Cal State San Marcos Communication and Media Society Constitution

ARTICLE I: Name

Section 1 The name of the organization shall be Cal State San Marcos Communication and Media Society.

Section 2 Official insignia of the Communication Society – The official insignia of the Communication Society shall be an isosceles triangle, adorned at its three points with spheres circumscribing the Greek letters, alpha (A), epsilon (E), and delta (Δ), representing truth (αλήθεια η, alitheia i), freedom (ελευθερία, eleytheria), and justice (δικαιοσύνη, dikaiosyni), respectively, according to Jürgen Habermas' principles of the competent communicator. Inlaid within the sides of the triangle shall be the words "ethos," "pathos," and "logos," representing the virtues of ethical character, charisma, and logic, according to the standards of Lambda Pi Eta. Inscribed within the triangle shall lie a globe, representing Marshall Mcluhan's "global village," and the virtues of communication ascribed to all citizens of the world community. Within the globe shall stand a scroll to represent scholarship, symbolized by the Greek letter sigma (Σ) inlaid within, representing philosophic wisdom (σοφία, sofia). About the globe shall be placed the inception date of the Communication Society (2004), and the Greek word "demos," meaning "the people," symbolizing the democratic (Gr. demos + kratein = dēmokratia) citizenship of global humankind. Beneath the triangle icon shall wave a banner proclaiming the Latin word "communicare," meaning "communication".

Section 3 Motto – The motto for Communication Honor Society shall be "The art of communication is the language of leadership."

ARTICLE II: Purpose

Section 1 The purposes of the Communication Society shall be: (a) stimulate interest in the field of communication and media studies; (b) promote and encourage professional development among majors; (c) provide a space to exchange ideas and engage in meaningful discussions; (d) strengthen relationships and collaboration between students and faculty; (e) offer peer mentoring opportunities for upperclassmen; (g) explore paths for graduate studies and career planning.

ARTICLE III: Affiliation

Section 1 Cal State San Marcos Communication and Media Society is a foundational organization for the Cal State San Marcos Communication Honor Society.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

Section 1 Membership in the Communication and Media Society is open to all matriculated students of Cal State San Marcos. Membership shall be recognized upon completion of registering and paying organizational dues.

Section 2 Members shall be selected by demonstrating that they meet the qualifications established in ARTICLE IV, Section 1.

Section 3 Voting membership is restricted to matriculated, currently enrolled students at Cal State San Marcos.

Section 4 At least eighty percent (80%) of all members of the organization are matriculated, currently enrolled students at Cal State San Marcos.

Section 5 Membership in the organization will not be denied to anyone on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, citizenship, or veteran's status, except as sanctioned by law (California Administrative Code, Title 5, Section 41500; Education amendments of 1972, Title IX).

Section 6 There shall be no hazing.

Section 7 Members of Cal State San Marcos Communication Honor Society are members of the Communication and Media Society upon meeting the National Lambda Pi Eta and Cal State San Marcos Communication Honor Society requirements.

ARTICLE V: Officers

Section 1 The Executive Board Officers presiding over this organization will be President, President Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of the President and President Elect shall be one year to ensure effective administration of this chapter. President Elect will assume the office of President for the subsequent school year. All other Executive Board Officers shall serve no less than one semester but shall maintain that position over the course of a year when in compliance with Article V, Section 3 of this Constitution.

Section 2 In the event of pre-mature vacancy of any Executive Officer the replacement of that officer shall be filled by nomination and majority vote of existing Executive Officers.

Section 3 All officers of this organization are matriculated, currently enrolled students at Cal State San Marcos.

Section 4 The Executive Committee shall comprise President, President Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

(a.) President Elect and Vice President shall reserve the power to install Executive Planning Committees under their respective offices to aid and assist in their functions.

Section 5 An advisor from the CSUSM faculty or staff shall be retained.

ARTICLE VI: Duties of Officers

Section 1 The President shall generally supervise and direct the officers of this organization, and preside over all meetings of the Communication and Media Society wholly, or it's officers. The President will be responsible for setting and supervising distribution of the agenda for each member and officer meeting, and shall be responsible and empowered according to the following duties and entitlements:

(a.) Presiding over all meetings of the Executive Board and the Executive Planning Committee.

