**CONSTITUTION OF THE
FLORIDA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SOCIETY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
REVISED – SEPTEMBER 2024**

PREAMBLE

By recognizing the importance of development of business knowledge and skills for the continued advancement of ourselves, our university, our community, and human welfare in general, and by recognizing the need for a student organization to cultivate well-rounded business students at the University of Florida with the ultimate goal of developing business professionals with the tenets of professionalism, leadership, and interpersonal prowess:

We the members as a united group, pledge ourselves to the promotion and understanding of the profession of business; hence, We, the members of the Florida Business Leadership Society of the University of Florida do hereby adopt the following constitution, and state our willingness to abide by UF rules and regulations.

**ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be the "Florida Business Leadership Society". This organization will utilize the acronym “FBLS” in marketing and promotional materials when deemed appropriate.

**ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION**

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, FBLS is considered a General Registered Student Organization. As a GRSO, our organization is a separate 3rd party entity, not considered a part of the University of Florida. Through registering with the University, our student group agrees to follow its policies and operate on campus with access and/or eligibility for specific campus benefits.

**ARTICLE III. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The objectives of the Florida Business Leadership Society shall be:

(1) To promote a professional attitude among business students,

(2) To provide insight into all fields and industries of business,

(3) To foster a sense of social and interpersonal excellence amongst members, and

(4) To sponsor and coordinate projects that will benefit the college, the university, and the community.

**ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT & UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Engagement, FBLS shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida, FBLS 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, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Section A. Non-Discrimination

FBLS 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

FBLS 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

FBLS 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 FBLS aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Engagement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

Section E. Officer Eligibility

FBLS understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

**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 are prohibited from holding membership, office or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR FBLS**

FBLS may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement’s constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). FBLS agrees to provide all unaltered by laws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

**ARTICLE VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR**

Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The student organization advisor shall serve as a resource person providing advisory support to officers and members and may not vote or hold office in the organization.

The Dean of the Warrington College of Business Administration, or another appropriate faculty member within the college, will confirm a faculty advisor for Florida Business Leadership Society, who serve as an informed resource, shall provide assistance and guidance where needed, and act as a counselor to the Executive Board. The faculty advisor may not vote in any Florida Business Leadership Society matters. The faculty advisor shall serve until he wishes to be replaced or is no longer an employee of the University of Florida, at which point a new faculty advisor will be chosen by the Dean of the Warrington College of Business Administration, or another appropriate faculty member within the college. Our current advisor is Dr. Renee Clarke.

**ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

Registered student organizations are required to have a minimum of a President, Treasurer, and Vice President as elected officers. These officers must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

The elected officers of FBLS shall be the President, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Involvement, Vice President of Marketing, Treasurer, VP of Communications. At no time should one person hold more than one of these positions.

The responsibilities of each position are as outlined in Sections 4 through 9.

Section A. Term

Elected officers assume their positions upon election day, which will be the last meeting of the semester. Elected officers will hold their position for the next Fall or Spring semester, as appropriate. Additional information about the election process will be detailed in Article VII of the Constitution.

Section B. Vacancy

In the event of a vacant position on the Executive Board, the remaining officers may be granted a special provision to appoint an interim replacement until a new election can be held. This is up to the discretion of the remaining Executive Board.

Section C. President

(1) Have general supervision of the affairs of Florida Business Leadership Society and conduct each general meeting,

(2) Call the first meeting of each semester announcing the time and location of that meeting,

(3) Appoint ad-hoc committees necessary to perform special functions and act as an ex-officio member of these committees,

(4) Prepare a written report upon leaving office of all Florida Business Leadership Society activities occurring during that term and deliver a copy of this report to the incoming President,

1. Act as a Florida Business Leadership Society representative at all BCC meetings,
2. Inform the Executive Board of BCC actions relevant to the organization,
3. Plan all Florida Business Leadership Society Executive Board meetings as necessary,
4. Maintain email communication between Executive Board, Directors, and departmental representatives,
5. Assist the Treasurer in preparing the budget, for current semester term and assist in planning activities and budgets for following semester,
6. Arrange the food for each general meeting,
7. Make sure the Florida Business Leadership Society is in compliance with BCC and Student Government rules,
8. Maintain copies of the Florida Business Leadership Society Constitution and Bylaws and make these copies available to members upon request. The President should also make updates to the constitution if necessary, and
9. All matters not contained herein are the express responsibilities of the President or an appointed representative of the President.

