at least two nominations for a given office shall be considered to be running for that office. In cases where no candidate is seeking an office at the time of the election, candidates will be nominated at the time of elections for the office.
- Section 4. Candidates for elected offices are required to speak from the stump. Candidates will have seven minutes to speak, the last two of which will be open for questions. No candidate may be in the Upper Chamber while a candidate for the same office is giving a speech from the stump.
- Section 5. The order of nominations will be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Judicial Council, Chief Justice, Treasurer, Hall Administrator, Hall Preservationist, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Librarian, and Custodian.
- Section 6. For each office, following candidate speeches for that office, the floor will be open for member debate over the candidates. The lengths of these speeches shall be limited to three minutes.

- Section 7. Proxy or absentee voting must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Society before the start of elections. Members voting by absentee must submit their votes in writing to the President before the start of the meeting. Members voting by proxy must designate in writing the member who shall act as their proxy.
- Section 8. Members who are not present at the time of the election may not be elected to any office unless they have previously informed the President in writing of the offices to which they will accept nominations. They may then be nominated for only those offices that they so designated.
- Section 9. If no candidate wins a majority, the candidates who received the two highest vote totals shall compete in a runoff election to be held immediately after the results of the first election are announced. Absentee ballots shall be counted in runoffs if the votes still apply to the candidates running for office.
- Section 10. All contested elections shall be voted upon by ball and vase if two candidates are running, or by paper ballot if more than two are running. The voting for each office shall be limited to Full Voting Members in the Upper Chamber.
- Section 11. The acting President, acting Vice-President, acting Secretary, and Justices who are not candidates for the office shall count the votes for all elections.
- Section 12. Members who are on leave of absence may run for office during elections for the offices of the Semester following the Semester in which they are on leave. The member on leave must resume active membership if elected or forfeit the office.
- Section 13. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the President shall announce a special election to be held one week thereafter.
- Section 14. The President shall read the Oath of Officers and the Presidential Address to newly elected officers.

#### **Article XX Committees**

- Section 1. The following shall be the six standing committees of the Society: The Finance Committee, the Programs/Special Events Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the Alumni Relations Committee, the Hall Preservation and Administration Committee and the Digital Media Committee.
- Section 2. The permanent members of the Finance Committee shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer (as Chair), the Hall Administrator, the Hall Preservationist, the Chief Justice, the Faculty Advisor, and two additional members of the Society appointed by the President.
- Section 3. The Finance Committee shall assume all financial duties of the Society. The Finance Committee may spend no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) on its own authority to pay incidental expenses of the Society. Expenditures above this amount must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Society.
- Section 4. The Finance Committee shall budget funds at the beginning of each Semester.
- Section 5. No member shall have the power to purchase anything in the name of the Society or render the Society liable for any indebtedness of any nature without the prior permission of the Finance Committee and the approval of the society.
- Section 6. At least once a month the Treasurer, acting as the Chair of the Finance Committee, will give reports on the finances of the Society. These reports must be accepted by the Society to validate the Actions of the Finance Committee.
- Section 7. The permanent members of the Hall Preservation and Administration Committee shall be the President, the Hall Administrator (as Chair), Hall Preservationist (as Deputy Chair), the Chief Justice, the Faculty Advisor, the Historian, Custodian, the Deputy Hall Administrator, and the assistant appointed by the Hall Administrator.
- Section 8. The duties of the Hall Preservation and Administration Committee are to administer, maintain, protect, and preserve Demosthenian Hall.
- Section 9. Any person, organization, or representative of the University who desires to use the Hall for any purpose may do so only with the prior written permission of the

