

By-Laws of an AIAA Student Branch

STUDENT BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics University of Houston Student Chapter.

ARTICLE II: Objective

The Objective of this organization is to further, within its locality, the purposes and programs of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

- I. To positively influence the aeronautical and astronautical education process at the University of Houston
- II. To increase knowledge of aerospace science and technology among members and the community
- III. To assist members in fulfilling their career goals in the aerospace field

ARTICLE III: Membership

I. Eligibility

Any graduate or undergraduate student at the University of Houston that is a current dues paying member of AIAA is considered to be a member of this student branch by AIAA HQ.

II. Fees

All local members must pay the AIAA-UH local chapter dues, which are \$20 per semester or \$30 per year. In addition, all local members are strongly encouraged to join National AIAA and pay their respective dues (\$28), which may be subject to change.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

I. Title

- a. The officers of the organization shall consist of a, at least, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b. Additional positions might be created to delegate tasks as needed and must be included under Article IV Section IV of the by-laws.

II. Eligibility- Any member of the AIAA student branch at the University of Houston shall be eligible for election provided that he/she:

- a. Must not be on probation and must be in good standing within the University of Houston
 - i. For undergraduate students, the minimum cumulative GPA is 2.50
 - ii. For graduate students, the minimum cumulative GPA is 3.00
- b. Is currently a member of the AIAA Student Branch at University of Houston

III. Election

- a. All executive officers shall be elected for a term of one year. Officers may serve more than one term but must be re-elected.
 - i. Treasurer must hold office until the memorandum for the next year is received.
 - ii. All supplementary officer positions may be elected for a single semester, provided they assist in finding a replacement officer.
- b. Applications for officer positions will be opened at least three weeks before the date of the election. The election shall occur before the start of March of the Spring Semester.
- c. A nominating committee will be formed with the purpose of nominating candidates for office
 - i. The committee will consist of at least one executive officer and any other officer that is appointed at the discretion of the executive officers.
- d. Officer candidates shall be nominated in the following manner
 - i. The nominating committee must interview all candidates
 - ii. A nominating committee shall nominate a minimum of one candidate and a maximum of three candidates for each office.
 - iii. The ballot must be finalized one week prior to the election meeting. At this time, the candidates must be notified of their nomination.
 - iv. The ballot will be made available on the University of Houston Get Involved page and presented to the members at the election meeting. Voting will be open for at most one week after the election meeting.
- e. A position with no nominated candidates is considered a vacant position (See Article IV, Section V).

IV. Duties of the Officer

Section 1. Executive Board

- a. Chair
 - i. Preside at all regular meetings of the organization, all meetings of the Executive Committee, and to serve as an advising member on all other committees.
 - ii. To serve as the principal liaison between the organization and all external organizations and individuals outside of the University of Houston.
 - iii. At the end of the academic year, the Chair shall submit to headquarters a report of the activities of the branch for the year.
 - iv. At the end of the academic year, the leaving Chair shall submit or assist in the submission to the University of Houston Center for Student Involvement (Get Involved) a confirmed registration of the organization and updated By-Laws. The incoming Chair, at the beginning of their term, shall ensure that UH CSI has a correct roster of current officers and make any changes necessary.
 - v. Ensures that the duties of all officers and committees are being upheld
 - vi. Train the next Chair - Update training package as Executive sees fit
- b. Vice-Chair (Internal)
 - i. Assume the duties of the Chair in his/her absence
 - ii. Assist in the duties of the chair and performs duties assigned by the Chair
 - iii. Assist with all internal organization events and recruitment activities
 - iv. Manage University sponsored social media (Get Involved page)
 - v. To serve as the liaison between the organization and all organizations and individuals within the University of Houston system, which includes attending all Cougar Paw meetings
 - vi. Train the next Vice-Chair (Internal) - Update training package as Executive sees fit
- c. Vice-Chair (External)
 - i. Assume the duties of the Chair in his/her absence
 - ii. Assist in the duties of the chair and performs duties assigned by the Chair

