

Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE)

Constitution

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ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, which may be referred to as “ILCAE” or herein as the “Council”.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES, OBJECTIVES, AND MISSION

Section A. Mission Statement

The mission of ILCAE shall be to expand and enhance the future of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) in Illinois through the continuous advancement of quality AFNR education from Pre-Kindergarten through Post-Secondary. We will accomplish this by:

1. Promoting education in and about agriculture, currently consisting of the following curriculum pathways:

Agribusiness Systems
Animal Systems
Biotechnology Systems
Environmental Service Systems
Food Products and Processing Systems
Natural Resource Systems
Plant Systems
Power, Structural and Technical Systems

2. Addressing the changing needs of Agricultural Education to strengthen its viability and competitiveness.
3. Maintaining and supporting the annual Agricultural Education appropriation in the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Budget
4. Developing investment opportunities involving human and financial capital for the benefit of all groups having an interest in Agricultural Education.
5. Supporting those involved in Agricultural Education with leadership, direction, idea sharing, industry expertise, and recognition.
6. This Council is committed to incorporating the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) in the governance and operations of this organization including without limitation the recruitment of Council members and promotion of DEI throughout Agricultural Education programming.

Section B. Purpose

1. Serve as an Advisory Council to the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE) and Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) staff.
2. Involvement of all facets and levels of the Agricultural Education profession to provide statewide leadership to improve education in agriculture.

3. Provide for the engagement of stakeholders including without limitation of agricultural businesses, community-based organizations, and governmental agencies so that they may be directly and continuously involved in expanding Agricultural Education for Illinois.
4. Identification of resources to implement state efforts to strengthen AFNR education.
5. The Council shall provide strategic direction in identifying Agricultural Education issues, prioritizing objectives, establishing plans of action, identifying resources, facilitating futuristic planning and clarifying issues for action by the Council.

Section C. Objectives

1. Serve as an advocate for agricultural educators at the local and state levels.
2. Involve the total agricultural industry in the assessment of Agricultural Education and in developing quality instructional programs and processes to meet current and future needs.
3. Provide a forum to identify and address state issues and concerns relative to all aspects of Agricultural Education.
4. Facilitate futuristic planning for Agricultural Education on statewide basis
5. Establish a state structure to search out resources necessary for expanding and strengthening Agricultural Education.
6. Promote diversity, equity and inclusion in AFNR education programs.
7. Provide a sounding board to institutions of higher learning within the state regarding the education of future agriculture teachers.
8. Expand Agricultural Education opportunities in all communities of Illinois, including rural, urban and suburban communities, as a means of introducing students to potential ag careers available within the state.
9. The Council shall serve to identify Agricultural Education issues, prioritize objectives, establish plans of action, search out resources, facilitate futuristic planning and clarify issues for action by the Council.

Section D. Operational Restrictions

1. The Council shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Section A. Council

The Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE) is a voluntary, grass-roots statewide organization of individuals representing all segments of the agricultural industry within Illinois focused on the expansion and improvement of Agricultural Education programs at all levels. ILCAE is an advocacy group working in collaboration

with Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE) for the primary purpose of ensuring continued fiscal and administrative support for the Illinois State Board of Education's Agricultural Education programs.

Participants on the Council shall be either Active Members or Advisory Members.

Section B. Active Membership

The Council shall consist of 25 to 35 members.

1. Active membership in the Council is open to any person interested in achieving the goals and objectives previously stated.
 - a. All prospective members must submit a letter of introduction requesting membership, or
 - b. An individual may be nominated for membership by an active member of the Council.
2. All prospective members will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee as set forth herein and approved by a majority vote of the Council at any regular meeting.
3. Council members will be elected to a three-year membership term or to the completion of a term of service for a member who has resigned.
4. Council members may apply for or be nominated to consecutive membership terms.
5. Council membership may be resigned by written notification to the Council Chairperson and/or Executive Officer.
6. The Executive Committee shall exercise all powers of the Council during the interval between meetings except as prohibited by this Constitution.
7. Council participation is voluntary and members shall receive no remuneration from the Council for their participation in Council activities.

Section C. Executive Committee (Officers)

The Executive Committee shall prepare agendas, recommend programs of activity, outline calendars of events, and conduct the administrative function of the organization.

1. All officers, excluding Executive Officer, shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the Council at the first Board meeting of the operating year.
2. All officers, excluding Executive Officer, shall be limited to serving no more than 4 one-year consecutive terms in office.
3. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Executive Officer. The immediate Past Chairperson of the Council may serve on the Executive Committee.

