

# Students for Justice in Palestine at UCSD Constitution

October 17, 2020

## **Article 1    Name of Student Organization**

1. The organization shall be called Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UCSD.

## **Article 2    Statement of Purpose**

### **Section 1    Mission**

1. Part and parcel of the larger student movement sweeping university campuses across the United States, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and community members centered at the University of California, San Diego and organized in accordance with democratic principles to promote justice, human rights, and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

### **Section 2    Guiding Principles**

1. As an advocacy group, SJP believes that key principles grounded in international law, human rights, and basic standards of justice, dictate concrete steps that will be fundamental to a fair and lasting resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Most important among those steps are:
  - (a) An end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.
  - (b) An end to Israel's system of apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as its system of discrimination against the Arab population within its own borders.
  - (c) A just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem.
2. Just as SJP condemns the racism and discrimination underlying many of the policies of the state of Israel, SJP also categorically opposes any form of prejudice or discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, or gender.

At the same time, SJP manifestly rejects attempts to equate principled criticism of Zionism, or of the character or policies of Israel, with anti-Semitism.

3. SJP condemns all acts of unlawful violence, or violence that indiscriminately targets civilians or civilian infrastructure, committed by either side in the course of the conflict.
4. Ultimately, SJP's strength flows from the diversity of its membership, comprising individuals of varied racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds and political orientations, all united under these stated principles in the struggle for peace through justice in Palestine.

### **Section 3 Code of Conduct**

1. SJP's activities include educational events, film screenings, discussion forums, and demonstrations meant to promote awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people and encourage activism in solidarity with their struggle.
2. SJP will also initiate a campaign urging the University of California, San Diego to divest from companies complicit in Israeli violations of human rights or international law.
3. SJP will conduct only nonviolent actions, and reject actions that violate its guiding principles, to which all individuals or groups acting as members, representatives, or sponsors of SJP are required to adhere.
4. More broadly, SJP will work to link the pro-Palestine movement with other movements seeking political, social, economic, or environmental justice in the Middle East and across the world. To this end, SJP may elect to endorse the programs or activities of other organizations whose principles and objectives are consistent with its own.
5. SJP believes that in promoting educational success among its membership, such as with regard to academic performance and college student retention, it is empowering its community to become more effective activists and more capable leaders. And so, SJP will strive to realize this empowerment by way of regular tutor-attended study jams and student mentorship programs.

### **Article 3 Nonprofit Statement**

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UCSD is a non-profit student organization.

## **Article 4 Requirements for Membership**

### **Section 1 Eligibility for Membership**

1. SJP's strength is in the great diversity of its membership. SJP welcomes individuals of all backgrounds to join in solidarity with the struggle for justice in Palestine. This includes all UCSD students, faculty, and staff, and members of the community.
2. There are no duties or fees required for membership.

### **Section 2 Categories of Membership**

1. Membership in the organization shall be extended to UCSD students and staff who agree with the Mission Statement, Guiding Principles and General Code of SJP.
2. Active members shall be those members of the organization who have attended at least 2 General Body Meetings or 1 General Body Meeting and an official SJP activity of the year in question. Attendance will be taken by the Education Director.

### **Section 3 Withdrawal or Removal of Members**

1. Members may withdraw from the organization at any time and for any reason, however they must first notify the organization of their withdrawal at the time they wish to leave.
2. Members may be removed in the instance that they violate the principles or the established code of conduct of the organization. If the person wishes to stay, the members of the organization will hear the person's case and then vote on whether or not the person may remain a member. A two-thirds majority in favor of the member is required to keep them in the club.

## **Article 5 Frequency of Organization Meetings**

### **Section 1 General Body Meetings**

1. Each member of the Board shall organize at least one General Body Meeting per year.

### **Section 2 Board Meetings**

1. The Board shall meet on a weekly basis.
2. Minutes will be taken at all official board meetings.
3. The Board shall maintain constant and open communication.

## **Article 6   Qualifications for Holding Office and Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers**

### **Section 1   Voting Qualifications**

1. Only Only registered UCSD students may hold office in the organization.  
Only registered UCSD students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers.

### **Section 2   Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Chair
  - (a) The Chair shall:
    - i. serve as head of the Board and SJP at UCSD.
    - ii. oversee the establishment of all SJP events, programs and activities.
    - iii. ensure that the organization continues to strive towards its vision, as outlined in Articles I and II.
    - iv. organize and lead Board Meetings, unless they appoint others to do so.
    - v. delegate tasks among other board members.
    - vi. shall be the spokesperson for SJP in its relations with the campus and the community.
    - vii. act as a link to all regional and national SJP organizations.
    - viii. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
    - ix. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.
2. Vice Chair
  - (a) The Vice Chair shall:
    - i. assist the Chair in all tasks.
    - ii. take over the Chair's duties in their absence.
    - iii. oversee the Constitution amendment process.
    - iv. keep the SJP Google Calendar updated.
    - v. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
    - vi. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.
3. External Affairs Director
  - (a) External Affairs Director shall:

- i. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.
- ii. be responsible for meeting and maintaining relationships with other on-campus student organizations and local off-campus groups.
- iii. organize at least two collaborative events or GBMs with other student organizations every school year.
- iv. maintain an emailing list, including sending follow-up emails after every SJP GBM and event, which should include an evaluation form for attendee feedback.
- v. pursue admittance to and maintain membership with the Cross Cultural Center (CCC), the Student Affirmative Action Committee (SAAC), and SPACES.
- vi. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
- vii. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.