- Hall Preservation and Administration Committee.
- Section 10. The Hall Preservation and Administration Committee may charge rent and shall require a security deposit for the use of the Hall. Furthermore, the Hall Preservation and Administration Committee shall use the Hall Administrator's record of all renters who do not respect or damage the Hall to sanction unruly renters. The Hall Preservation and Administration Committee will obtain final approval from the Society before sanctioning any unruly renters.
- Section 11. The Spring Banquet, the Mock Election, Resolution Camps, and all Society awards, with the exception of the Speakers Keys and the Orations and Declamations, will be the responsibility of the Programs/Special Events Committee.
- Section 12. The All-Night Meeting, including speakers, food, and other planning, and the annual newsletter will be the responsibility of the Alumni Relations Committee. The Alumni Relations Committee shall be a yearlong committee chosen at the beginning of the Fall Semester. The Alumni Relations Committee, before publishing the newsletter, shall present it to the Society for approval.
- Section 13. The Public Relations Committee shall have the responsibility of organizing the Fall and Spring activities fairs, posting flyers on campus, and promoting programs and events.
- Section 14. The Digital Media Committee shall have the responsibility of maintaining the list-serv and website.
- Section 15. The Committee Chairs shall have the duty to appoint, from the members of the committee, a deputy chair, except for the Hall Preservation and Administration Committee. These deputy chairs shall have the responsibility of aiding the Chair in the execution of the duties of the committee. In the event that the Chair is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Deputy Chair will act as the interim Chair until such a time as the Chair can resume the duties of the Committee.

#### **Article XXI Conduct of Members**

- Section 1. The President may fine any officer for dereliction of duty five dollars (\$5.00).

- Section 2. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be required to wear attire of suitable formality while occupying the bench.
- Section 3. All members shall attend the meeting in neat and proper attire.
- Section 4. When about to make a report, motion, or address, members must rise to their feet and address the chair by saying, "Mister/Madame President." They shall not proceed until they have received notice from the presiding officer. The chair shall settle all claims by members to the floor. The penalty for failure to address the chair properly shall be one dollar (\$1.00).
- Section 5. Members addressing the Society shall preface their remarks as follows: "Mister/Madame President, (the name of the faculty advisor, if present), Officers, Demosthenians, and Guests," after which they may proceed to the text of their speech. The penalty for failure to address the Society in the proper manner shall be one dollar (\$1.00).
- Section 6. Questions to the speaker shall be succinct and neither of a vague nor rambling nature, nor intended as a statement on the part of the questioner. Also, a questioner may ask only two questions of a speaker. The penalty for violating these guidelines while questioning a speaker shall be one dollar (\$1.00).
- Section 7. For delaying, interfering with, or obstructing the orderly process of the Society the penalty shall be a fine of one dollar (\$1.00) or more.
- Section 8. Conversation between members and/or guests is disorderly. The penalty for this disorderly conduct shall be a fine of one dollar (\$1.00) or more. This also applies to the use of cellular devices in the Upper Chamber.
- Section 9. Any member who sleeps or sits in an inappropriate position shall be fined one dollar (\$1.00) or more. One member may stand before each fireplace for the duration of one speech.
- Section 10. Profane, abusive, or inappropriate language or charges or imputations casting gross or insulting reflections on individuals of the Society either in debate or during the course of debate shall be disorderly. The penalty for these offenses

shall be a fine of one dollar (\$1.00) or more. The words “Damn Yankee” when used together shall not be considered profanity.

- Section 11. The name of the Society Across the Way shall not be allowed to profane the Upper Chamber of the hallowed Demosthenian Hall. The penalty shall be a fine of one dollar (\$1.00). The Hagan Letter of 1936, the championship debate plaque, and the impeachment trial evidence do not fall under this ban.
- Section 12. Any member who damages or defaces any portion of the Hall or its furniture, books, or other property shall be held personally liable for the replacement or repair of the damaged article whether the damage was intentional or not. In addition, the member shall be fined twenty dollars (\$20.00).
- Section 13. Anyone smoking or using an open flame in any portion of the Hall shall be ejected from the Hall and fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more. Upon the third infraction, members shall lose key privileges and non-members shall be barred from the Hall.
- Section 14. Food and drink is not allowed in the Upper Chamber during any regular meeting or special event, save after 2:00 a.m. on the evening of the All-Night meeting when drink will be allowed. The bench shall be per permitted three cups for water. The President may grant exceptions.
- Section 15. Any individual, member or guest, who is disruptively intoxicated within Demosthenian Hall shall be thrown out of the Hall (forcibly if necessary) by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any members needed to perform such a task. The individual shall be permitted to re-enter the Hall upon a three-fourths vote of the members present.
- Section 16. Any member sitting in the designated seat of the Faculty Advisor shall be fined one dollar (\$1.00).
- Section 17. No pets or animals shall be permitted in the Hall, with the exception of assistance animals. The owner of non-permitted animals will be fined five dollars (\$5.00).

