

April 8, 2003

## **Ears for Peers Constitution**

### **Article I**

We, the people of Ears for Peers, in order to form a more serene community, encourage inter-campus communication, and promote the general welfare of the Tufts community do establish this Constitution for Ears for Peers.

### **Article II: Mission Statement**

The mission of our organization is to provide an outlet for students in which they may share their problems, concerns, or issues with a non-judgmental and accepting peer. As “Ears,” our job is to listen and provide empathetic support and assurance. Additionally, Ears may recommend further resources both within and outside the Tufts community.

### **Article III: Membership**

All members of the Tufts student body are welcome to interview for our organization. However, since the nature of the line assumes some level of knowledge and comfort with the University and the work can be emotionally taxing, we strongly recommend that only those who have completed one full semester at Tufts interview. Every person who expresses interest and fills out an information sheet will be guaranteed an interview. However, only those with the requisite compassion, listening skills, and dedication not only to the line, but also to helping others, will be accepted as members. While the present members aid in the selection process, the decisions will ultimately be made by the coordinators.

### **Article IV: Meetings**

Meetings will be held once weekly during the academic year. Because of our anonymous and confidential nature, however, we cannot disclose the day, time, or location of such meetings to the wider community.

### **Article V: Leadership**

The officers of the organization will be two co-coordinators. The coordinators have the responsibility to train new members, make work schedules, run meetings, and assume responsibility for the various needs of the hotline and its members. In addition, the coordinators, along with current line members, share the responsibility of advertising the line through chalking and posters.

### **Article VI: Appointment Procedure**

A new coordinator will be appointed each semester. This person, in conjunction with an “old coordinator” (one who has already had the position for a semester) will share the responsibility of maintaining the line. Those members of Ears For Peers who wish to be coordinator may nominate themselves at the end of each semester. After an interview, the decision shall be made by the present coordinators.

### **Article VII: Treasury Procedures**

Financial records of the organization shall be kept in both the Ears for Peers Treasury and the TCU Senate Treasury. Records shall be updated at all times by both treasuries. A copy of the budget shall be issued to one coordinator, who is then responsible for keeping it updated. All transactions must go through TCU Senate Treasury and must be approved by both coordinators.

### **Article VIII: Voting Procedures**

Ears for Peers recognizes that in order to support its mission, it may take a stance on campus issues. In such cases, the entire group will decide, by majority vote, and a two-thirds majority of those present at the time of voting is required to define the particular stance.

### **Article IX: Faculty Advisor Role**

Coordinators must meet with the Ears' faculty advisor, Linda Escoll, from the Counseling Center once a month. During this time, any new ideas, problems, or questions should be discussed. All concerns regarding the line and its members should be directed to her first, and with her advice and approval the appropriate steps may be taken to correct the situation.

### **Article X: Constitutional Changes**

The new team of coordinators may decide if any constitutional changes need to be made each year. At that time, they may decide if any amendments should be added to the constitution or if any rules concerning the organization should change. Once the amendments are proposed and revised, they will be submitted for approval to the Tufts Community Union Judiciary.

### **Article XI: Impeachment**

Ears for Peers acknowledges that impeachment of a coordinator may at times be necessary to preserve the quality of the organization. In such a case, a grievance shall be presented in writing to both coordinators and discussed with the faculty advisor, Linda Escoll. The grievance will then be read aloud at the next meeting. Then there would be an open forum for discussion of the issues at hand, giving the accused a chance to defend him/herself. After the discussion, the members will vote yay or nay to impeach the accused, requiring a two-thirds majority to impeach the coordinator.