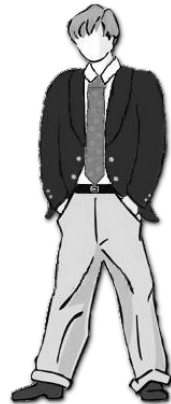


CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS  
OF THE  
GENTLEMEN OF THE COLLEGE



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>PREAMBLE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ARTICLE II: AUDITIONS AND MEMBERSHIP .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ARTICLE III: OFFICERS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ARTICLE V: UNIFORMS, DUES, AND REHEARSALS ...</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENT PROCESS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ARTICLE VII: THE HISTORY OF THE GENTLEMEN OF THE COLLEGE .....</b>	<b>9</b>

## **PREAMBLE:**

The Gentlemen of the College was founded in the spring of 1990 by several students with a common passion for men's vocal harmony. They originally focused on barbershop quartet singing, choral hymns, and doo-wop. Since then, the group has expanded its repertoire to include modern pop, rock, and indie music with vocal percussion. Despite these changes, the Gentlemen maintain tight vocal harmonies and blending in the tradition of older glee club groups. As the oldest all-male a cappella group at the College, the Gentlemen sing a wide variety of music with an emphasis on a complete show including humor and a dynamic stage presence.

Tradition runs deep within this group; not only is the Gentlemen a performing group, it is a brotherhood built upon the work of many others gone before. Wherever a member of this group goes, he carries with him all current and former Gentlemen. It is a group that takes the music seriously, and takes our bond to each other to heart. The words "Gentlemen or Die" run deeper than tradition; it is our motto, that we are bound to each other in what we do. We have fun, we put on a great show, and at the end of the day, we do it for each other. Gentlemen or Die.

## **ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE**

1. This document hereby establishes, describes, and provides for the longevity of an all-male a cappella group which shall be known as The Gentlemen of the College.
2. The Gentlemen of the College, also referred to as GoC, shall be a small, student-run a cappella singing group dedicated to quality men's vocal harmony.
3. One of the main goals of the group shall be to introduce audiences to the traditional styles of music the group was founded upon, primarily barbershop music and ensemble vocal harmony.
  - 3.1. An effort shall be made to showcase quality traditional arrangements that maintain the group's special origin in barbershop music as well as other traditional a cappella literature and music

- 3.2. Keeping in mind the traditional music, a wide variety of music can be performed by the group.
- 3.3. Priority shall be placed on quality vocal presentations of challenging music with an emphasis on ensemble arrangements that feature the entire group's abilities.
4. All arrangements shall be performed without instrumental accompaniment.
5. Special attention shall be given to dynamic stage presence and choreography; an integral part of the group's entertainment is the inclusion of humorous skits and anecdotes throughout the show, designed to enhance the audience's enjoyment of the vocal performance.
6. The group shall perform extensively on campus, as well as in the surrounding community and outside the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## **ARTICLE II: AUDITIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership into the Gentlemen shall be done through an audition and callback process involving the entire group and led by the Music Director.
2. A member in good standing shall be defined as one who:
  - 2.1. Is not prohibited by the College from participating in student activities.
  - 2.2. Meets musical expectations for the group as determined by the Music Director.
  - 2.3. Meets the attendance policy as set by the Business Manager.
  - 2.4. Notifies the group of any events that would affect their eligibility to participate in the group in a timely manner.
3. Auditions shall be scheduled for the beginning of each Fall and Spring Semester.
  - 3.1. The Gentlemen have the right to set up, advertise, and hold their own auditions separate from the A Cappella Council.
4. Auditions are open to all currently enrolled students at the College of William and Mary, including graduate students.
5. It is not necessary for the group to have a unanimous decision to invite an applicant to a callback; however, the group must come to a unanimous decision after the callback, during deliberations, in order to extend an invitation of membership to an applicant.
6. Any member of the group wishing to return after an absence of one semester must be considered for readmission and/or the possibility of a re-audition on a case by case basis, to be discussed by the Music Director and Business Manager or the group as a whole.
  - 6.1. There must be a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote to re-admit a former member.

## ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Gentlemen of the College shall be as follows:
  - 1.1. Two Senior Officers
    - Business Manager
    - Music Director
  - 1.2. Two Secondary Officers
    - Assistant Business Manager
    - Assistant Music Director
  - 1.3. Four Tertiary Officers
    - Social Chair
    - Historian
    - Recording Manager
    - Publicity Manager
2. The Business Manager and Music Director are officers of the same rank within the group; all other officers shall be accountable to these two officers.
3. The Business Manager shall:
  - 3.1. act as the official liaison to the community for all of the group's events,
  - 3.2. be responsible for informing all members of the date, location, and time of each rehearsal and performance,
  - 3.3. keep track of member attendance,
  - 3.4. arrange performances,
  - 3.5. maintain a record of all alumni contacts, as well as keep alumni informed about the group, i.e.: through a newsletter,
  - 3.6. schedule and reserve rooms for all events,
  - 3.7. appoint members of the group to special committees,
    - 3.7.1. The Business Manager shall appoint in the Fall Semester before every ten-year and every twenty-five-year interval anniversary year, a Reunion Coordinator.
      - 3.7.1.1. The Reunion Coordinator shall be in charge of planning and executing the Gentlemen Reunion, in conjunction with the Business Manager and Music Director.
      - 3.7.1.2. The Reunion Coordinator shall be required to pass on any planning documents and tips to the current Business Manager, which will be passed down to the next Reunion Coordinator in relevant years.
  - 3.8. handle the bank account and all money for the group,
  - 3.9. perform all other functions managerial or otherwise not music-related:

- 3.9.1. All other positions' responsibilities that require group funding must go through the Business Manager.
4. The Music Director shall:
  - 4.1. be responsible for leading rehearsals,
  - 4.2. organize individual training sessions with certain members as needed,
  - 4.3. handle music ordering, arranging, and song selection,
  - 4.4. keep track of current repertoire,
  - 4.5. have the final say in all music decisions.
5. The Music Director and the Business Manager shall concurrently:
  - 5.1. have the authority to remove members from the group not meeting the group's standards of attendance or musical excellence; this requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote from the current voting members of the group as called by the Music Director and Business Manager;
  - 5.2. have the ability to replace any officer described below not fulfilling his obligations and duties as described;
  - 5.3. have the power to create and appoint temporary positions as necessary or until an amendment can be made to the constitution.
6. The Assistant Business Manager shall:
  - 6.1. assist the Business Manager in his duties whenever he requires help, delegates, or is unable to fulfill his duties;
  - 6.2. Print off all sheet music for the group, to be reimbursed by the Business Manager;
  - 6.3. be responsible planning the group's annual spring tour during William and Mary's scheduled Spring Break:
    - 6.3.1. In the Fall Semester, the current Assistant Business Manager shall make a presentation to the group on several tour options for the group to vote on (which will be carried out by the following Assistant Business Manager, or make a presentation on a single option decided upon between the Assistant Business Manager and the Business Manager.
    - 6.3.2. While tour is ultimately the Assistant Business Manager's duty, he must work in conjunction with the Business Manager, and may work with the former Assistant Business Manager, but is ultimately responsible to the Business Manager for all financial decisions.
7. The Assistant Music Director is the second highest ranking musical officer in the group and shall take over the Musical Director's duties should he be absent and/or unable to fulfill them.
8. The Recording Manager shall be responsible for setting and managing, if

necessary, the recording sessions of the current group; the group shall record new tracks in preparation to release a new album every two years.

9. The Social Chair shall be responsible for planning and coordinating all social happenings of the group as a whole; he is also responsible for conceiving and negotiating a budget with the Business Manager for each event.
10. The Publicity Manager shall:
  - 10.1. be responsible for maintaining and updating the group's website and social media accounts;
  - 10.2. be responsible for all advertisements, videos, and photos concerning the Gentlemen and it's members.
11. The Historian(s) shall:
  - 11.1. be responsible for collecting and establishing written, photographic, and/or audio/visual records of the group's activities and placing them in the group archives.
  - 11.2. be responsible for submitting items to the Gentlemen of the College collection in Swem Library's Special Collections Archives at the end of each semester or academic year.

## **ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS**

1. Elections will be held at the end of each calendar year, on GoC Day, which is the Saturday between exams during the Fall Semester.
2. The current Business Manager and Music Director will preside over elections.
  - 2.1. If one or both of them is running for a position, the highest ranking officer not eligible for an elected position will preside.
3. In order to be considered for an officer position, an individual must be a current member in good standing of the Gentlemen of the College.
4. All current members in good standing have the ability to vote during elections.
5. Elections will proceed in the following order:
  - Music Director
  - Business Manager
  - Assistant Music Director
  - Assistant Business Manager
  - Recording Manager
  - Social Chair
  - Publicity Manager
  - Historian
- 5.1. Any member who runs for a position and is not elected to said position is allowed

to run for any lower office if he chooses.