(b.) The President shall represent the Communication and Media Society as the Student Organizations Council [SOC] Representative. As the SOC Representative the President shall function in this office according to ARTICLE VI, Section 7 of this constitution.

(c.) Approve all functions, speakers, activities, and expenditures of this organization. A three-fifths (3.5)-majority of the executive board may overturn a decision of the president.

(d.) Possess the power to create and draft organization policy and legislation, as well as organize social and professional events on behalf of the organization.

(e.) Possess the power of appointment in any such case as may be found necessary and befitting, as indicated by the various articles of this constitution.

(f.) The President shall possess one vote as a member of the Executive Board.

Section 2 The Vice-President shall be responsible for collaborating with the president to determine the best possible methods for advertising and publicizing organizational activities, maintaining contact with external and internal agencies and individuals, and shall be responsible and empowered according to the following duties and entitlements:

(a.) Retain final authority over enforcing the laws of this organization.

(b.) Create and distribute notices, flyers, posters, etc., on or in campus buildings and walkways, according to policies and procedures provided by the Student Life and Leadership office.

(c.) Contact members and affiliates, recruit members, establish external contact and relations, especially with faculty and student government (ASI), and other such agencies, as well as among the professional community.

(d.) Collaborate with the Public Relations Director to acquire contacts and contributors thereto.

(e.) The Vice-President may call and direct public hearings concerning any constitutional or otherwise violation, citing applicable codes and violations thereof. Open forum

may be entertained for such purpose, with the Vice-President retaining final verdict. Any unconstitutional decisions or laws instituted must be thereby immediately repealed and nullified. Should the Vice-President be found unconstitutional in his/her proceedings, any officer may call a public hearing to rectify his/her actions, after which reconciliation, s/he shall resume full official authority. Any measure may be brought forth as unconstitutional by any member of this organization, to be reviewed and ruled upon immediately by the Vice-President.

(f.) The Vice-President shall possess one vote as a member of the Executive Board.

Section 3 The Secretary shall be responsible and empowered according to the following duties:

(a.) Record minutes of each meeting, emergency meetings inclusive.
(b.) Maintain records of business pertaining to the organization and shall be responsible for corresponding accordingly.
(c.) Produce and keep an attendance roster for each meeting.
(d.) Compile an informational letter at each semester's beginning, outlining meeting dates and any other relevant information, to be distributed among all members.
(e.) The Secretary must provide a temporary lieutenant to fulfill the duties of the secretary, in the event of his or her absence.
(f.) The Secretary, in conjunction with other board members, must retain accurate records of events and ensure that all relevant information is filed and passed on to future Executive Boards.
(g.) The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the Secretary in the absence or vacancy of such office. In the event of a vacancy the board shall appoint a member of this organization as secretary as soon as possible.
(h.) The Secretary shall possess one vote as a member of the Executive Board.

Section 4 The Treasurer shall be responsible and empowered according to the following duties and entitlements:

(a.) Maintain accurate record of the organization's finances.
(b.) Provided precise account to the entire membership at least once per semester and at any time to the officers.
(c.) Collect any and all levied membership dues.
(d.) Provide payment for any activities which require such.
(e.) The President Elect shall assume the duties of the Treasurer in the absence of such office. (Two Executive Officers must participate in any financial transactions, in most cases this will be the President and Treasurer.)
(f.) The Treasurer shall possess one vote as a member of the Executive Board.

Section 5 The Faculty Advisor of this organization shall be responsible for general supervision of the practices and functions hereof, and shall remain committed to the furtherance of education and the overall prosperity of the Communication and Media Society. The advisor shall have voice, but no vote. The advisor shall be selected from the faculty or staff of CSUSM, and shall support the goals and development of the organization.

