**SWEL**

**Constitution**

**The Constitution of the Social Work Education Leaders**

**Article I**

The name of the organization shall be Social Work Education Leaders (SWEL).

**Article II**

The purpose of this organization is to promote the Social Work profession as an important and positive field that deserves recognition through Social Work Education, community service, and campus awareness of social and political issues.

**Article III**

Membership in this organization shall be open to anyone regardless of race, color, gender, creed, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy, political affiliation, marital or parental status, veteran status, or arrest or conviction record who:

1. Is a recognized and enrolled student of Southern Arkansas University.
2. Agrees to accept and adhere to the purpose, Constitution, and by-laws of said organization.
3. Voting
	1. Voting members are those that are current majors in Social Work.
	2. Semi-nonvoting members are those that are not majors, but are interested in the purpose of this organization. Those members cannot vote on curriculum or departmental issues. They also cannot run for office.

**Article IV**

**Officers:**

**Section I**

The elected officers of said organization shall be:

1. **President-**to be the official representative of the organization at all necessary meetings and functions; to co-chair all general meetings and executive meetings; to coordinate all committees and components to maximize efficiency of the organization.
2. **Vice President-**to assist the President in all ways needed and necessary; to be an official representative of the organization in the President’s absence; to co-chair all general meetings and executive meetings.
3. **Treasurer-**to handle all financial matters and transactions of the organization; to oversee the fundraising committee and be liaison to the Vice President; to keep records of membership and member’s basic information.
4. **Secretary-**to take minutes at all general and executive meetings; to be responsible for all the organization’s outgoing and incoming correspondence; to keep record of typed minutes; to oversee a committee and be liaison to the Vice President.
5. **Faculty Representatives (2)-**to represent the organization at faculty meetings and vote in the interest of SWEL; to report to SWEL the business of the faculty meetings in order to keep up departmental issues; each representative will have one-half vote; if a representative cannot attend a meeting, an executive board member may go in their place.
6. **Special Representatives-**to be appointed as needed for special projects like the annual Social Work Conference.

**Section II**

Members of the organization shall elect the officers from the eligible candidates for each office. All officers must have one semester of involvement with SWEL activities. All officers must be Social Work majors; have a 2.50 GPA and be in good academic standing with the Social Work Department.

**Section III**

The terms of the office shall be for one academic year at SAU and elections shall take place in April for the upcoming academic school year. Winning representatives shall take office after the first week of May.

**Section IV**

Special conditions of the offices: Officers are allowed to miss only 2 meetings with a valid excuse before having to resign from their position. Each officer is to be readily accessible to the rest of the Executive Board. In case of a necessary absence, it will be assumed that another Executive Board Member will fill in.

**Section V**

An officer who violates the rights, privileges, or responsibilities of his or her office as set forth in this Constitution may be removed from office by a vote of the members in a single meeting, provided that the body has been given one week notice prior.

**Article V**

Regular meetings of SWEL shall be held once every week or at such times as decided upon by more than half of the members at a previous meeting and/or upon the recommendations of the Executive Board.

**Article VI**

Each member of the organization shall make payments of dues and fees for special events to the treasurer. Only due-paying members that are Social Work majors are allowed to vote.

**Article VII**

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths majority vote of those present at any regular meeting or a special meeting for that purpose, provided that a copy of proposed amendment(s) be given to each member one meeting proceeding the one in which the amendment(s) are to be voted on.

**By-Laws**

1. **Dues:** There will be a one-time **fifteen dollar ($15.00)** membership fee. Dues are due the **2nd week of September and the 3rd week of class in the Spring;** the proceeds will be used for SWEL activities.
2. **Committees:** Under the By-Laws, all functioning committees shall be standing committees responsible to the SWEL’s body.

The present functioning committees are:

**Fundraising-**The purpose of this Committee shall be to raise monies for use by SWEL. The chairperson will be the Treasurer.

**Policy-**The purpose of the committee shall be to discuss any social or political issues and create a plan to educate Social Work majors and students on campus about these issues.

**Publicity-**The purpose of this committee shall be to provide information about upcoming meetings and organizational activities.

**Community Service-**The purpose of this committee shall be to provide volunteer services to the community and provide Social Work majors with volunteer experience.

**Article VIII**

Faculty Advisors: shall be selected from the Social Work Faculty who volunteers for this position. There shall be one or two.

Functions:

1. Provide continuity between outgoing and incoming officers.
2. Hold regular meetings with the executive board to discuss its plan for the group.
3. Keep the best interest of both the organization and the university in mind.
4. Should attend as often as possible all SWEL activities, giving special priority to group meetings.
5. Be sure the organization complies with university policy.

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