

Analysis on constitution of American college republicans

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ABSTRACT: This paper, based on internet survey and comparative analysis, according to the firsthand materials, comprehensively and systematically probes the formation of the constitution form and structure, and analyzes its contents of Constitution of American College Republicans among 15 colleges respectively, which includes the illustration of constitution, membership, personnel, meeting, financial amendment, etc. Finally, this essay analyzes the characteristics of constitution of college republicans and its advantages.

Keywords: America; college republicans; constitution

In America, some large-scale colleges prohibit activities of party and group under their rules and regulations. In order to attract and enhance student's education in party spirit, the Republican and Democratic Party founded the College Republicans and College Democrats respectively, aiming to carry out party spirit education and propagate the value sense by a kind of organization-like way.

Otherwise, the Republican Party established College Republican National Committee (CRNC), which is a national organization for supporting student organization of American college republicans. Currently, CRNC includes 50 states, over 1800 college republicans and 250,000 members¹. In the college, CRNC enrolls, trains and calls up school students to participate in election in 50 states, and also to propagate their party ideals. Each year, members of college republicans gather together from place to place of America on the purpose of helping to elect the candidate of the Republicans and supporting the agenda of their belonging Party. On the other hand, they also will be the future leaders of the conservative movement. In other words, college republicans greatly devote their efforts to win supports in large-scale schools for backing the Republicans.

Thus, the author did general investigation via the way of internet survey on the basis of college republicans in 50 American states and the Party's development. After researching, it was found that the college republicans were set up in many authoritative colleges

in America with relatively ruling specific and comprehensive constitution. According to the differences of geographic location and economic development between states, this paper targets the constitutions in 15 college republicans² as the research objects.

1 ANALYSIS ON THE FORMATION OF CONSTITUTION OF AMERICAN COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

The constitution of American college republicans is mainly voted through by belonging college republicans. Formulation department mostly comes from the organization itself and the time of decision also is early for making constitution. When these constitutions have made, it wouldn't be revised generally. The amendment time of 15 college republicans is shown in Table 1.

Because of its ages and the preservation of documents, there are seven constitutions whose date of formulation and amendment wait to be examined, which is the 46.7% of all the samples. There is one constitution framed in 1990s, which is the 0.7% of all the samples, while seven constitutions are framed in 21 century, which is the 46.7% of all the samples. Ac-

² Indiana University, The University of Virginia, Columbia University, Northwest University, University of Oregon, Central Michigan University, State University of Iowa, Ohio State University, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pennsylvania, Washington State University, Northeastern University, University of Georgia, Auburn University, Utah State University.

¹ College Republican National Committee [2014-11-6]
<http://www.crnc.org/about/history/>

cording to the data above, on the one hand, the constitutions of Republican Party in American universities are framed in the early time. On the other hand, College Republicans in American concern largely about the amendment and completeness of constitution, and focus on the timeliness of content.

Table 1. The formulation/amendment time of constitution

Universities	The date of amendment/ formulation
Indiana University	November 4 th , 2012
Columbia University	January, 2010
Northwest University	January, 28 th , 2014
Lowa State University	July 14 th , 2010
Camegie Mellon University	October 28 th , 1997
Washington State University	January 1st, 2002
Auburn University	November, 6 th , 2010
Utah State University	July 17 th , 2012

2 THE CONTENT ANALYSIS OF CONSTITUTIONS OF COLLEGE REPUBLICANS IN AMERICAN

There is no uniform format for the constitutions of College Republicans in American. With the consideration of 15 samples adopted in this paper, a complete constitutions of College Republicans in American can be divided into seven parts and every part owns several subcategories: (1) the illustration of constitution, including preamble, name and affiliation, mission statement or purpose etc.; (2) membership, including the qualification of membership, the right of membership, membership fees etc.; (3) personnel, including officer management, executive board and director etc.; (4) meeting, including regular meetings etc.; (5) financial, including appropriation, account information, expenditure etc.; (6) amendment, including mainly the procedure and requirement of amendment; (7) others, including non-discrimination, by-laws etc.

