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Constitution for Advocates for Conservative Thought at the University of Miami

ARTICLE ONE - NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Advocates for Conservative Thought (ACT).

ARTICLE TWO - PURPOSES

The purposes of Advocates for Conservative Thought are as follows:

Section 1. To research and study and to inform and educate the University of Miami community concerning public policy issues, including those set out here.

Section 2. To study and educate concerning the impact on the individual, family, community, state, and nation of alternative public policies, including but not limited to: the proper role of government within the confines of constitutional boundaries; the proper operation of democratic process; education and educational choice; family issues such as divorce, abortion, adoption, and child care; economic issues such as budget and tax policy, economic growth, free enterprise; as well as national defense, foreign policy, international trade, promotion of social welfare, and related topics.

Section 3. To assist in the education and development of dedicated, knowledgeable, and responsible leaders in America.

Section 4. To assist in the exposition and promotion of conservative

principles and ideas in society. In so doing, through public discussion groups, forums, panels, lectures, study groups, conferences, seminars, debates, and other similar programs through mail or the media. An effort will be made to present a sufficiently full and fair exposition of pertinent facts to permit individuals to form independent opinions and conclusions.

Section 5. To hold regular campus meetings for the presentation of panel discussions, lectures, film presentations, or other educational materials. To distribute educational literature (books, articles, pamphlets, issues papers, etc.) throughout the academic community in order to achieve the widest possible audience. To make available additional educational literature, tapes, film, television, and radio programs, and other research materials, to aid in obtaining quality speakers, business, journalistic and academic leaders; to maintain ongoing relations with all speakers, business, journalistic, and academic leaders; to maintain ongoing relations with all members and supporters in order to promote informative, educational programs and activities, research, and ideas for civic programs and projects; and to raise funds to finance these activities, educational programs and projects.

Section 6. Advocates for Conservative Thought shall not endorse, support, or oppose any candidate or proposed legislation or expend funds to intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate or proposed legislation.

ARTICLE THREE - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this organization will be open to all University of Miami students in Good Academic Standing who have paid their Student Activity Fee. An active member shall be a person that has paid his/her monetary dues; the amount of these dues will be decided each year by the Executive Board by a majority vote.

Section 2. No discrimination shall be made on the basis of gender, race, age, creed, religion, disability, sexual preference, national origin, marital status,

parental status, or veteran's status. No hazing or discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in this organization.

Section 3. Benefits of active membership include the right to vote and the right to attend all meetings. An individual may attend all general meetings but no Executive Board meetings as a non-active member. He or she may attend Executive Board meetings if the Executive Board votes by a two-thirds margin to allow that individual access to those meetings. One of the Co-Presidents may have veto power over this executive decision, but he or she may only be overruled by a unanimous vote. An Executive Board meeting is open to officers and active members.

Section 4. The advisor of this organization will be a full-time administrator, faculty, or staff member.

ARTICLE FIVE - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be two Co-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other Officers as may be elected in accordance with the provisions of the Article below. Not more than one office may be held simultaneously by the same person.

Section 2. All officers will be currently enrolled students who have paid their Student Activity Fee and are in Good Academic Standing, as determined by the University of Miami

Section 3. The length of the term of office will extend from April 29 to April 28 of the following year.

Section 4. An Executive Board shall be established and shall have the general power to manage and control the affairs and property of the Advocates for Conservative Thought and shall have power by majority vote to adopt rules and regulations governing the action of the Executive Board.

Section 5. Any Officer may be removed upon an affirmative vote of two-

thirds of the entire Executive Board, whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Advocates for Conservative Thought would be served thereby.

Section 6. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise will be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE SIX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Nominations for officers shall be submitted to the Executive Board a week before the election day.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall run all elections. If a sitting member of the Executive Board is running for an office, then he or she is not permitted to participate in the running of the elections. If all members of the Executive Board are running for office, the advisor of ACT shall be in charge of running the elections.

Section 3. The Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote of the active members of ACT from the nominated members. The positions of Co-Presidents will go to the two top vote-winners for the presidential positions.

Section 4. Elections will be held in the first week of April

Section 5. Installation of new Officers shall be in the last week of April

ARTICLE SEVEN - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Co-Presidents shall be the chief executive officers of the Advocates for Conservative Thought and, in general, shall supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Advocates for Conservative Thought. They shall perform all duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board from time to time.

Section 2. In the event of the death, removal, or resignation of one of the Co-Presidents, the person who serves as the other Co-President shall assume the office of President until the Executive Board elects by a majority vote a successor to the second position of Co-President.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, be custodian of the records, and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Co-Presidents or the Executive Board.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds and securities of the Advocates for Conservative Thought, receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the Advocates for Conservative Thought, and deposit all such monies in the name of the Advocates for Conservative Thought, and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Co-Presidents or by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE EIGHT - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order will be used in all situations not covered by the provisions of this constitution.

ARTICLE NINE - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Special committees may be created by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Members of committees must be active members of ACT and must be approved to be on committees by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE TEN - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution will be submitted to one of the Co-Presidents, in writing, for submission to the Executive Board for a vote.

Section 2. A majority vote of the Executive Board will suffice for adoption.

Section 3. Amendments are to be presented to the Committee on Student Organizations for final approval prior to implementation.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. This organization may be dissolved after dissolution is approved by the Executive Board and by a two-third vote of its members, provided that a notice of the vote on dissolution is furnished to the members at least sixty days prior to the vote.

Section 2. This organization shall have its Board of Directors notify the Committee on Student Organizations, in writing, of its dissolution and the procedure used to dissolve. The Executive Board shall also provide information in compliance with Section 1.