

Ahlul-Bayt Student Association at UCSD Constitution

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Article I. Name and Nature

The organization shall be called Ahlul-Bayt Student Association at UCSD.

Article II. Statement of Purpose and Objectives

Section 1. Statement of Purpose

The Ahlul-Bayt Student Association's mission is to cater to the spiritual and educational needs of Muslim students at UCSD, particularly those who have been marginalized in other spaces. Every aspect of ABSA at UCSD will align with the teachings of the Qur'an and sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Ahlul-Bayt (a). The organization aims to maintain an inclusive environment and to retain members in order to nurture a diverse generation of Muslims who are cognizant and pragmatic members of society.

Section 2: Objectives

2.1 To Educate

2.1.1. To endow Muslim students with an Islamic heritage and to cultivate an informed and balanced Islamic understanding according to the teachings of the *Thaqalayn* - the Qur'an and the authentic sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Ahlul-Bayt (a). Focus will be placed on the application and implementation of the *Thaqalayn* to contemporary times and contemporary issues.

2.1.2. To educate the university community on Islamic values and culture through the teachings of the *Thaqalayn*; to present an accurate understanding of Islamic teachings; and to promote unity amongst Muslims regardless of sect through open, respectful educational means.

2.1.3. To develop and improve relations amongst Muslims as well as with non-Muslims through engaging in intra and inter faith dialogue in order to achieve peace, harmony, mutual respect, and greater understanding.

2.2. To Encourage Excellence

2.2.1. To encourage students towards attaining excellence by assisting them in the pursuit of their goals as well as to recognize their achievements.

2.2.2. To cultivate a cadre of Muslim individuals who are driven to contribute towards the betterment of their community, society, and humanity.

2.3. To Offer a Holistic Campus Experience

2.3.1. In addition to serving the student's academic and spiritual needs, to provide a healthy social and recreational atmosphere.

Article III. Non-Profit Statement

Ahlul-Bayt Student Association at UCSD is a non-profit student organization.

Article IV. Requirements for Membership

Section 1. Non-discriminatory policy

Membership shall be open to all UC San Diego students and must comply with federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, and veteran status, and any other category protected by law. This non-discrimination policy covers organization membership, access to organization programs and activities.

Section 2. General membership requirements

Membership in the organization shall be extended to UCSD students who agree to uphold the general purposes of the organization as stated in Article II of this document.

2.1. Requirements for general membership

2.1.1. One must attend and participate in one out of three big events per year

2.1.2. One must attend 2/3 of smaller events per year

Article V. Frequency of Organization Meetings

Section 1. Board meetings

1.1. Board members must agree to meet once a week; however, meetings may be held at the frequency that board sees fit.

1.2. Additional meetings may be held at any time subject to each board member being notified at least 24 hours in advance

1.3. Additional meetings may be called by Chair or Vice Chair, provided that the aforementioned condition has been met. Any other board members must notify the Chair or Vice Chair if they desire an additional meeting.

1.4. All major issues decided upon by ABSA will be done so by a vote from the board council

1.4.1. All votes of the board members are of equal value

1.4.2. A majority is required for a decision to be passed

1.4.3. No board member has the power to veto any decision made by the council

1.4.4. In the event of a tie, the Chair determines the final outcome, ideally with a compromise

Section 2. Quarterly events

2.1. There will be one main, large event planned by ABSA every quarter. All board members must assist in the planning and execution of these events.

2.2. During meetings, in the event of any disagreement regarding religiously oriented matters, unsupported and non-referenced personal opinions will not play a role in any decisions or conclusions reached. Disagreements may be posed to one or more religious authorities unanimously agreed upon by the board.

Section 3. Regularly scheduled events

3.1. Smaller events such as Najul Balagha studies, dua circles, etc., should be held at least once a month. Frequency of events will be based on interest and resources. Other events that members wish to hold must be brought to board and voted on.

Article VI. Qualifications for Holding Office and Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers

Only registered UCSD students may hold office in the Ahlul-Bayt Student Association at UCSD. Only registered UCSD students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers.

Section 1. The ABSA Board shall consist of:

- 1.1 Chair
- 1.2 Vice Chair
- 1.3. Outreach Coordinator
- 1.4. Logistics Coordinator
- 1.5 Director of Internal Affairs

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities

2.1. The Chair shall:

- 2.1.1. Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (pbut)
- 2.1.2. Provide leadership and guidance to the board and general members
- 2.1.3. Act on all matters of general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of ABSA upon the approval of the board
- 2.1.4. Supervise the establishment and planning of ABSA at UCSD events and activities.
- 2.1.5. Serve as a voting official representative of the students on all occasions
- 2.1.6. Enforce and maintain the constitution and by-laws of ABSA
- 2.1.7. Chair each board and general meeting
- 2.1.8. Act as MSA liaison
- 2.1.9. Be in charge of the external affairs and external outreach of the organization. This includes, but is not limited to: working with masjids, communities, universities, and other UCSD student organizations.
- 2.1.10. Perform any other duties as assigned or agreed upon by the board.
- 2.1.11. If able, be present at all ABSA events, meetings and activities.

