

October 3, 2014



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
GOVERNMENT

### Student Association for the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the *Student Association for the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness* of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its government. Failure to follow this constitution could result in the revocation of the Students' Association recognition of this group. SADACA is not affiliated with any national, religious, or political entity. It upholds with integrity its mission to promote awareness of the Arab culture in its entirety.

#### Article I. Purpose of Organization

**Section A – Mission.** The *Student Association for the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness, known as SADACA*, is dedicated to promoting awareness of the culture, religions, history, and languages of the Arab world. Through positive community enrichment we strive to publicize the social, cultural, and political issues that make the Arab world unique.

**Section B.** In upholding the integrity of our organization and the University of Rochester, SADACA will remain independent of any political, religious, or nationalist movement, and will not support or condemn any issue not related to our purpose.

#### Article II. Membership

##### **Section A.**

1. Eligibility – All Students' Association 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 University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's Campus Club Connection site.
2. All active and associate members are encouraged to present ideas that will further the goals of the organization.
3. An active member shall be that member who actively and positively participates in the organization of group activities, promotes the mission of the organization, attends at least half of the meetings, and

October 3, 2014

assists in at least one event per semester.

4. An associate member shall be that member who expresses interest in being informed of all events and in promoting our mission, but who does not participate in the organization of events or meetings. Associate members may not vote on issues nor run in the Executive Board elections.

**Article III. Meetings and Voting**

*Section A.* A meeting is valid if a quorum plus one officer is present.

*Section B.* A quorum is achieved when a minimum of ½ of the total active membership is present.

*Section C.* Voting on any issue is official only if the meeting is valid.

1. All active members have one vote on a given issue. Officer and advisor votes shall not carry any special weight.
2. Only active members present at the meeting will be allowed to vote on the presented issue. En absentia votes are not allowed.
3. Voting shall be conducted via closed ballots or hand-raising.
4. The President shall/should only vote to break a tie
5. The method to be used for voting shall be decided by the President. Officer elections are an exception to this rule and must be conducted via closed ballots, to be tallied by the secretary. Should the secretary be involved in the election or unavailable, the public relations officer shall tally votes.
6. A decision will be reached based on the majority vote, which is defined as 51% or greater of the present quorum.

**Article IV. Officers and Qualifications**

*Section A. Officer Positions*

1. All officers must be active members in good standing of SADACA for a minimum of one semester prior to their nomination, except for the President who must be an active member of good standing for one year prior to their nomination.
2. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Business Manager, Events Coordinator, Public Relations Officer, Secretary, and Academic Liaison

*Section B. Duties of Officers*

1. All officers must be members of the Students' Association.
2. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
3. All officers must enforce the SADACA constitution.
4. All officers are responsible for knowing the sections of the Students' Association constitution and by-laws that apply to this group.

October 3, 2014

***Section D. Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals***

1. Should an officer vacancy occur for any reason, it is the duty of the President to fulfill the duties of the vacant position in the interim period before a new election may occur. An emergency election may be called to fill the vacancy at any time in the year.
2. The position is to be filled by the same procedure described in the Nominations and Elections section above.
3. Officer resignations shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing and reviewed at the next Executive Board meeting. A resigning officer must remain active for two weeks after submission of a resignation to allow for new elections to take place.
4. A vote of no confidence is required to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a 51% or greater majority of the active membership to pass the motion to remove the officer.
5. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, it must be given an official meeting's notice. Any active member of SADACA can call for a vote of no confidence.
6. Shall the vote of no confidence be reached, the position shall be declared vacant.

***Section E. Provisions of Advisors***

1. The Executive Board of SADACA shall meet with their advisor on a regular basis to further SADACA's mission. In addition, the advisor shall be consulted if any issues arise.

**Article V. Committees**  
Not applicable.

**Article VI. Finances**  
***Section A.*** Students' Association members shall receive priority at SA-funded events conducted by SADACA  
***Section B.*** SADACA shall be eligible for SA funding.

**Article VII. Classification**  
***Section A.*** SADACA shall be classified as a Cultural Club. A cultural organization shall be any SA recognized organization whose primary focus is the promotion or celebration of the culture of a people.

**Article VIII. Adoption of the Constitution**

October 3, 2014

5. The President shall preside over all meetings and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club. It is the President's responsibility to maintain organization within the club and assure that all actions and statements presented on behalf of the club, be they through a member or a sponsored event, do not stray from the mission of the organization.
6. The Events Coordinator shall be responsible for overseeing the logistical coordination of all events sponsored by the organization.
7. The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for the appropriate advertisement of all group events and meetings, and shall be the spokesperson for any inquiries.
8. The Business Manager shall be responsible for creating and submitting an annual budget, maintaining detailed financial records for all transactions committed by SADACA, and reporting to the Student Appropriations Committee as required.
9. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution to be available to all persons who inquire. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking roll call at meetings, tallying votes, maintaining an accurate list of all group members, keeping the information of the CCC accurate, and recording the meeting minutes.
10. The Academic Liaison will maintain a working relationship between SADACA and the University's various academic departments, such as the departments of Religion and Classics, Modern Languages and Cultures, History, and International Relations. The Academic Liaison will facilitate events jointly organized by SADACA and the aforementioned departments for the benefit of the school community.

***Section C. Nominations and Elections***

1. Any active member of the organization may nominate another active member to any position provided the nominee meets the above requirements. The member will become a candidate upon acceptance of their nomination and must present a platform during the election meeting.
2. Officer elections shall be held annually between March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. New officers will officially begin their positions no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> to serve during the transition period of April 1<sup>st</sup>- May 1<sup>st</sup>. Officers shall serve for one academic year, unless they desire to resign their position (see Section D).
3. The elections meeting must be valid for elections to take place.
4. A candidate will become an officer if they have received a majority of the votes cast.
5. In event of a tie, one re-vote will be allowed between the candidates in question. Should a tie reoccur, a majority vote by the Executive Board, to be conducted by closed ballots, shall produce the winner.

October 3, 2014

*Section A.* Two-thirds of the Executive Board must first approve the constitution, with a vote of confidence then issued by the remaining active membership.

*Section B.* This constitution and the amendments to it will be ratified upon approval of the Senate and the signature of the Speaker.

*Section C.* This constitution shall not conflict with the Students' Association constitution of by-laws.

**Article IX. Amendments**

*Section A.* For an amendment to be proposed, it requires the support of at least two active members in writing.

*Section B.* Adoption and ratification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire constitution.

**Article X. By-laws**

*Section A.* At least a 2/3 majority of the active membership must approve the by-laws and any amendments.

*Section B.* By-laws shall not conflict with this constitution or the SA constitution or by-laws.

**Article XI. Hazing Policy**

The harassment of one individual by another individual or group (sometimes called 'hazing') is not permitted by SADACA. 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 the individual.

**Article XII. Discrimination Policy**

The Student Association of the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness of the University of Rochester does not discriminate against any individual or group of individuals on the basis of age, color, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, veteran status, or political affiliation. We uphold the integrity of this Article throughout all aspects of our organization and, should an action falling under such classification be made in connection with SADACA, grievances shall be filed and brought forth to the Students' Association Committee.

October 3, 2014

*Saad Eldini*

10/27/14

Signature of Officer  
Submitting Constitution

Date

*Muhammad Amin*

10/27/14

Signature of SA Speaker

Date