- iii. Assist with all external organization events and outreach initiatives, establishing positive and relevant partnerships
 - iv. Acquire and manage guest speakers for general meetings and info sessions
 - v. To serve as the liaison between the organization and all external organizations and individuals within the community, including the local Houston Chapter of AIAA
 - vi. Attend all Cougar Paw meetings
 - vii. Train the next Vice-Chair (External) - Update training package as Executive sees fit
- d. The Treasurer
 - i. In charge of the funds of the branch, which includes determining the budget for each project team under AIAA-UH.
 - ii. Generate and maintain all financial reports and expenditures authorized by the branch or executive committee
 - iii. Responsible for researching potential grants and sponsorships
 - iv. Train the next Treasurer - Update training package as Executive sees fit
- e. The Secretary
 - i. Maintain minutes of the meetings of the branch and Amateur Radio Club
 - ii. Responsible for tracking the completion of action items assigned at officer meetings
 - iii. Keep track of all emails directed to AIAA-UH
 - iv. Conduct the correspondence of the branch and send out notices of the meetings
 - v. Maintain a full and correct list of the members and their contact information, including callsigns
 - vi. Responsible for sending monthly newsletters to current subscribers
 - vii. Train the next Secretary - Update training package as Executive sees fit

Section 2. Officers

- f. Director of Public Relations
 - i. Responsible for the creation and distribution of organization flyers
 - ii. Responsible for organization advertising
 - iii. Responsible for the social media presence of the organization
 - iv. Train the next Director of Public Relations - Update training package as current officer sees fit
- g. Event Coordinator
 - i. In charge of the planning and execution of internal organization events
 - ii. Responsible for the reservation of the event space (except for when reservation requires a top three officer)
 - iii. Works with the Treasurer to create a budget for the event. The budget must be approved by the executive officers.
 - iv. Works with the Director of Public Relations to advertise events
 - v. Creates an organized schedule for all events for each semester
 - vi. Trains the next Event Coordinator - Update training package as current officer sees fit
- h. Webmaster
 - i. Post any news, events, etc. on the website
 - ii. Maintains website, which includes updating google calendar
 - iii. Trains the next Webmaster - Update training package as current officer sees fit
- i. Outreach Coordinator
 - i. Acts as liaison to the university's outreach programs
 - ii. Works with community partners to organize and participate in events encouraging STEM interest
 - iii. Works with the Event Coordinator to plan and execute outreach events
 - iv. Responsible for recruiting volunteers for outreach events

- v. Trains the next Outreach Coordinator - Update training package as current officer sees fit
 - j. Historian
 - i. Ensures that pictures and videos are being taken at events
 - ii. Document a record of the organization's accomplishments and activities for the year
 - iii. Works with the Director of Public Relations, Secretary and Webmaster to coordinate media distribution
 - iv. Create organization newsletter every month with the activities and events that took place over the course of the month
 - v. Trains the next Historian - Update training package as current officer sees fit
 - k. Sponsorship Coordinator
 - i. Update current sponsorship package, which may include coordinating with the Secretary to gain necessary member statistics
 - ii. Maintain and continuously update current sponsors on project team milestones
 - iii. Proactively seek out and contact potential companies for sponsorships, which may include coordinating with the Treasurer regarding financial aspects
 - iv. Assist Treasurer with researching potential grants
 - v. Trains the next Sponsorship Coordinator - Update training package as current officer sees fit
- V. Vacancy of Office
 - a. If a vacancy exists in any position other than the office of Chair, the executive committee may appoint a member to serve in the vacant position for the remainder of the term of office.
 - b. In the event that an officer decides to resign, he/she must give 30 days' notice prior to resignation to the Executive Committee.
 - c. A vacancy in the office of Chair is filled by a Vice Chair.
- VI. Removal of Officer
 - a. Demerit System:
 - i. All unexcused absences or consistent failure to complete officer duties as outlined by bylaws will each receive one demerit. After accumulating two demerits an email will be sent to the officer from the chair stating that his/her position is in jeopardy and he/she will be removed in the event if there are two additional demerits following the email. In the event that there are two more demerits accumulated after the officer has acknowledged receiving the email, he/she will immediately be removed without question by the Executive Committee and will serve as a member and not as an officer.
 - ii. Consistent failures are to be judged by the officer committee on a case-by-case basis; if the offending officer continues to not perform their duties, they could be subject to removal.
 - b. Apart from the demerit system, an officer can be removed if the Executive Committee feels that the officer is not performing their duties adequately or the officer does not meet the eligibility requirements. If any officer fails to fulfill their duties or meet the eligibility requirements, they shall be notified in writing that their position is in jeopardy. Once they have been notified, a meeting with the Executive Committee and the advisor shall be held where the officer in question shall be given a chance to defend or explain themselves. If two-thirds or more of the Executive Committee and the advisor feels that the officer deserves a second chance, they shall be granted one. If two thirds of the Executive Committee feels that they do not deserve another chance, they shall be relieved of the position in writing and another election shall be held to fulfill their position.
- VII. Removal of member