2.2. The Vice Chair shall:

- 2.2.1. Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (pbut)
- 2.2.2. Assist the Chair with all of his/her duties as stated in 2.2
- 2.2.3. Take charge of the responsibilities of the Chair in his/her absence
- 2.2.4. Maintaining relations with the UCSD community, including MSA
- 2.2.5 Maintaining relations with the Muslim community and mosques in San

Diego

2.2.6 Taking care of chaplain and community advisor business

2.2.7 Perform any other duties as assigned or agreed upon by the board.

2.2.8 If able, be present at all ABSA events, meetings and activities.

2.3. The Outreach Coordinator:

2.3.1. Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (pbut)

2.3.2. Record all minutes covering topics discussed and activities held at organization meetings.

2.3.3. Recommend and contact speakers, other UCSD orgs, and the general Muslim community for events pertaining to education and outreach

2.3.4. Coordinating mass-media propagation within and beyond the UCSD community. This includes but is not limited to maintaining ABSA social media pages, printing and coordinating flyering, etc.

2.3.5. Be responsible for assigning other board members to take over outreach responsibilities in the absence of the outreach coordinator.

2.3.6. Perform any other duties as assigned or agreed upon by the board.

2.3.7. If able, be present at all ABSA events, meetings and activities.

2.4. The Logistics Coordinator:

2.4.1. Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (pbut)

2.5.2. Act with the approval of the ABSA executive council on all matters concerning finance and logistics

2.4.3. Keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and reimbursements of ABSA

2.4.4. Present the budget, financial status and/or history of transactions to the executive council as deemed necessary by the council

2.4.5. Act with the approval of the council on all matters concerning events and meetings

2.4.6. Be responsible for acquiring and providing all information to the council regarding time and location for events and meetings

2.4.7. Be responsible for policies and events of a social/service nature established by the council

2.4.8. Be the official financial signing authority for all matters related to expenses, events, and meetings

2.4.9. Maintain and update the ABSA website as necessary

2.4.10. Advertise and promote ABSA events to the campus community, with the

approval of the council

2.4.11. Perform any other duties as assigned or agreed upon by the board.

2.4.12. If able, be present at all ABSA events, meetings and activities.

2.5. The Director of Internal Affairs shall:

2.5.1. Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (pbut)

2.5.2. Propose activities pertaining to Islamic education and outreach to the executive and make recommendations for which ones to pursue

2.5.3. Be responsible for the maintenance of the physical or electronic library, and will make recommendations with respect to the addition of resources

2.5.4. Ensure that the needs and concerns of the ABSA community are addressed.

2.5.5. Responsible for attendance and keeping track of all general members

2.5.6. Maintain the event calendar

2.5.7. Perform any other duties as assigned or agreed upon by the board.

2.5.8. If able, be present at all ABSA events, meetings and activities.

2.6 Community Advisor

2.6.1. Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (pbut)

2.6.2. Serve as an advisor to the ABSA board by providing them general guidance

2.6.3. Come to an agreed upon number of events that community advisor will lead per quarter

2.6.4. Be available for office hours once a week

Section 3. Accountability

1.1. If an executive member misses more than 2 board meetings in one quarter without due cause or reason as deemed appropriate by the board, the said board member will be issued a warning

1.2. If an executive member misses 1 more board meeting without due cause or reason as deemed appropriate by the board, and has already accrued one warning, the said member will be dismissed from his/her responsibilities upon the second infraction

1.3. If the board feels that a board member is failing to perform his/her required duties for reasons not deemed as appropriate, upon review and further evaluation, the accused board member will be issued either a warning or an immediate dismissal.

1.4. If a member has already accrued a warning with respect to the performance of his/her responsibilities, and the board still feels that s/he has not been fulfilling his/her responsibilities, the member will be dismissed from his/her responsibilities upon the second infraction

1.5. In the event that 3/4 of the general members vote to have a board member dismissed, their vote shall be binding given that the reason for the dismissal is on constitutional grounds

1.6. In the event of the dismissal of a board member, applications and interviews would be carried out for the position in question

1.6.1. If the dismissal occurs before the end of week 7 of winter quarter, applications will be released for the position and interview will be conducted by the Chair and Vice Chair

1.6.2. This process will be expedited to fill the position within 1-2 weeks of dismissal

1.6.2. If the dismissal occurs after the end of week 7 of winter quarter, the rest of the board members will take on the responsibilities of the absent board member for the remainder of the school year.

1.7. Membership can be revoked by the board if a unanimous decision is made on the grounds that the general member violated the principles laid out in this constitution or code of conduct.