Section 6 The President Elect shall assist the President in the management of this organization. This position is provided to ensure continuation of this organization from year to year. President Elect will endeavor to learn the responsibilities of all

board members in order to effectively preside over the Communication and Media Society during the next school year. President Elect shall collaborate with the President in establishing and advancing the goals and objectives of the organization, and shall be responsible and empowered according to the following duties:

(a.) Assume full duties of the President's office in his/her absence, or until the end of that term.
(b.) Possess the power to create and draft organizational policy and legislation, as well as organize social and professional events on behalf of the organization.
(c.) Ensure that the officer body complies with their responsibilities as outlined in this article, and shall maintain that actions taken by the officers and members of this organization are in accordance with this constitution and pertinent authorized titles.
(d.) Maintain and oversee current organizational policy on record, and shall ensure their proper functioning within the organization.
(e.) The President Elect shall possess one vote as a member of the Executive Board.

Section 7 The President/Student Organization Council Representative shall be responsible and empowered according to the following duties and entitlements.

(a.) Attend all scheduled SOC meetings, representing the interests of this organization, to include submitting, presenting, and contending for funding packets and other organizational agendas during SOC meetings.
(b.) Following each SOC meeting, create a brief summary of SOC business with the organization, to be provided to the President when represented by another board member.
(c.) The President/SOC Representative must provide a temporary SOC Representative, in the event of his or her absence.
(d.) The President Elect shall assume the duties of the SOC Representative in the absence or vacancy of such office.

Section 8 The Webmaster shall be the same person appointed under the purview as the Communication Honor Society Constitution, and will perform such duties as directed by the Communication Honor Society Constitution.

Section 9 Only staff or secondary officers may be selected by executive appointment to handle policy documents in lieu of the Executive Board, and under its direct supervision.

ARTICLE VII: Nomination and Elections

Section 1 All nomination and election procedures conducted within the society shall be according to classical democratic principles, shall provide protection of individual privacy, freedom of though, and shall not operate by compulsion or coercion, or autocratic or partisan processes over the officers or members of this organization.

(a.) Any active member of the Communication and Media Society may nominate qualified individuals to any office.
(b.) Individuals may nominate themselves, and must be seconded by at least one other active member.
(c.) Individuals nominated to office shall meet the requirements of membership as outlined in ARTICLE IV, Section 1 of this constitution.

(d.) Individuals nominated may abdicate nomination at any time, as desired.
(e.) Individuals may not be nominated for more than one Executive Board Office at a time.

Section 2 Nominations will take place at least two weeks prior to election sessions, except in case of special elections, including office creation and post-interim officer staffing. At the end of nomination periods, nominations may not be shifted, except in such cases where declining nominees create office vacancies, and only in the event that an incumbent officer is retiring his or her office, resulting in such a vacancy.

(a.) In cases of office creation and post-interim officer staffing, nomination periods will be declared by the president as seen fit, after which election periods will commence.
(b.) Nominees must be permitted opportunity, at a minimum of one meeting prior to election, to speak on their behalf to the membership body. No other member may speak on behalf of any nominee.
(c.) Nominee speeches may be limited to the duration of one regular meeting period prior to election result tabulation.
(d.) Elections will be held at the end of each semester, except for the first election, following nomination periods, such that new executive officers are elected on a day at least one month prior to the end of the current semester term, such as to permit time for staff and secondary office election periods. Election periods must allow at least one week prior to election day. Newly elected officers will assume full responsibility at the start of the following semester. Any business requiring attention during the summer session will be attended by the conjoint discretion of new and incumbent officers.
(e.) For the first or reconvening election, offices may be by formal election or by informal majority appointment among those present at initial meetings, in order to expedite the initiation of this organization.

Section 3 Office voting will be conducted by secret ballot or by show of hands, if deemed so necessary or befitting, according to the executive body, and by consent of the voting body.

(a.) All votes must be received and tallied by the President, and verified by one other executive officer.
(b.) Any election may be conducted via absentee ballots, to be received by the president in the presence of another officer, and shall require at least on physical voting meeting, to be conducted by at least two officers, including the President.
(c.) Election results must be furnished to members at the first meeting following election, whereupon new officers may be inducted into their offices before Society members.
(d.) President and President Elect offices are to be for a complete school year, and the President Elect is an office of which s/he will be designated President for subsequent school year in order to sustain disciplined governance and vested interest of this society.
(e.) Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer Offices shall be open for primary new term election when vacancies occur for resignation of any of these positions.