## **Article XXII Fines and Appeals Procedures**

- Section 1. For all officers the fines shall be doubled, with the exception of the fine imposed due to dereliction of duty.
- Section 2. For the second occurrence of the same offense of the evening the fine shall be doubled, the third tripled, and so on.
- Section 3. When members are reported for two offenses, one of which necessarily involves the other, they shall only be fined for the greater of the two.
- Section 4. No fines may be appealed until they are paid in full to the office of the Treasurer.
- Section 5. Within two weeks of receiving a fine, any member may appeal a fine to the Judicial Council, which shall have the power of deciding whether the offense was contemptuous in spirit or intent. Within two weeks of the decision of the Judicial Council, the decision may be appealed to the Society. A two-thirds vote of the Society shall be required to overturn the Judicial Council's decision. Appeals to the Society may occur only after the immediate business on the floor has been settled.
- Section 6. In cases where the infliction of a fine to the strict letter of the law would be manifest and gross injustice, or where the offender is a new member who has been present less than four times and pleads ignorance, no fine shall be levied.
- Section 7. Any member who is in arrears in the payment of fines or dues shall be denied the floor and the right to vote.

## **Article XXIII Disciplinary Action**

- Section 1. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall, upon written petition of one-third of the full- voting members of the Society, present Articles of Impeachment against any officer, or Articles of Expulsion against any member, believed to be guilty of any serious offenses against the well-being of the Society. In the event that the Sergeant-at-Arms is subject to impeachment, the Judicial Council shall appoint a member of the Society to present Articles of Impeachment against the Sergeant- at-Arms.

- Section 2. The Judicial Council shall preside over any hearing regarding impeachment or expulsion. The Chief Justice shall have all the powers of the President for the duration of a trial. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall prosecute all impeachments, except in cases regarding the impeachment of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Officers facing impeachment and members facing expulsion shall be notified in writing by the Judicial Council one week in advance of a hearing. All defendants will have the ability to appoint someone to defend them. If they are unable to do so, the Judicial Council will appoint an advocate for them.
- Section 3. During a trial for impeachment or expulsion, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall provide a prosecution of the officer or member in question. This prosecution shall be untimed, and the Sergeant-at-Arms may call witnesses for the purposes of providing statements or questioning. This will be followed by a presentation of the defense, either selected by the defendant or by the Judicial Council. The defense shall be handled in the same fashion as a prosecution.
- Section 4. There shall be no debate, but rather a fifteen minute recess following the presentation of the prosecution and the defense.
- Section 5. Impeached officers shall be removed from their office by a two-thirds vote of the full-voting members present. No action may be taken on a question of impeachment unless three-fourths of the full-voting members on the Society's roll book are present. No officer shall hold the powers and responsibilities of their office while on trial for impeachment.

#### **Article XXIV Fees**

- Section 1. All full-voting members shall pay dues of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per semester.
- Section 2. Members who fail to pay their dues by the end of the fourth meeting of the semester shall pay a late fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per meeting for up to four meetings, when they shall forfeit their membership and be removed from the rolls. New members shall have no less than four weeks in which to pay their dues.
- Section 3. Former members who wish for reinstatement in the Society must pay a reinstatement fee of one dollar (\$1.00) in addition to their regular dues after they receive a vote of reinstatement.

