

“People have only as much liberty as they have the intelligence to want and the courage to take”

Emma Goldman

NAME

Liberation Coalition

NICKNAME

LibCo

MISSION

To engage in and inspire leftist discourse and student activism.

MOTTO

Power to the People!

LOGO



VALUES

1. Anti-capitalism
2. Intersectionality
3. Internationalism
4. Anti-fascism

ATTENDEES

Attendees of discussion meetings are encouraged to observe and engage in discourse relating to the meeting topic. Attendees are not required to uphold the values of Liberation Coalition, consider themselves leftist, or have knowledge of leftist ideology, but must be respectful to other attendees, demonstrate the desire to learn about leftist ideology, and not exhibit reactionary or disruptive behavior. Individuals don't need to become members at any point to maintain attendee status.

POWERS OF ATTENDEES

These powers are limiting

1. Attend discussion meetings unless banned.
2. Observe and engage in non-reactionary and non-disruptive discourse.
3. Motion and vote to begin discussion.
4. Motion and vote to break into groups.

MEMBERS

Members may attend discussion meetings and facilitate membership meetings. Members must uphold the values of Liberation Coalition, consider themselves leftist, and be accepted by the current membership by majority vote. Membership status is permanent unless revoked by a two-thirds membership vote. Inactive status is applied to members who do not attend two consecutive membership meetings. Inactive members are not counted in the voting quorum at membership meetings, but still have all powers active members have. Active status is reapplied to members once they attend a membership meeting. Alumni members are allowed to attend membership meetings, but may not vote.

POWERS OF MEMBERS

These powers are non-limiting.

1. All powers of attendees.
2. Attend membership meetings.
3. Viewing access to the Liberation Coalition Constitution google doc.
4. Motion and second anything that does not become disruptive in discussion and membership meetings.
5. By simple majority vote: accept members, ban reactionary or disruptive discussion meeting attendees, endorse official positions, remove leadership, committee members, and moderators, disband committees, and any other vote between two propositions not otherwise identified.
6. By ranked vote: determine agenda orders of membership meetings and discussion topics of discussion meetings, plan events and activism, elect

leadership, committees, and moderators, and any other vote between more than two propositions not otherwise identified.

7. By two-thirds vote: amend the Constitution and revoke membership status.
8. Interpretation of the Constitution is to the discretion of individual members.

LEADERSHIP

The leadership act as trustees whose role is to carry out the will of the membership. Leadership positions are only open to members. The purpose of the leadership of Liberation Coalition is to make small decision-making more efficient by delegating the process to one or more people. However, the leadership has no more authority over the general direction of the organization than any other members. The membership democratically determines as many administrative decisions as possible, which specific leadership positions are entrusted to carry out. As few administrative decisions as possible are left to the discretion of the leadership. While there are set terms for each leadership position, the membership may remove a leader through simple majority vote at any time. If a leader is temporarily unable to fulfil their duties, the membership may elect a temporary person to fill the position.

Parliamentarian

A parliamentarian is elected each semester, but may be removed by a simple majority vote at any time. The roles of the parliamentarian are to organize and facilitate membership meetings and votes, and enforce voting results and the membership's consensus of the constitution. If the parliamentarian is unable to perform their duties or the membership moves to remove the parliamentarian, the parliamentarian's position is immediately temporarily given to the general secretary until the parliamentarian is able to serve again, a new parliamentarian is elected or temporarily elected, or the parliamentarian is not removed.

General Secretary

A general secretary is elected each semester, but may be removed by a simple majority vote at any time. The roles of the general secretary are to coordinate with other organizations, maintain minutes of membership meetings, and oversee and aid committees (excluding the PR committee). If the general secretary is unable to perform their duties or the membership moves to remove the general secretary, the general secretary's position is immediately temporarily given to the parliamentarian until the secretary is able to serve again, a new secretary is elected or temporarily elected, or the secretary is not removed.

Communications Secretary

A communications secretary is elected each semester, but may be removed by a simple majority vote at any time. The role of the communications secretary is to manage the public image of Liberation Coalition and oversee and aid the PR

committee. If the communications secretary is unable to perform their duties or the membership moves to remove the communications secretary, the secretary's position is immediately temporarily given to the parliamentarian until the secretary is able to serve again, a new secretary is elected or temporarily elected, or the secretary is not removed.

COMMITTEES

Committees consisting of three or more people may be elected at any time for any period of time for any reason, for the purposes of organizing events, investigating votes, leaders, or committees, promoting Liberation Coalition, or any other projects the membership commissions. A committee must be assigned one or more purposes by the membership. Each committee has the power to take actions to fulfil the purpose(s) delegated to them. Members of committees may be removed and committees may be disbanded at any time by simple majority vote. The general secretary oversees and aids all committees, excluding the PR Committee. Below is a list of permanent committees.

PR Committee

A PR committee is elected each semester, but any member of the committee may be removed by a simple majority vote at any time. The purposes of the PR Committee are to write the weekly newsletter, promote Liberation Coalition, and act as the voices of Liberation Coalition. The communications secretary oversees and aids the PR committee.

MODERATORS

Moderators may be elected at the previous membership meeting for each discussion meeting. Moderators may also be elected or removed by the membership at discussion meetings. The term for this position ends at the adjournment of each discussion meeting and is not recurring unless determined by the membership. The roles of a moderator are to facilitate productive civil discourse relating to the topic, prevent certain attendees from dominating the discussion, and maintain an open atmosphere where everyone is equally able to express their opinions. A moderator begins a discussion meeting by announcing the topic after a motion to begin discussion has been approved. Moderators do not provide their own opinions, but rather serve as unbiased leaders of discussion. Multiple moderators may be elected to a discussion, typically if the membership expects to break into groups.

POWERS OF MODERATORS

1. Announce the discussion topic.
2. Interrupt speakers dominating discussion.

3. Attendees may not speak over a moderator. Repeated offenses may be considered disruptive behavior and result in a ban.
4. Query the room for other opinions.

“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion”
Albert Camus

DUES

No dues are required. However, given the ability to pay, donations are welcomed.

DISCUSSION MEETINGS

The purpose of discussion meetings is to educate members and non-members about leftist philosophy and political theory and determine ways of appropriate activism. Discussion meetings are open to all UT Austin students, faculty, and non-administrative staff who have not been banned by the membership. Meetings begin with a call for motions from the parliamentarian. Once a motion to begin discussion is approved, a moderator announces the topic determined by the members. After the topic has been announced, any attendee may begin the discussion or a moderator may query the room. If there is no moderator, the parliamentarian announces the topic, but does not function as a moderator unless elected to do so. If necessary, a motion to break into groups may be given at any point during the meeting.

REACTIONARY AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Reactionary behavior is defined by Liberation Coalition as any fascist, racist, sexist, classist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-semitic, xenophobic, ableist, anti-animal (any intent to cause a detriment to any sentient being), or anti-environment speech or action. Disruptive behavior is defined by Liberation Coalition as any speech or action that seeks to prevent meaningful discussion of discussion meeting topics, including repetitive speaking over a moderator.

PROTOCOL FOR BANNED ATTENDEES

This is the protocol if a banned attendee is present at a discussion meeting.

1. The parliamentarian announces to the banned attendee and all other attendees that the individual is banned.
2. The parliamentarian warns the banned attendee to leave the premises.

3. If the banned attendee does not vacate, the parliamentarian warns the banned attendee to leave the premises a second time.
4. If the banned attendee does not vacate, the extreme disruption protocol is initiated.

PROTOCOL FOR EXTREME DISRUPTIONS

Extreme disruptions are defined by Liberation Coalition as violent behavior, disruptive behavior that prevents voting protocols, or a banned attendee refusing to vacate after two warnings. The protocol for this situation is as follows.

1. The leadership signals to each other to initiate the protocol.
2. The leadership records the interaction.
3. The leadership attempts to deplatom the disruptive individuals by forcing them to relocate. This is to be done without the use of physical force.
4. If this attempt is unsuccessful, the leadership will disband the meeting or attempt to relocate.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The purpose of membership meetings is to plan activism and general events, and determine how best Liberation Coalition should be organized and run. Membership meetings are closed to accepted members and invited guests. Membership meetings may be called at any time as long as the location and time have been clearly announced to all members, the location is accessible to all members, and there is a quorum.

VOTING

Votes are conducted and enforced by the parliamentarian.

Formal Voting

Formal votes may only take place in membership meetings and require a quorum of two thirds of current active membership.

Informal Voting

Informal votes may take place in discussion meetings and membership meetings and do not require a quorum.

“Philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways. The point, however, is to change it.”

Karl Marx