Section 4 Any member in good standing as described in ARTICLE IV, Section 1 will be allowed one vote.

Section 5 Officers shall be elected by majority (51%) vote.

Section 6 Additional nomination and election periods may be held and conducted conjointly by officers-elect and incumbent officers before the end of the official term of the latter, for the purpose of creating desired non-executive offices. Such elections shall proceed normally, except as nomination periods may vary as seen fit.

(a) Non-executive as well as interim elections may be called at any time by the president, as required by office staffing needs of the organization. Such special elections must be conducted normally, as prescribed within the text of this article.

Section 7 In the event of a non-executive vacancy, with no suitable nominees, the office may be declared inactive, and shall not require further election. When membership capacity allows for implementation of secondary positions every effort should be made to provide opportunities for others to actively participate in secondary officer and staff positions.

ARTICLE VIII: Installation

Section 1 A formal induction ceremony shall be held for incoming officers prior to the last day of the end of the current semester term. Content of this ceremony shall be decided upon according to the discretion of the executive body and the advisor, but must minimally publicly recognize officer-elect as such, and title and empower them accordingly.

Section 2 A transition meeting must be held immediately following election periods, requiring attendance by incumbents and officers-elect, in order to inform and instruct elects as to procedures and duties that may be necessary and expedient for transition into office.

Section 3 Officer Induction shall require at least one verbal reading, conducted by incumbents, to the effect of introducing understanding to the officers-elect, of the articles of this document in full.

ARTICLE IX: Meetings

Section 1 Frequency, time, and day of meetings will be determined by the president, by consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Executive Officers, at the beginning of each semester. Frequency, time, and day of informational meetings will depend upon the availability of relevant guest participants.

(a.) Sufficient meeting opportunities shall be held so that Communication and Media Society members will be allowed to meet the attendance requirements.

Section 2 The President may call special meetings and officer meetings. In the absence of the President the Vice-President may call special meetings.

Section 3 Members and/or officers will be notified of officer, special or emergency meeting by the most expeditious and convenient method of communication available, to

include e-mail, telephone, website bulletins, and/or by posting of signs on the university campus.

Section 4 At least two officers, including the President or Vice-President, must be present at meetings in order for business to commence, except by special unanimous consent of remaining officers.

(a.) Any meeting where implementation of changes to governing principles, newly designated positions or other necessary changes of this organization must be attended by a quorum of two thirds (2/3) of the executive board.

Section 5 Order of the Communication and Media Society shall be maintained in a manner by which the body of Executive Officers, Special Committee officers, and the membership shall function in an organized, disciplined manner. "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be used in situations where conflict management is needed. The President shall prepare set time limits and mandatory motions for discussions and appropriate conduct. The Executive Board shall vote on the standards to be used and the vote shall be recognized by two-thirds (2/3) majority.

Section 6 Officers shall attend designated board and other officer meetings as established by the President. The President may grant absentee of board members for extenuating circumstances.

Section 7 Open forums shall be necessarily permitted for public comment from members, officers, and/or affiliates of this organization, at the outset of each regular membership meeting, for duration of at least fifteen (15) minutes.

ARTICLE X: Committees

Section 1 The President shall possess authority to name committees and appoint chairpersons, and to delegate authority as ascribed thereto, as should be found befitting.

Section 2 Executive Planning Committee – The Executive Planning Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers, to include the President, President Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

(a.) This committee shall consist of an odd number of officer (3 or 5), such that planning officers must be elected to the committee in pairs in addition to the Executive Board. This committee may function consisting only of the Executive Board, in the event that planning officers are unavailable for incorporation. In the event of attrition, another planning officer will become simultaneously suspended, and the President will be responsible for appointing an immediate interim planning officer, such as to expedite the full functioning of the committee. Elections for new officers must be as soon as possible thereafter.

