

Nourish International Chapter Constitution

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Nourish International. The name has evolved from its roots as a student organization named Hunger Lunch at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Article II – Purpose

Nourish International reduces poverty through student action. NI strives to help students make a stand against the poverty crisis in a tangible way; through innovative social entrepreneurship on campus. Nourish International works with developing communities, both domestic and abroad, to implement sustainable development projects. Our purpose is to not only make a tangible contribution to reduce poverty now, but to figure out our role in the world of economic change as we enter the workforce as global leaders in our respective professions.

Article III– Membership

As an organization, Nourish International must recognize its responsibilities to its members; the ability to survive and grow depends on their spirit and participation. As mentioned in our purpose, this association welcomes and seeks to include in its members any and all persons.

Membership shall be divided into two categories: student members and sustaining members.

Section 1

A student member shall be defined as any person who is enrolled full or part time with NCSU and who actively participates in Nourish International and/or pays membership dues.

Section 2

Although we are primarily a student organization, we welcome and encourage people from the greater community: townspeople, staff and faculty of the University, and any other supporters. These people will be defined as sustaining members of Nourish International. Sustaining members may participate in committees, attend NI-sponsored events, and/or pay membership dues.

Section 3

All registered student members are eligible and encouraged to vote in the election of officers. Membership registration must be complete two weeks prior to the election date.

Article IV– Executive Committee

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall be the highest decision making body in Nourish International with regard to all programs, projects, and events sponsored by Nourish

International. The Executive Committee shall be composed of selected students of NCSU. The Executive Committee shall consist of two Chairs, one Treasurer, a Minister of Information, Membership Coordinator, and a Publicity Chair. In addition, as NI organizes ventures throughout the semester, a student or small group of students will be elected or appointed on an informal basis to the office of Venture Coordinator, gaining the duties and responsibilities of membership in the Executive Committee. All shall have equal voting power.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall meet on a weekly basis in order to work together to address issues of importance to Nourish International as a whole. These issues include, but are not limited to:

1. Setting and implementing goals for Nourish International and evaluating the progress in reaching them;
2. Promoting activism and education concerning the global poverty-hunger crisis;
3. Approving all new ventures to NI according to Article 6 Sect 1;
4. Appointing or overseeing the election of Venture Coordinators;
5. Setting guidelines for the use of NI-sponsored funds;
Approving the annual chapter budget;
6. Planning NI programs and events;
7. Supporting membership recruitment;
8. Organizing NI chapter elections;
9. Determining the fee for membership in the NI chapter upon taking office in the spring semester. There may be a differentiation between the amount paid by student members and the amount paid by sustaining members; and
10. Communicating with the national office with regards to dues, summer projects, and overall chapter status.

Section 3

It shall be the responsibilities to the Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee to:

1. Serve as primary representatives of Nourish International to the University, community, state, nation, and world;
2. Pursue and promote cooperation with campus, local, state, national, and international organizations that share the purpose and goals of Nourish International, or appoint someone to carry this out;
3. Communicate and work with other campus organizations, or appoint someone to do so;
4. Call and preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee, and the entire Nourish International membership, or appoint someone to do so;
5. Lead the Executive Committee in the creation of a goal statement to be shared with and adopted by a majority vote of the chapter (all members) upon their appointment with periodic evaluation throughout the year;
6. Organize and preside over the selection process for executive officers.

7. Work with the national office and its Membership Coordinators to provide training for the Treasurer, Venture Coordinators and Chairs.
8. Provide appropriate training for incoming Co-Chairs after their election in February;
 - a. Incoming Co-chairs, when elected to office the February preceding their term in office, are required to serve as apprentices to the incumbent Co-chairs, in order to become better acquainted with the functioning of the organization and the responsibilities of the office.
9. Communicate on a regular basis with the National Office's Membership Coordinator.
10. Communicate clear expectations to the Executive Committee concerning their responsibilities;
11. Have a working knowledge of all programming at NI;
12. Organize elections for the succeeding Executive Committee at the end of the term; and
13. Write an annual report regarding the status and future goals of the organization.

