



DREXEL UNIVERSITY



TURKISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Jun 1,2006

PREAMBLE

Drexel University Turkish Student Association (“TSA”) is a non-political volunteer student and community organization whose objectives are to promote cultural understanding of Turkish culture, promote friendship and appreciation among different cultural groups, sponsor Turkish social and cultural activities and events, and to provide resources and support for Turkish community at Drexel University

1. ARTICLE I

1.1. NAME AND NATURE

1.1.1. The name of the association shall be Drexel University Turkish Student Association (TSA-DU).

1.1.2. The association shall be a social, cultural, educational, democratic, independent, and nonprofit organization.

2. ARTICLE II

2.1. FOUNDATION

2.1.1. In every activity TSA-DU participates or organizes, TSA-DU shall reflect the constitutionally recognized founding principles of the Republic of Turkey.

3. ARTICLE III

3.1. PURPOSE

The Drexel University Turkish Student Association will

3.1.1. Promote social relations and cooperation among the members;

3.1.2. Expose Drexel University community to the Turkish culture;

3.1.3. Promote interactions between its members and the members of Drexel University community;

3.1.4. Cooperate closely with other organizations at Drexel University.

4. ARTICLE IV

4.1. MEMBERSHIP

4.1.1. Membership shall consist of two types: active and associate.

4.1.1.1. Active Member: every currently registered Drexel University graduate student regardless of their religion, national, origin, gender, sexual orientation, or ability and who pays the membership dues is eligible to be an active member.

4.1.1.2. Associate Member: every member of the Drexel University community who pays the membership dues is eligible to be an associate member. However, they may not receive privileges of active membership, may not vote nor they benefit from funding (e.g. SAFAC or graduate fees)

4.1.1.3. Affiliate Member: anybody interested in Turkish culture, activities of TSA-DU and pays the membership dues are welcome to become affiliate member. However, they may not receive privileges of active membership, may not vote nor they benefit from funding (e.g. SAFAC or graduate fees)

4.1.2. The active members have the right to vote, nominate, but only full time, officially registered graduate students shall be eligible to serve as appointed or elected officers (executive committee) in the organization.

4.1.3. The associate members have the right to attend the meetings of general assembly, discuss, make suggestions, and participate in various activities. But associate members cannot vote or run for any office in the association. They may not receive privileges of active membership, may not vote nor they benefit from funding (e.g. SAFAC or graduate fees)

5. ARTICLE V

5.1. STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

5.1.1. General Assembly

General Assembly;

5.1.1.1. shall be composed of all active and associate members.

5.1.1.2. shall have the supreme power in the association.

5.1.1.3. shall be held at least once a year provided that one meeting shall be held in February to elect a new executive committee.

5.1.1.4. can be called for a special meeting by the executive committee and/or by the written request of one-fourth of the voting members of the general assembly. The executive committee is responsible for informing all members about the agenda, time and place of general assembly meeting at least one week in advance.

5.1.2. Executive Committee

5.1.2.1. The executive committee shall be composed of five officers: President, Vice President, Past-President, Treasurer and four other members

5.1.2.2. Members of the executive committee shall be elected by the general assembly for one year.

5.1.2.3. The executive committee

a. shall execute the programs and activities approved by the general assembly;

b. shall submit all properties of the association to the newly-elected executive committee within ten days from the time of the election;

c. shall decide on the membership fee and submit to the general assembly (all members participating in the general assembly must pay the dues prior to the meeting);

d. shall meet at least once every two months, these meetings shall be open to all members of the association and announced at least one day in advance.

e. shall impeach the executive committee officer from the office if he/she absent twice in a row without any acceptable reason; and

f. shall call a special general assembly meeting within two weeks if the majority of the executive committee (at least three) leaves the office

g. The vice president replaces the president if he/she is absent.

5.1.3. Functional Committee

5.1.3.1. The executive committee shall have the power to organize necessary functional committees.

5.1.3.2. Each functional committee is required to report to the executive committee.

5.1.3.3. Every member of the association can be appointed to a committee with the approval of the executive committee.

6. ARTICLE VI

6.1. QUORUM AND VOTING

6.1.1. The decision of the general assembly shall be passed by a majority vote.

7. ARTICLE VI

7.1. ELECTIONS

- 7.1.1. Elections will be held annually in February.
- 7.1.2. An election committee (three persons) shall be elected from the general assembly to supervise the elections.
- 7.1.3. The election committee shall include a president and two encounters. The president of the election committee shall not vote or run for any office in the organization.
- 7.1.4. The officers of the executive committee shall be elected at the general assembly meeting for a term of one year.
- 7.1.5. If any elective position becomes vacant, the elected standing member shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired part of the term.
- 7.1.6. In case of resignation of the president, the executive committee shall elect a new president.

8. ARTICLE VIII

8.1. AMENDMENT

- 8.1.1. This constitution may be amended at any general assembly meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, provided a notice is given two weeks prior to the general assembly meeting. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the general assembly.

9. ARTICLE IX

9.1. FINANCE

- 9.1.1. Membership fee shall be decided by the general assembly. The associate membership fee may be lower than active membership fee.

9.1.2. Contributions/Donations from the members and other sources of which policies do not conflict with the constitution of the organization will be accepted after its approval by the executive committee.

BY-LAWS

1. ARTICLE I

1.1. Membership

- 1.1.1. Active and Associate Membership shall be extended to all persons who are members of Drexel University community.
- 1.1.2. The amount of dues for membership shall be decided each year by the general assembly.
- 1.1.3. Membership of an unfit individual may be ended with a 2/3 vote of executive committee.

2. ARTICLE II

2.1. Duties of Officers (Executive Committee)

- 2.1.1. The president shall be the official representative of the organization, and it is his/her responsibility to follow up the execution of the programs approved by the General Assembly.
- 2.1.2. The vice president shall function in any capacity delegated to him/her by the president and shall take the place of the president in his/her absence.
- 2.1.3. The secretary shall function in any capacity delegated to him by the president, shall call for meetings, keep meeting minutes and take care of the files.
- 2.1.4. The treasurer shall collect the dues and be responsible for the budget.

2.1.5. The social activities officer shall organize the educational and cultural social activities and public affairs officer publicize the organization activities.

3. ARTICLE III

3.1. Executive Committee

3.1.1. The Executive Committee shall consist of all the officers.

3.1.2. The Executive Committee shall attend to the affairs of the organization during the interim between meetings of the organization, but its acts shall not conflict with any action taken by the organization.

3.1.3. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at least once in two months. Special meetings may be called by the president or upon request of at least three officers.

3.1.4. Three officers shall constitute a quorum for the committee.

4. ARTICLE IV

4.1. Committees

4.1.1. Standing committees shall be sports, cultural and educational, orientation and networking committees. Additional standing committees may be formed by the Executive Committee if deemed necessary.

4.1.2. All standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

4.1.3. All standing committees shall report to the Executive Committee.

5. ARTICLE V

5.1. Parliamentary Authority

5.1.1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order¹ shall govern proceedings of this organization except in such cases as are carried by the Constitution, by-laws, and standing rules adopted by this organization.

6. ARTICLE VI

6.1. Amendments to By-Laws

6.1.1. This constitution may be amended at any general assembly meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, provided notice is given two weeks prior of the general assembly meeting. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in written form.

7. ARTICLE VII

7.1. Advisor(s)

7.1.1. The Association shall have one full time faculty or staff advisor who is a member of Drexel University community.

8. ARTICLE VIII

8.1. Means of Communication

8.1.1. All means of communication shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization.

¹ Henry M. Robert III and others, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 10th ed. Cambridge, Mass Perseus Publishing, 2000.

- 8.1.2. All means of communication can individually have its operating rules approved by the general assembly.
- 8.1.3. TSA E-mail list
- a. The TSA E-mail list shall be used only by the assigned Executive Committee member to facilitate its communication with the members.
 - b. List Server (@drexel.edu), Yahoo group (drexeltsa) and Facebook group shall be the means of open communication among members of the organization. Individual participants themselves shall be held responsible of the content of their messages in all means of communication before the rules and regulations of DU and laws of USA.
- 8.1.4. Newsletter
- a. An editorial board elected by the general assembly shall be responsible of publishing the newsletter.
 - b. The editorial board consists of maximum nine members. One member shall be a member of TSA-DU executive committee.
- 8.1.5. The executive committee shall be responsible for the content and maintenance of the TSA internet page.

9. ARTICLE IX

9.1. Hazing Policy

- 9.1.1. The harassment of one individual by another individual or group is not permitted by TSA-DU. 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.

10. ARTICLE X

10.1. Dissolution

10.1.1. Should any question regarding the dissolution of this constitution arise, the Executive Committee, after consulting with the Chairs of the College and Graduate Councils, may issue an interpretation. This interpretation shall stand unless overturned by a 2/3 vote of the general assembly.

Last revised: September 19, 2007