Section 4. To receive a Hall key a member must make a ten dollar (\$10.00) deposit.

Section 5. Special fees to finance worthwhile projects must be approved by a majority of the members present, provided there is a quorum. The penalty for non-payment of special fees is the same as for non-payment of dues. The time-table for paying special fees shall be the same as dues.

### **Article XXV Keys to Demosthenian Hall**

Section 1. Members may obtain a key to the Hall provided they have 1) attended nine meetings as a member, 2) have filled out a key agreement and have filed it with the Chief Justice, and 3) have paid their key deposit to the Treasurer.

Section 2. Departing members who return their working key to the Society will be refunded the full amount of their key deposit. If a member wishes to farewell and has in their possession a key to the hall, the key must be returned in order to be eligible to farewell. Keys must be returned promptly upon departure from the Society. The Treasurer shall refund the key deposit within two weeks of the return of the key, and shall notify the Hall Administrator and Chief Justice.

Section 3. Departing members who do not return their key or who hand down a key to a current member upon graduation forfeits their key deposit. Departing members who do not return working keys may also be subject to the Office of Student Conduct for disposition at the discretion of the Chief Justice. Members handing down keys shall be responsible for cutting off at least one node of said key so as to destroy them, to be verified by either the Chief Justice or Hall Administrator.

### **Article XXVI Honors**

Section 1. The activities that shall give credit towards receiving a Speaker's Key shall be as follows:

A. If a member is present at two-thirds of the meetings of the Society in one Semester, four points will be awarded, but no more than a total of eight points may be earned in this manner.

B. The President shall be awarded twelve points per semester. The Vice-President, Secretary and Chief Justice shall be awarded nine points per semester. Associate Justices shall be awarded six points per semester. The Librarian and Custodian shall be awarded five points per semester. The Treasurer, Hall Administrator, and Hall Preservationist shall be awarded four points per semester. The Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms shall be awarded three points per semester.

C. The Treasurer, Hall Administrator, Hall Preservationist, Custodian, Historian and Librarian reserve the right to award one point to a maximum of two people per semester, pending the approval of the President.

D. Official representation of the Society through speaking before any outside group is awarded one point, pending prior approval of the President. For participating in a program, one point shall be awarded. For being a member of the Inter-Society Debate Team, no more than three points shall be awarded. Winners of Orations and Declamations shall be awarded one point, respectively.

E. Committee Chairs may be awarded three points at the discretion of the President for outstanding committee performance. Committee Chairs may designate one point to outstanding committee members pending approval of the President.

F. The President may award one point to members who perform outstanding contributions to the Society. A member may earn one point for successfully recruiting a person into membership in the Society.

Section 2. Any member who has earned thirty-two points is eligible for a Speaker's Key. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to inform members of their eligibility and to determine if they desire a Speaker's Key. Any member who has met the qualifications for the Speaker's Key but does not wish to purchase one may receive a certificate instead. A member may both purchase a Speaker's Key and receive a certificate if they so desire.

Section 3. A Demosthenes Award shall be awarded each Spring Semester to the most improved speaker. This vote shall be by secret, written ballot. The recipient's name shall be engraved on a plaque.

- Section 4. An Albert B. Saye Award shall be awarded each Spring Semester to a current active member of the Society who has performed outstanding service for the Society. This vote shall be by secret, written ballot. The recipient's name shall be engraved on a plaque.
- Section 5. A Larry Blount Award to honor an outstanding new member shall be awarded each Spring Semester to a current active member who has been a full-voting member for no more than two semesters. The Society shall choose the recipient from the current members, and the vote shall be by secret ballot. The recipient's name shall be engraved on a plaque.
- Section 6. Upon graduation from the University of Georgia, members shall be presented a diploma by the Society, provided they have been full-voting members of the Society for two consecutive semesters, including the Semester in which they will graduate.
- Section 7. Once members attain the necessary thirty-two points needed for their Speaker's Key, they shall no longer earn points.
- Section 8. The Wall of Fame, designated for the portraits of Demosthenians who have made outstanding contributions to their state and country, shall be maintained by the Alumni Relations Committee, which shall search out potential candidates, accept nominations from the membership, and research each candidate's qualifications.
- Section 9. When nominees for the Wall of Fame are presented to a quorum of full-voting members, no other nominations shall be accepted from the floor. Members will accept one candidate, which must then be ratified by a vote of two-thirds of a quorum of full-voting members at the meeting following the selection.

