



Organizing a Chapter of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR)

In the hopes of establishing more chapters of ACCR 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!

Guidelines:

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 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.

ACCR Chapter Information

1. Our dues are \$24 per year for Active Members.
2. Chapter Meetings should occur at least once per month with average meeting attendance of at least 10 people.
3. You should 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 does not need to meet regularly but will provide a wealth of “know-how” on getting things done on campus. T
4. The “Advisory Board” should consist of a campus employee (Professor interested in the topic) to help coordinate with the University.
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. Send out an email to everyone on your list whenever there is anything going on in the area involving constitutional reform.

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.

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

Attachment A: Sample Constitution

**CONSTITUTION
OF
ALABAMA CITIZENS FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

Adopted May 2005
Revised April 2018

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the (University Name) Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR).

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 to ACCR can be completed through the ACCR Foundation and filed with the Chapter Vice President of Membership.

Section 2. Active members shall be enrolled students at (University Name) and be a member of the ACCR Foundation. 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 twenty four (24) dollars for active members shall apply. Membership dues will be paid on a subscription basis through the ACCR Foundation.

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, Secretary, and Treasurer. 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; 3) Secretary; 4) Treasurer.

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 ACCR Chapter Constitution and submit proposals for revision to executive board. Coordinate with University on behalf of ACCR Chapter.

Section 6. The Vice President shall:

Create and/or maintain relationships with surrounding University community organizations. Generate Public Service opportunities (Speaker series visits, etc.). Generate and maintain relationships with sister organizations at other Universities. Coordinate for all advertising of special events. Maintain relationship with Capstone Agency.

Section 7. The Secretary shall:

Record the minutes of each meeting. Ensure the organization web site is current. Generate newsletters to inform students about upcoming ACCR activities. Provide weekly status report to officers and members.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall:

Preside over all meetings in the absence of the president. Coordinate with the ACCR Foundatin for funding. Create working budget for all projects and functions. Track the financial status of the Chapter 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 f 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 (University Name) Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR) shall be considered an official affiliate of the Alabama Citizen's for Constitutional Reform (ACCR). Because of this, the local chapter 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 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 Name) 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.