Section 4

It shall be the responsibilities of the Treasurer of the Executive Committee to:

1. Work with the Membership Coordinator to administer all finances of Nourish International.
2. Prepare and present the annual program and special budgets for approval by the Executive Committee
3. Work with the Executive Committee, especially the Venture Coordinators, and the Membership Coordinator in planning and implementing fundraising projects (also known as Ventures);
4. Assist in the training of the incoming Treasurer upon his/her election in February; and
5. Write an annual report regarding the finances of the organization, but not limited to this subject.

Section 5

It shall be the responsibilities of the Minister of Information of the Executive Committee to:

1. Record and publish minutes of all Executive Committee and General Body meetings;
2. Notify all members of the organization of relevant meetings, or appoint someone to do so;
3. Keep organized files of all correspondence and written work produced by the Executive Committee and Cabinet;
4. Maintain a central reference source of all written information regarding the organization

- a. In the case that there is not written information regarding an aspect of the organization it is the duty of the Minister of Information to generate a written report, or appoint someone to do so regarding this.
5. Assist in the training of the incoming Minister of Information upon his/her election in February; and
6. Write an annual report regarding the state of communication and record-keeping in the organization.

Section 6

It shall be the responsibility of the Venture Coordinators to:

1. Work with the Membership Coordinator, and Executive Committee and coordinate the selection, training, and continual support of future Venture leaders;
2. Represent his or her respective Venture(s) on the Executive Committee;
3. Work with the Executive Committee members to organize major recruitment efforts at the beginning of each semester;
4. Have a working knowledge of committees' histories, purposes, goals, and activities;
5. Represent the organization at Ventures, publicize the organization's mission, and direct interested members of the public towards sources of information regarding the organization;
6. Assist in the training of new Venture Coordinators upon their appointment/election; and
7. Write an annual report regarding the successes and failures of his or her Venture, and possibilities for future development or modifications to the Venture as.

Section 7

It shall be the responsibility of the Membership Coordinator to:

1. Keep detailed and accurate records of NI membership;
2. Log hours of service and activism work done by NI members;
3. Organize events to increase awareness about NI, both for current members and prospective new members;
4. Coordinate social events that involve the entire chapter to promote solidarity.
5. Perform outreach efforts on behalf of NI to recruit new members;
6. Write a monthly newsletter pertaining to the actions of the organization and any events that may be of interest to the general body of NI to be distributed by e-mail;
7. Assist in the training of the incoming Membership Coordinator upon his or her selection; and
8. Write an annual report regarding the state of NI membership and possibilities for expansion, both at NCSU and other possible Nourish Chapters.

Section 8

It shall be the responsibility of the Publicity Chair to:

1. Design and produce publicity brochures, pamphlets, and other publications for NI;
2. Oversee the development of the NI website;
3. Strive continually to put the name and mission of NI into the University's consciousness;
4. Publish a quarterly newsletter for members, faculty, and staff, as well as NI alumni and friends;
5. Assist in the training of the incoming Publicity Chair upon their selection; and
6. Write an annual report.

Article V– Elections, Appointments, Terms of Office, and Officer Changes

Section 1

The two Chairs, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator and Minister of Information shall be elected by the registered, full-time-student members of Nourish International, and their election shall be conducted in the second week of February, or another time more convenient to the majority of all members.

Section 2

All terms of office shall be from the beginning of the Fall Semester of the following year through the Spring Semester of that academic year.

Section 3

In the event that an elected position is vacated prior to the end of the stated term or that there are insufficient candidates to fill elected offices, the Executive Committee shall appoint someone to the available position through an application and interview process. All decisions shall be made in Executive Session by a majority vote.

Section 4

In the event that an appointed position of the Executive Committee shall be vacated prior to the end of the stated term, the Executive Committee shall appoint someone to the available position through an application and interview process. All decisions shall be made on Executive Session by a majority vote.

