**Future Health Professionals & Entrepreneurs of America (FHPEA)**

**Lone Star College-CyFair**

**Constitution**

**Article I – NAME**

The organization shall be known as "Future Health Professionals & Entrepreneurs of America" (FHPEA).

**Article II – PURPOSE**

Our organization is deeply committed to supporting students who are passionate about healthcare and entrepreneurship. We're here to guide and empower members at every step of their journey:

1. **Helping Students Excel Academically:** Whether students are aiming for medical school or another healthcare-related field, we provide personalized support. From navigating admissions processes to preparing for exams and fulfilling program requirements, our goal is to ensure that students have the tools and support they need to succeed academically.
2. **Finding Funding and Scholarships:** We understand that college expenses, particularly in medical fields, can be daunting. That's why we assist students in discovering scholarships and financial aid opportunities that align with their ambitions. Through workshops, one-on-one counseling, and application guidance, we strive to help students secure the funding they need to pursue their educational goals.
3. **Building Professional Skills:** Beyond the classroom, we offer enriching experiences that complement students' academic studies. Whether through internships, seminars, or volunteer opportunities, these experiences not only enhance students' resumes but also provide valuable insights into the practical aspects of healthcare and entrepreneurship.
4. **Nurturing Entrepreneurial Spirit:** For students interested in launching their own healthcare-related businesses or projects, our community provides robust support and resources. We offer mentorship programs, access to entrepreneurial networks, and guidance on developing innovative ideas. Our aim is to foster an environment where students can explore their entrepreneurial ambitions and turn them into reality.
5. **Connecting Students with Experts and Peers:** Networking is crucial for success in any field. We facilitate connections with professionals in healthcare and entrepreneurship through networking events, speaker series, and mentorship initiatives. These opportunities not only expand students' professional networks but also provide avenues for collaboration and learning from experienced industry leaders. Additionally, we are dedicated to giving back to the community through initiatives focused on health education and advocacy.

Overall, our mission is to empower students to grow academically, professionally, and personally. We are committed to preparing them thoroughly for fulfilling careers in healthcare or entrepreneurial ventures, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary for success.

**Article III – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** Membership is open to any registered student (full or part-time) at Lone Star College-CyFair who is in good standing with the College and meets the organization's membership requirements.

**Section 2:** Membership Requirements:

* Students must demonstrate a commitment to healthcare or entrepreneurship.
* Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5. Exceptions may be considered at the discretion of the President for students with a GPA of at least 3.25.
* Students must have completed at least 30 volunteer hours by the end of each semester while being an organization member; volunteer hours done in other clubs won't count towards the cumulative required hours.
* Students must undergo an interview as part of the member selection process, conducted by the President or their designee.
* Students must maintain a positive attitude and demonstrate professionalism, avoiding drama or disruptive behavior.

**Section 3:** Equal Opportunity: All students shall have equal opportunities to participate in this organization without regard to race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other protected status.

**Section 4:** Classification: Active members are those currently enrolled at Lone Star College-CyFair who meet all club requirements, including those outlined in Section 2.

**Section 5:** Privileges of Membership: Members have the privilege to attend meetings (excluding officer-only meetings), speak, vote, and hold office. Voting rights are restricted to Lone Star College-CyFair student members.

**Article IV – OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

**Section 1:** Officers:

* The officers of the organization shall include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Event and Social Media Director.

**Section 2:** Qualifications: All officers must meet the following criteria:

* Be enrolled students at Lone Star College-CyFair.
* Be in good academic standing with the College.
* Have a minimum GPA of 3.5, with exceptions allowed at the discretion of the President for students with at least a 3.25 GPA.
* Undergo an interview as part of the officer selection process.

**Section 3:** Length of Term: Officers shall serve from the fall semester's start until the end of the spring semester.

**Section 4:** Duties of Officers: Specific duties for each officer position shall be outlined in the organization's bylaws.

* **President:** The President is responsible for setting and monitoring the goals of the club, running club meetings, appointing committee chairs, delegating tasks as necessary, recruiting, training, and retaining members, and maintaining regular communication with executives of the school.
* **Vice President:** The main duty of the Vice President is to assist the President and other club officers in completing their duties effectively. It is also the Vice President's responsibility to contribute effectively to club operations and understand club policies.
* **Secretary:** The Secretary prepares and distributes meeting agendas, notifies members of upcoming meetings, takes attendance at meetings, keeps permanent attendance records, and maintains accurate minutes of all meetings, including date and place, presiding officer, and business conducted.
* **Treasurer:** The Treasurer manages club finances, including its collection and disbursement. The Treasurer collects member dues, prepares and monitors the budget, and maintains accurate financial records.
* **Historian:** The Historian keeps records of club accomplishments and activities for the year, collects items such as pictures and news clippings about the club and its members, organizes a scrapbook to tell the club's story for the year, and makes the scrapbook meaningful to members and future members.
* **Event and Social Media Director:** The Event and Social Media Director plans, organizes, and coordinates club events, including meetings, workshops, social gatherings, and community service activities. They promote events effectively through various social media platforms and other communication channels, manage the organization's social media accounts, ensure regular updates and engaging content, collaborate with other officers and members to publicize club activities and initiatives, and monitor social media feedback and engagement, responding to inquiries and fostering a positive online presence for the organization.

