



Hope Party

Constitution & Governing Documents

Ratified As Of March 4th, 2026

Preamble

We, as students of the University of Florida, for the purpose of improving student life, bettering academic outcomes, and establishing a more free and fair environment for students, do hereby establish and accept this document as the Constitution of the UF Student Government Hope Party.

Article I. Name & Motto

The name of this party will be “Hope Party”, hereafter referred to as “UF Hope Party”, “the Party”, “UF Hope”, “Hope for SG”, or just “Hope”. The motto of the Hope Party is as follows: “A hope for us all.”, or alternatively, “Have hope for us all.”

Article II. Purpose

The primary goal of the Hope Party shall be to act as a group of representatives for the student body as a whole in the contexts of student government and campus politics. It shall accomplish this through:

- Nominating and assisting in the election of Hope candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the UF Student Government,
- Nominating and assisting in the election of Hope candidates for offices in the UF Student Senate, and
- Working with current Hope candidates and officers to help write legislation and complete action in the University of Florida Student Government for the greater good of the students at the aforementioned university.

Article III. Compliance Statement

Hope Party shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, Student Government Rules (constitutions, party rules, and 700 codes), and Student Leader Eligibility.

Article IV. University Regulations

Section A. Non-Discrimination

Hope Party agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B. Sexual Harassment

Hope Party agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

Section C. Hazing

Hope Party agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If Hope Party or its members become aware of any such conduct described in this article, they must report it immediately to staff in Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (352-392-1261, sccr@ufsa.ufl.edu), the University's Title IX Coordinator (*Lauren*

Wallace, J.D. titleix@ufl.edu), the Student Government Advisor (*Jerome Scott II*, jerome.scott@ufl.edu), or to the Student Government Elections Coordinator (Vacant).

Article V. Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Article VI. General Body

Section A. Membership

General body membership, or the general body, receives 1 vote in every motion, election, or resolution brought at a general body meeting or party convention. This membership is open to all those who meet all of the following qualifiers:

- You must not have active involvement in organizations or campaigns whose interests are in direct opposition to the Hope Party (as determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board, subject to appeal to the General Body), and you must disclose and formally sever ties with any organization whose interests are in direct opposition to the Hope Party. Note that this applies only to groups relating to Student Government elections and does not apply to organizations relating to race, class, culture, sex, identity, or any other protected class. This particularly refers to UF Student Government parties and organizations that directly work with or fund those parties.
- You must be a current University of Florida student with a valid UFID.

If you meet all the requirements and would like to join, you may join with the approval of the membership director, two other executive board members, or five general body members.

Members may serve in an advisory role to an executive board member at the request of said board member.

Section B. Suspension & Removal

You may be removed or suspended from the party by majority vote of the general body membership. Three members or one Executive Board Member may suggest any member for removal by notifying the Ethics and Accountability Chair at least one week before the General Body Meeting.

By majority vote of the Executive Board, a general may be suspended until the next General Body Meeting, and they may be considered for removal at that meeting.

No member may be suspended consecutively for the same issue without a vote of the general body.

A suspended member may not vote or participate in any event, meeting, or internal discussion regarding the Hope Party. The member subject to removal or suspension shall be given notice of the allegation and an opportunity to address the General Body prior to the vote.

If you wish to leave the party general membership, you may simply inform the Membership Director. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Section C. Meetings & Voting

For all meetings held, the quorum is 1/3rd of the total membership, rounded up. If this is not met, the meeting may not hold any votes. All votes must be passed by a majority vote, unless otherwise specified.

If a member abstains from a vote, that abstention is considered as present for quorum, but is not considered in the majority for voting. This means that somebody abstaining is not counted as a yes or a no, but rather it is not counted as part of the bill.

Section D. Senator Party Membership

Under the rules of the Rules and Procedures of the UF Student Senate at the time of this constitution being passed, a member of the senate may freely associate with any party they choose. We recognize that members may choose to join our party as determined by these rules.

Senators who join via this method are requested to join or attempt to join general membership in advance of changing their party registration. If they do not, under the Student Senate rules, they may vote for the party leader but they may not vote for any other position in party leadership, except where required by the rules. This would be considered an Observing Officer membership. If they do, they will be treated as a regular senator.

As senators, we recognize that people's opinions and feelings upon a matter may change, and that may cause them to switch parties. Due to this, we do not forbid a current senator from joining as a general member, so long as they renounce their membership with any other conflicting groups or parties.

