

BY-LAWS for the Student Organization of Library and Information Science (SOLIS)

Revised Winter 2024 | Adopted Spring 2024

ARTICLE I.

Name

The official name for this organization shall be SOLIS (Student Organization of Library and Information Science).

ARTICLE II.

Mission

To recognize and promote high academic achievement among the graduate students of library and information science; and to foster the development of those students towards their eventual professional roles with all concomitant rights, responsibilities, and ideals.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

Any student currently enrolled in the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) seeking a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree at Valdosta State University is granted membership in SOLIS.

ARTICLE IV.

Governance

The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and a Communications Officer. The Communications Officer serves as the editor of the SOLIS newsletter and facilitates other media-driven forms of student outreach. An advisory board will consist of no more than six additional members. Together, the officers and advisory board members will comprise the SOLIS Executive Board with full voting rights for each member of the Board.

The term of office for all positions on the Executive Board shall be one year.

Student participation is essential for proper governance of the MLIS program. SOLIS officers shall be eligible for appointments to the committees in the DLIS as follows:

The SOLIS President serves *ex officio* on the DLIS Advisory Board. SOLIS presidential responsibilities include attendance (either in-person or virtually) at monthly DLIS faculty meetings, receipt of minutes of those meetings (excluding executive session items), and dissemination of those minutes to the SOLIS general membership.

The SOLIS Vice President or another appropriate designee from the SOLIS Executive Board represents SOLIS on the DLIS Curriculum Committee. Vice-Presidential responsibilities include attendance (either in-person or virtually) at monthly DLIS curriculum meetings, receipt of minutes of those meetings (excluding executive session items), and dissemination of those minutes to the SOLIS general membership.

The assignation of student representatives for other DLIS committees shall be selected from the ranks of other elected SOLIS leaders, including officers or advisory board members. Responsibilities of these additional representatives shall include those designated by the Head of the Department and dissemination of information related to those special assignments to the SOLIS general membership.

The Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies (or an appropriate designee) shall serve as the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor receives all financial proceeds resulting from fundraising or other sources available to the student organization and deposits them in the organization's account in accordance with the policies of the University. A financial report will be presented to the DLIS Head and the SOLIS membership at least once in the course of an academic year.

ARTICLE V.

Elections

Regular elections shall be held in the spring semester of each academic year. A call for nominations through open, verbal or written, nominations for officers shall be issued in March and April by the current SOLIS officers and board to be promoted through mid-April for the officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Communications Officer as well as for three advisory board positions. The remaining three available advisory board positions will be offered in the fall with a second round of elections run by the new SOLIS leadership to allow first-year students beginning in the fall of the academic year to participate in SOLIS. These spots will be held with a preference for incoming Fall students but will be open to all MLIS students.

Elections shall be conducted online and a majority vote of those from the SOLIS membership casting votes will determine new officers.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall serve as President until a replacement is elected at the next meeting of the organization. In the event of a vacancy in any other office, the President shall appoint (with the approval of the faculty advisor) a replacement who shall serve until the next scheduled election. Advisory board members vacating seats during a term of service shall not be replaced.

After spring elections, outgoing SOLIS officers should contact incoming officers no more than 7 days after election and schedule a brief, 30-minute meeting to discuss what went well and what didn't in their specific position. Take this time to transition documents, media, templates, passwords, and any other relevant information. A joint meeting including all incoming officers & advisory board members with the outgoing president will then establish a summer plan and lead a review of the past year to target growth opportunities and ensure a full transition was completed with each officer.

ARTICLE VI.

Meetings

The organization will meet at least once per semester (either face-to-face or through a web chat), excluding summer semester. Meeting time will be determined and set by the SOLIS President.

ARTICLE VII.

Sponsored Activities

The organization will strive to provide funding to defray expenses for at least one member every year to the annual American Library Association convention. The organization will accept requests for modest grants from members for LIS-related student research or travel to professional meetings as funding permits. The amount(s) and recipient(s) shall be determined on an ad hoc basis, and those current students interested in applying for funding shall submit requests to the SOLIS Executive Board via the faculty advisor before that semester's meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendments to these By-laws

These by-laws can be amended by at least a two-third (2/3) vote of the active membership casting votes during an election. To be considered, a proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to all current members at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the next scheduled meeting.