New Constitution Amendments

## ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

### Section One – Membership Rights

Original text:

The members of this organization shall be blind or visually impaired students of Florida, and others interested in promoting the purposes of this organization. The members of this organization are members of the National Federation of the Blind and shall have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as other members of the National Federation of the Blind.

End of original text

**New Amendment (changing visually impaired to low vision)**:

The members of this organization shall be blind or low vision students of Florida, and others interested in promoting the purposes of this organization. The members of this organization are members of the National Federation of the Blind and shall have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as other members of the National Federation of the Blind.

**End of new Amendment**

### Section Two – Minimum Requirements

Original text:

This organization shall be made up primarily of blind or visually impaired people, and it shall be controlled by the blind. A majority of its voting members must be blind or visually impaired. We are open to all people currently exploring, attending or who have recently graduated from any form of educational institution (high school, trade school, university, or other type of educational institution.)

End of original text

**New Amendment (changing visually impaired to low vision)**:

This organization shall be made up primarily of blind or low vision people, and it shall be controlled by the blind. A majority of its voting members must be blind or low vision. We are open to all people currently exploring, attending or who have recently graduated from any form of educational institution (high school, trade school, university, or other type of educational institution.)

End of new Amendment

## Article V - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

### Section One - Officers and Elections

Original Text:

The Florida Association of Blind Students (FABS), a proud division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, aims to create leadership, efficacy, and continued progression of Florida’s blind student population through a medley of programs, advocacy events, and fundraising efforts. In order to lead such a group of talented and focused individuals, elected officers are selected annually through a democratic vote of plurality at the state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. These elected officers and board members constitute the board of directors for this division. The following elected offices shall be voted in by their peers.

* President
* Vice President
* Treasurer
* Secretary
* Board Member 1

The President and treasurer will be elected biennially, and the Vice President, secretary, and board member 1 shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the members of this organization present and voting at our regular business meeting at state convention. There shall be no proxy voting.

End of original text

**New Amendment (clarifying the new election process; all terms will be two years; only one board member; president and secretary elected in even years; vice president, secretary, and board member 1 elected in odd years)**:

The Florida Association of Blind Students (FABS), a proud division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, aims to create leadership, efficacy, and continued progression of Florida’s blind student population through a medley of programs, advocacy events, and fundraising efforts. In order to lead such a group of talented and focused individuals, elected officers are selected annually through a democratic vote of plurality at the state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. These elected officers and board members constitute the board of directors for this division. The following elected offices shall be voted in by their peers.

* President
* Vice President
* Treasurer
* Secretary
* Board Member 1

The President and treasurer shall be elected biennially, in even numbered years, and the Vice President, Secretary, and Board member 1 shall be elected biennially, in odd numbered years, by a majority vote of the members of this organization present and voting at our regular business meeting at state convention. There shall be no proxy voting.

**End of new Amendment**

### Section Two - Duties

Original Text

The duties of each elected officer are both general and specific. All officers shall uphold the code of conduct of the National Federation of the Blind. The specific duties of each officer shall be upheld throughout the duration of the term they are elected.

1. President: It is the duty of the President to convey the needs and actions of the organization to the state affiliate board, the National Association of Blind Students, and the public. As the top representative of the organization, the President has the final decision on any expenses made by the organization and any public action taken by the division.

2. Vice President: It is the duty of the Vice President to serve as the Parliamentarian of the organization, being the keeper of the governing documents (Constitution, Code of Conduct, or any document pertaining to division policy). The Vice President is acting President and makes executive decisions for the organization in place of the President in their absence.

3. Treasurer: It is the duty of the treasurer to follow the budgetary actions of the organization. This includes the reporting of the deposits, withdrawals, and drafts of the organization’s bank account. All funds collected by the organization are ultimately given to the Treasurer for a deposit. All funding requests, once approved by the President, are executed by the Treasurer.

4. Secretary: It is the duty of the secretary to record the minutes of each general membership conference call or meeting. The secretary is also charged with the acquisition of any necessitated clerical items for the organization to complete in the event of a trip, event, or registration priority. The secretary acts as a liaison between the elected officers and the general membership of the organization, using various messaging platforms to inform members about meetings, opportunities, or advocacy efforts taking place.