Section 5

In the event that an elected or appointed officer of the Executive Committee must be asked to leave office, a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee is required for removal.

Section 6

No member of the Executive Committee shall work or speak publicly for or against any candidate in an NI election.

Section 7

A candidates meeting shall be held twenty-one (21) days before the NI election. At this meeting the candidates will learn of all election guidelines from the current NI Co-Presidents. This meeting must be announced to the NI membership at least twenty-eight (28) days before the NI election.

Section 8

Campaign Finances: Candidates may not publicize their campaigns through fliers, posters, email messages or any other medium excepting their own word of mouth, nor should members of NI or associates of the candidate attempt to publicize the candidate's campaign by soliciting voting members.

Section 9

Run-off Election: In the event that no candidate for any office receives a majority of the votes taken during a regular NI Election, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes for that office during the regular election. The run-off election, if needed, will take place seven (7) days after the regular election.

Section 10

Applications for elected offices will be due fourteen (14) days before the NI elections. Candidates will include a written summary (150 word maximum) of their platforms and qualifications. A candidate's forum will be held during the Executive Committee meeting immediately prior to the regular election, and this forum will be open to the general membership.

Section 11

Use of technology: One week prior to the regular elections, the executive committee will send an email to the NI membership listserv containing the written summaries of each candidate's platform. No candidate will be allowed to individually solicit committee or membership listservs.

Section 12

Use of NI Resources: No NI resources should be used for any campaigning purposes.

Section 13

Candidates campaigning for office should be fully aware of the obligations and responsibilities of their office, allowing for a generous commitment of time to the activities of the organization, as such elections should be kept as objective as possible, and it should be stressed that members vote out of confidence in the candidates' commitment to the organization and leadership abilities rather than personal ties.

Section 14

Write-in candidates may be permitted during the regular election, provided that the write-in candidate is an NI member as defined under Article III.

Article VI- Faculty Advising

Being an organization created, driven and led by students, faculty members shall only be hitherto involved with the Organization in the role of an adviser. Any faculty member who wishes to advise Nourish International in an official capacity is to fulfill the following expectations outlined in Article VI.

Section 1

A faculty adviser must remain in regular contact with members of the Organization, attending either at least two general body meetings each academic semester, or a personal meeting with a member of the Executive Committee to ensure that the adviser remains aware of the Organization's current status.

- A. In addition to attending at least two general body meetings, a faculty adviser should plan on meeting with the Co-chairs of the Executive Committee regularly (left to the discretion of the adviser and the Co-chairs) to discuss the standing of the organization and possibly improvements which could be made to the functioning of the Organization.

Section 2

A faculty adviser must be willing to represent and further the cause of the Organization within the University by sponsoring the Organization's activities and solicitations for permits for the aforementioned activities.

Section 3

A faculty adviser, must act, in a general capacity, as a source of advice for the Organization, in all matters pertaining to the functioning, undertakings and communications of the Organization, and should thus remain available for communication with members of the Organization as far as such advising does not seriously conflict with the adviser's academic and personal obligations.

Section 4

A faculty adviser should, to the best of his or her capacity, support and sponsor the efforts of members of the Organization to obtain funding for summer Development Projects from the University as well as from any unaffiliated organization.

Section 5

As a champion of the Organization and its representative before the University, it is expected of an adviser that he or she take every opportunity available to inform his or her associates, co-workers and students of the existence, mission and virtues of the Organization, and to direct members of the community interested in the Organization to chapter meetings, sources of information and members of the Executive Committee.

Article VII- Amendments

Section 1

Amendments must be submitted in written form for consideration by the Executive Committee. If approved by a 2/3 majority of the members of the Executive Committee, the proposal shall be presented to all members at a General Body Meeting for discussion at which time a 2/3 vote shall be required for approval.

Section 2

A set of by-laws will be drawn up if declared necessary by the Executive Committee.

Section 3

The Constitution of Nourish International may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee.