

UMBC BALLROOM DANCE CLUB CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

The UMBC Ballroom Dance Club shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the University of Maryland Baltimore County's Student Life Committee and the Student Government Association, as well as to the President of the University and his/her designees.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be the UMBC Ballroom Dance Club

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The UMBC Ballroom Dance Club has been established for the purposes of:

1. to introduce and promote ballroom dancing for the UMBC community
2. to provide an alcohol free, smoke free relaxed atmosphere for socializing
3. to provide an alternate and fun way to exercise

ARTICLE III – QUALIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership is open to any student, faculty/staff member or local community member who:

1. is interested in ballroom dancing
2. is interested in socializing in an alcohol free, smoke free environment.

Section B: Membership in the UMBC Ballroom Dance Club may not be denied because of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, disabled veteran or veteran, national origin or religion.

Section C: We ask that members and/or guests respect other members of the club and/or their guests, by behaving in an acceptable social manner. Acceptable social behavior is in general defined as behavior agreeable to the receiver/s and is behavior which is by common social standards deemed acceptable.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section A: The officers of the UMBC Ballroom Dance Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee.

Section B: The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The President shall be responsible for: planning calendar of events and Club meetings; overseeing dances and fund raising activities; initial contact with instructors and DJs; arranging for facilities for dance classes and socials.
2. The Vice-President shall be responsible for: acting as contact and liaison with ballroom dance clubs at UMCP, CCC, JHU, Towson State, and other neighboring universities in the MD/DC/VA area; assist President, Secretary and Treasurer with their responsibilities.

3. The Secretary shall be responsible for: all correspondence; overseeing publicity efforts for classes and socials; reserving space for dance classes and socials; keeping meeting minutes and distributing them via email to members.
4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for: maintaining SGA account; collecting and depositing money raised at dances and dance classes; fund raising activities; timely contract/payment to DJs and dance instructors.

Other Duties: May be divided among club officers or delegated to interested club members with officers overseeing and ensuring that delegated duties are performed include but are not restricted to the following:

- maintaining the web page,
- communication with general club members and campus community,
- promoting weekly social outings,
- coordination and supervision of weekly practice sessions,
- classes and event advertising on campus,
- attending monthly Sports Clubs meetings,
- liaison and coordination with area college dance clubs,
- planning and organizing a competition team,
- keeping the faculty advisor informed on club matters,
- purchase of music and other supplies for club functions such as dances.

Section C: The term of the office shall be the last regular meeting in May to the last regular meeting in May of the next year.

Section D: Election of officers shall be held at the end of the last meeting in May of each year. At least 2 weeks notice shall be given before the election meeting. Nominations shall be initiated from the floor and elections done by a ballot. The person who receives the majority vote will be elected.

Section E: Any officer may be removed from office in the UMBC Ballroom Dance Club by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. Any officer who is removed may appeal to the general membership. Said officer shall be considered reinstated with two-thirds approval of the members of the UMBC Ballroom Dance Club

Section F: Any vacancy that may occur in an office shall be filled by an appointment by the remaining members of the Executive Committee pending ratification at the next group meeting

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section A: Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held one time per month

Section B: At least 7 days notice shall be given for each regular business meeting of the organization

Section C: Special emergency meetings may be called with less than 3 days notice by the Executive Committee

Section D: The meetings shall include a call for quorum, order of business and disposition of minutes

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENT PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Section A: Roberts’ Rules of Order (Newly Revised Edition) shall be followed by the organization in all cases involving parliamentary procedure when it does not conflict with the constitution

Section B: These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the present membership

ARTICLE VII – GENERAL CLUB POLICIES

Section A: New instructors get paid at lower rates than established instructors with the club, unless we have good reason to pay them at similar or higher rates. This establishes a one semester ”try out” period, after which we can increase hourly rate. The rates will vary with instructor, but professional instructors will generally be paid the prevailing rate at established, respected studios. A professional instructor is one that has been certified to teach ballroom dance, and is experienced : has been teaching professionally and/or competing for a while

Section B: Club officers are entitled to discounted classes and entry to social dance, as long as they actively help the club function through their term of office, and as long as the club has sufficient funds to cover their cost of enrollment. Former club officers may be granted discounted classes for up to one semester, as long as they have shown outstanding participation and support through their term of office, and as long as the club has sufficient funds to cover their cost of enrollment. The current executive board approval is required in each specific case. Any club member maybe granted a discounted entry to social dance, if they help to organize it by participating in room set up, advertising, etc.

Section C: The club members that have some club equipment in their possession, must turn in these items at the end of their term in office. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, CDs, boom box, banners etc. In addition, as these items are needed, the person having them in their possession is responsible for bringing them to club activities as required, for normal functioning of the club.

Section D: Hiring/Firing instructors is a function that should be done primarily by the club officers. Anyone can make suggestions and recommendations, but the final decision is made by the club officers. Similarly the club officers convey the decision(s) to the instructor(s).

Section E: Depending on the SGA funding situation, the club will try to partially reimburse people that compete at recognized competitions. The reimbursement could cover cost of registration, lodging, transport, food; however this entirely depends on the funds the club has, and the number of people that do compete, and so is a fluid situation. A decision will be made each semester, setting guidelines for such reimbursement so that all people that compete as UMBC members, and are so recognized by the club officers, will be fairly reimbursed.

Section F: Any extra costs that the club incurs, will be paid to the person that makes the actual purchase, using carryover funds, as long as the person brings receipts and makes the purchases with knowledge of the club officers.