

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT UNION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE I NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Asian American Student Union, hereafter abbreviated AASU. The website of AASU is www.ufaasu.com.

ARTICLE I PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Asian American Student Union exists to:

- A. Foster an enduring awareness and unity among Asian and Asian Americans at the University of Florida
- B. Enrich its members by inspiring passion, developing leadership and citizenship, encouraging academic excellence, and providing an inclusive network.
- C. Educate the student body of Asian and Asian American issues, history, and culture
- D. Advocate for student, social, and political concerns
- E. Create programs and events that stimulate involvement in AASU, the University of Florida, and the community

The Asian American Student Union is the collective creation of its sub-organizations that operates in a not-for-profit and non-commercial nature.

ARTICLE III COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, Asian American Student Union shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Asian American Student Union shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University's regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

ARTICLE IV UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. *Non-Discrimination*

Asian American Student Union agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

Section B. *Sexual Harassment*

Asian American Student Union agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Section C. *Hazing*

Asian American Student Union agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization.

Section D. *Responsibility to Report*

If this organization becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, Asian American Student Union will report it immediately to Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, or the University's Title IX Coordinator.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section A. The AASU Executive Board shall consist of the following elected officers:

1. President
 - a. Preside at all meetings of the AASU Executive Board, AASU general body, and any special meetings.
 - b. Appoint chairpersons.
 - c. Supervise and approve financial transactions related to AASU and its sub-organizations.
 - d. Serve as an ex-officio member of all AASU committees
 - e. Call a special meeting when necessary
 - f. Supervise the other elected officers of the AASU Executive Board
 - g. Continue any unfinished work from the other officers or chairpersons
 - h. Represent AASU and its communities to the University of Florida and Gainesville communities
 - i. Represent AASU and its sub-organizations to Student Government
 - j. Preside as chair of the President's Council
 - k. To Serve on the Council of Presidents of the Florida Asian American Student Union (FAASU)
2. Internal Vice President
 - a. Promote unity within AASU and between the AASU sub-organizations
 - b. Be responsible for recruitment and member retention
 - c. Oversee chairpersons not assigned to a specific AASU Executive Board officer
 - d. Facilitate joint programming among AASU and AASU sub-organizations
 - e. Provide mediation between AASU sub-organizations when necessary
 - f. Ensure compliance with this Constitution and its Bylaws
 - g. Fulfill the duties of the President when absent
3. External Vice President
 - a. Organize and oversee co-sponsored events between AASU and other campus organizations, the UF administration and the greater Gainesville community
 - b. Maintain communication and interaction with the local Asian and Asian American community
 - c. Maintain communication with other Asian American organizations of other institutions of higher education
 - d. Work closely with VP of Education to broaden APIA education and political interest on campus by developing the relationship between AASU and Asian ethnic multi-cultural student organization
 - e. Maintain public relations on and off campus
4. Vice President of Education
 - a. Educate AASU members about Asian and Asian American issues, history, and culture.
 - b. Facilitate educational discussion at AASU general body meetings.
 - c. Research potential guest speakers and performers.
 - d. Promote awareness of and advocacy for Asian and Asian American issues.
 - e. Maintain relations with administration and faculty members affiliated with

Asian and Asian American studies programs

5. Treasurer
 - a. Manage and keep track of the financial activities of AASU and the AASU sub-organizations.
 - b. Make a financial report to the AASU Executive Board and sub-organization presidents once per month.
 - c. Give and keep receipts for all monies disbursed by or given to AASU.
 - d. Serve as the liaison among AASU and the AASU sub-organizations and the Student Government Finance Office
 - e. Represent AASU before Student Government and help prepare all budget requests
 - f. Ensure compliance with Student Government Finance Statutes
 - g. Assist AASU and AASU sub-organization officers and chairpersons with their budgets as needed
 - h. Educate AASU members about the Student Government funding process
6. Secretary
 - a. Ensure timely and accurate mass communication among sub-organizations and AASU
 - b. Maintain minutes of all AASU general body meetings
 - c. Maintain minutes of all AASU Executive Board meetings
 - d. Create membership roll and record attendance at all meetings
 - e. Create and update records of activities of sub-organizations and AASU
 - f. Ensure compliance with this Constitution and its Bylaws.
 - g. Ensure maintenance of AASU Office logs and supplies

The AASU Executive Board shall serve to fulfill the purpose of AASU and handle its regular business. The quorum for conducting the business of the AASU Executive Board shall be more than half the number of members of the AASU Executive Board. The listed duties are the bare minimum expectations and roles of the officers.