2.1 *The illustration of constitution*

2.1.1 *Preamble*

Preamble generally illustrates the purpose of constitution, the goal of organization, the nature of College Republicans, the relationship between College Republican and Republican Party or other organization, and the five constitutions of College Republicans from Columbia University, University of Michigan, Ohio State University, Washington State University and University of Georgia. For instance, Columbia University indicates that Columbia Republicans is a political organization and a member of student council in Earl Hall. Moreover, the purpose of the organization is to inform and promote the idea and stance of Republican Party, accelerating the formation of republican student community on campus and support the political activity of Republican student on campus.

2.1.2 *Name and affiliation*

Name manifests directly that the certain name of College Republican can be recognized from the corresponding constitution. Taking the "Name" of Northwest University as an example, it indicates that the name of the organization is Northwest University Republican. Affiliation indicates which party and committee the organization belongs to. For example, the "name and affiliation" of Auburn University partly illustrate that Auburn University Republican is a member of National Republican Committee, Alabama Republican, National Committee, and Lee County Republican.

2.1.3 *Mission Statement or Purpose*

Mission statement or purpose is the reason why College Republican exists, mainly containing four aspects: (1) promoting and expanding the principles and value of Republican Party, including the value, freedom and tradition of American value of limited government; (2) enrolling college students to join in Republican Party, giving assistance to those who want to become a member of related organization, and establishing Republican exchange communities; (3) giving assistance to the election of the Republican Party candidate in every level (national or state levels); (4) training students to serve the ideology, political skill and leadership of the party and society in the future, and to become the future leader of republican movement.

Among them, in addition to the above four aspects, the purpose of the republicans of also includes the following two aspects: (1) Diversity and conversation, mainly in fulfilling its mission, which allows the diversity of its members, and encourages the conversation and discussion between its members. The organization will make every effort to bring conversation to its members who have different opinions with each other, and acknowledge the independent initiatives and efforts of its members; (2) Carry out the role of the executive committee, mainly is to offer help and remain that principles and values of republican are keeping in consistence in order to organize various activities, promote the republican position or principles, which includes but is not limited to the patrol, regular meetings and social events

2.2 *Members (Membership)*

15 samples of the constitution have set up a "member" specially. The member section mainly elaborates the requirement, conditions of joining in and the rights and obligations as well as the membership dues of its members.

2.2.1 *Membership/condition*

The first requirement of the membership is that the joining members must be its students who studies in it right now and its staffs, no matter where and which

ethnic group they come from, what color their skin is, what age, religion, nationality, gender, and whether they are married or not, or disable or not. Secondly, the joining members should be interested in the republican cause and agree with the principles and values of Republican Party.

Those students and faculty who are qualified should fill the form of membership application and submit it to the republican officials who are responsible for this matter. After they inspect and vote to pass, you will be its member. The constitution of the republican of Michigan University also pointed out that the applicant needs to sign the declaration of this initiation.

Once you get in the initiation, your membership will be remained till your graduation. The organization can repeal the membership with the two-thirds vote to pass if there is any violation for the constitution of the group, school regulars, or the related republican rules. Anyone intends to destroy the activities organized by the Republican Party or harm to republican course will also be punished by removing his membership. The dismissed member can appeal in the session. If he can gain half the vote of support, he can regain his membership. If a member wants to drop out of the institution, he should send a mail to the related officials who are in charge of this. After the official's inspection and permission, he can drop out.

2.2.2 *Rights and obligations of members*

A member can take part in any activities held by the Republican Party, which includes lectures, presentation and volunteer works. Besides, a member should follow the related requirements to participate in meetings. How long he should present in the meeting will differ from the conference demands. For example, Iowa State University pointed out that generally a member has to join two regular meetings in a semester, but Auburn University asks them to participate in at least two meetings. Furthermore, a member has right to vote. The member has the right to vote for the personnel, deposition, decision-making, and constitution amendment. For any specialized matters, the voter turnout should be over half of them if there is no other principle to follow. Members in different levels have different right to vote. For example, the Central Michigan University points out that the active members have the vote to all items of the college republican, but a general member couldn't vote for funds and recall election. Carnegie Mellon University authorizes its voting right to active members only instead of the general or inactive ones.