6. Election Procedure:

- 6.1. As each position is brought up for election , nominations will be called for from the floor.
  - 6.1.1. Candidates can either be self-nominated or nominated by another member of the group.
  - 6.1.2. If the second of the above occurs, the candidate has the option to accept or decline the nomination; candidates who are self-nominated automatically accept their own nomination.
- 6.2. Each candidate who has accepted a nomination will be asked to leave the room; they will then be called in one by one to give a brief statement about their qualifications for the position and plans in that office.
- 6.3. After the candidate has spoken, there will be a Q&A session where the members of the current group have the ability to address questions to the candidate.
- 6.4. The next candidate will then be sent in after the first leaves the room, and the process above is repeated for each successive candidate.
- 6.5. The last candidate will be asked to leave the room while the rest of the group begins deliberations.
- 6.6. The officer currently holding the position being voted upon will be given the opportunity to speak from their own experience about the qualities necessary to succeed in that office before any other member of the group begins to discuss the nominees.
- 6.7. The group will then discuss the candidates amongst themselves in an organized manner before a motion from the floor for a blind vote.
  - 6.7.1. The vote will be overseen by the Business Manager and Music Director; in the case that one or both of those officers are running for another position, then the next two highest ranking members will preside over the vote.
  - 6.7.2. A candidate must receive a simple majority of the group's votes to be elected; if no one candidate receives a majority the first time around, a runoff vote will be conducted between the two highest tallying candidates.
- 6.8. Once a candidate is elected, the process will continue with the next position in the order laid out in Article 4, § 5; elections will not conclude until all positions are elected.
  - 6.8.1. The only office not required to be elected at the election meeting is the Historian; if there are no candidates for this position, one or two Historians may be appointed by the senior officers at the beginning of the following semester.

## ARTICLE V: UNIFORMS, DUES, AND REHEARSALS

1. Uniforms shall consist of:
  - khaki pants,
  - a white button-down shirt,
  - brown shoes and belt,
  - a navy blazer,
  - and a silly or wacky necktie.
  - 1.1. A casual uniform consisting of a Gentlemen t-shirt and pants or shorts, may be worn to appropriate performances at the discretion of the business manager.
2. Dues *may* be set annually by the Business Manager and at his discretion based on the needs of the group; optional Social Dues may also be set by the Business Manager and Social Chair; all dues are to be paid to the Business Manager.
3. Rehearsals of The Gentlemen of the College:
  - 3.1. The Gentlemen will rehearse on a regular basis, every Tuesday and Thursday evening, 7-9pm.
  - 3.2. The location of the rehearsals will be determined by the Business Manager and Music Director.
4. Attendance Policy of the Gentlemen of the College:
  - 4.1. Due to the nature of this performing group, regular and prompt attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory.
  - 4.2. At the beginning of the year, the Business Manager shall set an attendance policy to be enforced rigorously; the policy shall detail the following:
    - excused/unexcused absences,
    - leaving early,
    - tardiness (see below),
    - the policy of notifying the Manager of such occurrences,
    - the maximum allowable occurrences,
    - and the consequences of violations.
  - 4.3. While other policies shall be determined by the Business Manager at the start of each year, the policy for tardiness is as follows:
    - 4.3.1. for every ten minutes a member is late to a rehearsal, he owes a pizza to the group for their time he has wasted;
    - 4.3.2. this policy is decreased to every five minutes for performances and recording;
    - 4.3.3. if a single member of the group wastes the entire group's time in other ways, i.e.: showing up to a rehearsal or performance intoxicated or inebriated in any way, he owes the group that time as well, either in pizzas

- or by a suspension of his privileges to sing a solo during performances for a period of time;
- 4.3.4. the enforcement of this policy shall be determined jointly by the Business Manager and Music Director.

## **ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENT PROCESS**

1. All policies in this Constitution shall be reviewed by the Business Manager, or sent out via email to the entire group, at the first rehearsal of each semester where all members of the group are present; the existing policies in the constitution must be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the group at this time.
2. Motions to amend this constitution shall be addressed at the end of each semester, specifically GoC Day, which is the Saturday between exams during the Fall Semester, and on a day at the end of the Spring Semester before the Final Concert.
3. If there occurs a motion from the floor to discuss an amendment and a simple majority votes for discussion on said amendment, the matter will be deliberated at that time.
4. Amendments to the constitution must be ratified by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the group.

