# Constitution of the Latter-day Saint Student Association

# [ at University of California, San Diego ]

**PREAMBLE**

The Latter-day Saint Student Association (LDSSA) is established under the direction of the Seminaries and Institutes of Religion of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to help students attending University of California, San Diego to have a balanced secular and spiritual educational experience during their years of formal education.

# ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1 – The name of this organization is the Latter-day Saint Student Association (LDSSA), at University of California, San Diego.

# ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1 – To encourage and support members of the LDSSA in achieving their academic goals and maintaining a balanced life while on campus.

Section 2 – To encourage members of the LDSSA to become an influence for good by participating in activities and service on campus and in the community.

Section 3 – To provide a safe space where members of the LDSSA and others can enjoy wholesome social interactions and develop personal talent and identity.

Section 4 – To provide students with meaningful service opportunities and social and religious activities that are consistent with the LDSSA standards.

Section 5 – To promote traditional moral values.

Section 6 – The LDSSA is affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and University of California, San Diego.

## ARTICLE III

NONPROFIT STATEMENT

Section 1 – The Latter-day Saint Student Association is a non-profit student organization.

## ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Only registered UCSD students may hold an office in the organization. Only registered UCSD students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization’s officers.

Section 2 – Associate membership may be granted to non-University of California, San Diego students under special circumstances. These associate members shall not be given the rights and privileges of active University of California, San Diego students, including but not limited to, voting rights, holding office, use of school facilities, equipment, and/or resources. Continued membership requires adherence to the principles outlined in this constitution.

Section 3 – Membership in the LDSSA will not be denied to anyone on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability.

Section 4 – Notwithstanding any other provision, members shall abide LDSSA standards which are the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These standards include, but are not limited to: no acts of immorality, no alcohol consumption or tobacco usage, and no immodest attire, while a member of the LDSSA. (<https://www.lds.org/youth/for-the-strength-of-youth>).

Section 5 – No member of the LDSSA shall engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the LDSSA.

Section 6 – If any member does not abide by the LDSSA standards which are the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints they may be removed by a vote of the student officers.

Section 7 – Voting rights are granted to members who participate in 75% of general LDSSA meetings and who complete an LDS institute class during that semester. Non-University of California, San Diego students do not have voting rights.

**ARTICLE V**

MEETINGS

Section 1 – An officer transitions meeting will be held 2 weeks following the appointment of new officers.

Section 2 – General meetings, institute of religion classes, are held weekly during the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Officer meetings should be held at least twice per quarter.

Section 3 – The president and other student officers may call special or more frequent meetings, as they feel necessary.

Section 4 – Formal minutes of meetings will only be taken for officer meetings. General meetings will not include recorded minutes, though attendees make take and share personal notes.

## ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

Section 1 – All officers shall be students at University of California, San Diego. Officers shall be a president and other such officers as the president and advisor(s) determine necessary. If required by the school, additional offices will be established; i.e., vice president, secretary, treasurer, risk management officer, institutional representative, etc.

Section 2 – The president and other officers as necessary are nominated by the Institute of Religion Advisory Council and confirmed by the voting members of the LDSSA.

Section 3 – Officers’ term length shall be for one school year (starting at the end of each spring semester through the end of the next spring semester) and offices shall be voted upon annually for each school year or more often if necessary.

Section 4 – Any officer who does not abide by the LDSSA standards, which are the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, may be removed by the local Institute of Religion Advisory Council. A written notification will be given to the removed officer.

Section 5 – The duties of the president shall include directing the meetings and activities of the organization. If applicable, the president or his or her designee shall represent the LDSSA at any inter-student organization meetings at the school.

Section 6 – Other LDSSA officers shall act under the direction of the president. The duties of these other officers shall be, but are not limited to, planning and publicizing meetings and events, recruiting members, and maintaining an account of LDSSA funds.

Section 7 – The LDSSA does not have any established committees. Standing or ad hoc committees may be created at any time if necessary. Committees must be established by the officers and faculty advisor, with the advice and consent of the local Institute of Religion Advisory Council.

**ARTICLE VII**

RISK MANAGEMENT

Section 1 – The Latter-day Saint Student Association at University of California, San Diego is a registered student organization at University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

Section 2 – The Latter-day Saint Student Association at University of California, San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

Section 3 – Although the LDSSA is not directly involved in working with minors or the elderly, medical assistance, nor international travel, the LDSSA may be involved in one or more of these activities while participating in community service opportunities. Risks will remain largely minimal in activities; nevertheless, proper training will always be initially presented, and in the event of injury, proper medical steps will be taken, including contacting professional medical assistance if necessary.

Section 4 – The Latter-day Saint Student Association at University of California, San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

Section 5 – In the event that the Latter-day Saint Student Association 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 6 – The Latter-day Saint Student Association 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. 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 VIII**

ADVISORS

Section 1 – One or more faculty advisors shall be selected by the student officers of the LDSSA from among the faculty or staff members of University of California, San Diego, with the advice and consent of the local Institute of Religion Advisory Council and with the acceptance of the individual selected.

Section 2 – In addition, a Community Advisor will also be selected, who is the director of the Latter-day Saint Institute.

Section 3 – The Institute of Religion Advisory Council, with counsel from the faculty advisor(s), will provide advice/guidance to the LDSSA and its members.

Section 4 – Advisor term length shall be for one school year (starting at the end of each spring quarter through the end of the next spring quarter).

Section 5 – If any advisor does not abide by LDSSA standards, which are the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, they may be removed by a vote of the student officers; and written notification will be given to the removed advisor.

## ARTICLE IX

FINANCES/DUES/FEES

Section 1 – The LDSSA is a not-for-profit organization. The LDSSA does not charge membership dues or fees to participate in LDSSA activities. The LDSSA may accept voluntary contributions from individuals to help cover the cost of meals provided in connection with some LDSSA activities.

Section 2 – Two LDSSA officers will approve all deposits and expenditures of LDSSA funds, with the advice and consent of the local Institute of Religion Advisory Council, following proper and well-established accounting procedures.

**ARTICLE X**

AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Amendments and revisions to the constitution must be reviewed and approved by the general offices of Seminaries and Institutes of Religion of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Amendments and revisions to the constitution must also be reviewed and approved by appropriate officials at University of California, San Diego once adopted by the LDSSA.

Section 2 – Amendments must be written and explained to members of the LDSSA and presented to the voting members for ratification.

**ARTICLE XI**

DISSOLUTION OF GROUP

Section 1 – If under any circumstance the LDSSA adjacent to University of California, San Diego were ever dissolved, each active member should be notified and all remaining funds should be distributed specifically to the LDS Institute of Religion adjacent to University of California, San Diego.

**ARTICLE XII**

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Section 1 – The LDSSA agrees to abide by the policies and procedures of University of California, San Diego and its governing body which are in harmony with the beliefs and standards of The Church of Jesus of Latter-day Saints.