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## Slow the Plow: Middlebury College Organic Garden Constitution

### Article I : Name

The name of this organization shall be Slow the Plow: Middlebury College Organic Garden.

### Article II: Purpose Slow the Plow shall:

- Maintain a garden that adheres to organic principles
- Produce food to sell to Middlebury College Dining Services and Middlebury College Catering
- Maintain, improve, and add to the facilities of the garden, according to evolving demands and growth
- Raise an awareness of Vermont's and Addison County's unique agricultural richness
- Host speakers, poetry readings, workshops, harvest festivals, and equinox celebrations, among other events, that are open to the entire community.
- Fundraise throughout the year
- Sponsor students to attend conferences and workshops
- Promote the Children's Garden Program

### Article III: Membership

In addition to all Middlebury College students, staff, and faculty, Slow the Plow hopes to include members of the greater Vermont community.

### Article IV: Officers

Co-ordinator(s) will serve as the administrative heads and official contacts. They will serve as links among the various officers, special committees, and the advisory board, along with conducting meetings and events. The coordinators shall be the official contacts for the advisory board and the Farmer Adviser.

Business Manager(s) will be responsible for creating and administering the budget. They work closely with the SGA finance committee. This position may be filled by one or two people, depending on demand.

Facilities Manager will oversee all on-site construction and repairs.

Production Manager will be in charge of garden layout, planting, harvesting, and sale of produce.

Fundraising Manager will plan and oversee fundraising projects and events.

Publicity Manager will ensure that all events are well publicized on campus and in the larger community.

Volunteer Manager will recruit and organize work groups, along with ensuring their supervision.

Children's Garden Manager will collaborate with a faculty advisor through an internship that will develop and oversee the summer and fall Children's Garden program.

College Integration Manager will ensure the longevity of Slow the Plow's role in and contribution to Middlebury College, by working closely with College administration and overseeing the Commons Supported Agriculture program. The Advisory Board will support and guide the students of Slow the Plow. This board will consist of the Farmer adviser, the student coordinators, at least three members of the faculty and staff at the College, and at least two members of the local community. The size of the board will vary according to the coordinators' discretion.

In addition to these positions, there will be special committees focused on specific, short-term projects, such as seed-saving.

#### Article V: Elections

Elections of the coordinator(s) will be held by March 15, by majority vote at the weekly meeting. A quorum of at least two-thirds of the current membership must be present at the vote in order for it to be validated. The managerial positions will be appointed by the coordinators.

#### Article VI: Meetings

Meetings will be held once a week and will be typically focused on a specific activity. Additionally, all managers will update the group on their projects and ongoing business will be conducted. The coordinator(s) will schedule, plan, and set the agenda for bi-annual Advisory Board Meetings.

#### Article VII: Advisor

Slow the Plow will have a paid, official, non-student Garden Advisor. In addition, the garden will have an advisory board that consists of faculty, staff, and community members.

#### Article VIII: Affiliations

This organization will have no affiliations.

#### Article IX: Discrimination Policy

This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section II, A of the *Middlebury College Handbook* concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organizations Policies section of the *Middlebury College Handbook* will immediately become policies adopted by the Slow the Plow.

#### Article X: Ratification

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

#### Article XI: Amendment

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

**Addendum:**

By means of an Organic Garden, Slow the Plow seeks to create a more environmentally aware, socially just, and economically self-sufficient community in Middlebury, bringing the college and town together on neutral ground. We hope that people of all ages, religions, economic statuses and lifestyles will be united in this venture. Slow the Plow shall be committed to fostering community strength and unity as well as enhancing people's connection to the land upon which they live. Such a garden will also provide an opportunity for wholesome physical activity and produce delicious nutritious food. We will strive to enrich the soil, flora and fauna in the garden area and to help people realize that they are members of a complex and diverse community, for which it is in our own self-interest to care. The garden will raise an awareness of Vermont's and Addison County's unique agricultural richness, providing an expanded perspective of what it means to be a student and a resident of the area. In order to achieve these goals, Slow the Plow will host guest speakers, poetry readings, workshops, harvest festivals, and equinox celebrations, among other events, open to the entire community. Slow the Plow's role as a site for education is of the utmost importance, its land and buildings will act as both a working organic garden and as a space for class and community gathering. It will serve as a valuable opportunity for a wide variety of research and exploration by classes, professors, community organizations and private citizens. The garden is also a space for creativity and we will continue to encourage the incorporation of art, in all of its forms, and special projects. We will sponsor students to attend conferences and workshops that are pertinent to the many aspects of the garden. To fulfill our pledge of social responsibility, we will make a concerted effort to avoid competition with the local agricultural community, and plan to donate a portion of our produce and products to local food shelters and other worthy causes.

The site of Slow the Plow shall be monitored throughout the year by Middlebury College students, who will be guided by a paid, official, non-student Garden Advisor. In addition to this advisor, the garden will have an advisory board that is composed of faculty and staff of the college and members of the community. Maintaining, improving, and adding to the facilities of the garden, according to evolving demands and growth will be a priority. Garden members will fundraise throughout the year, to supplement the budget and to provide salaries to the student-workers who care for the garden during the summer. Lastly, and most importantly, students will be responsible for learning and assessing the best, most sustainable, organic agricultural practices to be implemented. Slow the Plow will thus continue to be a site for cutting-edge and wholesome growth that is sustained by our commitment to our goals and our appreciation of the land.

Approved as to form: May 5, 2004