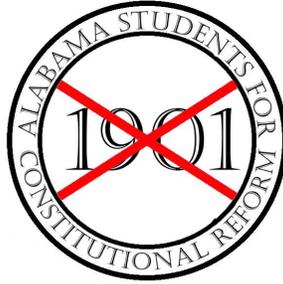


Organizing a Chapter of the Alabama Students for Constitutional Reform (ASCR)



In the hopes of establishing more chapters of ASCR throughout the state, this packet has been assembled to help interested groups of students in their endeavor to formally organize on their own campus. This packet contains suggestions on getting started based on our own experiences. Always feel free to modify your group to what works best for your campus. We would like to encourage adopting the name “Alabama Students for Constitutional Reform” in the interests of providing student unity throughout the state. Eventually, we would like to see a statewide group ASCR with chapters at every university and college. There is a sample organizational constitution in Attachment A and sample membership forms in Attachment B. Good Luck!

Selected Pointers

1. Establish and maintain a close relationship with your campus newspaper.
2. Train some members of your group as peer educators and send them out to other organizations on campus to speak about constitutional reform.
3. Plan and host some type of rally or forum. It is important to give your members something substantial to work on to keep them involved.
4. Solicit co-sponsors for your event. Especially try to get the campus chapters of the College Republicans and College Democrats as co-sponsors.
5. Host speakers to come to your campus or to your meetings.
6. Establish and maintain good relationships with your Student Government Association, Dean of Students (or equivalent), Faculty Senate, and other employees in the Administration. They are usually very supportive and just a call introducing yourself and what your group wants to accomplish is a good start.
7. Establish a list serve mass email system. Most schools have them available for registered student organizations. This is very helpful and is our best tool of communication.
8. If there is anything involving constitutional reform on your campus, make sure that at least someone from the group (hopefully as many as possible) is there to represent and show support.

ASCR Tuscaloosa Information

1. Our dues are \$10 per year for students and \$15 for non-student members. Students can also join ACCR for no cost (but there is a separate \$10 contribution if possible).
2. Average meeting attendance is 10-12 and our email list has over 250 names.
3. We set up an “Advisory Board” comprised of interested campus leaders from all kinds of organizations that might not have time to come to regular meetings. This Board only meets once a month and helps us steer the group and provides a wealth of “know-how” on getting things done on campus.
4. We generally have a meeting every week of some type, usually in this order: Officer meeting, General meeting, Advisory Board meeting, General meeting.
5. Meetings consist of receiving reports from the officers, discussing any old business, planning new events, sometimes having a speaker, delegating any necessary tasks etc.
6. We send out an email to everyone on our list whenever there is anything going on in the area involving constitutional reform.

Current Officer Structure of ASCR Tuscaloosa

1. President:
 - a. Preside over all meetings
 - b. Inform all members and officers of current status of constitutional reform movement.
 - c. Annual review of ASCR Constitution and submit proposals for revision to executive board.
2. Vice President of Recruitment/Membership:
 - a. Coordinate efforts for “Get on Board Day” in both Fall and Spring.
 - b. Weekly e-mails to all members regarding meeting times and topics.
 - c. Weekly status reports to officers and members.
3. Vice President of Public Relations:
 - a. Create and/or maintain relationships with local community organizations.
 - b. Generate public service opportunities (Speaker series visits, etc.).
 - c. Generate and maintain relationships with sister organizations at other Universities.
 - d. Coordinate for all advertising of special events.
 - e. Weekly status reports to officers and members.
3. Vice President of Communications:
 - e. Record the minutes of each meeting.
 - f. Generate newsletters to inform students about upcoming ASCR activities.

- g. Maintain contact with other University organizations (College Democrats, College Republicans, Student Government, ACCR, etc.).
- h. Ensure the organization web site is current.
- i. Weekly status reports to officers and members.
- j. Copy ACCR state chapter with the status reports.

5. Vice President of Finance:

- a. Preside over all meetings in the absence of the president.
- b. Collect and deposit all chapter membership dues.
- c. Create working budget for all projects and functions.
- d. Weekly presentation of financial status regarding:
 - i. Current balance of the organization:
 - ii. Any shortfalls or concerns regarding projects.
- e. Handle ACCR funding requests (Funding must have ACCR approval)

Contact Information

The following list is comprised of people that we have developed good relationships with over the past few years. They are all very friendly and very supportive of student efforts. While many of them are very busy with their “day jobs” and therefore cannot always come and speak, many will be willing to try or at least suggest someone else who might be able to help you out. Feel free to call ACCR for more suggestions.