5. Board members: The board members shall ~~consist of a single elected member, Board member 1, who~~ shall serve as the bridge between the four officers and the membership. Their primary duties consist of chairing committees, assisting with programs and events put on by the division, voting in board-only meetings and assisting officers when necessary. Additionally, they shall assume the responsibility of other officers, at the discretion of the president, when circumstances require.

End of original text

**New Amendment (making the word board singular):**

The duties of each elected officer are both general and specific. All officers shall uphold the code of conduct of the National Federation of the Blind. The specific duties of each officer shall be upheld throughout the duration of the term they are elected. Each elected office has a term of two years.

1. President: It is the duty of the President to convey the needs and actions of the organization to the state affiliate board, the National Association of Blind Students, and the public. As the top representative of the organization, the President has the final decision on any expenses made by the organization and any public action taken by the division.

2. Vice President: It is the duty of the Vice President to serve as the Parliamentarian of the organization, being the keeper of the governing documents (Constitution, Code of Conduct, or any document pertaining to division policy). The Vice President is acting President and makes executive decisions for the organization in place of the President in their absence.

3. Treasurer: It is the duty of the treasurer to follow the budgetary actions of the organization. This includes the reporting of the deposits, withdrawals, and drafts of the organization’s bank account. All funds collected by the organization are ultimately given to the Treasurer for a deposit. All funding requests, once approved by the President, are executed by the Treasurer.

4. Secretary: It is the duty of the secretary to record the minutes of each general membership conference call or meeting. The secretary is also charged with the acquisition of any necessitated clerical items for the organization to complete in the event of a trip, event, or registration priority. The secretary acts as a liaison between the elected officers and the general membership of the organization, using various messaging platforms to inform members about meetings, opportunities, or advocacy efforts taking place.

5. Board member: The board member shall consist of a single elected member, Board member 1, who shall serve as the bridge between the four officers and the membership. Their primary duties consist of chairing committees, assisting with programs and events put on by the division, and assisting officers when necessary. Additionally, they shall assume the responsibility of other officers, at the discretion of the president, when circumstances require.

**End of New Amendment**

## Article VI - MEETINGS

### Section Two – Special Meetings

Original Text

The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time he/she, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary. At such special meeting at least 50% (1/2) members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business, and written notice must have been sent to each member and to the members of the Board of Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Special meetings may be called by the members of the Board of Directors to conduct business.

End of original text

**New Amendment (removing gendered language)**:

The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time ~~the President~~ or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary. At such special meeting at least 50% (1/2) members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business, and written notice must have been sent to each member and to the members of the Board of Directors at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date of the meeting. Special meetings may also be called by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors to conduct business.

**End of new Amendment**

## ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Original Text

The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary.

End of original text

**New Amendment (removing gendered language)**:

The President may appoint such committees as the President, or the organization deems necessary.

**End of new Amendment**

## ARTICLE VIII – DUES

Original Text

The dues for members of this organization shall be ten dollars ($10.00 USD) per year, payable in advance at the annual state convention during the division business meeting. New members who remit their dues at any point during the calendar year, but not during the state convention, shall be granted membership privileges effective from the date of payment until the date of the upcoming state convention. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

End of original text

**New Amendment (removing gendered language):**

The dues for members of this organization shall be ten dollars ($10.00 USD) per year, payable in advance at the annual state convention during the division business meeting. New members who remit their dues at any point during the calendar year, but not during the state convention, shall be granted membership privileges effective from the date of payment until the date of the upcoming state convention. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of their dues.

**End of new Amendment**

## ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

Original Text

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, (for whatever reason) or it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind, its assets shall be transferred to the treasury of the National Federation of the Blind.

End of Original Text

**New Amendment (clarifying the process; changing national federation of the blind to national federation of the blind of Florida)**:

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, (for whatever reason) it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind, its assets shall be transferred to the treasury of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

* **End of new Amendment**

## ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Original Text:

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any meeting of this organization; but the amendments shall not become effective until they have been presented to the President of the National Federation of the Blind for review and approval.

End of original text

**Amendment (reclarifying the amendment process)**:

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any business meeting of this organization; but the amendments shall not become effective until they have been presented to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida for review and approval.

Amendments to this constitution are also not valid unless they are additionally approved by the President of the National Federation of the Blind.

* **End of Amendment**