

# **Furries of Stout Constitution**

(Revised 4/7/26)

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Furries of Stout (F.O.S.)

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Organization shall be to provide a safe and inclusive space for any member or student of UW-Stout with an interest in the furry subculture. The organization seeks to promote learning and awareness centered around the furry fandom.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

Membership is open to all registered students in good standing at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and to alumni or graduates of the University of Wisconsin-Stout. All student members must maintain at least a 2.0 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) to be eligible for participation as a Recognized Student Organization. Alumni members are not subject to the GPA requirement following graduation.

### **Section 2: Non-Discrimination**

*Furries of Stout* will not discriminate against membership of any individual based upon race, gender, religion, ancestry, age, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, income, physical ability, or political ideology, unless specified in the governing document of the organization or pursuant to an exception recognized by University, local, state, or federal laws/ordinances.

### **Section 3: Active Member Definition**

An active member of *Furries of Stout* shall be defined as a registered student who maintains at a minimum a 2.0 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale), or a UW-Stout alumni or graduate not

subject to the GPA requirement, who attends a minimum of one (1) meeting per month hosted by Furries of Stout, as monitored through the Connect platform. Attendance exceptions may be granted as outlined in Section 4 of this article.

#### **Section 4: Active Member Exceptions**

Any officer of the organization may apply an exception to the active member attendance requirement for any member in case of any reasonable conflict contributing to absence of attendance, as determined by an officer. This exception must be documented and shall include the name of the member, the stated reason for the exception, and who provisioned it.

#### **Section 5: Voting Privileges**

All current officer board members hold voting privileges for all official organizational business, including officer elections. All members may participate in all meetings and discussions. All members hold voting privileges for officer elections and for all matters as outlined in Article VIII, Section 3. Physical presence is required for officer elections. Physical or remote presence is permitted for all other votes. All members and officers are entitled to exactly one vote.

#### **Section 6: Member Removal**

Official members may have their membership terminated by a majority vote of the officer board. The members shall be notified no less than five (5) working days prior to the vote. The member shall be provided an opportunity to address the officer board prior to voting. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, violations of the University of Wisconsin-Stout Student Code of Conduct, conduct that is disruptive to the operations of the organization, or failure to maintain eligibility requirements as outlined in Section 1 of this Article.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

#### **Section 1: Officers of the organization shall be as follows:**

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

- Officer(s)

## **Section 2: Duties of Officers**

- **President:** The President shall serve as the primary leadership and representative of *Furries of Stout* and oversee all general officer meetings, maintain direction and vision of the organization, ensure all officers are fulfilling their duties, serve as the face between the organization and the University, and cast deciding votes in the event of a tie. The president shall vote on all general membership matters as an active member. The president may veto any motion passed by the officer board, including the power to veto specific line items. A veto may be overruled by a two-thirds (2/3) officer vote at the next scheduled meeting.
- **Vice President:** The Vice President shall assist the President in maintaining organizational operations, assume the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence, assist in event and activity coordination, and serve as a collaboration to any established committees.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall maintain records of all organizational finances, oversee budgeting, oversee expenditures, submit funding requests in compliance with University and Stout Student Association (S.S.A.) policies, and ensure the organization is in good financial standing. The Treasurer shall make financial records available upon request.
- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record the minutes of all general and officer meetings, maintain a roster of members through Connect, manage organizational documentation, create and publish meeting announcements and event listings, and maintain the organization's presence on Connect and other social media.
- **General Officer:** The General Officers shall assist other elected positions in running events, meetings, the officer board with club operations, special presidential operations, or other tasks the organization may need, and vote as members of the officer board. Specific responsibilities may be assigned to general officer positions by a majority vote of the officer board.

## **Section 3: Election of Officers**

Elections for officers shall be held annually during the month of March. All members of the organization are eligible to vote and hold officer positions. Members shall be notified of the election by official University email or through the Connect platform no less than two (2) weeks prior to the election date. Candidates shall state their candidacy no less than one (1) week prior to elections. Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote of members present at the time of election.