- a. Approval System:
 - i. If at least 3 officers decide a member has been breaking organization or campus rules, they may bring a formal request to remove the member to the current executive board. Then the executive board will conduct an investigation into the matter. If a majority of the executive boards agrees to remove the member the member will be immediately removed from the organization and banned from meetings. This clause only applies to ordinary members, officers are not included in this clause.
 - ii. If at least 3 executive officers decide a member has been breaking organization or campus rules, the member will be immediately removed from the organization and banned from meetings. This clause only applies to ordinary members, officers are not included in this clause.

ARTICLE V: Project Leads (Project Manager/Chief Engineer/Trustee) Responsibilities and Accountability

A project lead under AIAA-UH is a person who has the overall responsibility for the successful initiation, planning, execution, monitoring, controlling and closure of an AIAA-UH project.

- I. Eligibility - Any person involved with the AIAA student branch at the University of Houston shall be eligible for selection for the project manager provided that he/she:
 - a. Must not be on academic probation and must be in good standing within the University of Houston
 - i. For undergraduate students, a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher is strongly recommended
 - ii. For graduate students a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher is strongly recommended
 - b. Is currently a member of the AIAA Student Branch at the University of Houston
 - c. It is strongly recommended that a project lead has at least one semester of experience with the project team.
 - d. A project lead cannot hold an AIAA-UH executive officer position in addition to their project lead position. It is recommended that a project lead does not hold any officer positions within AIAA-UH.
- II. Responsibilities
 - a. At least 1 project lead MUST be in attendance in the weekly officer meetings
 - b. Project leads are responsible for the creation and submission of a yearly framework document which includes overall goals and deliverables for the project teams.
 - c. The project leads are responsible for submitting deliverables according to the deliverables document throughout the duration of the project in a timely fashion.
 - d. Failure to accomplish deliverables may lead to a demerit by the Executive committee (See Article V, Section III).
 - e. Trustee Only:
 - i. Apportioning usage of club license call sign to select members
 - ii. Ensuring proper etiquette is used while transmitting with club sign
 - iii. Ensuring club equipment is properly calibrated and operating in designated bands
- III. Removal of Project Lead
 - a. Demerit System
 - i. Demerits will be given to project leads at the discretion of the Executive committee. There must be 3 out of 4 votes from the Executive committee to justify giving any demerit provided evidence shows the offense occurred beyond reasonable doubt. After accumulating two demerits, an email will be sent to schedule a meeting which includes the project leads and Executive committee, stating the project leads' position is in jeopardy and he/she will be removed in the event that there is one more demerit following the meeting. In

