Article I – NAME

This organization shall be known as *Ernest Marshall Association* or Film and Video Student Organization at Gallaudet University. The name of “Ernest Marshall” is used to honor his important role in Deaf History.

According to article from *The Silent News* in February 1971, Ernest Marshall was the first deaf person to create movies with deaf actors in it.

“So many names and so many faces, a well known thespian, Ernest Marshall, admits he cannot remember. It is a problem for him as through forty years many deaf person had viewed him in the series of shows either on stage or on screen. It is his utmost ability to entertain deaf people in audience. ….

“He was the first deaf person producing movies with a cast of deaf players. Also he imposed first English subtitles in one of the films he showed around the country. There was a write up about his film work in the Silent Worker magazine of April, 1964, bearing his picture on the cover.

“In the silent movie era there were movie houses where deaf people enjoyed films. When sound-tracked films came, the deaf were deprived of entertainment through the elimination of titles. He then became a projectionist at St. Ann’s Church for the Deaf where the silent feature films were shown. Ever since he remains as the projectionist in this 40th year. At present he arranges captioned film programs of the Long Island Club for the Deaf and he also participates as a projectionist of the Union League.

“Making movies is his supreme ability. His last appearance on the stage was at the National Basketball Tournament under the auspices of the U.L. The show he directed and performed in was unique. It was titled, “Live Movies.” Many deaf people who saw it, have never forgotten the unusual show. ….

“He is married to the former Alida Purdy for 31 years. They enjoy mixing with deaf people and always are eager to please whomever they may contact.” (*The Silent News*)

Article II – OBJECTIVES

*The Ernest Marshall Association* is a non-profit organization operated by students. Its objectives shall be:

a. To produce films and videos.
b. To work together on various visual media productions.
c. To develop skills in areas associated with film and video Production.
d. To serve as a public relations tool for future deaf filmmakers and videomakers both in the United States and other countries.
e. To provide a support system for students majoring or minoring in the Television, Photography, and Digital Media Department.

**Article III – MEMBERSHIP**

Membership to this organization shall be open to any full-time or part-time student enrolled at Gallaudet University. To become a member, he/she needs to pay the membership fee.

Annually, in order to stay a member of the *Ernest Marshall Association*, he/she shall pay his/her membership fee by the fall semester.

Officers, including president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, senator and alternate senator, shall be included as members of the *Ernest Marshall Association*.

The members will vote to decide the fee amount at the end of each term, applicable for the following year.

**NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE:** No students shall be excluded for the following reasons: race, color, creed, sexual orientation, age, handicap, gender, national origin, religion, or marital status. Graduate students are not to be excluded because of their “student status”.

**Article IV – ADVISOR**

A. **Description**
   1. The advisor shall be a faculty or staff member of Gallaudet University; he/she shall have expertise in film and/or video Production.

B. **Term**
   1. The president shall solicit from a faculty member to act as an advisor.
   2. The advisor shall continue serving until he or she decides to resign. Upon resignation, the advisor, president, and vice-president shall select a new advisor.

C. **Duties**
   1. The advisor shall serve as a liaison between the *Ernest Marshall Association* and Gallaudet University’s administration.
   2. The advisor shall meet regularly with the president of the *Ernest Marshall Association* as needed.

D. **Privileges**
   1. The advisor shall have the authority to halt actions and/or decisions if in contradiction with the University’s mission.
   2. The advisor shall be there to advise the president as deemed necessary.

**Article V – OFFICERS**

A. **Description**
   1. The officers shall consist of: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Senator.
B. Officer’s Prerequisites

1. President
   a. Shall be elected by members of the Ernest Marshall Association.
   b. Shall have at least one year of experience with the Ernest Marshall Association.
   c. Shall be a junior or a senior.
   d. Shall have a major or a minor in the Television, Photography and Digital Media department.

2. Vice President
   a. Shall be elected by members of the Ernest Marshall Association.
   b. Shall be acquainted with film and/or video production.

3. Treasurer
   a. Shall be elected by members of the Ernest Marshall Association.
   b. Shall have experience with finances.

4. Secretary
   a. Shall be elected by members of the Ernest Marshall Association.

5. Senator
   a. Shall be elected by members of the Ernest Marshall Association.

C. Officer’s Duties

1. President
   a. Shall represent the members of the Ernest Marshall Association.
   b. Shall carry out the vision of the Ernest Marshall Association.
   c. Shall establish contacts with the outside and inside authorities to further the objectives of the Ernest Marshall Association and Gallaudet University.
   d. Shall run meetings.
   e. Shall act as a liaison between the members and the advisor.
   f. Shall keep officers in check.
   g. Shall delegate tasks to members.
   h. Shall attempt to attend every Student Congress meeting with the Senator as much as possible.

