

# **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC) AT UC SAN DIEGO CONSTITUTION - 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The organization shall be called Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC) at UC San Diego.

## **ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** serves as the place for the students who want to study Nichiren Buddhism and learn the philosophy of Buddhist philosopher, peacebuilder, educator, and writer, Daisaku Ikeda, who has received 409 academic honors as of 2024. The fundamental purpose of the SGI-BC is to help students unlock their hidden potential and achieve creative harmony with their environment through the philosophy and practice of Nichiren Buddhism in the SGI-USA. This is the ultimate expression of individual empowerment where each student can transform the inevitable challenges of daily life into sources of growth and fulfillment and become a positive influence in his or her school, workplace, family and community. By promoting and understanding of how Nichiren Buddhism can be applied to the challenges of modern living, our activities contribute to the development of peace, culture, and education within society, inspire respect for cultural diversity and human rights, and encourage the protection of nature and the environment.

## **ARTICLE III. NONPROFIT STATEMENT**

Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC) at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

## **ARTICLE IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

A: Eligibility- In order to be a member of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** students need to be currently enrolled at UC San Diego. Any eligible person who voluntarily completes and signs a club membership application shall be deemed a member. Club members may voluntarily withdraw membership from SGI-BC. The SGI-BC invites participation from all members of UC San Diego community, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship and disability.

In accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy Statement for University of California Publications regarding Student-Related Matters, (UCOP Policy on Registered Campus Organizations, Section 70.10), there shall be no discrimination against a member or prospective member based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, unfavorable discharge from the military, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era, except as specifically exempted by law. Among the forms of invidious discrimination prohibited by university policy but not law is sexual orientation.

B: Participation- Every member is expected to be a professional ambassador and to take a participatory role with **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BS)** business including, but not limited to the following:

- 1) Attendance
- 2) Promotional & Marketing Efforts (Tabling, Chalking, Marketing Input etc.)
- 3) Workshops & Presentations
- 4) Selection Meetings (The reading of applications and selecting replacements)
- 5) Conducting Consulting/Office hours

C: Responsibility-

- 1) Members **MUST** maintain fairness and equality in allocation of RSO funds
- 2) Members **MUST** make recommendations on items deemed for the good of the RSO

D: Membership Benefits- Members of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** will have the following benefits within the organization:

- 1) Voting Rights
- 2) Ability to travel with RSO
- 3) Free admission to RSO events

E: Dues- The administration of dues is at the discretion of the executive board. At the beginning of each academic year, the executive board will determine if dues as well as the amount will be collected annually from every member. Members with financial difficulties may petition the executive board for either a deduction or exemption.

- 1) Active Members – those members that pay dues and have a vote
- 2) Inactive Members – those members that did not pay dues and have no vote
- 3) Exempted Members – granted by the executive board and have no vote

F: Violation Procedures- To be an active and productive member of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** is crucial to the success of the organization and as such; any violation or disruption to that productivity such as missing meetings or not actively helping to promote **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** will result in the following:

- 1) Five unexcused absence and then probation for a determined amount of time by the board
- 2) After seven unexcused absences from **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** activities (including missing a committee and/or special meeting, not participating in appointed or scheduled outreach, etc.) members will be removed.

## ARTICLE V. FREQUENCY OF ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

A: Meeting types. **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** will host two types of meetings:

- 1) Executive Meetings- Regular meetings held once a month during the regular school year for executives only with minutes taken if needed
- 2) General Body Meetings- Regular meetings held once a month during the regular school year for all members

B: Quorum- A quorum shall consist of **50% +1** of the membership.

## 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.

A: Officers- The Officers of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer and consist of the executive committee.

B: Duties of Officers-

I: President:

- 1) Preside over the meetings
- 2) Create agenda for meetings
- 3) Represent the Organization (i.e., Participate in student organization events to represent the organization)
- 4) Assist the advisor with planning and implementing **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** training
- 5) Uphold and keep abreast of the Policies & Procedures of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**
- 6) Set up and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the advisor
- 7) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

II: Vice President:

- 1) Preside in the absence of the President
- 2) Keep and update membership list
- 3) Uphold and keep abreast of the Policies & Procedures of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**
- 4) Plan and execute programs & workshops implemented by **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**
- 5) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

III. Secretary:

- 1) Record the minutes of all meetings
- 2) Keep a file of the organization's records (including By Laws)
- 3) Issue notices of meetings and conduct the general correspondence of the organization
- 4) Represent the organization (i.e., Participate in student organization events to represent **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**)
- 5) Uphold and keep abreast of the Policies & Procedures of **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**
- 6) Collect and keep committee reports
- 7) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

IV: Treasurer:

- 1) Keep an accurate budget for **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**
- 2) Serve as the primary signatory for financial accounts
- 3) Collects organization dues
- 4) Pays organization bills
- 5) Maintains the financial history of the organization
- 6) Provide advisor with summary of financial records at the end of the academic year
- 7) Set and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the advisor
- 8) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

C: Eligibility- Officers must be the following:

- 1) Students (Full or Part Time)
- 2) President needs to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- 3) Treasurer for at least one year
- 4) Commit to one semester
- 5) Served at least one year as a student at UC San Diego.

D: Election- The officers shall be elected by ballot prior to the end of spring semester by a majority of a vote cast for that office. In the event an election results in a tie, approved candidates may share a position and the corresponding responsibility of the position. The remainder of the semester will be used to train the new executive committee.

E: Term- The officers shall serve for one year and their term of office will begin at the commencement either of the fall or spring semester.

F: Vacancy- If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office for the remainder of the term and vacancies of the Vice President position shall be filled by special election.

G. Removal- In the event of misconduct resulting in the obstruction of the rights of members to enjoy the benefits of the campus club organization, officers may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the executive committee. Any member of the executive committee may initiate an impeachment vote. Grounds for impeachment include but are not limited to the

following: suspension, expulsion, failure to fulfil duties, unethical behavior, or any other infraction deemed sufficient by a majority of the executive committee.

## **ARTICLE VII. FINANCE**

A: The **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** will submit an annual Student Association budget request to the University of California, San Diego. Individual club members, including the officers, may make voluntary financial contributions to the **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**.

B: Funds will help provide exhibits, displays and materials to support the mission of the **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**.

C: Financial records shall be maintained by generally accepted accounting principles. Both co-chairs must authorize any disbursements. All disbursements in excess of \$1000 require the majority approval of the campus club.

D: The SGI-USA has no interest in the financial affairs of the **Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)**. All matters regarding the use of funds for club activities are to be conducted at the sole discretion of the club leadership.

## **ARTICLE VII. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

**Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Club (SGI-BC)** at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

A: This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership.

B: Notice- All members shall receive advance notice of the proposed amendment at least five (5) days before the meeting.

C: Review- Constitution should be reviewed every three (3) years.

Ratified: (March/2024) When the constitution was created