- the event there is one more demerit accumulated after the meeting, he/she will immediately be removed without appeal.
 - ii. Failure to turn in deliverables without reasonable justification, as mentioned in Article V - Section II, may justify a demerit.
 - iii. Additionally, behavioral issues with the project leads may justify a demerit. A demerit will be given at the discretion of the executive committee. Behavioral issues that justify a demerit include but are not limited to: failure to perform one's duties, attendance, misrepresenting the group, misuse of funds, or acting in an inappropriate manner at an event or activity. The project lead shall be given a seven-day notice and an opportunity to defend their actions to the Executive committee.
- b. Vacancy of Office - Project Manager/Chief Engineer
 - i. If a vacancy exists for any project lead of an AIAA-UH team, the Executive Committee and sub team leads of the project team may appoint a member to serve in the vacant position for the remainder of the term of office.
- c. Vacancy of Office – Amateur Radio Trustee
 - i. If a vacancy exists for the trustee of an Amateur Radio Club, the club trustee is unable or unwilling to fulfill their obligations, or he/she becomes a “silent HAM”, an election of the Executive Committee must be held immediately to elect a new trustee. Until a new trustee is elected and formally filed with the FCC, the club license, callsign and equipment may not be used.
- b. The trustee position may be held by any licensed club member with a classification equal to or greater than that of the club license classification. If no such member exists, a lower-classed member may be appointed, and the club must not exceed the privileges of the new trustee's class.

ARTICLE VI: Amateur Radio Club Membership & Operations

The purpose of UH Amateur Radio Club is to give members an avenue to learn about and experiment with radio electronics and wireless communication. This club will give tutorial/training sessions for the club license exams and give students the opportunity to get hands-on experience with advanced radio equipment. Members will be allowed to communicate over HAM Radio with operators around the world and may participate in club tours and field day events. Ultimately the goal of this club is to have fun and socialize with like-minded individuals in the amateur radio field.

- I. Eligibility - Any person involved with the AIAA student branch at the University of Houston shall be eligible to join UH Amateur Radio Club provided that he/she:
 - A. Is currently a member of the AIAA Student Branch at the University of Houston, faculty or alumni.
 - B. UH Amateur Radio Club is free for any student, faculty member and UH alumni to join. However, membership is limited to paid members of AIAA and alumni. Failure to pay dues to AIAA may result in removal from UH Amateur Radio Club roster.
 - C. The club shall offer two classes of membership: licensed and unlicensed
 - 1. Licensed members are members who hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License. The Executive Committee shall document the license class as recorded in the FCC's ULS database prior to declaring a member to licensed member.
 - 2. Unlicensed members are members who do not hold an FCC Amateur Radio License.

Members are not required to have valid a HAM Radio license, however it is highly encouraged, and membership will be in “unlicensed” status until HAM Radio license is obtained.

II. Membership Rules

- a. Only licensed members will be allowed to serve as control operators of any amateur radio station. This includes wireless radio equipment such as handheld radios, mobile or

- permanent transceivers, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Telemetrum and any other device operating on HAM Radio frequencies.
- b. The club license and callsign may ONLY be used by licensed HAM Radio operators, and in the presence of the club trustee or when express permission is given by the club trustee.
 - c. The FCC rules as set forth in 47 CFR §97 will be explicitly followed. Any questions of interpretation will be settled by the Station Trustee. A current copy of the ARRL FCC Rulebook will be always available in the station.
 - d. Proper station identification will be used. All transmissions will be identified with the club callsign. The station may be used under the operator's own callsign with the permission of the Station Trustee.
 - e. All operators must be able to produce evidence of FCC licensing while operating.
 - f. Band privileges will be limited to those of the control operator. For example, Technician class licensees must have a General class license or higher be present and consent to be control operator to operate in the General class or higher bands. Use of the club callsign will not be a cover for unlawful use of the amateur bands.
 - g. A General class license or higher is required for use of any HF equipment. Further, the Station Trustee or a designated member must confirm that operators have been trained and fully understand the use of the equipment before being allowed to use them
 - h. In the event of malfunctioning radio equipment, members must stop using immediately, and report the failure to the trustee and an officer of the club. The equipment shall be tagged and removed from operation.
 - i. When dealing with possible violation(s) of FCC regulations, the Station Trustee will have the final authority on the operation of the station. All instructions by the trustee pertaining to the use of the club license and callsign must be followed explicitly. Failure to follow instructions by the trustee may result in expulsion from the club.