#### **Article XXVII Amendments**

- Section 1. When altering or repealing any portion of the Constitution, a proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the Secretary and be read to the Society at least one week before a vote is taken.
- Section 2. Adoption of an amendment shall require a two-thirds vote of a quorum of full-voting members.
- Section 3. An amendment to the Constitution, once voted upon, shall be barred from reconsideration by the Society for one full semester (15 weeks).

### **Article XXVIII Oaths**

- Section 1. The Oath of Membership shall be as follows:

Pres. "It has been made known to you some of the laudable objects of this Society, and some of the duties which you will be called upon to perform; but, before entering upon the discharge of those duties, it becomes me, as the organ of this Society, to lay you under the most solemn obligations never to act in such a way that may prove detrimental to her interests or derogatory to her honor. Do you, desiring to cultivate a correct mode of speaking and to enjoy the fellowship of other students working towards the same ends, affirm that you will uphold the Constitution of the Demosthenian Literary Society?" App. "I do."

- Section 2. The Oath of Officers shall be as follows:

Pres. "The time has come for me to transfer to you the powers and honors of the several offices to which you have been called by the voice of your associates and to exact from each of you a solemn pledge that you will be faithful to trust imposed. The positions which you are about to assume are full of grave responsibility. Upon you depend the good order and prestige of the Society, to you it belongs to support her dignity and execute her Laws; see to it that you enter upon your offices not with levity and carelessness, but with a proper appreciation of the importance of the positions to which you have been assigned; and a firm resolve to perform faithfully every duty which your own conscience as well as the Constitution and Laws of the Society may enjoin. Do you solemnly affirm that you will execute your offices and to the best of your ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Society?" App. "I do."

Section 3. The Presidential Address to Newly Elected Officers shall be as follows:

Pres. “Your Society has by its suffrages shown its confidence in you. Prove your self worthy of that confidence and let no violation of the Constitution or neglect of duty be truthfully charged against you during your administration. In the name of this Society and by virtue of the authority in me vested, I commit you to this trust, conferring upon you the powers and privileges of your offices and imposing upon you the duties and responsibilities pertaining to the same. Occupy your posts.”

**Article XXIX Traditions  
and Miscellany**

Section 1. The Society may award a Brickheap Award to persons who have committed a deed worthy of the Society Across the Way. The Society may give up to three Brickheap Awards per year, with no more than two in any given semester.

Section 2. It is a tradition to hold with the Society Across the Way a joint meeting, not more than semesterly, and not less than annually.

Section 3. It is a tradition to hold with the Society Across the Way a structured, formal debate, not more than semesterly, and not less than annually.

Section 4. There shall be held an All-Night meeting on the Saturday closest to February 19. The meeting shall last from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM.

Section 5. The Society’s emblem shall consist of the letter Epsilon for emblema, under which there shall be the altar of friendship, with the grasp of two hands; below the base of the altar and to the left shall be the letter O Hominios, the letter U for the contraction KAI immediately under the base of the altar, and to the right and below the altar the letter Phi for Philias.

Section 6. The Society shall not officially endorse any candidate for a federal, state or municipal office. Any resolution which may be construed as an endorsement must contain a disclaimer stating that the resolution is not an endorsement by the Society. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the nullification of the resolution.

Section 7. The following books shall always remain in the cabinet and will not be available for general circulation: College Life in the Old South, The Letters of Demosthenes, and the bound copies of the Minutes of the Demosthenian Literary Society.