#### **Section 4: Officer Qualifications**

All officers must maintain at a minimum a 2.0 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) for the duration of their term. Officers must be active members and in good standing as outlined in Article III. Officers are expected to attend no less than seventy-five percent (75%) of all scheduled general meetings per semester. Failure to reach this qualification may be grounds for officer removal as described in Article V.

#### **Section 5: Term of Office**

Officers shall take office at the end of April after their election and shall serve for a period of one (1) academic year. All officer positions are open to any active member of the organization each election cycle, including current officers seeking re-election. Officers may serve consecutive terms without any limitation, as long as all qualifications are met as outlined in Section 4 of this Article.

#### **Section 6: Additional Officer Provisions**

In the event of needing additional officer positions due to organizational growth or operational need, any officer may propose the establishment of a new position to the President. The proposal must be submitted in writing and shall include the title of the position, a description of its duties and responsibilities, and the justification for its creation. The officer board may establish the new position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of officers. The written proposal shall be logged in the records. Newly created positions shall be filled through the election process as described in Section 3 of this Article and shall be subject to the same procedures and qualifications as all other officer positions.

#### **Section 7: Officer Position Limits**

The President and Vice President positions shall each be held by exactly one (1) individual. No individual may simultaneously hold both the President and Vice President positions. All other board positions, including but not limited to Treasurer, Secretary, General Officers, and any positions created as outlined in Section 6, may be filled by more than one (1) person at the discretion of the officer board.

## **ARTICLE V: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1: Grounds for Removal**

Officers failing to fulfill responsibilities and duties outlined in Article IV, failing to maintain the qualifications specified in Article IV, Section 4, or acting in a manner contrary to the purpose or best interests of the organization or the University of Wisconsin-Stout may be subject to removal.

### **Section 2: Initiation of Removal**

Removal proceedings may be initiated by any officer or active member who believes an officer has failed to fulfill their duties or has acted contrary to the interests of the organization. To initiate removal, the concerned party must submit a written notice to the President outlining the specific grounds for removal. If the officer subject to removal is the President, the written notice shall instead be submitted to the Vice President. Upon receipt, the President or Vice President shall notify the full officer board and schedule a removal vote meeting. The removal of an officer requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of officers following proper notification as outlined in Section 3.

### **Section 3: Notification**

The officer pending removal shall be notified of the pending removal vote in writing no less than fourteen (14) working days prior to the vote. Notification shall include the specific grounds for removal.

### **Section 4: Right to Defense**

Prior to the vote, the officer in question shall be provided an allotment of ten (10) minutes to address the officer board and present a defense of their position. This opportunity shall occur at the same meeting at which the vote is to be conducted. Once the vote is called, the decision will be final, and no further defense or appeal will be entertained in the current quorum.

### **Section 5: Vote**

The removal of an officer shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the officer board with a quorum of officers, as outlined in Article VIII, Section 2, present. The officer subject to removal shall not vote on their own removal.

### **Section 6: Conduct During Process**

All proceedings related to officer removal shall be done in accordance with the Parliamentary Authority as outlined in Article VIII, Section 4, and shall be documented in the meeting minutes by the Secretary.

## **ARTICLE VI: REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1: Presidential Vacancy**

In the event that the Office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President within the next two (2) regularly scheduled meetings, while retaining their title of Vice President. The President's title does not change ownership during this process. If the Vice President is unable or unwilling to assume Presidential responsibilities, an emergency process shall be held within the next three (3) regularly scheduled meetings to assign Presidential duties to an existing officer. Duties shall be assigned from within the existing officer board, with no outside individuals eligible.

### **Section 2: Vice Presidential Vacancy**

In the event that both the Office of the Vice President and the Office of the President become vacant simultaneously, an emergency process shall be held within the next three (3) regularly scheduled meetings to assign the duties of both positions to existing officers on the board. No outside individuals shall be eligible to assume these duties. Owners of both the President and Vice President titles are not changed during this process.

