



Students for Justice in Palestine

ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) 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

To address the underrepresentation of Palestinian people by tailoring to their needs, rights, and justice, through informing and educating on their past, present and future struggles. We intend to make audible the Palestinian narratives and share them with the University of Rochester and the Greater Rochester area communities.

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. Active SJP members must be an undergraduate student enrolled at the University of Rochester. To be considered an active SJP member the student must have volunteered for at least one of SJP hosted and/or co-hosted events throughout the semester and must attend half of the general meetings. SJP's active members shall not participate in illegal political activities/affiliations under the club's name.
- C. 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. Associate members are not eligible to compete nor travel as part of the club. They can vote.

- D. Our organization shall be a chapter of the National Students for Justice for Palestine national grassroots organization, which advocates for justice of the Palestinian people.
- E. If a member or officer expresses independent interest in joining/joins any political activities such as debates, discussions, or sharing political information on campus and/or on any social media or digital platform, that shall be taken as their own and any case of impersonating the organization or one of its officers shall be investigated.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION ONE - QUORUM

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as $\frac{1}{2}$ of the active membership plus two officers.

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
 - a. Those wishing to serve as President should possess previous leadership and/or administrative experience, a demonstrated commitment and interest in furthering the Palestinian cause. Additionally, those wishing to serve as President should have served for at least one year on the executive board of the organization, unless no one is qualified.
- B. Vice President
 - a. Those wishing to serve as Vice President should possess previous leading experience, a demonstrated commitment and interest in furthering the Palestinian cause. Additionally, those wishing to serve as Vice President should have demonstrated experience in coordinating relations and connecting with organizations external to the university or their previous institutions.
- C. Business Manager
 - a. Those wishing to serve as Business Manager should have previous experience

in handling finances of a certain club/organization.

D. Publicity and community outreach

- a. Those wishing to serve as Publicity and community outreach chair would be a representative of SJP, continuing to have good diplomatic communication skills with regards to other clubs, and groups on campus and the Greater Rochester area.

E. Education chair

- a. Those wishing to serve as an Education Chair would have demonstrated interest in and familiarity with researching histories and cultures of a specific peoples and/or conflicts. Preferably, they should be majors or minors in political science, international relations, Language and Media and Culture (LMC), or other humanities fields. Additionally, they must demonstrate willingness to collaborate with those identifying as Palestinian to ensure their duties further their cause.

F. Event manager

- a. Those wishing to serve as Event Manager should have demonstrated organization skills and experience and a commitment to ensuring events run as smoothly as possible.

G. Senior advisor

- a. Those wishing to serve as Senior Advisor must be non-returning undergraduate students who served for a minimum of one year on the executive board of the organization, unless no one is qualified.

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. All officers whose duties are described in items *H* and *J* through *M* shall supervise any members wishing to participate in their respective aspect of running the organization.

F. All officers shall collaboratively ensure and demonstrate that any partner entity or benefactor of the organization is not interfering with or influencing the organization's mission and operations.

G. The President

The President shall preside over the meetings and maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club

that fulfills the purposes set forth above.

H. The Business Manager

- a. The Business Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and keeping detailed records of all transactions.
- b. The Business Manager shall handle the continuous budgeting and revision of the organization's budgets and inventories. The Business Manager shall also continuously ensure the organization is obtaining required material items at the best costs and benefits possible and shall continuously search for ethical and relevant providers and partners who can sponsor and provide for material items at events as required.
- c. The Business Manager shall also supervise the work of any members wishing to participate in the business management of the organization.

I. Vice President

- a. The Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to inspection by all members of this organization, Senators, and all members of the Students' Association.
- b. The Vice President shall preside over meetings when the President is absent.
- c. The Vice President shall take roll calls at meetings, tally votes, keep accurate lists of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes.
- d. The Vice President shall manage collaboration and correspondence with relevant organizations in the Greater Rochester Area and relay details to the executive board and manage the partnership.

J. The Publicity and Community Outreach chair shall be in charge of publicizing the organization's activities, events, statements, etc. through all media seen fit and necessary and be the primary responder to inquiries and questions or other organizations and bodies within the university community, in addition to coordinating the organization's relations and collaborations with other student organizations in the university.

K. The Education Chair shall be responsible for exploring various sources and curating -where curation is not limited to content creation and organization and involves providing references, within capacity, for reported material, opinions, analyses, etc.- content on the issues of Palestinians' rights, living situations, and humanitarian situation in the larger framework of past, present and possible future political and cultural developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict and those of the regions where Palestinians were identified as refugees or diasporic.

- a. The Education Chair and the Publicity and Community Outreach Chair shall collaborate in planning and implementing the representation and transmission of content and information found by the Education Chair, as

seen fit for the media to be used.

- L. The Event Manager shall be responsible for arranging and managing the logistics of the organization's event and ensuring that every venue at which (or medium and platform through which) the event will be held is appropriate for and accommodating of the event's planned content and agenda.

SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. Nomination and Elections Procedure

- a. The timeline and procedure of nominations and elections shall be announced and elaborated on 3 meetings before the nominations.
 - b. The open nomination period shall be the week leading up to the elections.
 - c. Candidates will be required to deliver a statement of interest through chosen medium, and a session to receive and answer members' questions concerning their nomination shall be held at the end of that week. Optionally, The questions session will be followed by a discussion between general members, with absence of nominees and current executive board members, of the merits of each nominee for each position.
 - d. Votes will be counted by an executive board member given they aren't a nominee in the particular election. If no executive board member with such status is found, the counting is delegated to the club advisor.
- B. Term of Office - The term of office shall be two academic semesters, with a fall semester being the first. Transition will begin immediately after and bulk of the process shall occur in break between semesters.
 - C. Timing of Elections - The election shall take place in the third to last week before the end of classes of the spring semester.

SECTION FOUR - VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS, AND REMOVALS

- A. There shall be at least five members on the board so as to maintain a fully-functioning organization. Board Positions are subject to change or remaining unfilled for a given term of office, with respect to position types and/or quantity, based on what is appropriate for the respective year's membership and board applicants. Board members should preserve the autonomy of the organization as well as maintaining general body meetings.
- B. At the first valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in *Article VI, Section Three*.
- C. 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.

D. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, they must be notified one week in advance.

E. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

ARTICLE VI-RESOURCES

SECTION ONE - RESOURCES

A. The Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) 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 Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). 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 VII - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) abides by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester.



Signature of Confirmation

Mufida Asmar

President, Students for Justice in Palestine

3/02/2021

Date



Signature of Approval

Eden-Lyn Thomas

Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee

3/17/2021

Date