2.2.3 *Fees*

Students or teachers who meet the qualifications and become a member should pay certain fee in each semester as required. The amount of fee should be discussed and voted in the Republican Convention of Colleges. But there are republican institutions in some colleges which do not charge members fees, for ex-

ample, Indiana University clearly provides that it is not allowed to charge students a fee who are interested in joining the Republican in the name of any project.

2.3 *Personnel*

2.3.1 *Executive board*

College Republicans should be charged by the Executive Board, which is elected by the general people and has the following rights and responsibilities: (1) determine the time and place of all meetings; (2) set the agenda of the General Assembly; (3) approve or reject the appointment of a special office; (4) have the right to vote. It generally consists of chairman, vice chairman, secretary and financial officer. (See Table 2)

In addition to the positions listed in Table 2, some College Republican Executive Boards also have other positions. These positions are not all the same in different schools, which include but are not limited to the following positions: Student Government Association representatives, executives, executive director, marketing director, director of public relations, political department director, newcomer alliances, social media director, consultant, etc.

2.3.2 *Appointed officers*

Executive committee can assign appointed officers, and the chairman also has this right, which includes but is not limited to the position as shown in Table 3.

2.3.3 *Election*

Executive committee member are generally elected by voting, but the time and requirement in the election differs in schools, such as the provisions in Pennsylvania: executive committee whose term of office is one year, is elected before the first week of every December, and the committee can appointed outreach committee at the beginning of every term. Washington University provides that the chairman and vice chairman should be elected before the last three weeks of each school year, and other positions should be elected at the first meeting of a new school year. Officers can be passed with half the non-registered vote.

2.3.4 *Position vacancy and recalling*

Officer elected by citizens who has been proved to be neglectful or incapable, or hasn't executed his responsibility can be recalled according to the procedure with generally three quarters voting from college republicans or two thirds from executive committee. The whole recall procedure should be finished during the set time, which is a week in some schools or three weeks in others.

After recalling an officer, if the position of chairman is vacant, the vice chairman would immediately take this place and keep his own job at the same time. If the vice chairman could not take this, the second vice chairman or financial supervisor would do this.

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Table 2. Permanent posts and responsibilities of the Executive Board

Position	Responsibility
Chairman (1 person)	<p>A. He is CEO of the organization, the official spokesman, and spokesperson and contact person for the College Republican Institution;</p> <p>B. He is responsible for the implementation of policies and programs, including daily operations and maintaining of the continuity of the College Republican Institution;</p> <p>C. He organizes, convenes and presides at all meetings, including regular meetings and Executive Board meetings;</p> <p>D. He supervises and helps all activities of members and the Board;</p> <p>E. He formulates annual plans and summary, including financial budget and report;</p> <p>F. He has the right to decide and vote on all matters;</p> <p>G. He appoints some special posts.</p>
Vice chairman (1-2 person(s))	<p>A. They can be divided into vice-chairman of interior, vice-chairman of activities, first vice-chairman, second vice-chairman, vice-chairman of coordination, etc.</p> <p>B. He is directly responsible for the President. If necessary, he will assist the Chairman with all internal and external affairs;</p> <p>C. He keeps in touch with other student groups, and is in charge of implementing the communication between the Board and the Member;</p> <p>D. He temporarily replaces the duties of Chairman when the Chairman is unable to perform his duties;</p> <p>E. He takes charge of recruiting members and coordinating relationship between members;</p> <p>F. He completes all the work assigned by Chairman.</p>
Secretary (1 person)	<p>A. He manages and maintains the daily work of the College Republicans Office;</p> <p>B. He receives, manages and maintains the email account and e-mail of the Republican College;</p> <p>C. He is responsible for all records of meetings and paperwork, and puts them in order;</p> <p>D. He takes charge of drafting internal documents and organizing external communication;</p> <p>E. He takes charge of establishing and regularly maintaining the College Republican Institution's website;</p> <p>F. He keeps the list of members of the College Republicans;</p> <p>G. He implements their duties assigned by the executive chairman and vice-chairmen</p>
Financial officer (1 person)	<p>A. He is responsible for financial operations of College Republican Institutions, manages financial account, keeps all financial transactions records;</p> <p>B. He hosts, tracks and coordinates all financial events or activities</p> <p>C. He is in charge of completing the appropriation's process, including any appeals that may be required;</p> <p>D. He shoulders the main funding work, and coordinates fund-raising activities;</p> <p>E. He supervises financial transactions, including the disbursement of funds;</p> <p>F. He is in charge of the annual budget plans, annual financial reports, and annual financial reviews.</p>