## **ARTICLE VII: THE HISTORY OF THE GENTLEMEN OF THE COLLEGE**

The Gentlemen of the College began in January of 1990 as an informal group of ten men. Organized by Douglas Seth Stambler '92, and Michael Thomas Fitch '93. Members that completed the Spring Semester of 1990 were: Chris Almond '92, Adrian Argento '90, Cameron Dahl '90, Mike Fitch '93, Martin Ohlinger '90, Billy Pessaud '90, Jay Purdy '90, Doug Stambler '92, Kevin Stefano '91, and Greg Wood '90. The group selected its name, "The Gentlemen of the College," conceived by Doug Stambler also in the Spring of 1990.

Major reorganizations by Stambler and Fitch officially established this group as a student organization in the Fall of 1990. Charter members were: David Benson, Bill Carpenter Dec. '93, Mike Fitch '93, Rick Giglio '94, Derek Gottschall '94, Brian Hogg '93, Derek Jackson '94, Jimmy Wildman '93, Andrew Zawacki '94, Doug Stambler '92, and Kevin Stefano '91.

Doug Stambler was the group's first official Business Manager and served in this position until the Fall of 1991. Mike Fitch was the group's first official Music Director and served the position until he graduated in 1993.

Doug was succeeded by:  
Brian Hogg '91-92  
Jimmy Wildman '92-'93

Mike was succeeded by:

Adam Shoemaker '93-'95  
Hans Ackerman '95-'96  
Chad Carr '96-'97  
Aaron Skinner '97-'98  
Adam Gurson '98-'99  
Tim Honeycutt '99-'00  
Alex Pyke '00-'01

Brent Turner '02-'03  
Josh Milson-Martula '03-'04  
Andrew Dilling '04-'05  
Graham Giovanetti '05-'06  
Dan Maguire '06-'08  
Paul Moore '08-'09  
Adam Clark '09-'10  
Tim Koch '10-'11  
Dylan Echter '11-'12  
Alexander Blaha '12-'13  
William Thompson '13-'14  
Dylan Vorbach '14-'15  
Jonah Fishel '15-'16  
William Theuer '16  
Jacob Miller '17

Seth Roberts '93-'94  
Charlie Hall '94-'96  
Brian Welty '96-'97  
Jung Woo Lee '97-'98  
Josh LeClerc '98-'99  
Donovan Maust '99-'00  
Art Neil '00-'01  
Alex Pyke '01-'02  
Mike Glaser '02-'03  
Will Carter '03-'04  
Sam Martin '04-'05  
Andrew Dilling '05-'06  
Colin Fuller '06-'08  
Greg Genovese '08-'09  
Peter Cabrera '09-'10  
Patrick Willis '10-'11  
Jacob Saracco '11-'12  
Erik DeLong '12-'13  
Nicholas Penthorn '13-'14  
Mark Kendrick '14-'15  
William Theuer '15-'16  
Jesse Levine '16  
Matthew Spears-Heinel '17

The Gentlemen of the College were founded in the spring of 1990 by several students who held a common passion for barbershop music. While the original group only focused on barbershop quartet singing and choral hymns, its current repertoire includes modern pop, rock, and indie music with vocal percussion. Despite these changes, the Gentlemen maintain tight vocal harmonies and blending in the tradition of older glee club groups. As the oldest all-male group at the College, the Gentlemen sing a wide variety of music with an emphasis on a complete show including humor and a dynamic stage presence. The group is known for wearing brown khakis, blue blazers, and crazy ties for performances.

Through the last two and a half decades the Gentlemen have performed at a number of venues, including the White House, the United States Capitol, the National Constitution Center, the Smithsonian Castle, and the Greenbrier Hotel. The group has also entertained Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and appeared on television shows like "The Price is Right" and ABC News "Good Morning Charleston".

During the school year, the Gentlemen sing for a variety of philanthropic causes and celebrations. They also perform in various locations in the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions. In addition to their concerts and similar gigs, the Gentlemen also take annual tours in the

Spring. Tours have taken the group to the Bahamas, California, Canada, Costa Rica, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, the Midwest, Nashville, New England, New Orleans, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and Washington D.C.

**Initial Constitution Ratified: Nov. 6, 1990**

**Current Edition Ratified: Dec. 10, 2016**