

SRI LANKAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (SLSA) CONSTITUTION

We the members of Sri Lankan Student Association at Olemiss, subscribing to the regulations and policies of the University of Mississippi, establish this constitution to govern the matters within our organization.

ARTICLE I: Name of the organization

The name of this organization or association is: Sri Lankan Students Association at Olemiss (SLSA)

ARTICLE II: Purpose/Mission of the organization

The Sri Lankan Student Association is an organization at the University of Mississippi that provide an opportunity to Olemiss community to explore the Sri Lankan History, Tradition, and Culture through events and communications with Sri Lankan community at Olemiss. The SLSA will play a pivotal role in providing a homely atmosphere for current and new Sri Lankan students.

ARTICLE III: Membership

a) Membership is open to registered students, faculty and staff of Olemiss who has an interest in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan culture. There are three categories of membership.

1. Active members: All Olemiss students; they have the right to vote and hold office positions.
2. Associate members: All members from faculty and staff of Olemiss.
3. Non-student members: Any person resides in Oxford, MS related to any of the active or associate member of SLSA, who has an interest in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan culture are eligible to be a member.

Associate members and non-student members shall not have the right to vote or hold office positions.

b) There will be no enrollment fee or membership fee

ARTICLE IV: Non-Discrimination

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status. This policy will include, but not limited to recruiting, membership, organization activities, or opportunities to hold office. (As exempted by Federal law, Social Greek organizations may omit "gender")

ARTICLE V: Not-for-profit Statement

This is not-for-profit organization.

ARTICLE V: Officers (qualifications, terms, election, and removal)

a) Mandatory officers:

1. **President:** The official representative of the organization. The president shall: Call meetings as needed by informing the full membership via e-mail and social media, Discuss any changes to the assigned duties for officers, Delegate responsibilities to members, Announce elections, Communicate with membership and follow up with tasks, Develop contacts with presidents of other organizations on campus, Communicate with faculty & key personnel at University of Mississippi.

2. **Vice-president:** Assists the president in duties and shall be the acting president in case of the president's absence. He or she shall oversee any special assignments as assigned.

3. **Secretary:** Prepare and distribute minutes, general paperwork, forward emails to other members/officers for correspondence and clerical works for the association's activities. Secretary shall assign secretary's duties to another officer in the case of absence of president and vice-president.

4. **Treasurer:** Financial management, maintain a ledger/journal of expenses and reimbursements from University of Mississippi or other sponsors, present the closing account balance at the end of the term and hand over financial documents to a newly elected successor.

b) Qualification for office:

All officers must be Olemiss students with good academic standings, enrolled in at least six credit hours and registered for two semesters before applying for an office position.

c) Terms of office:

A period of one year from August 1st – July 31st in a physical year.

d) Term limits:

A member may not hold office for more than two consecutive terms for the same post.

e) I. Election:

Nomination for the elected officers may be made by any student member of the organization upon the announcement by the president. If more than one name is nominated for a single officer position, a vote will be called from all the SLSA members who attend the meeting. The candidate with a simple majority will be selected to the position. Voting will be done by secret ballot.

e) II. Quorum:

More than 60% of the members need to be present for a meeting to conduct an election or other business.

f) Provisions for removal:

Any SLSA member can be revoked from membership if, the member found guilty of violating this Constitution and/or perform any action that is detrimental to SLSA. In order for a member to be removed from the association, a no-confidence vote with a two-thirds majority of the active members present at the meeting is necessary. A notice of the no-confidence vote meeting should be sent to all the members of the association via e-mail, and should be published on social media of the SLSA.

Any SLSA officer can be removed from his or her position if he or she, do not fulfilling the duties assigned to him or her and /or do not participate in three consecutive SLSA meetings. A notice of the no-confidence vote meeting should be sent to all the members of the association via e-mail, and should be published on social media of the SLSA. An officer may be removed from his or her position by a fellow SLSA officer requesting a simple majority no-confidence vote of the members present in the meeting. However, he or she may still hold the membership of the SLSA.

Any SLSA officer graduating or leaving University of Mississippi prior to the completion of his/ her elected term, they should inform the president at least one month in advance. Then president should follow the guidelines in part-“g” (Provisions for office vacancies), to fill the vacant officer position.

g) Provisions for office vacancies:

The president of the SLSA will decide upon new dates for nominations, and elections to fill the vacant post according to Article V, part-“e”.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

General Meetings: The SLSA shall meet at least once per semester.

Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the president on the necessity and/or upon written request by at least 25% of the members of the SLSA. All student members of the SLSA shall be required to attend all regular meetings.

Annual General Meeting: The annual general meeting will be held during the spring semester of every year.

A notice of the meetings should be sent to all the members of the association via email and social media. A simple majority of members of the SLSA shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the SLSA.

ARTICLE VII: Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of SLSA in writing to the president or vice-president. The amendments and revisions must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the SLSA members.

A proposed amendment must be accompanied by a statement explaining the rationale for the amendment or revision of the article(s).

Any member of SLSA may write in support of or in opposition to the proposed amendment. Any amendment to this Constitution shall become the law without further notice.