### **Section 3: Other Officer Vacancies**

All other officer positions found to be vacant shall have their duties assigned to existing officers by the President within the next three (3) regularly scheduled meetings. The President may assign duties on an interim basis until the formal assignment is

made. Duties shall be assigned from within the existing officer board, with no outside individuals eligible.

#### **Section 4: Emergency Election Procedures**

Emergency duty assignments shall follow the same eligibility and voting procedures as regular elections, as described in Article IV, Section 3. Officers assigned through an emergency process shall carry out the associated duties for the remainder of the existing term.

## **ARTICLE VII: ADVISOR**

#### **Section 1: Qualifications**

The advisor of the *Furries of Stout* must be a faculty or staff member of the University of Wisconsin - Stout.

#### **Section 2: Role**

The student organization advisor serves in a voluntary or assigned capacity to *Furries of Stout* and provides guidance, direction, advice, and continuity to the members of the organization. The advisor does not hold voting privileges within the organization.

#### **Section 3: Selection**

The advisor shall be selected by a majority vote of the officer board during any ongoing selection process.

#### **Section 4: Removal of Advisor**

The advisor may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of officers. Notification of removal shall be provided to the advisor no less than seven (7) working days prior to the vote. In the event that an advisor vacancy occurs, the organization shall seek a replacement within thirty (30) calendar days.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1: Regular Meetings**

A regularly scheduled general meeting shall be held no less than once per month during the academic year. The officer board may call additional meetings when the need arises. Officers are encouraged to attend when able, and unavoidable conflicts or other commitments are understood, but may result in a penalty as outlined in Article IV, Section 4.

## **Section 2: Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of greater than sixty percent (60%) of the current officer board. Quorum is required to conduct official business as outlined in Section 3 of this Article.

## **Section 3: Official Business and Voting**

Official business shall be conducted and voted upon by the officer board. A quorum of officers must be present for any official vote to be valid. Members in attendance may participate in informal or procedural discussions at the discretion of the presiding officers. The officer board may, by an affirmative three-fourths (3/4) vote of officers present, open any non-official or informal vote to general member participation. When a general vote is opened in this manner, all members present may cast a vote alongside officers, and the result shall be determined by a simple majority of all votes cast. The officer board is encouraged to open votes to general membership whenever practical. All members and officers are entitled to exactly one vote.

## **Section 4: Parliamentary Authority**

Robert's Rules of Order shall serve as the Parliamentary Authority for all general meetings of *Furrries of Stout*. Special meetings and committee meetings shall follow such procedures as are deemed appropriate by the presiding officer.

## **Section 5: Remote Participation**

The officer board may, at its discretion, authorize remote participation and voting for any scheduled meeting, provided that all remote participants are verifiable and that participation is conducted through a University-approved platform.

## **Section 6: Emergency Meetings**

Emergency meetings for situations that require immediate attention, and ones that may fall outside scheduled meetings, may be called by the President or by a majority of the officer board in the President's or Vice President's absence. Emergency meetings shall follow the guidelines as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this Article.

# **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS**

## **Section 1: Notice**

All proposed amendments to this constitution shall be submitted in writing at a regularly scheduled general meeting and shall require notice of no less than one (1) week before being discussed and voted upon by officers.

#### **Section 2: Adoption**

All amendments require an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of officers, with the president or vice president present, for adoption.

#### **Section 3: Recording**

All newly adopted amendments shall be recorded in the official meeting minutes, and a revised copy of the constitution shall be maintained and made available upon request.

## **ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 1: Committee Creation**

*Furries of Stout* does not currently maintain any standing or special committees. Should the organization determine that a committee is necessary, the officer board may amend this constitution in accordance with Article IX to formally establish one. Any amendment establishing a committee shall define the committee's purpose, membership eligibility, and the composition of who may serve on the committee, including any officer, member, or other qualifying individual requirements.

