

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TURKISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Article 1. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Turkish Student Association at the University of Michigan. The abbreviation for this association is TSA.

Section 2. The Executive Board reserves the exclusive rights to claim the support and/or participation of TSA in any kind of events, decisions, and stances according to its purpose defined in Article 3 and Article 4.

Article 2. Affiliation

The Turkish Student Association is not affiliated with any other local, state and/or national groups.

Article 3. Purpose

Section 1. The Turkish Student Association is a social, cultural, non-political and non-religious voluntary organization aiming to unite and serve the Turkish community on campus.

Section 2. The association is committed to benefiting both Turkish and non-Turkish communities and contributing to the diversity on campus.

Section 3. Turkish Student Association is a student led group.

Section 3. The purposes of TSA cannot be changed unless all the group members agree on such a change.

Article 4. “The Lemon Test” for Political and Religious Stances

Section 1. Due to the fact that TSA is a social, cultural, non-political, and non-religious voluntary organization, caution must be taken when organizing, co-sponsoring or participating in events and/or taking a stance on matters involving politics and religion.

Section 2. When TSA is considering involvement in an event, decision, or stance regarding political or religious matters, the following questions must be taken into consideration by the entire Executive Board and the final decision should be reached by the two thirds (2/3) of the executive board members:

Question 1: “Does the objective of the event, decision or stance have any relevance for policy-making and local, federal, international politics?”

In order for TSA to consider involvement in an event, decision, or stance, the 2/3 of the board members should [or, unanimously] say no.

Question 2: “Does the principal or primary effect of the event, decision, or stance advance or inhibit any group’s religious rights and political freedoms [religion or politics]?”

In order for TSA to consider involvement in an event, decision, or stance, the 2/3 of the board members should say “no”.

Question 3. “Does the involvement in the event, decision, or stance endorse for any particular religion or political affiliation?”

In order for TSA to consider involvement in an event, decision, or stance the 2/3 of the board members should say “no”.

Section 3. The Executive Board should meticulously evaluate and discuss the situation based on these three questions. The Executive Board has the obligation to ensure that decisions are made based on the above criteria for the sake of consistency and credibility of the organization.

Section 4. After discussing the situation at hand, the Executive Board will vote on whether or not to partake in the event, decision, or stance. An absolute majority of the Executive Board members is needed for TSA to participate.

Article 5. Organizational Structure

Section 1. The Turkish Student Association Executive Board shall be composed of officers who will be instated into power by the procedures described in Article 9.

Section 2. To avoid possible conflicts or potential ties during the voting process within the executive board, the number of executive board members shall be an odd number.

Section 3. The executive positions shall be:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Public Relations Chair(s)
- Social Programs Development Chair(s)
- Cultural Programs Development Chair(s)
- Sports Programs Development Chair(s)

Article 6. Duties of Executive Board Members

Section 1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Turkish Student Association. The duties and responsibilities of the President are:

- Being “in charge”, responsible for supervising/overseeing the work of the other officers and ensuring that they function together as an effective team.
- Providing the overall vision and sense of direction for the organization
- Being the spokesperson/representative/ external liaison for the organization
- Handling administrative details of TSA including registration with the Michigan Student Assembly and SOAS.
- Calling for, preparing an agenda, and leading all executive board meetings
- Overseeing and coordinating the TSA activities

Section 2. The duties and responsibilities of the Vice President are:

- Assisting the President in administrative functions of TSA and supervising/overseeing the work of the other officers
- Assuming responsibility during the absence of the President
- Keeping an organized file of documents and information related to TSA activities including meeting minutes
- Keeping accurate membership list with current contact information

Section 3. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Turkish Student Association. The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer are:

- Establishing annual budget for organization and ensuring that it's followed
- Reporting regularly to organization officers and members the group's financial status
- Recording and paying bills/reimbursements
- Depositing/withdrawing funds
- Working closely with Student Organization Accounts Service (SOAS)
- Taking responsibility in fundraising activities and funding applications.

Section 4. The duties and responsibilities of the Public Relations Chair are:

- Coordinating the internal and external relationships/communications of the Turkish Student Association
- Serving as a representative of TSA in all inter-group discussions, events, and public relations
- Taking responsibility in fundraising activities and funding applications.

Section 5. The duties and responsibilities of the Social Programs Development Chair are:

- Develop an annual plan/ideas of social activities which TSA will organize or take part for its members
- Ensure TSA's involvement in campus social activities
- Organize and execute this program in coordination with other members of the executive board

Section 6. The duties and responsibilities of the Cultural Programs Development Chair are:

- Develop an annual plan/ideas of cultural activities which TSA will organize or take part for its members
- Ensure TSA's involvement in campus cultural activities
- Organize and execute this program in coordination with other members of the executive board

Section 7. The duties and responsibilities of the Sports Programs Development Chair are:

- Develop an annual plan/ideas of sports activities which TSA will organize or take part for its members
- Ensure TSA's involvement in campus sports activities
- Organize and execute this program in coordination with other members of the executive board

Section 8. All Executive Board Members should attend board meetings and they all have the right to vote.

Section 9. All Executive Board Members are moderators of TSA listserv.

Section 10. All Executive Board Members are responsible for assuring that TSA organizes/participates/co-sponsors events, decisions, and stances according to the criteria defined in Article 3 and Article 4.