Section B. The appointed officers of AASU consist of:

Permanent Chair Positions

1. Asian Kaleidoscope Month (AKM) Director
 - a. prepare and manage all aspects of Kaleidoscope Month
 - b. Recruitment and management of Kaleidoscope committee members
 - c. Program planning
 - d. Budgeting
 - e. Promotions
 - f. Representation before Student Government
 - g. Appointment of a successor Kaleidoscope Executive Director

A search committee of past AKM and AASU officers shall interview all applicants and appoint a new Executive Director with a standard vote of approval. The AASU executive board shall confirm the appointment. A new Kaleidoscope Executive Director shall be appointed no later than seven days following AASU Elections.

2. Freshman Leadership Program (FLP) Directors
 - a. Serve primarily as the Freshmen liaisons for AASU in terms of recruitment and retention
 - b. Networking with AASU sub-orgs and with other student involvement groups and other groups within and outside of AASU
 - c. Programming bi-weekly meetings, community service events, bonding activities and retreats
 - d. Play an active role in programming and managing committees for AASU Week hosted in Spring semester

- e. Match mentors and mentees pairings

A search committee of past FLP and AASU officers shall interview all applicants and appoint FLP Directors with a standard vote of approval. The AASU executive board shall confirm the FLP executive board.

3. Asian American Student Assembly Directors (AASA)
 - a. Overseeing all aspects of the show (programming, advertising, decorating, etc.)
 - b. Forming a committee to help with the production
 - c. Working closely with the presidents (and/or representatives) of all participating organizations and programs (AASU, CASA, KUSA, HEAL, FSA, VSO, AKM, FLP, aKDPhi, KPL, PDPsi, ISA, unity performance).
 - d. Developing a theme for the show

A search committee of past AASA and AASU officers shall interview all applicants and appoint AASA Executive Director(s) with a standard vote of approval. The AASU executive board shall confirm the appointment.

Ad Hoc Chair Positions are by appointment of AASU e board. The process includes application, interview and deliberation. The appointment requires standard vote of approval by AASU executive board.

1. Alumni/Graduate Student Relations
 - a. Maintain relations between AASU and the UF Association of Asian Alumni.
 - b. Collaborate with UF Alumni Association to organize events to grow and maintain alumni association membership
 - c. Contact and encourage unregistered Alumni to join our online database
 - d. Update website periodically and compile/send out monthly newsletters regarding updates in AASU and the Asian American community at UF
 - e. Develop and implement a plan to increase interaction/involvement among APIA graduates and with corresponding undergraduates
2. Archivist/ Photographer
 - a. Collect and organize past multimedia from AASU and the individual sub-orgs which may include but are not limited to: old flyers, documents, online articles and pamphlets, film, photos, magazines, newspaper clippings, books, PowerPoints, posters, signs, arts, etc.
 - b. Familiarize oneself with Library East and the Digital Archiving system
 - c. Must be available to attend most AASU events and document the year through pictures
 - d. Collect feedback/survey for AASU hosted events and research ways of archiving
 - e. Familiarize oneself with oral history project: storage, execution, organization, etc.
 - i. Assist the lead person who is in charge of UF APIA Oral History Project
3. Advocacy
 - a. Remain continuous contact with professors and staff pertaining to the Asian American Studies Minor in conjunction with Vice President of Education
 - b. Obtain information on similar programs in other schools
 - i. I.e. their Asian American Studies Minor, APIA office programs, undergraduate student organization projects, etc.
 - c. Present education segments for general body meetings

- i. Collaborate with sub-orgs on GBM culture spotlights
 - d. Research Asian American issues and current events.
 - e. Lead AASU's continuous awareness campaign at UF
- 4. Multimedia
 - a. Document, promote, and preserve AASU in the UF community by creating promotional videos
 - b. Create flyers for AASU events and meetings
 - c. Update the AASU website regularly in response to upcoming AASU or community events, achievements, and promotions
- 5. Sports Coordinator
 - a. Maintain communication with sports chairs of individual sub-orgs, strengthening and building unity in the community through sports
 - b. Organize AASU sporting events, such as AASU Field Day, AASU Olympics, or other sporting events
 - c. Coordinate games among sub-org scrimmages & support other suborg's sporting events
 - d. Research about Asian American health and wellness through online resources, UF Health and Wellness, etc.
 - i. Arrange occasional meeting segments to display research
- 6. Service
 - a. Collaborate with sub-organizations to promote charities and volunteering events
 - b. Organize "Upcoming Service Projects" section of listserv .
 - c. Facilitate and maintain AASU executive board officers and members' involvement in each sub-org's service project
 - d. Organize, recruit and execute AASU semi-annual community service event or philanthropy with a message of advocacy/empowerment
- 7. Conference
 - a. Make preparations for UF AASU students who shall be attending ECAASU
 - b. Assist the VPE with preparation and execution of Language Workshop
 - c. Act as liaison between UF AASU and ECAASU National and Conference board
 - d. Explore other conferences or similar events and encourage students to attend
 - e. Assist UF Southeast Regional Conference of Asian American Leaders (SERCAAL) executive board in coordinating conference