Student Organizing

Name	City	Phone	Mobile	Email
Cullan Duke	Birmingham	-	-	Accr4@bellsouth.net
Kevin Garrison	Montgomery	-	-	kevingarrison@hotmail.com

Potential Speakers

Name	City	Phone	Occupation	Email
Judge Howard Hawk	Arab	256-571-7779	District Judge	??
Stephen Foster Black	Birmingham			
Howard Walthall	Birmingham	205-726-2412	Samford Law Prof.	Howard.P.Walthall@samford.edu
Dennis Steverson	Tuscaloosa	205-345-1300	Lawyer	??
Greg Foster	Tuscaloosa	205-792-5009	Sales Representative	fostergreg7@aol.com
Wayne Flynt	Auburn	334-844-6650	Auburn History Prof	N/A
Culpepper "Cully" Clark	Tuscaloosa	205-348-4787	Dean of CCIS at UA	cclark@ccom.ua.edu

Affiliated Organizations and Contacts

Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform
P. O. Box 10746
Birmingham, AL 35202-0746
(205) 540-7501

Local Chapters

Anniston

Ms. Sherri Sumners
Phone: 256-835-8565
Email:
sherries@calhouchamber.com

Auburn/Opelika

The Honorable Bill English
Phone: 334-745-9764
Email:
probatejudge@mindspring.com

Dr. Keith Ward
Phone: 334-502-0466
Email: keithward@charter.net

Birmingham Metro

Mr. Ernie Stokley, Chair
Phone: 205-251-4455
Email: stokely@uab.edu

Huntsville

Ms. Dorcas Harris, Chair
Phone: 256-536-8887
Email: dorcas@fudgeynut.com

Mobile Area

Dr. Robert M. Schaefer, Chair
Phone: 251-442-2312
Email: robschaefer@aol.com

Montgomery Area

Bedarius Bell
Phone: 334-241-8895
Email: bedariusbell@hotmail.com

Northwest Alabama

Mike Van Rensselaer
Phone: 256-767-4796
Email: Mike@advbussol.com

Tuscaloosa

Ms. Madeleine Hill, Chair
Phone: 205-752-0289
Email: mmhill@bellsouth.net

Auburn University

Ms. Jessica Eastman, Chair
Phone: 334-524-6716
Email: eastmja@auburn.edu

University of Alabama

Mr. Prince Cleveland, Chair
Phone: 205-602-3393
Email: princejc@bellsouth.net

University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB)

Ms. Lucy Jones
Phone: 205-263-3183
Email: ljones@uab.edu

For any questions about this packet, please contact Kevin R. Garrison at
kevingarrison@hotmail.com.

Attachment A: Sample Constitution

CONSTITUTION OF
ALABAMA STUDENTS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Adopted May 2001
Revised April 2002

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Alabama Students for Constitutional Reform (ASCR).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to publicize the need for replacing the 1901 Alabama Constitution by way of a citizens' convention, and to promote an interest among students in good government of the State of Alabama.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. Persons interested in becoming members may join after attending a meeting and paying the required dues. An application shall be filed with the Vice President of Membership.

Section 2. Active members shall be enrolled students at The University of Alabama. Associate members shall be faculty, staff, and concerned citizens.

Section 3. The number of active members in the organization must be one more than 50% of the total number of members. Associate members are not eligible to hold office or vote.

Section 4. Annual dues of ten (10) dollars for active members and fifteen (15) dollars for associate members shall apply. Membership dues may be paid at any time in order to effect initial membership, and shall be paid by continuing members in September.

Section 5. The expulsion of a member or removal from office requires a majority vote of active members. Expelled members must wait a semester (excluding summers) before they may seek active membership status.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICE

Section 1. The officers of the association shall be President, Vice President of Financial Affairs, Vice President of Public Relations, Vice President of Communications, and Vice President of Membership. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee. Additional officer positions shall be created as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The order of accession shall be: 1) President; 2) Vice President of Financial Affairs; 3) Vice President of Membership; 4) Vice President of Communication; 5) Vice President of Public relations.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected in the Spring Semester each year from the pool of nominations. Active members seeking office may be nominated by other members or by themselves.

Section 3. Method of Election shall be determined at the election meeting. Candidates receiving one vote more than fifty (50) percent of the total number of votes cast shall be named to their respective offices. If no candidate receives more than fifty (50) percent of the vote, a run-off election shall be held between the two (2) candidates with the highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 4. Officers shall be elected to serve for one year, beginning at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. If an office becomes vacant the President shall appoint an interim officer to serve the remainder of the term.

Section 5. Should an officer be found to be in dereliction of his/her duties, he/she may be relieved of his/her duties by unanimous vote of the other members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The President shall:

- Presiding over all meetings.
- Inform all members and officers of current status of constitutional reform movement.
- Perform an annual review of ASCR Constitution and submit proposals for revision to executive board.

Section 6. The Vice President of Membership shall:

- Coordinate efforts for "Get on Board Day" in both Fall and Spring.
- Send weekly e-mails to all members regarding meeting times and topics.
- Provide weekly status report to officers and members.

Section 7. The Vice President of Public Relations shall:

- Create and/or maintain relationships with Tuscaloosa community organizations.
- Generate Public Service opportunities (Speaker series visits, etc.).
- Generate and maintain relationships with sister organizations at other Universities.

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Coordinate for all advertising of special events.
Maintain relationship with Capstone Agency.
Provide weekly status report to officers and members.

Section 8. The Vice President of Communications shall:

Record the minutes of each meeting.
Generate newsletters to inform students about upcoming ASCR activities.
Maintain contact with other University organizations.
Ensure the organization web site is current.
Provide weekly status report to officers and members.

Section 9. The Vice President of Financial Affairs shall:

Preside over all meetings in the absence of the president.
Collect and deposit all membership dues.
Create working budget for all projects and functions.
Provide weekly presentation of financial status regarding the current balance of the organization and any shortfalls or concerns regarding projects.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of the association shall be from September to April unless otherwise ordered by the organization or by the President or the Executive Committee. One regular meeting must be called in every month between September and April except for the month of December. The President may call a meeting of the Executive Committee at any time.

Section 2. One regular meeting on the third Thursday in April shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers.

Section 3. Fifty percent of the active members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

RELATIONSHIP

The Alabama Students for Constitutional Reform (ASCR) shall be considered an official student affiliate of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR). ASCR shall not be affiliated with any political parties.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall include the officers of the association. They shall supervise affairs of the association between its business meetings, make recommendations to the association and perform other duties as specified in these by-laws. The

ASCR Start-up Packet Version 1.6

Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the association, and none of its acts shall conflict with actions taken by the association.

Section 2. The President of the association or the Executive Committee shall appoint other committees, standing or special as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the association. Other committees shall report to the Vice President under which they serve.

ARTICLE VIII

ADVISOR

One or more advisors shall be elected each year in the same manner as the association's officers. Advisors may be able to serve consecutive terms. Responsibilities shall be those assigned by The University of Alabama Student Handbook.

ARTICLE IX

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and special rules of order the association may adopt.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the association by two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting. All active members shall have the opportunity to review the proposed amendments at least five (5) days prior to the vote.

ARTICLE XI

BY-LAWS

By-laws to this constitution may be added at any regular meeting of the association by two-thirds vote, provided the by-law has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting.

Attachment B: ACCR Membership Forms

Yes, I want to join Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. 

Name: _____ M F
Address: _____ Date: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () - _____
Email: _____
Cell Phone: () - _____
Occupation: _____

Party: Dem. Rep.
 Other Independent

Annual Contribution: _____

Please mail to: ACCR Student: Free (\$10 Suggested)
PO Box 10746 Associate: \$15 Sponsor: \$50
Birmingham, AL 35202 Benefactor: \$100 Other: \$ _____

Please make any checks payable to Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform.
Contributions to ACCR are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Yes, I want to join Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. 

Name: _____ M F
Address: _____ Date: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () - _____
Email: _____
Cell Phone: () - _____
Occupation: _____

Party: Dem. Rep.
 Other Independent

Annual Contribution: _____

Please mail to: ACCR Student: Free (\$10 Suggested)
PO Box 10746 Associate: \$15 Sponsor: \$50
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Phone: () - _____
Email: _____
Cell Phone: () - _____
Occupation: _____

Party: Dem. Rep.
 Other Independent

Annual Contribution: _____

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