2. Vice President
   a. Shall work closely with the president.
   b. Shall follow up with members, ensuring that the tasks are completed.

3. Treasurer
   a. Shall oversee financial matters.
   b. Shall keep updated budget plan.
   c. Shall collect dues from members.

4. Secretary
   a. Shall keep records of all meetings.
   b. Shall keep correspondence as deemed necessary.

5. Senator
   a. Shall attend every Student Congress meeting.
   b. Shall represent the Ernest Marshall Association in the best way he/she can, in accordance to the organization’s objectives.
D. Privileges

1. President
   a. Shall have the authority to remove any officers if they fail to meet required duties.

2. Vice President
   a. Shall have the right to approve or disapprove the work and choices made by staff members.

3. Treasurer
   a. Shall have the right to approve or disapprove any motions for purchases as according to the budget plan.

Article VI – ELECTION OPERATIONS

Elections shall be held at the end of every spring semester. Members will vote for positions as shown in Article V of the constitution and bylaws of the Ernest Marshall Association.

Members of the Ernest Marshall Association can run for the same position two consecutive years. To be voted as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer or senator, 2/3 of all current members’ votes are required. At least 10 members must be present in order to run the election. Any member of the Ernest Marshall Association can nominate either themselves or any other member present in the meeting only twice.

VOTING PROCEDURE: During the nomination process, each candidate shall explain why he or she believes to be qualified for the chosen position. Relevant questions by any member present in the Ernest Marshall Association may be asked towards the candidate. The same questions must be asked to each competing candidate. Once the questioning is finished, the candidates must go to a separate room in order for the members to hold a discussion about the candidates. The candidates can be asked to come back for further questioning. The votes shall be counted while the candidates are in a separate room. The votes shall be run as either private ballot or by raised hands.

Once a candidate is voted as an officer, their position is effective immediately.

Article VII – AWARDS

No more than two yearly awards shall be decided by a Selection Committee to be given to Gallaudet students who show excellence in film and video productions. The Selection Committee shall be appointed by the president.

One yearly award shall be decided by the president to be given to officers or members who show consistent dedication to their duties within the Ernest Marshall Association.

Article VIII – FINANCES

Principal funding shall be provided by the Student Body Government; in accordance with its guidelines. Additional funding might be provided by outside sources that the Ernest Marshall
Association shall seek, all in accordance with the University’s and Student Body Government’s guidelines and polices.

The treasurer shall supervise that all funds are kept in the Ernest Marshall Association account, and that all monies are spent to support the Ernest Marshall Association and their objectives.

**Article IX – MEETINGS**

Meetings shall be held at least once a month, although preferably every two weeks. Each meeting shall take approximately two hours, depending on what business the Ernest Marshall Association has completed.

The meetings shall follow the parliamentary procedure, and shall be conducted by the president or whomever s/he delegates.

**Article X – ANTI-HAZING CLAUSE**

The Ernest Marshall Association shall not tolerate any kind of hazing practices and will abide by the Gallaudet University Hazing Policy Guideline.

**Article XI – REMOVAL**

Any member (including officers) of the Ernest Marshall Association may promote to remove an officer for reasons such as ineffectiveness, incompetence, or unethical behavior. 2/3 of all the current members’ votes are required.

**Article XII – DISSOLUTION**

If members deem it necessary to dissolve the Ernest Marshall Association, a special assembly shall be held. A 2/3-majority vote of all current fee-paying members is required, and the Ernest Marshall Association shall be dissolved.

Any remaining funds shall be transferred to the Television, Photography and Digital Media Department and can only be used to purchase film and/or video equipment for student use.

All materials, records, and documents shall be sent to the Gallaudet University Archives once the Ernest Marshall Association is dissolved.

**Article XIII – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution and by-laws can be made at any time.

Amendments shall be submitted to the president by any member of the Ernest Marshall Association and seconded by another member.

A special meeting shall be called to discuss the proposed amendment.
A vote of 2/3 of all current members is required. After approval, the president shall inform the university of the change(s) made to the constitution and/or bylaws.

Article XIV – REGISTRATION RENEWAL

The *Ernest Marshall Association* shall renew its registration two weeks after the fall semester begins every year, if not decided to be inactive or dissolved. The registration form shall be submitted to the University Center and the Student Body Government.