Bylaws of Hastings Advocacy

Adopted: May 10, 2013

Revised: N/A

Article I. Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be Hastings Advocacy.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of Hastings Advocacy shall be to prepare UC Hastings students for careers of advocacy in local and state government by (1) connecting students to lobbyists, politicians, and legislative aides in the field, (2) soliciting student opinions and conveying those views to the administration, and (3) supporting the external Hastings Advocacy Committees in their efforts to lobby in local and state government. At all times Hastings Advocacy will comply with the Policies and Regulations Applying to College Activities, Organizations and Students.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Hastings Advocacy membership is open to all Hastings College of the Law students; however, pursuant to the Article IV, Section 2, membership of the External Committees shall be determined by an application process to be developed and regulated by those Committees.

Section 2. Any full-time student at Hastings may become a member of the organization upon payment of new membership fee, to be set by the Executive Committee at the first meeting of the fall semester, and submittal of any documents deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. Upon payment of the prescribed new membership fee and submittal of the requested documents, that new member shall be classified as an active member. Membership fee waivers shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Any active member who misses more than three (3) regularly scheduled meetings in a semester shall be dropped from the rolls and must then re-apply for membership under Article III, Section 2, of these bylaws.

Section 4. There shall be no dues or fees for membership in the organization, other than the new membership fee prescribed in Article III, Section 2, of these bylaws.

Section 5. In no instance shall these bylaws be interpreted as in conflict with the University of California Hastings College of the Law Policy on Nondiscrimination, which was amended on June 7, 2002.

Article IV. Organization Structure

Section 1. All members shall be considered part of Hastings Advocacy and be entitled to attend all General Meetings and events. At the election of the Executive Committee, the General Membership
may be divided into Internal Committees to plan events, promote initiatives, or support the External Committees.

Section 2. Hastings Advocacy shall be affiliated with two (2) External Committees, Hastings Advocacy Committee – State and Hastings Advocacy Committee – Local. The External Committees are not part of Hastings Advocacy and thus are not subject to these Bylaws or the Student Organization Handbook of UC Hastings; all references herein are for information purposes only. Membership on the External Committees is subject to an application process to be determined by the members of those Committees, and any changes to the membership requirements or the structure of the External Committees shall be reflected in these Bylaws.

Article V. Officers

Section 1. Hastings Advocacy shall be governed by an Executive Committee comprised of the members of the External Committees described in Article IV, Section 2 and the President of the Associated Students of UC Hastings or his or her designee.

Section 2. Only students who have held membership for a minimum of one academic semester are eligible to hold office or to apply for the External Committees; however, exceptions may be made by the Executive Committee upon a finding of substantial organizational interest.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by two (2) Co-Chairs, the Chair of the Hastings Advocacy Committee – State and the Chair of the Hastings Advocacy Committee – Local. The Co-Chairs shall run the meetings of the Executive Committee and recommend initiatives for Hastings Advocacy to pursue, subject to the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee. No Chair may serve for more than two (2) consecutive years in the same position.

Section 4. Additional officers shall be appointed by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee or by nomination of forty (40) percent of General Members and approval of two-thirds (2/3) of General Members.

Section 5. At least one member of the Executive Committee shall attend each meeting of the Associated Students of UC Hastings, brief the Associated Students as to the activities of Hastings Advocacy, and solicit feedback if necessary.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of the organization shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month from September to April unless otherwise decided by two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The regular meeting on the first Wednesday in November shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of receiving reports from the External Committees and explaining the application process to the same.
Section 3. Special meetings can be called by two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee or by the request of five (5) active members of the organization. At least two (2) days’ notice shall be given to all members.

Section 4. Forty (40) percent of the entire active membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but less than a quorum may adjourn any meeting.

Section 5. The Co-Chairs shall preside at all meetings of the organization, unless the Executive Committee appoints a separate Presiding Officer.

Article VII. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Article VIII. Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1. These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Members, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting and circulated by the Executive Committee to all members.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to promulgate regulations consistent with or in furtherance of these Bylaws and to recommend amendment to, or suspension of, provisions of these Bylaws. Such regulations and recommendations shall expire upon the selection of a new Executive Committee and are subject to approval by eighty (80) percent of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Hastings Advocacy may be severed from the External Committees upon the vote of either two-thirds (2/3) of the General Members or eighty (80) percent of the Executive Committee.