

BAPS CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP AT UC SAN DIEGO CONSTITUTION - 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

Student Organization Name: BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego

Date Prepared: September 30, 2024

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Section I: The name shall be called *BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego*.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Section I: BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego is a social and religious organization, which based on the teachings of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and under the guidance of Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj, will provide a means for students to learn more about the Swaminarayan way of life. Through group discussions, seminars, and social events, BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego will garner and enrich these Swaminarayan values within its members, and provide them a valuable opportunity to stay connected to their cultural roots and better understand their beliefs. BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego is an organization approved by the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha, Inc., a leading denomination of the Swaminarayan faith (hereinafter "BAPS"), and will represent itself in a way that is consistent with the guidelines set forth by BAPS.

Specifically, the purpose of BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego is threefold:

- 1) To provide socio-spiritual services to those of Swaminarayan faith.
- 2) To introduce the Swaminarayan faith to the general UC San Diego community.
- 3) To be a source of knowledge regarding the Swaminarayan faith to the general UC San Diego community.

ARTICLE III. NONPROFIT STATEMENT

BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

ARTICLE IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section I: Any current UC San Diego student, faculty member, or staff member is eligible for membership into BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego. There are no other restrictions on membership.

Section II: Only currently registered students, faculty, and staff may be active members in a registered student organization. Only active members may vote or hold office.

Section III: BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego, and its members, must adhere to the decisions, guidelines and/or policies set forth by BAPS in return for the privileges of recognition and the use of the intellectual property rights owned by BAPS.

Section IV: Penalties for failure to follow decisions, guidelines and/or policies set forth by BAPS may result in the ultimate termination of recognition by BAPS.

Section V: BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego shall not claim to represent BAPS in any media outlet other than those affiliated with UC San Diego. Furthermore, the organization will

accurately represent the values and beliefs of BAPS on any campus venue. It will seek clarification from BAPS on views when necessary. BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego will immediately notify BAPS of any change in leadership or contact information and will maintain ongoing contact to update the affiliate regarding status and projects, at least once a month.

Section VI:

- a. We will not haze according to California State Law.
- b. We will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services).
- c. We shall abide by all applicable laws of the State of California and the United States.

ARTICLE V. FREQUENCY OF ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

Section I: Frequency of Organization Meetings

Meetings of the general membership will be determined and voted on by the Officers of the Executive Board. Meeting times may vary throughout the year.

Section II: Meeting Scheduling

The time, date, and place of meetings shall be determined by the Officers of the Executive Board.

Section III: Conduct of Meetings

The President and Vice Presidents may establish rules regulating the conduct of meetings.

Section IV: Constitutional Amendments

- a. An amendment to the constitution may be proposed by any member of the organization at any meeting. Amendments must be made in writing and read by the presiding officer to those present at the meeting. The President and Vice President will review, publish, and distribute the proposed amendment to the membership with their recommendation. They will also notify the time and place where the vote will be taken. This information must be given at least one week before the next membership meeting, where the amendment will be voted on.
- b. An amendment to the constitution may be adopted by a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote of the members present at the meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been notified according to Section IV(a). Additionally, the affirmative vote must constitute at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total membership.
- c. All amendments must be approved in writing by BAPS.
- d. All amendments, additions, or deletions to this document must be filed with CSI at the Price Center.

Section V: Dissolution

- a. The organization may be dissolved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote of the total membership.
- b. If the organization is A.S. Sponsored, all unspent A.S. funds shall return to the A.S.; all Graduate Assembly funds shall return to the Graduate Assembly. If the organization is defunct for five (5) or more years, any privately obtained funds (including any funds left in miscellaneous accounts) shall be donated to BAPS Charities.

ARTICLE VI. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HOLDING OFFICE AND METHODS OF SELECTING AND REPLACING OFFICERS

Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office in the organization. Only registered UC San Diego students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers.