ARTICLE VII

Faculty Sponsorship and Liaison with Headquarters

The branch shall show to the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics evidence of faculty sponsorship in order to assure continuity of purpose and activities and conformity with the rules and regulations governing student activities at the institution. To this end headquarters:

- (a) Requires that the initial step in the organization of a student branch be the agreement of at least one faculty member that is a current AIAA dues paying member agree to serve as sponsor for the branch.
- (b) Requests announcements of new officers and coverage of special programs for release to the AIAA publications.

ARTICLE VIII

Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer). They shall have general supervision of the work of the branch and shall perform such other duties, as the branch shall determine. The faculty advisor shall be an ex-officio member of the committee and a professional member of AIAA.
2. There shall be as many committees with as many members as deemed necessary by the branch membership to carry on the work of the branch. Committee chairs are appointed by the Branch Chair with the approval of the executive officers.

ARTICLE IX

Meetings, Procedures and Quorums

1. A minimum of at least four meetings per school year shall be held. Special meetings of the branch may be held at the call of the Chair or upon written request of 20% of the membership.
2. A quorum at any meeting of the student branch shall be at least 25% of the members of the branch.
3. Five members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee.
4. The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Revised* shall cover this branch in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or the bylaws of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

ARTICLE X

Financial Affairs

1. The fiscal year shall coincide with the AIAA fiscal year (October to September of the following year).
2. The branch shall not incur any obligations in excess of \$500.00 over the funds on hand.
3. In the event that the student branch should go through dissolution, then all assets shall be transferred to University of Houston, the university where the organization was established, or to AIAA Headquarters.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments and Limitations

1. The members of the branch shall in all respects be governed by these by-laws, which are subject to the provisions of the constitution and the bylaws of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.
2. Amendments to these by-laws may be made by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those student branch members present at a special meeting called for the express purpose of changing these by-laws. Such a meeting must be announced at least 10 days in advance. An amendment may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a member petition to the Secretary. At least 10% of the membership endorses such a petition. No less than five members can offer such a petition when 10% of the membership is less than five individuals. No amendment that is inconsistent with the by-laws or the constitution of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics shall be submitted to vote.
3. These bylaws and any amendment hereof shall promptly, after adoption by the branch, be submitted to the Student Activities Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics via Student Programs for approval. All amendments are subject to approval by the Student Activities Committee.

Anti-Hazing Clause

This organization will not initiate, participate in, or be witness to any act that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).

— Students and Student Organizations are prohibited from initiating, participating in, or being witness to hazing activity. Hazing is antithetical to the University's commitment to a positive educational environment. Participation in hazing activities is against the law. Violation of the University's hazing policy, whether on or off-campus, may subject participants, including students and organizations, to arrest, prosecution and/or disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion of students and the revocation of an organization's registration and/or recognition at the University. Consent to or acquiescence in hazing activity is not a defense. The University strictly prohibits participation in hazing activities by any party, regardless of the existence of consent. Hazing activities do not contribute to the positive development or welfare of students. The University of Houston recognizes the act of hazing as illegal, irresponsible, intolerable and inconsistent with the principles of higher education and

basic human development. For more information on the University's Hazing Policy please visit the Student Life Policies section of the [University of Houston Student Handbook](#).

Non-Discrimination Clause

As a Registered Student Organization at the University of Houston we adhere to the University of Houston's Non-Discrimination Policy. The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. The university provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status except where such distinction is required by law. Additionally, the System prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

— The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, sex (including gender and pregnancy), genetic information, religion, age (over 40), national origin, ethnicity, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity or status, gender expression, or any other legally protected status except where such distinction is required by law. This statement reflects compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and all other federal and state regulations.

Certified as correct:

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kelly Huang

Chair: Emma Pitrof

Date: 06/26/2026