
Constitution for the Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA) at University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego)

Article I: Name of Student Organization

Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of NAISA is to strengthen tribal sovereignty, both on and off the UC San Diego campus, and to promote student involvement in the socio-political and cultural areas of the pan Indigenous experience. NAISA believes in contributing to the academic process as well as to the greater Native community. It is the goal of NAISA to form a support system to address the specific needs and struggles of Native & Indigenous students at this University. Additionally, NAISA aims to bring together individuals of various backgrounds and educate on different Indigenous cultures and traditions while preserving tribal identities and respecting local Kumeyaay people, customs, and land. NAISA provides an opportunity for all Natives and allies to work together towards common goals and to develop leadership qualities among its members in a supportive, comfortable, and fun environment. We also educate the UC San Diego community regarding Native & Indigenous issues, specifically MMIW2ST (murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, 2-spirit, & trans) by raising awareness on campus.

Article III: Nonprofit Statement

The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego is a non-profit organization.

Article IV: Requirements for Membership & Principal Members

Requirements for Membership: Registered UC San Diego students, faculty, and staff interested in Native American & Indigenous culture may join the organization. The organization will be predominantly UC San Diego students. Only registered UC San Diego students can hold office and vote in elections for the organization's officers. Only student officers shall spend the organization's funds with the written approval of all officers.

Requirements for Principal Members: The principal members (3 minimum, 8 maximum) shall usually, but not necessarily, be the elected officers. Only registered principal members can conduct official business with the University, including calendaring events, reserving facilities, accessing budget numbers, and spending student organization funds. Principal members assume full responsibility for the student organization's financial status, actions, and programs. Each principal member accepts individual and joint responsibility for the administration and use of all funds, in compliance with all applicable UC San Diego policies. This includes all funding requests submitted by any principal member on behalf of the registered organization. Principal

members must understand that student organizations may not be used as a conduit for personal financial gain or for the establishment of personal business.

Article V: Frequency of Organization Meetings

Meetings will be held once a week for each quarter of the Academic School Year (excluding Finals Week and Holidays). The meeting day will be decided at the beginning of each quarter by group vote. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held in the Intertribal Resource Center.

Article VI: Qualifications for Holding Office, Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers, and the Removal of Officers

Qualifications for Holding Office: Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office in the organization or vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers. The organization will have seven* officers. Qualifications for officers are as follows:

- 1. The Chair(s):** The Chair(s) must be able to conduct meetings in an orderly fashion. The Chair(s) is/are responsible for setting the agenda for each meeting. The Chair cannot speak for, nor make independent decisions on behalf of NAISA. The Chair(s) must be able to attend all scheduled NAISA meetings, except in the case of an emergency or unless doing so would significantly interfere with academics. The Chair(s) must be able to represent the organization as a mutual voice for the rest of the body when members are not present. The Chair(s) must attend Board of Directors Meetings (BOD), or otherwise assign an officer to attend BOD in their place.
- 2. The Vice Chair:** The Vice Chair must be available to substitute for the chairperson in case of absence. The Vice Chair must be able to attend all scheduled NAISA meetings, be able to communicate with other officers, and assist the chairperson with duties if additional assistance is required.
- 3. The NAISA SPACES Access Coordinator:** The NAISA SPACES Access Coordinator is responsible for collaborating with NAISA officers in conducting outreach with K-12 students to encourage and prepare students to pursue higher education. The NAISA SPACES Access Coordinator is also responsible for providing current undergraduate and transfer students with opportunities to pursue graduate and professional degrees.
- 4. The NAISA SPACES Retention Coordinator:** The SPACES Retention Coordinator is responsible for collaborating with NAISA officers in creating programming to retain organization members and the Native community, in general. Programming may focus on academic success, mentorship, leadership development, wellness and self-care, etc.

5. **The NAISA Garden Coordinator:** The Garden Coordinator is responsible for being the primary point of contact between NAISA and the Kumeyaay Garden Committee. This includes attending the Kumeyaay Garden Committee meetings, relaying information between NAISA and the Committee, and assisting with maintenance and expansion of current garden projects on campus.
6. **The SAAC Representative:** The SAAC Representative must attend SAAC meetings regularly to provide NAISA's updates to SAAC and vice versa.
7. **The Secretary:** The Secretary must be able to take notes during meetings and contact members regarding the time and place for the next meeting and/or event.
8. **The Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for conducting funding requests for the needs of the organization and keeping track of the organization's finances.

*In the event that there are not enough interested members to occupy positions (1-5), a person or people may take on more than one position. The priority of positions (1-5) corresponds with the numbering of positions. For example, if there are only two members, one will be Chair(s) and the other will be Vice Chair with the other responsibilities distributed as they see fit. If there are only a few people running for office, NAISA may also choose to not have any official positions.

Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers: These are the policies and procedures regarding the Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance's methods of selecting and replacing officers**:

- Each office shall be annually elected by means of a majority vote.
- Nominations will be accepted starting the 3rd Week of Spring Quarter.
- The election process will begin during the 6th Week of Spring Quarter.
- Voting shall take place during the week between the 6th and 7th Weeks of Spring Quarter.
- New elects shall take office during the 7th Week of Spring Quarter.
- One may nominate and/or vote for oneself.
- Votes may be submitted anonymously.
- If only one person runs for a given office, that person does not automatically secure the position. In such a case, it is necessary that the person receive 50% + 1 votes in order to secure the position. For Chair(s), it must be at least 75%.
- Officers may run for reelection.
- The Chair is responsible for calculating votes unless running for reelection. In such a case, the Chair will choose someone to be responsible for counting the votes.
- An individual does not need to attend NAISA meetings regularly in order to be eligible for holding office.
- Any NAISA member may run for office. Allies (non-Natives) may run for positions and hold office. No proof of enrollment in any tribe, nor proof of blood quantum, is required to run for Chair or any other office.

- If decided by members running for office, there may be the possibility of co-chairs. This would eliminate the office of Vice-Chair.

****The positions of NAISA SPACES Access Coordinator and NAISA SPACES Retention Coordinator are not subject to the election process; NAISA SPACES Coordinators are hired by SPACES via annual hiring cycles.**

Removal of Officers: Any officer of NAISA in violation of the organization's purpose or constitution or failing to fulfill duties as stated may be removed from office by the following process.

- A written one-page request by a minimum of three NAISA members explaining the reasoning behind dismissal must be submitted to all other officers.
- Written notification (email or letter) must be submitted to the officer in question warning them to be prepared to speak in their own defense at the next general body meeting.
- Written notification (email or letter) must be sent to active NAISA members before the next general body meeting.
- 75% of the active NAISA members must be in attendance to vote on the removal of the board member.

Article VII: NAISA Committees

There are two committees within NAISA, Powwow Committee and Constitution Committee. The committee members shall usually, but not necessarily, be the elected officers. Each committee meets at a designated time outside of GBM.

- **Powwow Committee:** Coordinates all related needs for NAISA's Powwow including funding, vendor search, contracts, Powwow Princess search, location search, flyer print out, promotion, equipment needs, volunteer work the day(s) of the powwow, etc.
- **Constitution Committee:** Changes, edits, and updates the constitution of NAISA***. Ensures that the constitution is ready to be put up on the Center for Student Involvement's Student Organizations website.

*****Amendments and alterations to the constitution may be made with approval of the entire Constitution Committee, allowing at least 1 week for responses/additions to be made before finalizing the constitution.**

Article VIII: NAISA Events and Traditions

The following events are celebrated and/or organized by NAISA in order to maintain tradition and engage with Native community members.

- **I'm Going to College:** This event will be held once a quarter and will be spearheaded by the NAISA SPACES Access Coordinator. K-12 students

- **Indigenous People's Day:** On the holiday traditionally known as "Columbus Day", NAISA will recognize the accomplishments and history of Natives both on campus and in the greater Native & Indigenous community by organizing a campus-wide event.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade:** NAISA and the previous year's Powwow Princess will participate in the annual parade, as organized by the Center for Student Involvement.
- **Native American Heritage Month (NAHM):** Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native peoples. NAISA recognizes the month of November as NAHM and will collaborate with the Intertribal Resource Center and the NAHM Planning Committee in creating, funding, and staffing NAHM events.
- **NAISA Powwow:** The Powwow is a Native American gathering focused on dance, song, and family celebration. It celebrates connection to tradition and spirituality, to the Earth, and one another in a social, personal, and spiritual meeting. NAISA will host Powwow in order to celebrate the Native experience with allies and non-Natives on campus and better recognize the work and significance of local community members.

Article IX: Risk Management

The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not a part of the University itself. The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

Article IX (Section 1): In Case of Interaction with Minors and/or the Elderly

The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego 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). The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance 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 avoid both 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 IX (Section 2): In Case of the Provision of Medical Assistance

In the event that the Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego 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.

Article IX (Section 3): In Case of International Travel

The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego 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.

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 IX (Section 4): In Case of Handling of Hazardous Chemicals, Material, Equipment, and/or Machinery

The Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego recognizes that all student organization activities must be conducted safely, in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Additionally, the Native American & Indigenous Student Alliance at UC San Diego 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.