Section I: The Officers of the Executive Board shall be President, two Vice Presidents, and Treasurer.

Section II: Powers and Duties of the Executive Board of Officers:

- a. President: The President will be the executive officer of the Executive Board and will have general supervision of the affairs of BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego and will preside at meetings. The President will represent the organization at conferences and sign all necessary correspondence. They will also have the power to appoint members to newly created positions, fill vacancies in elective and appointive offices, call special meetings of the entire organization or board when deemed necessary, act as an ex-officio member of all committees, and call a special election when necessary.
- b. Vice President: The VP will coordinate external affairs and assume all the powers of the President in the event of his/her absence. They also have the power to act as an ex-officio member of all committees, and sign all necessary correspondence.
- c. Treasurer: The Treasurer will be responsible for taking attendance and maintaining the financial records of the organization. They will keep an accurate record of all income and expenditures, and report to the President and active membership the financial status of the organization on a monthly basis.

Section III: Requirements of the Executive Officers:

- a. Officers are expected to attend all meetings. Should an officer miss two consecutive meetings, without a valid excuse, the organization has the right to elect a new officer.
- b. Members may not hold more than one office position at a time.
- c. An officer may be removed from office if they do not fulfill the role they were elected to perform according to this Constitution by a vote of the active membership.
- d. Any officer may be removed from office for acting in a manner contradictory to the values and principles of Hinduism accepted by BAPS. Removal of such an officer must follow a process including a hearing before the executive committee and a consultation with BAPS to determine the validity of the reasons provided.
- e. The Officers of the Executive Board shall serve as the organization's signatories, while the President shall serve as the primary signatory.

Section IV:

- a. Officers will serve for one school year (three quarters).
- b. Elections will be held at the end of each spring quarter. The newly elected officers shall begin their terms immediately at the end of spring quarter.
- c. The nomination period shall run two (2) weeks. At the end of the two (2) weeks, nominations will be closed and at that time nominations shall be announced to the membership. Nomination for any office requires the possession of a current Election Certification Letter specific for that individual from BAPS.
- d. Elections will be made by secret ballot, with a simple majority (fifty percent plus one vote) of votes cast required for election to any office.
- e. A recount, and if necessary, another election shall take place if desired by the candidate(s) for the office in question.

Section V: Any registered member desiring to be considered a candidate, for any elective office shall meet the following requirements:

- a. Be a registered member of the New Organization.
- b. Candidates for President and Vice President must have served at least (2) quarters as a registered member of the BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego.

ARTICLE VII. RISK MANAGEMENT

BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATION WITH OTHER GROUPS

Section I: Affiliation with BAPS

BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego is affiliated with the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), an international socio-spiritual organization rooted in the teachings of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and guided by Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj. This affiliation serves as a foundation for the organization's activities, values, and mission.

Section II: Implications of Affiliation for Members

This affiliation ensures that BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego operates in alignment with the principles and spiritual teachings of BAPS. As members of this organization, students will have the opportunity to connect with BAPS on a local, national, and international level through various events, seminars, and spiritual gatherings. The affiliation provides members access to a broader network of Swaminarayan devotees, resources for spiritual growth, and opportunities to participate in BAPS-sponsored events such as festivals, volunteer services, and spiritual retreats.

Section III: Additional Requirements of Affiliation

As part of this affiliation, BAPS Campus Fellowship at UC San Diego and its members are

expected to adhere to the values and guidelines set forth by BAPS. This includes upholding the integrity of the Swaminarayan faith in all organizational activities and maintaining regular communication with BAPS leadership. Members are required to respect and follow BAPS standards in terms of conduct, speech, and actions, both within and outside the organization. Additionally, the organization must regularly update BAPS with leadership changes, event plans, and any relevant developments.

Affiliation with BAPS may also require members to assist in BAPS initiatives, such as community service projects or charitable activities. The organization is expected to seek approval from BAPS for certain activities, ensuring that all actions reflect the values and mission of the larger spiritual community.