

The Constitution of “The Muslim Student Association at CMU”

A Chapter of Muslim Students' Association of the US and Canada Affiliated with the Islamic Society of North America.

Preamble

The aim and purposes of this Association is to serve the best interest of Islam and the Muslims of Central Michigan University and the City of Mount Pleasant.

Article I: Name

The organization shall be called the “Muslim Student Association at CMU”, a division of the Islamic Center of Mount Pleasant, Michigan, hereinafter referred to as the MSA and ICMP.

ARTICLE II: Aims and Purposes

Section 1.

The aim and purposes of this Association is but not limited to serve the best interest of Islam and the Muslims of Central Michigan University and the City of Mount Pleasant, and to promote interfaith activities among other religious organizations in order to bring peace and blessings to the community.

This Association shall:

1. Promote peace, unity, mutual respect and mutual understanding among students and community.
2. Conduct social, cultural, religious and other activities in the best traditions of mainstream Islam.
3. Arrange and hold congregational prayers and mainstream Islamic religious festivals at appropriate times
4. Promote peace and friendly relations between Muslims and non-Muslims:
5. Endeavor to make mainstream Islamic teachings known for interested non-Muslims.

Section 2.

This Association shall maintain an office at the premises of the Mosque/Islamic Center of Mount Pleasant, MI.

Section 3.

This Association shall be a non-profit, non-political organization. A major thrust of the association shall be to encourage and enable Muslims with basic knowledge and competence in Islam to contribute individually and collectively toward meeting human needs in conformity with mainstream Islamic doctrines and belief. It shall also be also a major goal of this Association to avoid practices that are contrary to mainstream Islam and to create a feeling of brotherhood among its members, and between Muslims and non-Muslims in the university and the community at large.

ARTICLE III: Conditions of Affiliation

Section 1.

This Association shall establish and maintain continuous affiliations with the Islamic Society of North America & Canada, hereinafter referred to as ISNA, The Muslim Students' Association of North America & Canada, and the Islamic Center of Mount Pleasant

Section 2.

This Association shall not undertake any activity that violates the Islamic standards of the constitution of the Muslim Students' Association of United States and Canada. In case of any such violation, the President of the Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada may send a representative for mediation. If a solution is not reached the Executive Committee of MSA and ICMP may dissolve the Executive Committee of the Association and supervise a new election.

Section 3.

The Muslim Students' Association of United States and Canada may send a representative to supervise the election of the executive committee of the Association.

ARTILCE IV:

Membership

Section 1.

The membership of the Association shall consist of "members" and "honorary members".

Section 2.

Membership shall not be denied because of age, color, disability, gender, family status, height, marital status, national origin, political persuasion, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status or weight.

Section 3.

A member shall be any Muslim who has paid the required dues, wishes to be a member of the Association, and agrees to abide by the constitution and the collective decisions of the Association.

Section 4.

An honorary member shall be any non-Muslim student interested in this Association and the Islamic activities. An honorary member shall not be eligible to vote in elections, but will be welcome to attend the social functions of the Association.

ARTILCE V: Executive Committee

Section 1.

The elected officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of the Executive Committee shall be one calendar year with elections. No elected officer shall remain in the same position more than one term.

Section 2.

Elections shall be announced in a written format one week ahead of time at the ICMP. The elections shall take place at ICMP every Spring semester or end of Spring semester, between the first and third week, and the newly elected executive committee members shall assume office one week after votes become approved.

Section 3.

Quorum needed for an individual to be considered as a candidate is 10 active members for any post. After that, every nominee's name shall be listed among other candidates in a vote-form that will be completed by active members and returned to the committee responsible for the elections.

Section 4.

The committee responsible for the elections will comprise of the president and vice-president of the ICMP, the advisor of the MSA, and the current president of the MSA.

Section 5.

President

The President shall be responsible for:

- a. The general management of all the activities of the Association.
- b. Directing and coordinating of all activities to achieve the goals and purposes of the Association.
- c. Calling and presiding over meetings of the Executive Committee and the general body meetings.
- d. Forming various Ad Hoc committees with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- e. Being the spokesman, representative and correspondent for the Association in external activities.

Vice President:

The Vice President shall be responsible for:

- a. Presenting written reports on the state of the Association to annual meeting and its newsletter, which ever necessary.
- b. Establishing an efficient link between the Association and the MSA of United States & Canada, and ISNA.
- c. Suggesting available speakers and organizers from the members of the Association to the MSA head headquarters.
- d. Directing and supervising the activities of the various sub-committees.
- e. Taking over the responsibilities of the President in case of his absence.

Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- a. Reporting the important events and activities of the Association to the MSA headquarters periodically.
- b. Preparing, circulating within 30 (thirty) days, and maintaining the minutes of all the Executive and general body meetings.
- c. Preparing the agenda for the members of the Executive Committee and general body meetings and notifying the members of the Executive Committee and the General Body, respectively, of it.
- d. Maintaining the list of the members and the volunteers for various functions of the Association.
- e. Keeping the Association registered with Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant in the State of Michigan.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

- a. Maintaining the records of all financial transactions of the Association. He/she shall be responsible for systematic up-keep of books and writing disbursement, receipts, banking, reconciliation and showing of increase of funds in statements to be made public.
- b. Collecting and depositing in the bank all the funds received on behalf of the Association.
- c. Countersigning all withdrawal checks on behalf of the Association.
- d. Preparing the annual budget of the Association for the next fiscal year in consultation with the newly elected Executive Committee and presenting the same in the General Body meeting following the election.
- e. Presenting before the Executive Committee a quarterly report on the status of the Association's financial affairs, including the anonymous donations and total donations received by the Association.

Section 6.

The decision on each and every matter in the Executive Committee meetings shall be taken in a parliamentary way, with each member of the Executive Committee present in meeting voting on the matter. The President may exercise veto against simple majority. However, 2/3 (two-third) majority of the members present, not counting the President or the members presiding in his absence shall override any Presidential veto. The President, of the member presiding in his absence, shall not vote in any election nor shall his vote be counted. The members not attending the meeting shall not be able to vote on any issue.

ARTICLE V: Advisor(s)

Section 1.

An Advisor must be a faculty or a staff member of CMU or a spouse of a faculty or staff member or in accordance with the University. He/She must be a Muslim.

Section 2.

The selection of an advisor requires nomination from elected Executive Committee and approval of a 2/3 (two-third) majority from the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

The Advisor is responsible for providing advisory help and consultation in an ambivalence decision by the Executive Committee. The Advisor is also responsible for promoting the Association to interested non-Muslims.

ARTICLE VI:

Finances

Section 1.

Membership dues for the Association shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Membership dues, may be different for earning and non-earning members.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee may accept any contributions in any form from any sources, consistent with the purposes of the Association and with the principles of Islam.

Section 3.

All funds collected for a specific cause shall be used for that cause unless a 2/3 majority vote of the members authorizes its use for a different purpose within the goals and objectives of the Association.

Section 4.

The Association's funds will be saved in a local bank in Mt. Pleasant, which will be exclusively used for the MSA's finances, and will be register under that name of the association. The President and Treasurer must both sign all transactions involving check withdrawals from the Association's account.

Section 5.

Withdrawing money from the bank account shall require a written approval signed by all members of the Executive Committee. If no consensus can be achieved within the Executive Committee, the issue shall be taken to the vote of General Body of members.

ARTTICLE VII:

Ad Hoc committees (sub committees)

Section 1.

The General Body of the Association during a General Body Meeting and/or the Executive Committee at any other time may appoint an Ad Hoc Committee (SubCommittee) in order to carry out an assignment. The tenure of these committees may vary from a fraction of an hour to more than a year, depending upon the nature of the assignment.

Section 2.

The assignment given to the Ad Hoc Committee (Sub committee) shall be precisely defined in a memorandum from the Executive Committee to the Ad hoc Committee, a copy of which shall be posted on the bulletin board in the Mosque/Islamic Center. The limit on the expenditure, if any, that may be incurred in carrying out the assignment, shall be specific in the memorandum.

Section 3.

An Ad Hoc Committee (Sub Committee) shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and a Women's Coordinator, if necessary.

Section 4.

The Chairperson of the Committee is automatically the President of the Association and the appointment of the remaining Committee members shall be in his hands, after consultation and approval from the Executive committee.

Section 5.

The Committee shall be allowed to continue its work uninterrupted by anybody until it completes the assignment for which it was formed. Only the President of the Association shall dismiss the Committee after the assignment has been accomplished and the Secretary has submitted to the President a report to that effect.

ARTICLE VIII:

Judiciary Procedures

Section 1.

Charge(s) of misdemeanor, misappropriation of funds, fraud, corruption, violation of the Constitution, cover-up of such offenses, etc., can be brought against a member or a group of members of an Executive Committee member, by a petition signed by at least 2/3 (two-third) of total members which include the valid evidences and two witnesses of such action(s) shall be handed to the president.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee shall meet within two weeks of receipt of the petition in order to set up an Executive Hearing Council to hear the charge(s).

Section 3.

An elected Executive Hearing Council consists of 5 (five) people outside the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for calling the meeting for setting-up a panel.

Section 4.

The Chairperson of Executive Hearing Council shall be elected by a 2/3 (two-third) majority of the Executive Hearing Council members.

Section 5.

A panel shall be set-up consisting of the Executive Committee Advisor, an Executive Committee member, and five members from the Executive Hearing Council. There must be 7 (seven) members serving the panel.

Section 6.

The Chairperson of the panel shall be elected by a 2/3 (two-third) majority of the Executive Hearing Council.

Section 7.

The person(s) against whom charge(s) has (have) been brought does (do) not qualify to be on the panel. A member of the panel must be an active member at least 6 (six) months in the Association to serve as a panel.

Section 8.

The Chairperson of the panel shall fix the first session of the panel within two weeks after the formation of the panel and shall notify, in writing, the panelist at least one week before the schedule session.

Section 9.

The panel shall hear the charge(s) as well witnesses from both sides, examine all evidences and pass a verdict of "Guilty" or "Not Guilty" and determine punitive and/or corrective measures. If the panel finds clear evidence of criminal violation according to State and/or Federal laws, it may recommend to the General Body to consider the possibility of legal suit against the person(s) accused, if a solution is not found within the framework and by-laws of the Association.

ARTICLE IX:

Miscellaneous

Section 1.

The Association shall be registered as a Non-Profit, Religious Organization at Central Michigan University, City Mt. Pleasant, State of Michigan. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to do all the necessary paper work in order to keep the registration active.

Section 2.

An Executive Committee member who has failed to attend three consecutive Executive Committee meetings without being excused by the President prior to the meetings, shall be asked to give his/her explanation for the absence in writing. If he/she fails to do so or if his/her explanation is not satisfactory to the Executive Committee, the President shall consider his/her dismissal from the post he/she is holding. The Executive Committee shall grant him/her a hearing so as to enable him/her to defend his/her explanation for absences. If he/she refuses to appear before the Executive Committee within a period of two weeks, the President of the Executive Committee shall decide an action based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee members.

Section 3.

The President shall give to the Executive Committee his/her reasons for his/her failure to attend Executive Committee meetings. If the Executive Committee does not find his/her explanation for having missed three consecutive meetings to be satisfactory, the Secretary shall recommend his/her dismissal from his/her office. The Executive Committee shall grant him/her a hearing so as to enable him/her to defend his/her explanation for the absences. If he/she refuses to appear before the Executive Committee within a period of two weeks, the General Body of members shall decide an action based on the recommendation of the remaining Executive Committee.

Section 4.

If a member of the Executive Committee resigns or moves from the area or is dismissed, the Executive Committee with the consent of the General Body shall co-opt another member to fill the vacated office until the annual election.

ARTICLE X:

Dissolution

Section 1

If a situation arises which makes the dissolution of the Association inevitable, the Executive Committee shall call upon Muslim Students Association of United States and Canada to handle the process of dissolution with the assistance of the Executive Committee. Assets which are left after meeting all liabilities shall go to the account of the Islamic Center of Mount Pleasant (ICMP)

which is a non-profit organization and can be used exclusively to pay for maintenance, utilities or renovation/repair of the premises of the ICMP.