## **ARTICLE XI: CONDUCT**

#### **Section 1: Member Conduct Standards**

All members and officers of *Furries of Stout* are trusted to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University of Wisconsin-Stout Student Code of Conduct at all organizational meetings, events, and activities, whether held on campus or off campus. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct may constitute grounds for membership removal as outlined in Article III, Section 6, or officer removal as outlined in Article V.

#### **Section 2: Event Conduct**

All organizational events shall be conducted in an inclusive and respectful environment. Any behavior that is discriminatory, harassing, or otherwise contrary to the purpose of *Furries of Stout*

or the policies of the University of Wisconsin-Stout shall not be tolerated. *Furries of Stout* reserves the right to remove any individual from an organizational event for conduct violations.

## **ARTICLE XII: FINANCE**

### **Section 1: Dues**

Event-specific dues, if required, shall be determined by the Treasurer in consultation with the officer board during event planning on a case-by-case basis per event. All dues must be approved by a majority vote of the officer board before being implemented.

### **Section 2: Treasurer's Responsibility**

The Treasurer is responsible for all organizational finances. The organization must comply with all university and S.S.A. policies.

### **Section 3: Agency Account**

*Furries of Stout* shall hold an on-campus agency account through the University of Wisconsin-Stout to hold organizational funds. Authorized users of the account shall include the Advisor, President, Vice President, and Treasurer. All expenditures must be approved by a majority of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

### **Section 4: SSA Budget**

All student organizations awarded a budget through the S.S.A. must comply with all policies and procedures set forth by the Financial Affairs Committee of the S.S.A.

## **ARTICLE XIII: EVENTS AND SAFETY**

### **Section 1: Event Planning**

*Furries of Stout* may organize and conduct events both on-campus and off-campus in support of the organization. All events must comply with university policies and procedures.

### **Section 2: Event Safety**

*Furries of Stout* shall maintain defined safety standards for all events, with particular attention to activities involving costumes, fursuits, or outdoor environments. A designated Safety Officer title shall be given to an officer by majority officer

vote per event, or the presiding officer(s) during an event shall be responsible for monitoring conditions. Per-event safety measures shall include, but are not limited to:

- Hydration Availability: Drinking water may be accessible to all participants at all outdoor events or events involving physical activity, costumes, or fursuits.
- Severe Weather Monitoring and Event Cancellation: Outdoor events shall be suspended at the safety officer's or presiding officers' discretion if thunder is heard or lightning is observed. During which, all participants shall seek indoor shelter and shall not resume outdoor activities until at least thirty (30) minutes after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning. Outdoor events shall be immediately suspended or canceled if the National Weather Service issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Tornado Warning, or other severe weather warning for the event location. If sustained winds reach or exceed twenty-five (25) miles per hour, or wind gusts reach or exceed thirty-five (35) miles per hour, the designated safety officer or presiding officers shall evaluate whether conditions are safe for fursuiting and may suspend or cancel the event. If heavy precipitation significantly reduces visibility or causes unsafe walking conditions, the safety officer presiding officer shall have the authority to suspend or cancel the event. Cancellation or suspension decisions shall be communicated to members immediately upon determination.
- Temperature Monitoring Warm Weather Safety and Event Cancellation: Outdoor events shall be monitored for heat conditions by the designated safety officer or presiding officers using either measured air temperature or heat index, whichever is higher. Temperature monitoring shall begin when the outdoor temperature or heat index reaches 80°F (27°C). If the outdoor temperature or heat index reaches or exceeds 85°F (29°C), mandatory cooling breaks of no less than ten (10) minutes shall be required every hour. If the outdoor temperature or heat index reaches or exceeds 90°F (32°C), mandatory cooling breaks of no less than ten (10) minutes shall be required every thirty (30) minutes. If the outdoor temperature or heat index reaches or exceeds 95°F (35°C), the presiding officer shall have the authority to cancel or relocate the event.
- Temperature Monitoring Cold Weather Safety and Event Cancellation: Outdoor events shall be monitored for cold conditions by the designated Safety Officer or presiding