Section E. Associate Membership

In the case where membership in the party would either cause conflicts with University rules and regulations, as well as at the choice of the relevant person, they may be admitted to Hope Party as an associate member. Associate members are forbidden from voting and holding office; however, they may participate in discussions at General Body Meetings and Party conventions, as well as act in an advisory role to a member of the executive board at the request of said board member.

Article VII. Officer Membership

Section A. Membership & Running

Officer membership consists of all UF student government officers or candidates who are a general member of the Hope Party. In order to become a candidate who is endorsed by our party and on our slate, you must be a general body member who slates with Hope Party or runs with Hope Party during the initial registration season, which will be coordinated by the Operations Chair. No fees shall be charged to be an officer, though officers may donate to the campaign. You may be demoted to a general body member and forbidden to run by a majority vote of the general body.

All those who wish to be endorsed by Hope Party and appear as a member of our slate must be approved by the policy chair and the membership chair, or a vote of the executive board, or a vote of the general body.

Section B. Executive Branch

Candidates for the Executive Branch (president, vice president, and treasurer) must apply at least two weeks in advance of election season starting time. Presidential candidates must have a vice president selected, and treasurer candidates may run on their own.

At the last GBM, two weeks before the election season starts, a candidate election shall take place. These elections will be done using ranked choice of all candidates or candidate

groups, and will be done using a voting software or paper ballot system selected by the operations director.

In the case that no candidate receives a majority of more than 50% of attending members, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and the votes shall be redistributed. This will be repeated until one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes.

If at any point two candidates both tie for lowest spot and a redistribution is needed, the candidate who is eliminated shall be decided by a coin flip, with the student whose UFID is lower choosing the side they wish for. If all ballots are redistributed with one candidate per ballot and no candidate has more than 50% of the votes, the final candidate shall be decided by a coin flip, with the student whose UFID is lower choosing the side they wish for.

In order to run for the executive branch, you must have been a member of Hope for at least one previous semester before the Spring campaign season.

Section C. Observing Officer Membership

If a student senator chooses to register as a member of Hope without becoming a general member, they shall be considered an Associate Officer. They shall not be permitted to vote in any elections other than the party leader, or other roles required by the Rules and Procedures of the UF Student Senate.

If an observing officer wishes to become an official officer, they are required to be admitted as a general member, and then be confirmed by 50% or more of the Student Senate.

Article VIII. Executive Board

Section A. List of Roles

The party executive board is elected from the general body membership. It consists of the following members

- Policy Chair, who handles all policies and helps review and make decisions on legislation. They also handle and help create (with the advice of the General Body) a party platform. For the purposes of registration, they are the Party Chair or Party President.
- Communications Chair, who handles all messaging to clubs, groups, and organizations on and off campus. During election seasons, they also manage campaigns and

campaigning. For the purposes of registration, they are the Party Vice Chair or Party President.

- Operations Chair, who handles party budgets and books meetings and events, as well as files codes and laws. They shall also be the timekeeper and recordkeeper of meetings. For the purposes of registration, they are the Party Treasurer and all advertisements must be registered under their name. In any tied vote, they shall be the tiebreaker.
- Membership Chair, who handles all membership, member information, and communications to members. They also serve the role of handling emails and logins for party systems. During votings or discussions of resolutions and bills, they shall hold the role of speaker.
- Ethics & Accountability Chair, who handles ethics complaints and issues regarding members and the party, and ensures that Officer Members and the Executive Board are held accountable to the Student Body and the General Body. During hearings and discussions on issues or expelling members, they shall hold the role of speaker. If Hope Party is accused of a violation by the Student Elections Commission or the UF Supreme Court, they shall be represented by the Ethics & Accountability Chair.
- Party Leader, who represents the party in the ways listed and determined by the Rules and Procedures of the UF Student Senate. Their role is a coordinator and not a president of the party.
- Ranking Member, who is the highest ranking student senator as determined by the line of succession as listed in the Rules and Procedures of the UF Student Senate, and who may not be the Party Leader, shall also serve on the board.

Section B. Elections

For the role of Party Leader, they shall be elected in a method determined by the Rules and Procedures of the UF Student Senate.

For the role of Ranking Member, it shall be determined by the person who is the highest up in the line of succession as determined by the Rules and Procedures of the UF Student Senate. If there are no members on this line, then there shall be the highest ranking senator appointed by the board and confirmed by the people, as determined by committee ranking, position, clerkship, secretary roles, chief of staff roles, dean of senate, or another factor.