Section D. Vice President of Programming (Vice President)

(1) Perform all duties of the President in absence of the President,

(2) Prepare a written report of Florida Business Leadership Society activities conducted through the office of the Vice President of Programming upon leaving office and deliver a copy of this report to the incoming Vice President,

(3) Help coordinate events between the Florida Business Leadership Society and other Business Organizations,

1. Oversee the following Florida Business Leadership Society functions/committees: Fundraising, Faculty-Student Luncheon, and Student Opportunity Achievement Retreat (SOAR),
2. Plan and oversee committee meetings, act as an ex-officio member of these committees, and refer to the officers of these functions/committees as “Director” or “co-Directors,” and
3. Work with the Florida Business Leadership Society Treasurer to make sure that the entire budget is used through programs, etc.

Section E. The Vice President of Involvement

(1) Execute all external Florida Business Leadership Society correspondence as directed by the President,

(2) Prepare a written report of the club activities conducted through the office of the Vice President of Involvement upon leaving office and deliver a copy of this report to the incoming Vice President,

(3) Schedule presentations for Florida Business Leadership Society events and meetings, making sure that the companies chosen cover all fields of business,

(4) Act as a liaison between Florida Business Leadership Society and departments within the University of Florida or appoint departmental representatives to act on his or her behalf,

(4) Establish and maintain long-standing relationships between the Florida Business Leadership Society and sponsoring companies,

1. Oversee the following Florida Business Leadership Society functions/committees: Speakers, Community Involvement, and New Member Liaison.
2. Plan and oversee committee meetings, act as an ex-officio member of these committees, and refer to the officers of these functions/committees as “Director” or “co-Directors.”

Section F. Vice President of Marketing

1. Promote a positive and professional image for Florida Business Leadership Society,
2. Market events of Florida Business Leadership Society to all students of the University,
3. Create flyers and any other items used to increase awareness of the club,
4. Work to increase membership in Florida Business Leadership Society,
5. Prepare a written report of the club activities conducted through the office of the Vice President of Marketing upon leaving office and deliver a copy of this report to the incoming Vice President,
6. Oversee the following Florida Business Leadership Society functions/committees: Marketing, Social, and Historian,
7. Plan and oversee committee meetings, act as an ex-officio member of these committees, and refer to the officers of these functions/committees as “Director” or “co-Directors.”

Section G. Vice President of Finance (Treasurer)

(1) Advise the President of the current financial status of Florida Business Leadership Society,

(2) Compile and submit the Florida Business Leadership Society budget to BACC, with assistance from the BACC Treasurer as needed,

(3) Fully acquaint the Assistant Treasurer and President with financial procedures,

 (5) Be authorized to submit to Student Government proper forms for the allocation of all funds for projects which have been approved by the Florida Business Leadership Society, like SARs,

(6) Prepare a written report of the club activities conducted through the office of Treasurer upon leaving office and deliver a copy of this report to the incoming Treasurer,

(7) Have been elected at least one time as an Assistant Treasurer, provided that at least one such candidate is available,

(8) Keep a written record, or ledger, of all expenses and income of the organization, and

 (9) Maintain the Florida Business Leadership Society outside revenue account and cash box.

Section H. Vice President of Communication

 (1) Take attendance at each meeting,

(2) Keep a current list of both standing and ad-hoc committee members and relative directors,

(3) Inform the Florida Business Leadership Society President of any representatives missing more than the allotted number of meetings as specified in Article VIII, Section 3 of the Bylaws, or unexcused absences

(4) Distribute a typewritten list of all voting and non-voting general members who have attended a Florida Business Leadership Society meeting and update the list regularly upon the request of the Executive Board or the general membership,

(5) Update and maintain both a list-serv and the organization’s website,

(6) Send out weekly “update” emails, sent at the beginning of the week via the list-serv, and

(7) Send updates to the WCBA Undergraduate News about special general meetings (include the corporate speaker or activities that are planned).