officers using either measured air temperature or wind chill temperature, whichever is lower. Temperature monitoring shall begin when the air temperature or wind chill falls below 32°F (0°C). If the air temperature or wind chill reaches or falls below 20°F (-7°C), mandatory indoor warm-up breaks of no less than ten (10) minutes shall be required every thirty (30) minutes. If the air temperature or wind chill reaches or falls below 0°F (-18°C), or if precipitation occurs with air temperature below 40°F (4°C), the safety officer or presiding officers shall have the authority to cancel or relocate the event. Cancellation decisions shall be communicated to members no less than two (2) hours before the event starts when conditions are foreseeable, or immediately upon determination during the event. Participants shall ensure adequate coverage of extremities, including hands, feet, and ears, during cold-weather events.

- **Buddy Systems:** For outdoor activities, the presiding officers shall establish a buddy system, pairing sections of participants with officers through officer discretion to monitor one another's well-being throughout the event. This requires officer observation no less than fifteen (15) minutes apart and can include communication with participants during outdoor events.

### **Section 3: Guest Attendance and Events**

Non-student guests and community members may attend organization events. Guests may be required to sign university waivers or risk acknowledgment forms as appropriate.

### **Section 4: Drug Policy**

All events must comply with the University of Wisconsin-Stout alcohol and drug policies and the Organizational Code of Conduct. The organization shall follow all university, local, state, and federal laws regarding alcohol or other regulated substances.

### **Section 5: Photographs and Media**

Photography is permitted at organization events held in public spaces and traditional public forums. Event photos may be posted on the organization's social media accounts when taken in public event spaces. Members who prefer not to be photographed should communicate this preference to photographers and event organizers.

### **Section 6: Character Property Respect**

Members are encouraged to respect an individual's character, property, and ownership. Sharing of character art, fursonas, or

creative work of other members should be done with awareness of individual preferences and community norms.

## **ARTICLE XIV: AFFILIATION**

### **Section 1: Affiliations**

*Furries of Stout* is not currently affiliated with any national, state, or regional organization. Should *Furries of Stout* seek affiliation with a club, organization, or other related party in the future, such affiliation shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of officers and shall be reflected in an amendment to this constitution as described in Article IX.

### **Section 2: Future Affiliation Requirements**

In the event that affiliation with an external organization is established, the governing documents, dues structures, and any applicable requirements of the affiliated organization shall be documented in this Article through the amendment process. *Furries of Stout* shall not enter into any affiliation that conflicts with the non-discrimination clause set forth in Article III, Section 2, or with any University, local, state, or federal laws and ordinances.

### **Section 3: Affiliation Removal**

Removals of affiliations shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of officers and shall be reflected in an amendment to this constitution as described in Article IX.

### **Section 4: Current Affiliations**

Any current affiliations should be recorded and bullet-pointed in this section.

## **ARTICLE XV: LIABILITY & SECURITY**

### **Section 1: Personal Injury**

*Furries of Stout* shall not be liable for any personal injury sustained by members, officers, or guests during events. All participants attend activities at their own risk.

### **Section 2: Property & Fursuit Loss/Damage**

*Furries of Stout* shall not be liable for any damage or loss of personal property, which includes, but is not limited to, fursuits, accessories, or other personal belongings sustained during events.

**Section 3: Affiliated Organization Liability**

*Furries of Stout* shall not be liable for any conduct or decisions of any external organization or party with which *Furries of Stout* is or becomes affiliated.

**Section 4: Transportation & Vehicle Liability**

*Furries of Stout* shall not be liable for any incident, injury, or damage that may occur during personal transportation or carpooling to and from events. Any transportation plans are made between voluntary private individuals.

**Section 5: Good-Faith Indemnification**

*Furries of Stout* shall not be liable for officers or members who act in good faith on behalf of the organization and should not be held personally liable for any organizational decisions or outcomes, given that their provided actions are consistent with this constitution and university policies.