

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE GATOR SALSA CLUB**

**The Gator Salsa Club was established as a University of Florida Student Government Association in the Summer of 2009. This constitution cannot be changed but can only be amended according to the protocol listed below.**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization is Gator Salsa Club. This organization will use Gator Salsa Club and/or GSC in all its publicity materials and correspondence. The main communication platform for the club is the Facebook group “The Gator Salsa Club” located at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gatorsalsaclub/>

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Gator Salsa Club is established for the purpose of developing and improving individual skills in the various forms of Latin dancing, including but not limited to salsa, bachata, merengue and cha-cha-cha. The organization is also committed to providing an enjoyable venue for students, faculty, staff and members of the Gainesville community to dance. Furthermore, Gator Salsa Club is committed to teaching proper technique in these forms of dancing through the help of salsa dance instructors. The organization is also dedicated in educating the members on various aspects of the history of Latin music and its development and modernization. Latin dancing is a common social medium in numerous cities around the world. Thus Gator Salsa Club hopes to prepare its members for any future encounters they may have with this style of music and social atmosphere, wherever they may travel.

### **ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, Gator Salsa Club shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Gator Salsa Club 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.

### **ARTICLE IV. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

#### **Section A. Non-Discrimination**

Gator Salsa Club 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.

#### **Section B. Sexual Harassment**

Gator Salsa Club 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.

#### **Section C. Hazing**

Gator Salsa Club 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.

#### **Section D. Responsibility to Report**

If this organization becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, Gator Salsa Club will report it immediately to Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, or the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

### **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this organization is open to enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-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. OFFICERS.**

**Section A:** The elected officers of Gator Salsa Club shall be President, Vice-President and Treasurer. The term for each elected officer is one academic year. In order to run for office, one must meet the criteria set forth by the University of Florida.

**Part 1:** The President shall preside over all meetings of the organization and shall coordinate the work of the officers and cabinet members. The President shall also be in charge of maintaining clear and open communication amongst the officers and maintain the attendance records for each meeting. The President shall also maintain communication with the Hispanic Student Association (HSA), its sub-organizations and SAI staff.

**Part 2:** The Vice-President shall serve as an aide to the President and shall perform the duties of the President in their absence or inability to serve. In addition, the Vice-President shall be responsible to create and maintain the public schedule of meetings and events.

**Part 3:** The Treasurer shall receive all monies of Gator Salsa Club, shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures, and shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization. The Treasurer shall present a financial statement at every meeting of Gator Salsa Club and at other times when requested by the President or Vice President.

**Section B:** The appointed cabinet members of Gator Salsa Club shall include, but are not limited to, Secretary, Public Relations Chair, Social Chair, Fundraising Chair and Head Instructors. All cabinet members are appointed by the President for a term of one semester, and are optional. All cabinet members are eligible for reappointment for an additional semester.

**Part 1:** The Secretary shall keep written accounts of all the meetings, practices and socials. These should include meeting minutes, event details, and written members' suggestions. The Secretary shall also maintain the email, cloud storage accounts and the online calendar for the club.

**Part 2:** The Public relations chair shall be responsible for the promotion of the organization, the arrangement of promotional events, the production of promotional material and the handling all social media accounts, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

**Part 3:** The Social Chair shall be responsible for the organization of events not directly related to dancing, including but not limited to tailgates, potlucks and cookouts.

**Part 4:** The Fundraising Chair shall be responsible for the organization of all activities related to raising monies for the club, outside of SG funding, including but not limited to organizing fundraising events and selling club merchandise.

**Part 5:** The Head Instructors (2) shall be responsible for maintaining the syllabi of the salsa classes, training instructors and organizing their respective classes.

**Section C:** Officers shall assume their official duties at the start of the Summer semester immediately following their election. They shall serve for a term of one academic year beginning in the Summer semester until the end of the next Spring semester or until their successors are elected, whichever is later.

**Section D:** Any elected officer of Gator Salsa Club may be removed from office through the following process.

**Part 1:** A written request by at least three voting members of the organization shall be submitted to the President, Vice President or Treasurer. The requests must contain specific issues on which the officer will be questioned. Officers may not submit any such request to remove another officer. A written statement from the President, including the issues on which the officer is criticized, shall be handed to the officer in question of the organization's request of his/her removal from office. If the president is the officer in question, then the Vice President shall prepare the written statement.

**Part 2:** The officer will have up to two general meetings to prepare their defense. At the second general meeting from the officer's notification, a trial will be held. The prosecutors will be the members who submitted the request for removal. The officer in question may defend himself/herself or appoint a member for the defense. The officer may not appoint another officer for the defense.

**Part 3:** A three fourths majority vote of members' present is required to remove an officer. All members are allowed to vote.

**Part 5:** In the event of the removal of an officer, the highest ranking remaining officer will take over the duties of the removed officer for the next two general meetings. At this meeting, there will be a normal election process as specified by Article VII: elections.

#### **ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS.**

Nominations for all officers will take place annually from the current, active members at a general body meeting in March. Any member may nominate any other member (as outlined in Article V), including him or herself. Nominations may be made during the election meeting prior to the closing of nominations.

Voting for each officer will take place by secret ballot. Each ballot will be tallied and the position shall be given to the candidate with the majority vote of the members present. The newly elected officer announced before the next position is placed for nomination and election. If there is no majority vote, the candidate who receives the least votes shall be eliminated from the running. The organization shall then vote on any of the remaining candidates. This process will be repeated until a majority vote is reached and a candidate is elected. No person shall be eligible to serve in more than one office per term or more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR.**

The faculty advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The faculty advisor may attend executive and general meetings; however, the faculty advisor may not vote in any Gator Salsa Club matters. The faculty advisor shall be nominated by the officers and confirmed by a majority vote of the members. The advisor will serve for one term with an opportunity to be reappointed.

#### **Article IX: Finance.**

Gator Salsa Club will not require membership dues; however, it will raise funds, from members as well as the general public, for charitable causes related to salsa dancing, events and workshops outside of Gainesville, host workshop events in Gainesville, and fulfill expenses not covered by Student Government funding. Gator Salsa Club will also apply for Student Government funding. All finance issues and records will be handled by the Treasurer.

#### **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION.**

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Alachua County Humane Society.

#### **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS.**

If, during the course of a year prior to re-registration, an amendment to the organization's Constitution is proposed by members of the organization, the following procedures will take place.

**Part 1:** The amendment to be proposed must be presented in writing to the Secretary with detailed reasoning describing the merits of the amendment in relation to the organization. Until the Secretary is given a copy of the amendment, the bill cannot move forward. At the next officer's meeting, the Secretary will present the bill to the officers. The officers will then announce, plan and hold a meeting for all members of the organization. Prior to the meeting, the proponents of the amendment must select two individuals to present their argument. Those not in favor of the amendment must choose two individuals to present on why the amendment should not be implemented.

**Part 2:** The meeting must be held open to the public. During the meeting, two of the amendment's advocates shall be given an opportunity to explain the reasoning behind the amendment and describe the applications of it. Two members of the opposition will also be given a chance to explain the views of their party's stance. After this, the voting members will be given a ballot on which to cast their vote for or against the amendment.

**Part 3:** If an amendment has been passed, it will immediately go into effect, but remain a document separate from the articles of the Constitution for the remainder of the elected year. Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, the amendment may be added to the constitution.

**Part 4:** An amendment may be repealed by the same process by which an amendment is voted in.

**Part 5:** The Amendment shall pass through a passing vote by three fourths of the members present.