Section I. Impeachment Proceedings

Any voting member of the Florida Business Leadership Society has the right to bring charges of misconduct, neglect, or misuse of authority against any of its officers through the Constitutional Committee for recommendation to the Florida Business Leadership Society membership. Upon the vote of a simple majority of the general membership, impeachment proceedings shall be commenced. The accused shall be informed in writing of the charges. At the next regularly scheduled meeting, the accused shall have the right to defend himself or herself against the charges. Expulsion shall only be by at least a two-thirds (2/3)-majority secret ballot vote of the entire voting membership.

**ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS**

Elections shall be held at the last meeting of the semester (in the month of November during Fall semester and April during Spring semester). Nominations shall be held at the second to last meeting of the semester and will be open until the election proceedings. Any member cannot nominate himself or another member of Florida Business Leadership Society. A member must have at least 5 points to vote; the points system will be discussed in the Bylaws,.

The nomination process will begin with the President and will work down to lower positions. Members of the organization may nominate another member or themselves for an Executive Board position. To nominate a candidate, one must raise his/her hand and announce the nomination. Another member, besides the nominee and nominator must second this nomination. If the nomination is not seconded, it is not validated. There is no limit to how many members can be nominated for each position. Nominees can pull themselves out of the election if they so desire.

The election process will begin with the President and will work down to lower positions. If a candidate does not get elected to his desired position, he can slate down to a lower position if he so chooses.

*The process shall follow these procedures if two or more people are running for a position:*

(1) Each candidate makes his speech while the other candidates waiting outside of the room.

(2) After the candidate completes his speech, he waits outside with the other candidates, while the organization body gives alternating “pro”s and “con”s about the candidate.

(3) Steps 1 and 2 are completed for each candidate for the position. Then, all candidates wait outside the meeting room while the organization body votes by secret ballot. The current and incoming Presidents, together, count the votes. The candidate with the most votes wins.

(4) In the case of a tie, a run-off vote is held between the two tied candidates, and will be repeated until one person receives a majority of the vote, and therefore is elected.

(5) Once a winner has been determined, all candidates are called back into the meeting room, at which point the President announces the winner.

*The process shall follow these procedures if one person is running for a position:*

(1) The candidate makes his speech, as called for above.

(2) After the candidate completes his speech, he waits outside while the organization body gives alternating “pro”s and “con”s about the candidate.

(3) The organization then votes by using “yay” or “nay”. If no “nay” is called out, the candidate is elected to the position. If one or more “nay”s are called out, the organization body votes by secret ballot. The current and incoming Presidents, together, count the votes. If the candidate receives a majority, he is elected. If the candidate does not receive a majority, another election may be held at another date.

Any currently enrolled student at the University of Florida may run for an Executive Board Officer position with Florida Business Leadership Society.

In the absence of clear direction on election, amendment, and /or voting procedures, FBLS agrees to follow the guidance and instruction of Robert's Rules of Order for the election or amendment process.

**ARTICLE X. FINANCE**

As a General Registered Student Organization, [Name of organization] does not receive any funding or resources from other UF Departments or Colleges, rather, this organization is funded by:

Florida Business Leadership Society will not charge any membership dues. The organization will apply for Student Government funding but will also fundraise through other means as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board in collaboration with Student Legal Services. Funds will be used for merchandise, catering, and other events deemed necessary by the Officers. All members, on a volunteer basis, are expected to engage with active fundraisers.

**ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

Upon dissolution, student organizations are prohibited from leaving their organizational assets to any individual or any other student organization. Rather, student organizations may designate a specific charity that will receive such organizational assets. At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, FBLS will leave any assets and outstanding funds to Student Government in accordance with university policies and procedures.

**ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Student Engagement has established a process through which constitutions may be amended, reviewed, and approved. Student organizations wishing to amend their constitutions must utilize their constitution on file listed on GatorConnect to make amendments and submit those changes to Student Engagement. Officers will have sole power to amend the constitution at a majority vote.

All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to Student Engagement for review and approval.