Table 3. Positions for appointed officer and their duty

Title	Duty
Technical director	Supervise email account and website, and update according to the need
Director of political department	Coordinate college republican and the political relationship of other organizations in school
Press secretary	Keep all document records for the convenience of official publication, such as publishing release and advertisement
Event director	Organize and plan all school and community oriented activities to attract new members, and organize all social activities
Chief financial officer	Cooperate with financial supervisor and chief public relation officer to raise funds mainly on the operation and expense of the company, and keep cooperation with other departments, so as to gain the fund they need respectively
Chief public relation officer	Inform all participating members of the decision made by executive committee 48 hours in advance, including advertising and promotion
Social events coordinator	Take charge of all social activities
Activity liaison director	Develop the relationship and campaign with college republican, and contact central committee members
Director of public affairs	Build and promote the image of college republican in school, write news release and keep the school in touch with local media
Consultant	Staff or teachers of Washington State University, assist with all voting work of college republican
Outreach committee	Attract non-active college republican members and assist with projects and activities according to the need

And if vacancies appear in position such as vice chairman, financial supervisor and the secretary, a proper person is selected to take these places by the decision of chairman and executive committee.

2.4 Meeting

2.4.1 Routine meeting

The frequency of convening a meeting is not completely accordant, but two meetings are required in each month during the interval of every year or every school year, and it is convened every week in some individual schools. The time and the place of the meeting should be notified to participants by emails, phone or other ways within 24 hours before the meeting. If there is any particular situation, the information can be adjusted with the agreement of half of the executive committee. The chairman or the executive committee can convene an urgent meeting if necessary. And the attendees should be informed at least 24 hours in advance. The time of attending meeting of the year for every member of college republican is set, and if they cannot turn up, they should inform the person who is in charge of the reason by email or other written forms.

The contents discussed in the meeting are various items of College Republicans. It is required in Northwest University that the moderator, generally the chairman, is supposed to draft an agenda, including the reports of organizational financial condition from finance executive and those from ASG senators. It is also required in Michigan University that three copies of any written document including proposal, amendment, resolution, etc. should be submitted to the chairman before the meeting. Whether the discussed items could be put on the agenda are decided by the chairman, and if they are not sensitive or urgent issues, they could be submitted to the College Republicans and wait until the next meeting. The moderator is supposed to avoid voting unless a draw comes out.

The rules make provision for the speech and behavior of the members. During the meeting, if members want to speak, it must be confirmed by the chairman, and the time of speech is also included. Take the provision of Central Michigan University as an example, the College Republican members have to obey acceptable behavior and activity in the meeting, and profaned, interrogatory, threatening and abusive language and threatening or other destructive behavior are not allowed, the chairman and executive staff can allow destructive members to stay in the meeting or activity but not to take part in discussion or activity. Members will reserve voting in events like this.

2.4.2 Executive committee meeting

Executive committee meeting is supposed to be held during the period of every school year in fixed time and place. Some schools hold the meeting every

month, while some hold it every week. The detailed time and place should be sent out before the meeting. The meeting would be held at regular intervals unless the executive committee votes to cancel it.

The main participants are executive committee members and officers selected and appointed by citizens, however, non-executive committee members can take part in when receiving invitation from executive committee members. If they can't attend, they have to inform the responsible person by written form or email.

The meeting is normally conducted by executive committee member, and reports of officers (including but not limited to secretary, teller, chairman and co-chairman of central committee) are requested in the meeting in Ohio University.

The contents discussed in meeting are mainly some relatively significant issues about the College Republicans, such as personnel dismissing, decision-making and voting, etc.

