CONSTITUTION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEBATE TEAM

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be the University of Massachusetts Policy Debate Team (UMPD).

Article II
OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1
We shall maintain an active and official membership in the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) and/or other national collegiate policy debate organizations. We shall continue to build and sustain a strong network of both faculty and students interested in policy debate in the five college community. We shall create a website connected with the University of Massachusetts homepage. We shall maintain membership on the debate listserv connected with the college debate community.

SECTION 2
We shall publish information concerning the University of Massachusetts Policy Debate Team’s national competitions progress and policy research about the current CEDA topic.

SECTION 3
We shall promote in the five college community awareness of the current United States foreign and domestic policy and its implications on society. We shall also promote awareness of both global and national issues and events.

SECTION 4
We shall educate the five college community about the benefits of policy debate. We shall publicize policy debate through competitions held at the University of Massachusetts and throughout the five college community. In addition, we will hold an official, CEDA-sanctioned tournament at least once every four years.

SECTION 5
As representatives of the University of Massachusetts we shall highlight the University’s commitment to academic achievement and scholarly pursuit through our involvement in national tournaments. The members of the University of Massachusetts Policy Debate Team shall promote public speaking and debating skills for the leaders of tomorrow and build respect for current and future University of Massachusetts students.
ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1
Membership in the University of Massachusetts Policy Debate Team shall be open to all persons of the five college community and their dependents, staff, faculty, and alumni. Note that in order to participate in CEDA-sanctioned debate tournaments debaters must be Undergraduate students.

SECTION 2
In order to vote, members must be a University of Massachusetts Undergraduate and have completed debate training.

SECTION 3
All individuals interested in furthering the aforementioned goals are welcome. Non-voting members are also strongly encouraged to attend and complete debate training. Members who have completed the training will be asked to participate in research.

ARTICLE IV
PROCEDURES

SECTION 1
Two Co-Chairs, one Facilitator, and one Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by majority vote once each year, shall oversee the University of Massachusetts Policy Debate Team. Elections will be held in the spring. Officers may be dismissed by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members at a duly posted club meeting.

SECTION 2
Officers shall each have specific responsibilities and duties to perform. Note that it is the responsibility of officers to assure specific tasks are accomplished. Certain tasks must be executed by the officers themselves. The responsibilities of the officers shall be as follows:

The Co-Chairpersons shall be responsible for running meetings and providing an agreed-upon agenda to the Facilitator. They shall have the responsibility of coordinating research, training, and recruitment. They shall be responsible for day-to-day oversight and club management as well as establishing long-term plans for the future. Co-Chairpersons shall also be responsible for networking in the larger debate community and coordinating tournaments, as well as planning travel accommodations for tournaments in coordination with the Treasurer. One Co-Chairperson shall be required to obtain signing authority. Note that the Co-Chairpersons shall divide responsibilities as they see fit, and that they shall be responsible for other unforeseen tasks not herein provided for.
The Treasurer shall be responsible for managing funds and coordinating fund-raising. They shall have the responsibility of processing purchase orders and shall obtain signing authority. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for coordinating travel accommodations for tournaments, with the Co-Chairpersons.

The Facilitator shall be responsible for adhering to the agenda and minute taking during meetings. They shall have the responsibility of copying and managing evidence. The Facilitator shall be responsible for correspondence with the team via the e-mail account, as well as correspondence with alumni. They shall also be responsible for publicity.

Note that all Officers are required to have office hours.

SECTION 3
Officers will have the authority to appoint an interim officer in the event that the current officer is not able to fulfill their duties. The team will be able to veto the appointee if they feel necessary with a 2/3 majority vote.

SECTION 4
The Officers shall have the authority to appoint a Coach at their discretion. When appointed, the Coach shall have the responsibilities of recruiting, networking in the debate community, judging at tournaments, writing arguments, and facilitating training sessions.

SECTION 5
A quorum shall consist of fifty percent of the University of Massachusetts Policy Debate Team’s voting membership plus one who are within means to attend voting meetings. Simple motions shall be passed by a majority vote. Debate on motions is limited to twenty minutes per motion.

SECTION 6
Officers shall meet a minimum of once a week. There shall be a general team meeting at least once biweekly.

SECTION 7
Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed and debated at the annual spring meeting when elections are held. Amendments shall be passed by a majority vote.