For the other roles, they will be elected yearly by a vote of the general body at the yearly chapter convention. Each role shall be elected separately. This chapter convention must be held before the end of the Spring semester. These elections will be done using ranked choice of all

candidates, and will be done using a voting software or paper ballot system selected by the operations director. In the case that no candidate receives a majority of more than 50% of attending members, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and the votes shall be redistributed. This will be repeated until one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes. If at any point two candidates both tie for lowest spot and a redistribution is needed, the candidate who is eliminated shall be decided by a coin flip, with the student whose UFID is lower choosing the side they wish for. If all ballots are redistributed with one candidate per ballot and no candidate has more than 50% of the votes, the final candidate shall be decided by a coin flip, with the student whose UFID is lower choosing the side they wish for.

Section C. Requirements

For the purposes of the Student Government or the Elections committee, all members of the executive board are considered officers. Therefore to run, they must follow all of the following criteria:

- Be enrolled as a degree-seeking student as defined by the Office of the University Registrar
- Meet requirements for registration and academic standing as follows:
 - Undergraduate Students must be registered for at least six credits in the Fall and Spring semesters (Spring and Summer for Innovation Academy Students), have a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average, cannot be on academic warning or academic probation, and otherwise must be in good academic standing;
 - Graduate and professional Students must meet the requirements for part-time status for the graduate professional program in which they are enrolled, or be registered for six credits if appointed to a one-third or half-time graduate assistantship, have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average, or at least the minimum grade point average required to remain in good standing with the graduate or professional program in which they are enrolled, cannot be on academic warning or academic probation, and otherwise must be in good academic standing; and
 - Postgraduate Students must be enrolled for at least six credits and may not serve more than one semester while in postgraduate status.
- Have no delinquent financial obligations to UF;
- Remain in good standing with UF throughout the duration of the elected term; and

- Meet any additional requirements, including enrollment and academic standing requirements established by the Vice President for Student Life.

Section D. Removals

Any member of the executive board may be removed by a 60% vote of the general body, which must be submitted to the Ethics and Accountability Chair a minimum of one week before a meeting.

If a person does not meet the above qualifications, the Ethics and Accountability chair must put them on a temporary suspension to be discussed at the next GBM or executive board meeting, and if that person is found to fail these requirements, they shall be removed and the seat shall be vacant.

If any seat is vacant at any time, the Executive Board shall notify the general body of the open seat, and they shall conduct a vote on a replacement in the same manner as regular elections at the next GBM.

Section E. Succession

If there is a position which is currently vacant, the roles for that position will be temporarily delegated to the officer who is listed directly above them as ordered in Section A. In the event that the role cannot be fulfilled, the role shall be temporarily delegated to a non-executive board member appointed by the remaining executive board.

Article IX. Funding

As a Student Government political party, this organization's funding rules must follow the Student Government Election Codes. The Operations Chair shall be in charge of ensuring compliance with these codes. This chair shall keep a running sum of the party budget and will report this budget at the request of any UF Student Senator, UF Elections Committee member, or a General Member of Hope Party. They shall also ensure this information is accessible from a public link on the party website.

At the end of each semester, any remaining funding must be donated to the UF Student Affairs Fund 019571, or the Alan & Cathy Hitchcock Food Pantry.

Article X. Dissolution

In the event of vacancies where 4 of the 5 non-Senate roles of the Executive Board cannot be filled or where a vote to invoke this clause has no more than 20% of the general members in opposition; the following procedure shall be carried out as to be determined by the remaining membership in the meeting where the clause has been invoked:

At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, Hope Party will leave any assets and outstanding funds to the UF Student Affairs Fund 019571, or the Alan & Cathy Hitchcock Food Pantry.

All social media accounts, email accounts, and other digital entities associated, managed, or controlled by the chapter shall be archived once dissolution has been invoked.

Article XI. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of general body members attending the meeting, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the Operations Chair at the previous regular meeting by any general member.

Article XII. Additional rules

Section 1. Codes & Decisions

Hope Party shall adopt a running “Codes & Decisions” document. The purpose of this document is to represent codes and resolutions that do not require or need an amendment to

the constitution. These codes must comply with the constitution and may not conflict with the constitution. If they do conflict, the constitution shall take precedence.

For an item to be entered and made an official “code”, it must be voted in by a majority of those present at a General Body Meeting or yearly Party Convention where quota is met. If it is approved, it will be entered into the document by the Operations Chair.

Section 2. Party Platform

At each party convention, the Policy Chair shall create a “party platform” with the advice of the general body in attendance. At this same party convention, it will be voted on by the general body, and if it receives a majority vote at the convention and quota is met, it shall be entered into both the Codes document and a separate Party Platform document. This party platform shall function as a list of goals for the upcoming terms. These goals should be executed by the policy chair with the help of the officer members.