Section C. Term of Office and Limits

1. The term for elected officers shall begin the summer semester following elections until the conclusion of the following spring semester. The period before the new term begins and immediately after elections shall serve as a transitioning period.
2. The term for appointed officers begins when the AASU executive board would like to recruit chair members, generally in the spring of when they were elected or the fall semester. Chair members are to serve until the subsequent spring term.
3. A member may not serve as AASU President for more than two (2) terms.
4. A member may not serve as AASU Treasurer for more than two (2) terms.
5. An AASU Executive Board officer may not hold one of the following positions:
 - a. Sub-organization executive board member
 - b. Kaleidoscope Month executive board member
 - c. AASU appointed chair position

Section D. Removal

1. Any member of the General Voting Body is allowed to call for the impeachment of an

officer if the officer in question:

- a. Fails to fulfill responsibilities as outlined in this Constitution
 - b. Fails to maintain eligibility
 - c. Acts on behalf of the Asian American community in a deplorable and grossly negligent manner
2. If a list of charges is submitted to the President, the President must notify the officer in question within three (3) days. The officer in question is then suspended from their officer duties pending the outcome of the impeachment proceedings. If the President is being brought up on charges, the list of charges shall be presented to the Internal Vice President.
 3. The officer in question may be removed of office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining AASU Executive Board and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the AASU General Voting Body during the impeachment proceedings.

Section E. Vacancy

1. An interim officer shall serve until a permanent replacement is chosen.
2. A former officer who vacates an elected position, whether through removal or resignation, may not vote for an interim or a permanent replacement.

Section F. Replacement

1. Application for replacement shall be publicized and distributed no later than fourteen (14) days after vacancy of an AASU Executive Board position.
2. A permanent replacement must be chosen within sixty (60) days of vacancy.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

Section A. Nomination and Election Process

Nominations for all officers will take place annually from the members starting in early March. Any member may nominate any other voting member, including himself or herself. Nominations close once the election process starts for each candidate. Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients. President and treasurer are not eligible to serve more than two terms. Elections shall conclude no later than the seventh (7) day of April. No sub-organization may hold elections before the conclusion of AASU elections.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

An elected officer or appointed position must maintain a cumulative university grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 points.

Section C. Voting Body

1. A voting member must have attended at least three (3) AASU general body meetings over the course of the academic school year prior to elections to be able to vote.
2. Each sub-organization may send up to ten (10) representatives to vote.
3. The AASU Executive Board may send up to ten (10) representatives, including the AASU elected officers, to vote.
4. A non-elected-officer member nominated to represent the AASU Executive Board shall be approved with a standard vote of approval from the sub-organization representative delegates.

Section D. Elections Committee

1. The Elections Committee shall:
 - a. Create a list of nominations received from the AASU Executive Board
 - b. Hand out ballots to sub-organization delegates
 - c. Collect the completed ballots

- d. Count all valid ballots and announce approved voting delegates
- 2. Appointment of Elections Committee
 - a. The AASU President shall appoint a committee of three (3) members to conduct the elections.
 - b. The AASU Elections Committee shall include one current AASU or AASU sub-organization elected officer.
- 3. Restrictions of Elections Committee
 - a. No committee member may run for an AASU Executive Board elected position.
 - b. No committee member may vote for an AASU Executive Board elected position.
 - c. No committee member may discuss the qualifications of any AASU elected candidate

Section E. Position Order

- 1. AASU Executive Board positions shall be elected in the following order:
 - a. President
 - b. Internal Vice President
 - c. External Vice President
 - d. Vice President of Education
 - e. Treasurer
 - f. Secretary
- 2. A candidate who is not elected for an AASU Executive Board position may run for a subsequently-elected position without limit.

Section F. Transition of Administration

The previous and newly-elected AASU Presidents and previous and newly-elected Internal Vice President shall organize a transition-of-administration meeting before the end of the spring term.