#### 4. Outreach Director

##### (a) The Outreach Director shall:

- i. organize proper online outreach methods for SJP events, such as through Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, and email.
- ii. be responsible for creating flyers for all SJP programs and events.
- iii. be responsible for designing banners and merchandise for SJP as necessary.
- iv. organize and oversee tabling on Library Walk.
- v. be present at Triton Day and Transfer Day on behalf of SJP.
- vi. shall organize and oversee flyering and other outreach campaigns for all SJP events.
- vii. organize two social events per school year.
- viii. be responsible for the SJP monthly e-mail newsletter.
- ix. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event and take pictures there for social media and documentation purposes.
- x. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.

#### 5. Programming Director

##### (a) The Programming Director shall:

- i. be responsible for booking rooms for Board meetings, GBMs, and SJP events, as well as all other logistical aspects of programming.
- ii. work with the Treasurer to complete the funding module for the TAP (Triton Activities Planner) form.
- iii. be responsible for ordering food, as well as booking projectors and other necessary equipment required for SJP programming.

- iv. oversee the organizing efforts for an annual cultural show (which should be hosted in April, for Arab American Heritage Month).
- v. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
- vi. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.

#### 6. Treasurer

##### (a) The Treasurer shall:

- i. shall manage all financial affairs for SJP.
- ii. be responsible for submitting appropriate funding applications for all SJP programs and events.
- iii. work with the Programming Director to complete the funding module for TAP.
- iv. maintain records of all financial transactions that occur.
- v. handle reimbursements.
- vi. handle rentals of equipment.
- vii. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
- viii. lead fundraising for the organization, consisting of at least two fundraising events per school year.
- ix. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.

#### 7. Education Director

##### (a) The Education Director shall:

- i. organize one educational seminar per quarter on a topic of their choice.
- ii. act as club Historian and keep a record/timeline of SJP UCSD events throughout the school year.
- iii. be responsible for the Meeting Minutes of every meeting, as well as keeping all files organized in the Google Drive.
- iv. be responsible for the SJP Resources Binder(s). This includes all SJP contacts and resource materials vital to facilitating the means by which SJP accomplishes its vision.
- v. be responsible for overseeing weekly study jams.
- vi. be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
- vii. organize at least one General Board Meeting on behalf of SJP during every school year.

#### 8. Campaign Director

##### (a) The Campaign Director shall:

- i. oversee the timeline and implementation of goals in regards to the BDS campaign at UCSD.

- ii. maintain relations with other organizations involved in BDS campaigns.
- iii. shall be present at every SJP General Board Meeting and event.
- iv. organize at least one General Board Meeting or event on behalf of SJP during every school year.

### **Section 3 Elections**

1. Elections will occur at the second to last meeting of the spring quarter. The winners of the elections will be required to work with the current person holding their office in order to effectively transition responsibilities.
2. Self-nominations will be made, the person nominating her/himself will provide the members with a speech expressing their reasons for running.
3. Members will be notified of results of the elections at the last meeting of the Spring quarter.
4. Elections will be held by secret ballot, a two-thirds majority wins.

### **Section 4 Terms of Office**

1. One term will last an entire academic year; officers will assume their positions in the fall.

### **Section 5 Procedure for Filling Vacated Officers**

1. In the instance that an office is vacated before term, members of the organization will be notified and may apply to fill the position. The officers, in a majority vote, will select the replacing officer.

### **Section 6 Procedure for Removing Officers**

1. The procedure for removing officers will be the same as the procedure for removing members: a two-thirds vote of the elected officers.
2. There is a two-week time period in which an officer or member may appeal. The officer or member will provide a justified argument to the members of the organization, which will be followed immediately by an anonymous vote. Again, a two-thirds majority is required to keep them in the club.

## **Article 7 Risk Management**

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UCSD is a registered student organization at University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

2. Students for Justice in Palestine at UCSD understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

## **Article 8 In Case of International Travel**

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UCSD recognizes that the University generally recommends against all international travel by Student Organizations due to the myriad of risks travelers face in foreign countries. Student organizations are discouraged from traveling to foreign countries due to the wide variety of risks involved with foreign travel, and the extensive planning efforts required by the Student Organization's Members to manage those risks. Security risks and health care services vary widely from one country to another, so thorough research on those topics is especially important.
2. International travelers are advised to research US State Department Travel Advisories and the CDC Travel Health site and abide by all recommended alerts and warnings, and procure travel insurance with medical coverage that covers their chosen destination because most USA Health Plans are not valid in foreign countries.

## **Article 9 Affiliation with Other Groups**

1. SJP shall remain an officially registered student organization UCSD that is independent of any umbrella organization. SJP does not represent UCSD.

## **Article 10 In Case of Interaction with Minors and/or the Elderly**

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UCSD is aware that all registered student organizations that serve minors or the elderly have access to training on child and elder abuse prevention for its members via the Center for Student Involvement, online or in person (in person by request only). Students for Justice in Palestine will develop plan(s) for activities and events where members will be interacting with minors or the elderly such that members will receive education and/or training on Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA), common sense measures to both avoid child or elder abuse allegations (i.e. avoiding one-on-one situations; working with minors in plain view of others; limiting calls/texts/social media posts or other communications with minors), and how to properly report potential harm or neglect to minors or the elderly with whom they are working.



## Article 11 Amendments

1. Any member of the organization may propose a written amendment to the officers. The person must explain their proposal and why they think it will benefit the organization. This amendment will then be voted upon by the officers and will require a two-thirds majority in order to be passed.
2. UCSD SJP refuses to take part in whitewashing Israel's public image and therefore reject any Israeli-Palestinian meetings that do not recognize our inalienable rights, and explicitly aim to resist Israel's occupation, colonization and apartheid. Israeli-Palestinian meetings that are not committed to such principles give a false picture of equality between the two parties by ignoring and legitimizing Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people. We will not contribute to any event that undermines our rights or portrays Israel as anything but what it really is: an apartheid state (as taken from Columbia University chapter of SJP).