

Constitution of the Association of Central Eurasian Students

PREAMBLE

In order to foster greater awareness of students' academic interests among fellow students, to create more opportunities for social and professional exchanges among students, to improve communications between faculty and students, and to help promote Central Eurasian studies in general, we, the students of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies of Indiana University, do reaffirm this Constitution of our organization.

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Association of Central Eurasian Students.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

1. All students pursuing a degree in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University are assumed to be members of the Association, unless they submit a written statement to the Secretary rejecting membership.
2. Associate membership in the Association is open to other interested students enrolled at Indiana University, who register with the Secretary.
3. The Association allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.
4. In accordance with Indiana University Student Organization Rules only students currently enrolled at Indiana University Bloomington can hold officer positions.

Article III. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1. The executive officers of the Association shall be a President, up to two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Officers must be graduate students currently pursuing an advanced degree in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies.
2. The President
 - a. The President shall act as the official student liaison with the Department of Central Eurasian Studies.
 - b. The President shall preside at all general meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee. Ordinarily, the President shall refrain from voting, but in the event of a tie vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
 - c. The President shall set the agenda for all general and Executive Committee meetings.
 - d. The President shall share the responsibility of auditing the account books of the Association with the Secretary and Treasurer.
 - e. The President shall direct all activities of the Association.
 - f. The President, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, shall formulate all aspects of the Association's academic and social programs.

- g. The President shall preserve, maintain, and, when appropriate, transfer the Association's archives.
3. The Vice-President[s]
 - a. The Vice-President[s] shall assist the President in implementing all aspects of the academic and social programs of the Association.
 - b. The Vice-President[s] shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and shall have the powers of the President, should the President temporarily be unable to perform the duties of the office .
 4. The Secretary
 - a. The Secretary shall maintain the records of the activities of the Association.
 - b. The Secretary shall issue notices of all meetings and shall conduct the official correspondence of the Association, in consultation with the President.
 - c. The Secretary shall otherwise coordinate the dispersal of all pertinent information concerning the Association and its activities.
 - d. The Secretary shall take minutes of all meetings and distribute them to the membership.
 - e. The Secretary shall act as the Association's Webmaster and social media coordinator if no other member serves in such a capacity.
 5. The Treasurer
 - a. The Treasurer shall maintain the books of account of the Association.
 - b. The Treasurer shall coordinate all fundraising activities for the Association.
 - c. The Treasurer shall prepare a report on the financial situation of the Association for presentation during at least one regular meeting of the Association's membership each semester.
 - d. The Treasurer shall receive all requests for the dispersal of the Association's funds and process them in a timely manner in accordance with the wishes of the Executive Committee.
 - e. The Treasurer shall maintain the University Student Organization Account and safeguard all associated paperwork.

Article IV. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the Association.
2. The Executive Committee shall assume the responsibility for advancing and developing the aims and purposes of the Association.
3. The Executive Committee shall consult with one another prior to any meeting of the full membership and present reports for consideration by the full membership at the general meeting.

4. The Executive Committee shall propose the Association's budget to the membership for approval.
5. The Executive Committee may invite other members of the Association to participate in its meetings on an ad hoc basis.
6. The Executive Committee may not act in the name of the Association on substantive issues without first bringing such issues to the consideration of the membership at a general meeting.
7. The Executive Committee shall conduct an annual review of the Constitution and propose amendments as may be appropriate.
8. The Executive Committee shall select members to aid in the administration of the Association as the need arises or as the Executive Committee desires.
 - a. During the first or second general meeting of the fall semester, the Executive Committee shall select a representative to the Graduate and Professional Student Government through an election conducted by those present at the meeting.
 - b. The Executive Committee may select a Faculty Representative, who is designated to attend meetings convened by the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center, or Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies on behalf of the Association.
 - c. The Executive Committee may select a Webmaster to update and maintain the Association's website.
 - d. The Executive Committee may delegate responsibility for the organization of the Association's annual conference to a special Conference Committee.
 - e. Unless specified, the Executive Committee shall select the method for filling the special positions outlined in this section, e.g. calling a general election or making an appointment.
 - f. Unless otherwise prohibited, the Executive Committee may appoint a member to temporarily fulfill the duties of a vacant elected office until an election can be conducted.

Article V. MEETINGS

1. General meetings of the Association shall be held once a month.
2. The Association shall support special meetings or conferences of interest to its membership.
3. The time and place of the regular meetings shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
4. Upon due notice in writing, the President may call a special meeting of the Association.