ARTICLE VIII STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR

The student organization advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the Asian American Student Union. The AASU Executive Board will select a student organization advisor with a standard vote of approval. The student organization advisor will serve in his or her position for an indefinite amount of time up to the discretion of the AASU eboard. In the event that the student organization advisor is unable to continue in their position, officers may nominate a replacement at any time, to be confirmed by a standard vote of approval by the AASU executive board.

ARTICLE IX FINANCE

Asian American Student Union will not require membership dues, and will apply for Student Government funding.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury after the settlement of outstanding debt or obligations will be up to the disposal of the UF SG Finance office. If given a preference thereafter, the remaining AASU sub-organizations will receive an even distribution.

ARTICLE XI SUB-ORGANIZATIONS

Section A. Member Sub-Organizations

The sub-organizations of AASU are:

- Chinese American Student Association
- Filipino Student Association
- Health Educated Asian Leaders
- Korean Undergraduate Student Association

Vietnamese Student Organization

Section B. Addition

1. An organization seeking admission to AASU must:
 - a. Be a fully registered student organization in good standing with the University of Florida Department of Student Activities and Involvement
 - b. Be budgeted by Student Government and be in good financial standing
 - c. Align with the purpose of AASU
2. New Organizations
 - a. Application for admission to AASU must be presented to the AASU Executive Board.
 - b. After second or subsequent hearings, the AASU Executive Board may approve application with a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the AASU Executive Board.
 - c. Notice of application must be given to the AASU membership at a general body meeting and in public print before a second hearing may be held by the AASU Executive Board.
 - d. An application for admission to AASU approved by the AASU Executive Board must be presented to the AASU membership at a general body meeting.
 - e. After second or subsequent hearings, the AASU General Voting Body may approve a new sub-organization with a three-fourths (3/4) vote.
 - f. Voting procedures and delegate selection shall be in accordance with Article V of this Constitution.
3. Formerly Active Organizations
 - a. A formerly active AASU sub-organization may be reinstated with a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the AASU Executive Board if it is renewed under the same constitution it used as an active sub-organization of AASU.
 - b. A formerly active AASU sub-organization must apply for membership in AASU as a new organization if it is formed under a new constitution.

Section C. Removal

1. An active AASU sub-organization cannot be removed from AASU.
2. An inactive AASU sub-organization shall not be removed from AASU until one academic year of inactivity has elapsed.

Section D. Disassociation

An active AASU sub-organization may disassociate from AASU at its own discretion without the interference of AASU or any AASU sub-organization.

Section E. Inactivity

If an organization ceases to be active for more than one academic semester, it shall be listed as an inactive organization with the month and year of its last period of activity.

ARTICLE XII MEMBER PROGRAMS

Section A. Member Programs

The programs of AASU are:

Asian Kaleidoscope Month
Freshman Leadership Program
Southeast Regional Conference of Asian American Leaders
Sparks Magazine

Section B. Addition

1. A program that is seeking to be added to AASU will be voted upon and approved by the AASU president and sub-organization presidents.

2. An application for admission to AASU must be approved by the AASU Executive Board must be presented to the AASU membership at a general body meeting.

ARTICLE XIII CONSTITUTIONAL CONFLICT

This Constitution shall receive priority over each sub-organization constitution when there is a substantial conflict between the two.

ARTICLE XIV STANDARD VOTE OF APPROVAL

Section A. Definition

Standard vote of approval shall be approval from more than half of the votes cast. In the event that half of the members empowered to vote abstain, it shall be construed as a vote of no confidence.

Section B. Executive Board Action

Except where otherwise noted in this Constitution, the Executive Board shall decide all matters with a standard vote of approval from its members.

Section C. General Body Action

Except where otherwise noted in this Constitution, the AASU General Voting Body shall decide all matters with a standard vote of approval from its members.

ARTICLE XV MEETINGS

The AASU Executive Board shall hold a general body meeting at least once per month.

ARTICLE XVI BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

Section A. Bylaws

1. The Bylaws of the Asian American Student Union at the University of Florida, hereafter Bylaws, are amendments to this Constitution.
2. Any change to these Bylaws shall be effective no sooner than the start of the academic semester following its passage.
3. After one (1) calendar year, a bylaw may be permanently inserted into this Constitution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of AASU General Voting Body.

Section B. Amendments

1. A proposal to amend these Bylaws or this Constitution must be formally publicized in writing and presented before or at AASU Elections.
2. A proposal may be voted into the Bylaws with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the AASU General Voting Body.
3. Amendments are subject to final approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement.