



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GOVERNMENT

Turkish Students' Association

ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the Turkish Students' Association (TURSA); of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its governance. Failure to follow this constitution could result in penalties or revocation of Students' Association recognition of this organization.

ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Turkish Students' Association (TURSA) at the University of Rochester is to promote cultural awareness and foster a sense of community among students, faculty, and staff interested in Turkish culture. We aim to create an inclusive environment that encourages cross-cultural understanding, celebrates Turkish heritage, and contributes positively to the campus community's cultural diversity and enrichment.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION ONE - MEMBERSHIP

- A. Eligibility - All Students' Association (SA) members shall be eligible for membership. An SA Member is a University of Rochester undergraduate of the College who has paid their SA activities fee. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's Campus Community Connection site. Membership is automatically renewed yearly unless the member graduates, requests to cancel their membership, or fails to meet membership requirements.
- B. Definition of active member - An active member of the Turkish Students' Association (TURSA) is an individual who actively engages in the organization's activities, demonstrates commitment to its mission, and contributes to its objectives. To maintain active membership, individuals must attend at least 50% of the semesterly events and meetings hosted by TURSAUR. Additionally, active members are encouraged to participate in at least one program or event planning committee per academic year to ensure their active involvement and support in the organization's initiatives.
- C. Definition of associate member - All University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership but not

eligible to hold an officer position. Graduate students, faculty, and staff are not eligible to perform, compete, nor travel as part of a college student organization.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION ONE - QUORUM

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as at least half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the active membership plus one or more officer(s).

SECTION TWO - VOTING

- A. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
- B. All members shall have equal voting power.
- C. Procedure – All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote unless otherwise specified by the presiding officer. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION ONE - OFFICER POSITIONS

- A. President - must show dedication to our mission at TURSA
- B. Vice President - Must be an active member of TURSA for at least one academic year, unless no one is qualified.
- C. Business Manager - Must have experience in financial management or accounting unless no one else is qualified.
- D. Secretary - Must be an active member of TURSA and have excellent organizational and communication skills.
- E. Chief Marketing Officer - Must have experience in marketing and media creation or a related field and a dedication to promoting TURSA's mission unless no one else is qualified.
- F. Events and Programming Manager - Must be an active member of TURSA and demonstrate strong organizational and planning skills.
- G. First-Year Representative - Open to first-year students with a passion for Turkish culture and an interest in representing the views and interests of the first-year members of TURSA.

SECTION TWO - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
- B. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
- C. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
- D. All officers shall be responsible for knowing the sections of the Students' Association constitution and bylaws that apply to this organization.
- E. The President shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club that fulfills the purposes set forth above.

- F. The Vice President shall also take roll call at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes.
- G. The Business Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions.
- H. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and maintaining accurate of all meetings, including discussions, decisions, and action items. They will also assist in maintaining membership records, ensuring that they are up-to-date and accurate.
- I. The Chief Marketing Officer shall oversee the promotion of TURSA's events and activities. This includes creating marketing materials, managing social media accounts, and collaborating with the Public Relations Officer to increase the organization's engagement.
- J. The Event and Programming Manager shall plan, organize, and coordinate TURSA's events and programs. They will work closely with other officers and members to ensure that events align with the organization's mission and goals.
- K. The First-Year Representative shall act as a liaison between the first-year members of TURSA and the executive board. They will gather feedback and input from first-year members and assist in integrating new members into the organization's activities and initiatives.

SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. Nomination and Elections Procedure - The Turkish Students' Association (TURSA) recognizes the importance of a transparent and inclusive nomination and election process. To accommodate diverse preferences and ensure fairness, we follow the nomination process below:
 - a. Open Nomination:
 - i. In this procedure, any active member of TURSA may nominate themselves or another active member for an officer position. Nominations are openly accepted, and interested members may submit their nominations during a designated nomination period. Following the nomination period, all nominations, including those made by the executive board, if applicable, will be presented to the members for confirmation. Members will have the opportunity to review the nominees and vote to confirm the selections made by the executive board. This confirmation process ensures that all officer selections align with TURSA's mission and enjoy the support and consensus of the organization's membership, fostering a democratic and transparent leadership selection process.
- B. If open nominations do not yield candidates for all officer positions, TURSA may utilize the following backup option:

- a. Executive Board Nomination: Alternatively, the executive board may nominate candidates for officer positions when there are few or no self-nominations during the open nomination period. All selections made by the executive board, including nominations for officer positions, shall be confirmed by the organization's members to ensure a democratic and consensus-based approach to leadership selection.
- C. Term of Office - The term of office for officer positions within the Turkish Students' Association (TURSA) shall be as follows:
 - a. President, Vice President, Secretary, Business Manager, Chief Marketing Officer, and Events and Programming Manager:
 - i. The term of office for these officer positions shall be one academic year, commencing at the start of the fall semester and concluding at the end of the subsequent spring semester.
 - b. First-Year Representative:
 - i. The term of office for the First Year Representative shall also be one academic year, beginning at the start of the fall semester and concluding at the end of the subsequent spring semester.
 - c. Transitions:
 - i. Outgoing officers shall actively collaborate with incoming officers during a designated transition period, which shall occur following the announcement of election results.
 - ii. The transition period aims to facilitate a smooth transfer of responsibilities, ensure continuity in the operation of TURSA, and provide incoming officers with the necessary information and guidance from their predecessors.
- D. Timing of Elections - Elections for officer positions within the Turkish Students' Association (TURSA) shall be conducted during the spring semester of each academic year, ensuring that they are held at least two weeks before the last day of classes. This timeline allows for a smooth transition of leadership and the assumption of roles by newly elected officers at the start of the subsequent academic year, specifically in the fall semester. This approach ensures that the organization's leadership for the upcoming academic year is established promptly, enabling effective planning and continuity in TURSA's activities and initiatives.

SECTION FOUR - VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS, AND REMOVALS

- A. At the first valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in *Article V, Section Three*.

- B. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the entire active membership to pass. Any member of the organization may call for a vote of no confidence.
- C. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, they must be notified one week in advance.
- D. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

ARTICLE VI - RESOURCES

SECTION ONE - RESOURCES

- A. The Turkish Students' Association of the University of Rochester will abide by their Resource Agreement.

ARTICLE VII - HAZING POLICY

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the Turkish Students' Association. Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

ARTICLE VIII - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Turkish Students' Association abides by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester.



02/09/2024

Signature of Confirmation

Date

Mehmed Emre Aktas

President, Turkish Students' Association



2/19/24

Signature of Approval

Date

Evan Ji

Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee