

The Constitution of the MIT South Asian Association of Students

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the South Asian Association of Students (SAAS) is to promote South Asian culture, create spaces for students of South Asian descent at MIT, and advocate for issues that disproportionately affect such students. It is to celebrate the diversity of South Asian culture and provide spaces for discourse and community among people with ties to that culture.

Article II: Membership

1. Any member of the MIT community is eligible to become a member of this organization. One is considered a member of this organization in any given academic term if they have attended at least one club activity in the preceding or current term.
2. The organization's membership will at all times consist of at least 5 MIT students and only of MIT students.
3. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Nondiscrimination Statement.
4. SAAS will not charge membership dues but reserves the right to charge fees for entry to large events. There will be exceptions made for students that cannot afford these fees on a case-by-case basis.
5. A member can be removed by a two-third vote of the executive board. The member to be removed will be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting at which the vote takes place.

Article III: Officers

1. This organization will have at a minimum two officers. The president and the treasurer will be distinct current MIT students. The collective of officers shall be referred to as the executive board, or "board".
 - a. President(s)
 - i. The president(s) shall be a currently enrolled MIT student.
 - ii. There shall be a maximum of two co-presidents at any given time.
 - iii. The president(s) shall be the official representative of the group to any other organization and to MIT.
 - iv. The president(s) will preside over all meetings.
 - v. The president(s) is responsible for determining when meetings are and publicizing this to the group.

- vi. Former presidents may have the option to become an “advisor” who coordinates with and advises the current administration and need not be assigned a committee.
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. The treasurer shall be a currently enrolled MIT student.
 - ii. The treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the group.
 - iii. The treasurer must approve all disbursements from the group’s accounts, including reimbursements to members.
 - c. Vice Presidents
 - i. The vice presidents shall each head a committee, with a maximum of two vice presidents per committee. The committees shall be:
 - 1. Community Engagement
 - 2. Big Events
 - 3. Social
 - ii. The vice presidents shall be responsible for delegating responsibilities to members of their committee and for committee tasks as outlined by the president(s).
 - d. Other officers
 - i. All other executive board members shall be designated as a member of the committees outlined in (c-i).
 - ii. Such members will be responsible for conducting the activities associated with their assigned committee.
 - iii. A member may change committee at will with consent of the president(s).
2. All of the individuals who are officers of this organization must be current MIT students.
3. Board Elections:
- a. Presidential and vice-presidential elections shall occur at the end of each academic year.
 - b. Any executive board member of SAAS is eligible to run for any office.
 - c. Quorum for elections is two-thirds of the group.
 - d. Any member is elected if they win a majority of the voting members.
 - e. If more than two people are running and no one wins a majority, then the person with the fewest votes is dropped from the ballot and votes are recast.
 - f. The term of office runs from one election to the subsequent election.
4. New Upperclassman Officer Selection:
- a. The president(s) shall design and release an application for upperclassmen officers in the weeks preceding each semester.
 - b. The president(s) shall select candidates for interviews.
 - i. Interviews shall take place over the summer after the application deadline.
 - ii. The president(s) and any other available board members shall be present at the interview.

- c. Interviewed candidates shall be subject to a debate and vote of current board members after all interviews have been conducted. A majority of the board must vote to accept the candidate for their application to be accepted.
5. New Freshman Representative (frep) Selection:
 - a. Freps shall undergo the same selection process as upperclassmen officers except elections will happen later in the calendar.
 - b. Freps shall be rotated between committees for their first semester before becoming full board members for their second semester.
6. Removal: Officers may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the board. The affected officer shall be allowed to speak before the vote.
7. Vacancies:
 - a. Unexpected midyear vacancies among vice presidential or treasurer positions may be filled via appointment by the presidents until an election is held.
 - b. Unexpected midyear vacancies among president positions may allow the remaining president to either hold a snap election for president or appoint a vice president or treasurer as (until an election can be held):
 - i. The second president
 - ii. A senior vice president
 - c. If both presidents have unexpected midyear vacancies, the vice presidents may hold an emergency vote to fill president positions or redistribute the president workload among themselves.

Article IV: Meetings

1. Officer meetings shall be held at least every week, barring conflicts or holidays.
2. Meetings shall be presided over by the president(s).
3. Committee meetings shall be held at least every week, barring conflicts or holidays.
4. Committee meetings shall be presided over by their respective vice president(s).
5. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote or clear consensus of all officers present.
6. Quorum for a meeting shall be one-third of the officers of the organization.

Article V: Amendments

1. Amendments shall be presented by any officer of the organization.
2. Amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds vote of the officers present.
3. Quorum for amending this constitution shall be two-thirds of board.

Article VI: ASA Governance Clause

SAAS agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.