4. The duties of the officers shall be:

a. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall be the leader of the Council and shall preside at all meetings of the Council, and Executive Committee. The Chairperson is an ex-officio member of all committees established by the Council. The Chairperson shall convene the Council whenever, in their opinion, the affairs of the Council are deemed necessary.

b. Vice Chairperson

During any vacancy in the office of Chairperson, or their inability to discharge the duties of the office, such duties shall for the time being devolve upon the Vice Chairperson. In addition, the Vice Chairperson shall have such duties and responsibilities as may from time to time be determined by the Council.

c. Secretary

The Secretary shall record and distribute the official minutes of all Council meetings, maintain the official roster of Council members and their terms of expiration, and keep a record of Council member attendance at official meetings. In addition, the Secretary shall have such additional duties and responsibilities as may be determined by the Council.

d. Executive Officer

The Executive Officer shall be the state FCAE Coordinator and shall assist the Executive Committee in planning and conducting the business of the Council. The Executive Officer shall compile and distribute information as directed by the Executive committee and Council. The Executive Officer shall establish and maintain the permanent file of the organization.

e. Past Chairperson

The past chairperson shall offer advice to the Executive Committee as needed.

5. The Executive Committee shall preside over all meetings of the Council.

6. The Executive Committee shall prepare all planning documents for consideration by the Council.

7. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Council shall fill the office by appointment.

8. The Executive Committee, if in unanimous agreement, shall have the right to electronically show support or disapproval (i.e. file a "Witness Slip") for any proposed legislation on behalf of ILCAE. Notice of any such action shall be made to ILCAE membership electronically within 24 hours.

Section D. Advisory Members

Representatives of agricultural education affiliates will serve the Council in an ex-officio (non-voting) capacity as advisors.

1. Advisory members shall include, but are not limited to, representatives of the following organizations:
 - a. Illinois Association Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT)
 - b. Illinois Association Community College Agriculture Instructors (IACCAI)
 - c. Illinois FFA
 - d. Illinois Professional Agriculture Student Organization (PAS)
 - e. Illinois FFA Alumni Association
 - f. Illinois FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee
 - g. Partners in Agricultural Literacy
 - h. AFNR Consultant to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
 - i. Illinois Agricultural Teacher Education Institutions
 - j. Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) staff
 - k. Illinois State Constitutional Officers
 - l. Illinois Department of Agriculture
 - m. Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE)
 - n. Illinois Farm Bureau
 - o. Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

2. Advisors and guests are welcome to attend Council meetings and must be formally invited by the Council Chairperson or Executive Officer when their input is desired by the Council as a part of the planned agenda.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section A. Council Meetings

1. The Council shall meet at least quarterly to conduct official business of the organization.
2. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairperson or by a formal request of five or more members of the Council.
3. Notice of the Council meeting shall be given by mail or electronically via email to all Council members at least 30 days prior to any meeting.
4. While in-person attendance is preferred to better facilitate discussion between members, members may choose to attend meetings either in-person or electronically. Council members attending meetings electronically shall have all of the same rights of speaking and voting as members attending in-person.

Section B. Executive Committee Meetings

1. Executive Committee meetings will be called at the discretion of the Chairperson, Executive Officer or by formal request of two or more members of the Committee.
2. Executive Committee meetings may be held either virtually or in-person at a time convenient to all members of the committee. Executive Committee members attending meetings electronically shall have all of the same rights of speaking and voting as members attending in-person.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section A.

The Council shall establish ad hoc and standing committees as deemed necessary to study and carry on the mandates of the membership.

1. Standing Committees of the Council shall include:
 - a. Nominating – Responsible for recruiting and vetting new Council members.
 - b. Curriculum – Responsible for reviewing existing curriculum and making suggestions for curriculum expansion and/or improvement.
 - c. Awards – Responsible for making recommendation for annual award recipients to the Council.
2. Ad Hoc Committee members shall serve at the charge of the Executive Committee

Section B.

The Council Chairperson, with the advice of the Council and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint all committee chairpersons and members.

Section C.

The Chairperson and Executive Officer shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

ARTICLE VI: TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

Section A.

A quorum, at any Council meeting, shall be a majority (50% + 1) of Council membership.

Section B.

The procedures for conducting business of the Council will be determined by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE VII: RECORDS AND REPORTS

Section A.

The Council shall maintain complete records of official proceedings of the Council.

Section B.

The Executive Committee shall submit ILCAE mission/purpose/objectives, member information, and operating year accomplishments for publication in the annual Illinois AFNR Education Report.

ARTICLE VIII: OPERATING YEAR

Section A.

The operating year for the Council shall be from July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Section A.

This Constitution may be amended, revised, or repealed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of all members present at any regular meeting of the Council, a quorum being present, provided a written notice giving exact wording of the intended change is sent to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.