Section 4. Eligibility and Board Selection Process

1.1. All undergraduate students who qualify for general membership as outlined in article IV, section 2.1., provided they are willing to abide by the constitution and code of conduct, are eligible to run for board

1.2. Board applications will be released early spring quarter, with the exact date to be set forth by the board

1.3. The Election Committee will consist of:

1.3.1. The current Chair

1.3.2. A senior board member who will be graduating

1.3.3. An alumni who was (at least) a general member of ABSA (when applicable)

1.4. Responsibilities of the Elections Officer:

- 1.4.1. To be unbiased towards all applicants
- 1.4.2. To ensure a smooth and problem-free transition from the current board to the new, incoming board
- 1.4.3. To appoint, with the approval of the executive, other members of the general membership to assist in his/her affairs with regards to running the election

Article VII. Risk Management

Ahlul-Bayt Student Association at UCSD is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

Ahlul-Bayt Student Association at UCSD understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization

Section 1. In Case of Interaction with Minors and/or the Elderly

ABSA 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). ABSA at UCSD 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.

Section 2. In Case of the Provision of Medical Assistance

In the event that ABSA at UCSD provides medical assistance to a community, all volunteers will work under the direction of licensed professionals (doctors, nurses, counselors, etc.). The University does not recommend that students provide medical assistance.

Section 3. In Case of Handling of Hazardous Chemicals, Material, Equipment, and/or Machinery

ABSA at UCSD recognizes that all student organization activities must be conducted safely, in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws. Additionally, ABSA at UCSD will abide by UC San Diego requirements for students in labs, including policies for minors in UC laboratories, and ensure members receive safety training regarding the use of chemicals and/or machinery before entering the lab. Members must follow any best practices and lab safety protocols for the use of such chemicals, research equipment or machinery, including the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment, and should work under close supervision of those trained in the handling of chemicals/use of research equipment or machinery.

Article VIII. Religious and Community Advisor

ABSA at UCSD will maintain communication with a Religious and Community Advisor(s). The board of ABSA at UCSD must maintain contact with said advisor(s) in order to promote the mission of the ABSA at UCSD according to Islamically advised guidelines. Said advisor(s) would be a means of advice and support in order to promote the goals of the board and the ABSA at UCSD.

Article IX. Affiliations

- 1.1. Ahlul-Bayt Student Association embraces diversity and as such, as an organization as opposed to as individuals, is not affiliated to any individual or institution, be it a mosque, organization, political party, *marja' taqlid* (jurisconsult), scholar, etc.

Article X. Code of Conduct

All members must abide by the guidelines set forth by the Code of Conduct in the ABSA space. Link to the Code of Conduct:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dJE0ZMvx-WAAN3rWqKCsobHJir599oql/view?usp=sharing>

Article XI. Amendments

- 1.1. Any Amendments to the constitution must be presented as a formal written proposal to the current board.

- 1.2. Religiously based disagreements regarding any amendment shall be considered and referred to one or more religious authorities unanimously agreed upon by the executive.

1.3. All proposals must be seconded by at least 5 other ABSA members.

1.4. Once a proposal has been made, it may be dismissed if the board unanimously votes against it.

1.5. In the event that 12.4 occurs, a petition of at least 60% ABSA's general membership will be necessary for the proposal to be given a referendum.

1.6. If a proposal is not dismissed, the executive council will be responsible for conducting a general membership referendum on the issue:

1.6.1. The executive will call a General Body Meeting where the proposal will be presented, discussed and voted on by all members.

1.6.2. A 2/3 majority shall amend this constitution.

Article XII. Definitions

1.1. The Holy Qur'an is defined as the final revelation from Allah, exalted is He, given to Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), as a guidance for mankind in all their secular and spiritual affairs.

1.2. Based on the numerous authentic ahadeeth, unanimously agreed upon by all Muslims, the Ahlul-Bayt (peace be upon them) are defined as the family of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the 12 Imams, and thus consist of only the following 14 infallibles:

- Prophet Muhammad al-Mustafa (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
- Fatima al-Zahra daughter of Muhammad (peace be upon her)
- Ali son of Abu Talib (peace be upon him)
- Hassan son of Ali (pbuh)
- Hussain son of Ali (pbuh)
- Ali Zainul 'Abideen son of Hussain (pbuh)
- Muhammad Al-Baaqir son of Ali (pbuh)
- Ja'far as-Sadiq son of Muhammad (pbuh)
- Musa al-Kadhim son of Ja'far (pbuh)
- Ali ar-Ridha son of Musa (pbuh)
- Muhammad at-Taqi son of Ali (pbuh)
- Ali an-Naqi son of Muhammad (pbuh)

- Hassan al-Askari son of Ali (pbuh)
- Muhammad al-Mahdi son of Hassan (may Allah hasten his reappearance)