(b.) The executive Planning Committee shall possess the power to vote upon and create policy, organize and initiate events, and conduct organizational business on behalf of the Communication and Media Society, its officers and members

(c.) This committee shall possess the authority to create and activate non-executive offices as found befitting.

(d.) This committee will conduct at least one closed meeting per month, publishing all resolutions reached, except those of a private nature.
(e.) If necessary, voting of any type may be conducted during committee meetings, stipulating only that they conform to ARTICLE VII of this constitution.
(f.) Any and all voting procedures conducted by the Executive Planning Committee shall be resolved upon majority (51%) vote of all committee members.
(g.) Committee members may willfully abstain from voting procedures in meetings, and may be absent with sufficient advance notice before committee meetings. Members of the committee may not cast absentee ballots. Repeated absence from meetings or voting procedures may be grounds for recall from office.

Section 3 Membership Body Planning Council – shall consist of an odd number, and a maximum of seven (7) members elected form and by the membership body. The purpose of this council shall be to provide a forum for coordinated planning and policy discovery among the membership body, to pass advocacy resolutions as representative of the interests thereof, and to provide a circuit for the challenge of executive rulings or legislation, should the need arise.

(b.) Chairperson – one planning officer of the executive body will be appointed as chairperson to the council, will preside over it for purposes of facilitating and recording meetings, preparing agendas, presenting resolutions and proposals to the Executive Board, communicating with the membership body as a whole, and updating organizational planning officers.
(c.) Councilors – councilors elected to this board must attend all council meetings, keeping informed of membership interests and organizational news and events, and participating in planning meetings for the purpose of crafting resolutions. Each councilor, including the chairperson, shall possess one equal vote, to be employed in every voting session of the council.
(d.) This council will meet regularly, at least once per month, or as often as seen fit by the chairperson and councilors, and is not required to hold open meetings.
(e.) Should the opinion of society members dissent from President, Executive Board, or Executive Planning Committee decisions, such members may present claims or proposals before the council, to be considered if seconded by at least one councilor.

Section 4 Executive Decision Challenge – Should councilors, by consequence of membership claim submission or otherwise by general decision of the council, reach a resolution to challenge an executive decision, the Executive Planning Committee must review the decision and cast a vote in favor of, or against the resolution. Should two votes for repeal be cast, the measure in question shall be immediately repealed. In the event of a tied vote following an Executive Planning Committee vote affirming the measure in question, the committee and council shall hold a deliberation session, ruling in favor of a majority (51%) vote of all committee members and councilors. Should a tied vote be again sustained, both parties shall be required to present their respective positions in discursive debate before the membership. After sufficient discussion and public filibuster, a majority vote of the membership present at such a hearing will determine final decision of the measure in question, effective immediately.

(a.) Any member challenging a measure or policy, as to constitutionality, before the Vice-President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 2. (g.) of this constitution, and not receiving favorable concession, may, with sound reason, compel the council to

review the matter in question. Should the measure or policy be found unconstitutional by councilors after review in accordance with the articles of this constitution, this council shall possess the authority to repeal such a measure without further concession from the Vice-President or otherwise, to be effective immediately.

(b.) Any and all voting procedures conducted by the Membership Body Planning Council shall reach resolution upon majority (51%) vote of all councilors.

(c.) Councilors may willfully abstain from voting procedures in meetings, and may be absent with sufficient advance notice before council meetings. Members shall not be allowed to cast absentee ballots. Repeated absence from meetings or voting procedures may be grounds for dismissal from this council.

Section 5 Knowledge Department – The Knowledge Department shall be maintained under the Cal State San Marcos Communication Honor Society and the guidelines established under that constitution.

Section 6 Communication Students Newsletter – the official Communication Students Newsletter shall be managed and operated by the Public Relations Director of the Communication Honor Society and its Constitution.

(a.) The newsletter shall represent, in print and ideology, the ideals, standards, and regulations of the Communication Honor Society, and shall consist of, but not be limited to, the opinions and educational contributions of members thereof, news and events thereof and of associated communication organizations and pursuits, and of career opportunities within the communication field, to be publicized to members of the Communication and Communication Honor Societies.