Article VI. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The officers shall be elected by the Association's members. Officers must be members of the Association and shall serve one-year terms. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same capacity.
2. Elections for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer shall be conducted in or before April of each academic year.
3. The election for the office of Secretary and other vacant offices shall be conducted in September of each academic year.
4. All nominations must be received by the Executive Committee prior to the conclusion of a general meeting convened in the month that an election will be held. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, nominees may be permitted to make brief statements in support of their respective candidacies at this meeting.
5. The Executive Committee shall distribute a written list of all eligible candidates within 24 hours of the general meeting in which nominations were accepted. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, nominees may be permitted to include brief written statements in support of their respective candidacies in this communication.
6. Elections shall be conducted by e-mail or by other suitable means.
 - a. All members of the Association are eligible to vote in any election.
 - b. Balloting must remain open for a period of at least one week following the official announcement of eligible candidates.
 - c. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared the winner of an election.
 - d. In the event that an office is uncontested, members need not cast a ballot for that office.
 - e. Ballots that fail to address all contested offices shall be discarded.
7. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall officially assume their respective offices at midnight on the final day of exams during the Spring semester.
8. The Secretary shall assume office immediately upon completion of the secretarial election.
9. The Executive Committee may conduct additional elections during the academic year if necessary to fill a vacancy or vacancies in the Association's elected offices following the procedures outlined in VI.6 above.

Article VII. CONFERENCE

1. The Association shall arrange an academic conference each academic year, except in the case of extreme financial or organizational difficulties.
 - a. The conference shall be held during the spring semester.
 - b. The conference should serve as a forum to present research related to Central Eurasian studies.
 - c. The Executive Committee shall oversee the organization of the conference.

2. The Association reserves the right to accept or deny proposals for conference presentations.
 - a. The Conference Committee shall formulate a procedure for reviewing proposals.
 - i. The Executive Committee must submit the review procedure for approval at a general meeting of the Association.
 - ii. The Association must approve a review procedure each year.
 - iii. An approved procedure shall be considered binding for the review of all relevant proposals for a given conference.
 - b. In extreme cases when standards of academic integrity are grossly violated, the Executive Committee may vote to disallow any participant from presenting at the conference and this principle shall supersede the provisions elsewhere in this article.

Article VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. Proposals to amend the Constitution shall be presented at the general meetings of the full membership and then may be circulated by other means including email or posting to the Association website.
2. Proposed amendments are then ratified at the next general meeting of the full membership by a two-thirds majority of those voting. Members away from campus shall be given due notice of proposed amendments and may return absentee ballots, which must be received by the time of the meeting in which the amendment is to be voted upon.
3. Any member may submit a proposal to amend the constitution.

Article IX. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

1. The Treasurer and President are responsible for the financial affairs of the organization.
2. The Association shall maintain a University Student Organization account within Hamilton Lugar School.
3. The Association shall act in accordance with Indiana University's policies and procedures regarding University Student Organizations.
4. In the event that the Association is dissolved, the Association shall donate its financial and material resources to the Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, or its successors.

Article X. ADVISOR

1. The Faculty Advisor shall advise the Executive Committee and serve as a liaison between the Association and the University, its faculty and staff members.
2. The Executive Committee shall nominate candidates for Faculty Advisor when the need arises.

Article XI. UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Article XII. NON-HAZING

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article XIII. VOTING

Except for instances explicitly mentioned elsewhere in this constitution, a simple plurality shall be sufficient to settle all questions before the Association.

Article XIV. EXECUTIVE TRANSITION

1. All events in this Article must take place before the term of any sitting officer expires. The term of an officer that is re-elected to serve in same position for the following year shall not be considered expired until the end of the second year of service.
2. The President shall deposit the Association's archives with the Secretary, and inform the Secretary of all of the Association's electronic account access information.
3. The Secretary shall inform the Chair of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies of the incoming Executive Committee.

Article XV. IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

1. Any executive officer or Executive Committee appointee or other elected officer (hereafter, "Officer") may be removed from office if he or she acts contrary to the spirit or text of this Constitution in the eyes of the Association's membership.
2. Any member of the Association may initiate the impeachment procedure by sharing a written statement outlining an Officer's misconduct at a general meeting. The Secretary shall retain a copy of the allegation for the Association's archives and promulgate the text to the membership and Faculty Advisor.
3. After the official receipt of an allegation of an Officer's misconduct at a general meeting, the agenda of the following meeting shall include time for an impeachment hearing. All members of the Association who desire to do so shall be allowed to speak on this issue.
4. If at least two-thirds of the Association vote in favor of impeachment, the impeached Officer shall be suspended from all duties.
5. The members supporting the impeachment motion must obtain the written consent of the Faculty Advisor within seven days of the impeachment vote in order to formalize an Officer's removal from office. A copy of the Faculty Advisor's written statement shall be retained in the Association's archives. If the Faculty Advisor does not agree with this decision, or the seven days elapse, then the impeached Officer shall be removed from suspension and resume normal duties.

Article XVI. PERSONAL GAIN CLAUSE

This Association, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from Association functions to either the Association or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the Association. Individual members may not receive compensation directly from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Ratified by a general meeting of full members in the Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies Room of Goodbody Hall on the twenty-second day of February 1982 and revised on:

December 7, 2007

September 21, 2010

August 19, 2011

September 13, 2012

September 12, 2013

July 29, 2015

July 17, 2016

April 5, 2018

May 1, 2019