**Section 4.1:** Grounds for Recall: A recall election may be initiated upon petition by one-third of the total officers and members of the organization. Grounds for recall may include, but are not limited to, misconduct, neglect of duty, or failure to fulfill responsibilities outlined in this constitution.

**Section 4.2:** Petition and Communication:

* A written petition stating the grounds for recall must be submitted to either the President, Secretary, or Advisor(s) of the organization.
* Before signing the petition, the President, Secretary, and Advisor(s) must communicate to ensure agreement on the necessity and grounds for the recall.
* Upon receipt of the petition, the President or the Advisor(s) shall schedule a special meeting of the officers to consider the recall.

**Section 4.3:** Protection Against Retaliation:

* Members who initiate or support a recall shall be protected against retaliation or discrimination as a result of their participation in the recall process.
* The President shall support and defend members who face retaliation or discrimination due to their involvement in the recall process.
* Any member found to have retaliated or discriminated against others involved in the recall process shall face immediate impeachment and removal from the club.

**Section 4.4:** Appeal:

* The officer(s) subject to recall may appeal the decision within 30 days from the incident, as determined by the organization's bylaws.
* The appeal process shall be outlined in the organization's bylaws and will be determined by the President and Advisor(s), specifying the procedures and timeline for filing an appeal, conducting hearings, and reaching a final decision on the appeal.

**Section 5:** Vacancies:

* Should an officer position be vacated, the vacancy will be filled by appointment of the President, with approval from the Advisor(s). If the President position is vacated and not filled by the Vice President, the appointment will be made by the Advisor(s).

**Section 6:** Advisors:

* The club shall have one or more faculty or staff advisors who shall provide guidance and support to the organization.

**Article V – ELECTIONS**

**Section 1:** Time of Elections: Elections shall be held during the last month of the spring semester.

**Section 2:** Election Procedures: Nominations and voting procedures shall be outlined in the organization's bylaws. A candidate receiving a majority of votes shall be elected.

**Section 3:** Run-off Elections: In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted to determine the winner.

**Article VI – MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** Meeting Time/Date/Location:

* The time, date, and place of regular meetings shall be determined by the Event and Social Media Director, in consultation with the officers and members.

**Section 2:** Frequency of Meetings:

* Meetings shall be held monthly during the academic year unless otherwise specified by the President or Advisor.

**Section 3:** Special Meetings:

* Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of the Advisor.
* Notification of special meetings shall be provided to all members at least two weeks in advance.

**Section 4:** Quorum and Attendance:

* At least 4 of the 6 officers of the organization must be present for the meeting to be valid.
* For special meetings, the President and Secretary should be present. If the Secretary cannot attend, the Vice President will act as the substitute.
* The President will act as the substitute for any officer, except Secretary, in case of unavailability.

**Article VII – FINANCES**

**Section 1: Fiscal Operating Year**

The fiscal operating year for the organization shall be from September 1 to August 31, aligned with Lone Star College-CyFair.

**Section 2: Dues**

Dues may be collected from members as determined by the organization. The Advisor must notify the President of any dues before approval, after which the Treasurer can proceed with the collection. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of dues collected and ensure transparency in all financial transactions related to membership fees. Any dues collected by the Treasurer must be presented immediately to the Student Life department for deposit into the club’s account.

**Article VIII – COMMITTEES**

**Section 1: Standing Committees**

Standing committees may be established to help with the organization's operations and activities. The following standing committees are hereby established:

1. **Membership Committee**: Responsible for recruitment, retention, and engagement of club members. Duties include organizing membership drives, maintaining membership records, and fostering a sense of community among members.
2. **Social and Events Committee**: Responsible for planning and coordinating social events, workshops, and other activities aimed at enhancing the club experience and promoting camaraderie among members. This committee will be chaired by the Social Media and Event Director.
3. **Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee**: Responsible for developing and implementing fundraising initiatives to support club activities and initiatives. Duties include seeking sponsorships, organizing fundraising events, and managing financial contributions.
4. **Public Relations and Marketing Committee**: Responsible for promoting the organization within the college community and beyond. Duties include managing social media accounts, creating promotional materials, and maintaining communication with stakeholders. This committee will be chaired by the Social Media and Event Director.

**Section 2: Selection of Standing Committees**

The President, with the approval of the officers, shall appoint members to serve on standing committees. Committee chairs may be appointed from among the committee members or designated officers.

**Section 3: Powers and Duties of Standing Committees**

Each standing committee shall have the following powers and duties:

* Develop annual goals and objectives aligned with the mission of the organization.
* Regularly report progress and activities to the officers and general membership.
* Propose recommendations and initiatives to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the club.
* Any other duties as outlined in the organization's bylaws or as assigned by the President.

**Article IX – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** Proposed Amendments:

* Proposed constitutional amendments or changes shall be presented to the organization in writing at least one meeting before they may be voted on.

**Section 2:** Approval:

* Approval by 2/3 of voting members present at the meeting shall pass a proposed change.
* The change shall be put into effect after approval from the Advisor(s) and the Director of Student Life at Lone Star College-CyFair.

**Article X – RATIFICATION AND ENACTMENT**

This constitution shall become the official governing document of Future Health Professionals & Entrepreneurs of America (FHPEA) upon ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership in attendance, and approval and acceptance by the appropriate recognizing body of Lone Star College-CyFair.