2.5 Finance

Five schools have made provisions for financial issues in their republican chart, such as holding money, managing staff, allocating funds, etc.

After charging membership fees, college republican will deposit them in a bank account authorized by school accounting department within 24 hours after collecting. Moreover, information of the account would be taken charge by the chairman and financial supervisor, and when there are new ones, they have to sign an account confirmation.

Financial supervisor should make an outline and report of the account of the year and make a preliminary budget plan in the last meeting of every school year. What is more, the chairman, secretary or financial supervisor should report the financial details regularly to executive committee. All fund requests from college republican should be accorded by half of the organizational consultant, secretary or the chairman, and then the permission is given. For wholesale expense, a deal over 50 dollars in Auburn University, needs the voting of executive committee.

Once the College Republicans are dismissed, all the funds of the Republicans would be transferred to the relevant departments. If the Republican constitution of the Central Michigan University is dissolved, all the funds in the bank accounts of the College Republicans would be donated to the Isabella County Soup Kitchen.

2.6 Amendments

All the thirteen samples include the chapter of amendments in the constitutions and regulate the requirements for amending them. To ensure that the contents of the constitutions keep pace with the times, every college will regularly amend their republican

constitutions. Some colleges amend every few years, and some amend once a year. For example, the Northeastern University points out that the republican constitutions may amend the constitutions at the meetings designated by the Executive Committee each semester. Any member can require the Executive Committee to amend the constitutions in written form. The amendments should be proposed at the republican convention, and the amendments will only be approved with the agreement from the majority of the participants (the majority is generally two thirds, but three fourths in University of Oregon, Central Michigan University and Ohio State University).

2.7 Others

2.7.1 Non-discrimination

It mainly refers that there are specific notes of non-discrimination in terms of race, color, belief, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, sex, age, disability, family background, height, marital status and veteran status in the processes of enrolling members or electing officials.

2.7.2 By-laws

It mainly refers to some special situations in the constitution, such as some issues existing in validity, approval and election. For example, Carnegie Mellon University notes specifically in the by-laws that the constitution has been approved by the votes of half the members. The Central Michigan University indicates that any active member can propose to amend the stipulations of the constitution, but the proposal will only be approved when over 60% of the active participants are in favor of it.

3 CHARACTERISTICS

(1) Emphasize on the amendments of the constitution to ensure timeliness

Among the fifteen colleges and universities, thirteen ones include the chapter of amendments in the constitutions and regularly amend their republican constitutions. Some colleges amend every year. The Northeastern University amended the constitution in January 2014. Most colleges amend in the recent 10 years, which shows American colleges lay emphasis on the update and timeliness of the republican constitution.

(2) Complete and detailed constitution contents

Nearly all the republican constitution of the fifteen colleges and universities contain major items such as name, aims, members, personnel, meetings and amendments, and introduce each item in detail, especially in the aspect of personnel which clearly describes the duty, election and deposition of the Executive Committee.

(3) Clear duty and strict requirements

All the constitutions of the fifteen colleges and universities have detailed explanation to the "personnel", especially to the Executive Committee and the titles and duties of appointed staff. The procedures of election, recall and vacancy are also hugely strict, which means the approval can only be given when a majority of the members vote to pass. Therefore, both the appointment and deposition of the personnel follow the rules.

(4) Enforce invisible education of party spirit

The republican constitution of American colleges and universities does not have specific stipulations on the rights and duties of the members, only roughly describes that all members should attend a certain number of meetings and have the right to vote, and introduces little of other aspects, which does not mean that American College Republicans pay little attention to the education of party spirit for members. Firstly, individual schools specify that general members and active members enjoy different rights to vote, which indicates that Republicans lay emphasis on training party activists who would follow and serve the Party. Secondly, cultivate members' political skills and make them candidates of the Party. Thirdly, they do not have specialized agencies to train party members, while American College Republicans set up special agencies to cultivate party spirit. They do not have training courses for party members like we do at home. The education of party spirit is undertaken via some activities (such as speeches, elections, assemblies, volunteer activities and individual conversation), and also includes introducing the party values to the college students in order to develop their political enthusiasm and sense of identity and belonging for the Party.

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