(b.) The newsletter shall be published as a periodical, on at least a monthly basis, or as deemed appropriate by the executive body and the public relations director.

(c.) The executive body reserves the power to levy dues for the newsletter.

Section 7 The Public Realm – The Public Realm shall be an open discussion forum, with the purpose of facilitating discursively constructive interaction among members, and honing knowledge and dialectical skill concerning educational topics.

(a.) The Public Realm shall be an open discussion forum, with the purpose of facilitating discursively constructive interaction among members, and honing knowledge and dialectical skill concerning educational topics.

(b.) This forum shall be conducted at least bi-monthly, by coordination and facilitation of the executive body, and shall allow and encourage unabridged speech and expression of any and all members willing to participate, at a minimum of 1 hour per forum

(c.) Themes and topics for The Public Realm may vary, and are to be submitted by the membership body, and voted upon at least two weeks prior to each session, and may include, but not be limited to: dialectical debate; Socratic seminar discussion; individual, group, or competing member presentation and argumentative critique and rebuttal; casual group conversation, and the like. The Public Realm may be held in any environment, to be determined by membership vote, according to forum theme, defaulting to the regular meeting room of the Communication and Communication Honor Societies.

ARTICLE XI: Dues, fees

Section 1 All members are required to pay **$10** fee per semester.

Section 2 Communication Honor Society students meet this requirement by making required annual payments of (1) a one-time non-refundable membership fee and (2) Chapter dues each year prior to being inducted into the organization and receiving honor cords. This is in accordance with the standards set forth in the Communication Honor Society Constitution.

ARTICLE XII: Amendments

Section 1 Any and all amendments to this constitution shall remain in accordance with the spirit and principles of this document and the organization it governs. Any member may propose an amendment to this constitution.

Section 2 Any and all proposals must be submitted to the Membership Body Planning Council. If seconded by at least one councilor for consideration, the council will review and vote upon the proposal. Upon affirmative resolution, the council will submit its decision to the Executive Planning Committee for consideration. The committee shall subsequently commence with voting procedures, which shall determine adoption or veto of the proposed amendment.

Section 3 Adoption of any and all amendments shall require a four-fifths (4/5)-majority vote of the Executive Planning Committee.

Section 4 Amendment voting periods must allow at least one week prior to executive decision.

(d.) Amendments may be repealed by the same procedure as amendment proposal, and shall require a five-sevenths (5/7)-majority vote of the Membership Body Planning Council, followed by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the membership.

(e.) Amendment adoptions and revocations shall be rendered effective immediately following the cessation of the meeting in which they were voted upon.

(f.) Any and all approved amendments must be enacted by and formally signed into effect by the Executive Board on the date following adoption by vote of the Executive Planning Committee.

(g.) Any and all proposals, to include amendments proposed or repealed, executive decision overturn, and other special cases, shall permit and require at least one open forum, prior to the decision in question, to be conducted according to filibuster format, allowing uncensored statement, dialectical debate, and discourse among any member directly or indirectly concerned therewith, to be addressed by any member wishing to respond. No member of good standing shall be forbidden free speech and expression in this manner, except as shall be regulated by the Code of Conduct of this organization. Open forum shall continue until all willing members have been sufficiently heard.

(h.) This document shall govern and endorse any and all Communication Honor Society articles, which shall operate as extensions hereof, to be protected under these articles.

(i.) Any new additions may be resolved and adopted by this organization, under this constitution, to be drafted by authority of appropriate executive officers, or on behalf of the Executive Planning Committee, or the Executive Board.

Section 5 Any substantive changes or amendments to this Constitution will be filed with Student Life & Leadership within 90 days of the change.

Date Adopted: 27 August 2007

This constitution has been reviewed and summarily approved and ratified by the presiding executive officers of the Communication and Media Society, and endorsed by the faculty advisor of this organization, and shall therefore be hereby commissioned from this day forth as the official Constitution of the Communication and Media Society.

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