Section 11. The advisory member has to comply with the rules and regulations defined for student organizations by Student Activities and Leadership Office at the U of M.

Article 7. Rules and Regulations for Governance

Section 1. Any decision made by the Executive Board requires two thirds majority of the Executive members.

Section 2. Executive Board meetings shall be open to all TSA members, and the Board shall provide adequate means of participation for TSA members in making decisions. Such open meetings may be closed only if two thirds of the Executive Board members (or, all meeting participants including the Board members) vote for closing the meeting.

Article 8. Attendance Policies

Section 1. Executive Board members are expected to participate in TSA events unless there are other time conflicts due to classes or personal circumstances.

Section 2. All Executive Board members must be present at the elections.

Section 3. In the event of an emergency, an executive board member may e-mail their vote for the election to the President counting the ballots, prior to or on the day of election. This email must be printed so that it may be used as their official ballot.

Article 9. Elections

Section 1. The general procedure for election nominations will proceed as follows:

- A. The current President will send out an e-mail three weeks prior to the Election Day to the TSA listserv announcing the upcoming elections. Individuals interested in running for an Executive Board position must reply before the Election Day.
- B. The current President will compile a list of candidates before the elections. Interested candidates must nominate themselves before the day of elections.
- C. The term of the office will begin immediately after the election and will continue until election of the following academic year.

Section 2. The election process for TSA Executive Board will proceed as follows:

- A. Timing: The elections will be held at the end of the winter term, ideally in April.
- B. Election Process:

- The Executive Board candidates will be given the opportunity to speak briefly on their qualifications and goals before the election takes place.
- Any member of TSA is eligible to nominate himself/herself for office and also vote as long as they are present at the election meeting.
- Each TSA member, including current Executive Board members, vote for one nominee for each position.
- The current president along with one TSA member who is selected by the membership on the election day prior to the voting process will count the ballots and announces the winners.

Article 10. Amendments

Section 1. The Executive Board reserves the right to propose amendments to the TSA Constitution if necessary.

Section 2. The amendment must be submitted in written form, and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Executive Board. After this, the Executive Board members should get approval of at least two thirds of the members of the organization to pass the amendment.

Section 3. For the voting process of the amendment by general members, the Executive Board has to follow the procedures described in Article 9 Section 2. The voting for an amendment to pass can take place only in the fall and winter academic terms.

Section 4. Any TSA member can propose amendments. Voting for such proposals follow the criteria defined in Section 2 and Section 3 of this article.

Article 11. Finances

Section 1. Public Relations Chair and Treasurer share responsibility for fundraising and applying to MSA for funding.

Article 12. Registration Renewal

Section 1. TSA Executive Board is responsible for renewing the registration to MSA and SOAS every year.

Article 13. Email List

Section 1. The turkiye@umich.edu is moderated by the Executive Board Members.

Section 2. Due to the fact that TSA is a social, cultural, non-political, and non-religious voluntary organization, caution must be taken when disseminating information to the listserv on matters involving politics and religion.

Section 3. The moderators reserve the right to disseminate any information related to TSA and its purposes defined in Article 3 and Article 4 of **this constitution**, and University sponsored activities through turkiye@umich.edu list. The moderators also reserve their right to object disseminating any information that they find contrary to the TSA's purposes as defined in Article 3 and Article 4 of this constitution.

Section 4. Before disseminating information to the listserv, the questions defined in Article 4 of this constitution must be taken into consideration by the entire Executive Board and the final decision should be reached by the two thirds (2/3) of the executive board members.

Article 14. Membership

Section 1. The membership of the Turkish Student Association shall consist of interested individuals who are:

- Undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students registered at the U of M.
- Faculty and/or alumni of the U of M.
- Researchers coming from Turkey to conduct research at U of M and conducting academic research related to Turkey at U of M.

Section 2. The membership cannot be denied on the basis of race, sex (includes gender identity and gender expression), color, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or physical ability.

Section 3. Members shall consist of interested voluntary undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students registered at the U of M as well as faculty and/or alumni affiliated with U of M. To become and/or keep the status of membership the interested individual has to:

- Send an email to the Executive Board expressing his/her interest to join the organization.
- Send an email to the Executive Board expressing his/her interest to renew his/her membership of the organization every academic year.
- Be registered at the U of M to gain and/or keep membership status.
- If the interested individual satisfies all the qualifications above, he/she has the right to vote.

Section 4. The members, who satisfy the requirements described in Section 3, can be a candidate for Executive Board Membership. However, alumni can not be candidate for Executive Board. Only one faculty member can be a candidate to serve as an advisory member in the Executive Board under the condition of University rules and regulations.

Section 3. Any member can withdraw from the organization at any time he/she wishes.

Article 16. Removal of Membership

Section 1. The members of TSA may be removed if they fail to comply with rules and regulations of the University.

Section 2. The request for removal of any organization member should be in writing. The removal of any organization member must be approved by the majority of the votes of Executive Board Members.

Article 17. Definitions

Absolute Majority: The absolute majority is considered to be at least two-thirds of the executive board members.

Cultural: Of or relating to the shared knowledge and values of the Turkish society.

Political: Involving the structure, affairs or conduct of any government, state, or legal body; of or pertaining to any law or policy.

Service: Efforts volunteered by individuals to benefit the community.

Simple Majority: The simple majority is considered to be at least one half of the executive board members.

Social: Inclined to seek out or enjoy the company of others.