

Article I: Purpose

SECTION 1 - Goals (in order of importance)

- 1) To help campus Muslims in their practice of Islam and to non-intrusively provide a structure for self-improvement.
- 2) To serve Muslims on campus by providing social outlets, academic opportunities, and spiritual growth, as well as outlets for intellectual exploration and Islamic learning.
 - a. To extend, whenever possible and prudent, the MIT MSA services and activities to primarily MIT Muslims, secondarily Muslims in the greater Boston Area, and thirdly the greater Islamic community.
- 3) To make Islam better understood by the MIT community and to promote understanding between Muslims and other faiths at MIT.

SECTION 2 - Means

In order to reach its goals, the activities of the organization include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Arranging religious activities including prayers, celebrations of Islamic occasions, meetings, and discussions.
- 2) Organizing educational, social, and athletic activities involving both Muslims and people of other faiths.
- 3) Extending help to Muslim students in pursuit of their educational and spiritual endeavors.
- 4) Making a library of books, periodicals, and audiovisual material accessible to all members.
- 5) Issuing publications and statements on Islam or regarding issues of concern to Muslims.

Article II: Membership

Membership Definition:

Anyone in the MIT community who has attended at least two of the MSA-sponsored events in one semester is considered a member, for voting purposes (see Article III, Section 7).

Article III: Executive Committee

SECTION 1 — Definition

The Executive Committee shall be the administrative body of the organization and is elected from among the general body of the MSA. The Executive Committee must be comprised of MIT Students throughout their terms of service.

SECTION 2 — Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following positions. Multiple members may fulfill any given position if the Executive Committee feels the need.

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) General Secretary
- 4) Treasurer (must be a differed student than the president)
- 5) Alumni Relations Officer
- 6) Community Service Coordinator
- 7) International Development Coordinator
- 8) Journalism Scout
- 9) Publicity Chair
- 10) Social Coordinator(s)
- 11) Lecture/Event Coordinator(s)
- 12) External Relations Officer
- 13) Webmaster
- 14) Da'wah Coordinator
- 15) Halaqa Organizer - Female
- 16) Halaqa Organizer - Male
- 17) Musallah Officer
- 18) Chaplain Liaison
- 19) Mentorship Chair
- 20) Academic Chair

If the elected Executive Committee feels that a position is no longer needed, they may vote to discontinue the position for the year, as per Article III, Section IV.

If the elected Executive Committee feels that a new position should be added for an effective functioning of the MSA, they may vote to initiate the position for the year, as per Article III, Section IV.

SECTION 3 — Function and Powers of the Executive Committee

- 1) The function of the Executive Committee is to decide upon the structure of the MSA's activity for that semester and plan for the upcoming events by designating specific responsibilities to members.
- 2) The function of the Executive Committee shall be to discuss and deliberate on questions of general policy and to vote upon matters of executive policy to be presented by the President.
- 3) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the interpretation of this constitution. In case there is any vagueness in what the constitution means, the president, VP, secretary and treasurer will be responsible for deciding on an interpretation. The rest of the executive committee has the right to overrule with a simple majority if they do not agree with the interpretation put forward to them.

- 4) Severe grievances against an Executive Committee member with respect to interpretation of the constitution or method of execution of their mandate may be put to a vote by any other Executive Committee member, where a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority will secure overrule of the mandate.

SECTION 4 - Meetings and Voting

- 1) The meetings of the Executive Committee should be held as needed with a minimum of one meeting per two weeks during the semester.
- 2) Executive Committee meetings shall be called by the President as necessary.
- 3) The minutes from every executive meeting should be published publicly on the MSA website.
- 4) For a voting procedure in an executive committee meeting with more than 80% of the executive committee present each member shall have one vote. For a voting procedure in a meeting with less than 80% of committee members present each member shall have one vote and the president shall be entitled to $\frac{1}{5}$ of all votes or two votes, whichever is more. However, elections and votes in the general body meeting shall be considered a democratic forum in which each member including the President is entitled to one vote.
- 5) Decisions shall be made on a clear simple majority voting basis (i.e. >50%)
- 6) In the case of a tie in voting, the President shall have the tie-breaking vote.
- 7) All decisions are by vote unless this constitution specifies the need for agreement, a particular officer's authority, or some other means of decision making.
- 8) An emergency vote may be called by an Executive Committee member to overrule a prior vote or decision in an Executive Committee meeting. A three fourths majority is needed to overrule and the president shall not have extra voting powers.
- 9) Only members can take part in any voting procedure.

SECTION 5 — Removal of Committee Members

Two negligent absences from any meeting (General Body or Executive Committee meeting) without prior approval of the President, puts the absentee's position on the Executive Committee in jeopardy. In this case, the absentee and the Executive Committee will decide whether the absences shall be excused or whether the absentee's position shall be made vacant (and the absentee made a non-voting member-at-large of the executive committee for the remainder of the academic year).

SECTION 6 — Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs in any seat of the Executive Committee, it shall be filled by appointment. Appointment is based on simple agreement between the President, with informal nominations and advice from the Executive Committee and General Body. If agreement cannot be reached, a vote will be put to the Executive Committee. Vacancy of the President shall be filled by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 7 — Election of New Members

- 1) The General Secretary shall choose an election committee consisting of outgoing Executive Committee members. The secretary may opt to choose any outgoing voting member to be the moderator in consultation with the rest of the Executive Office.
- 2) The date of the annual general/election meeting will be set by the Executive Committee at the first Executive Committee meeting of the semester in which elections will be held.
- 3) To be elected to office in the case of a secret-ballot majority vote, the candidate must carry the votes of a majority of the regular members present and voting. In the event that no candidate has a majority, the outgoing executive committee may re-vote. In case of a tie within the outgoing executive committee, the outgoing President shall have the tie-breaking vote.
- 4) The outgoing and incoming Executive Committees shall work jointly for a period not to exceed eight weeks that shall be agreed upon by the outgoing and incoming Presidents.
- 5) The new Executive Committee shall serve their positions for a total period of thirteen months or until the next transition period, whichever happens first.

Section 8: ---- Resignation of Current Members.

Any member opting to resign from the executive committee must give a two weeks prior notice in writing to the President about his/her resignation.

Article IV: General Body Meetings

SECTION 1 — Definition

A general meeting is an organizational meeting of the MIT MSA in which the General Assembly of the organization is invited to discuss, deliberate, and vote upon affairs related to the organization. The General Assembly consists of all membership classifications.

SECTION 2 — Rules for Calling a General Body Meeting

- 1) General Body Meetings shall be called by the President at the behest of the Executive Committee. General Body Meetings shall be held a minimum of once a semester.
- 2) For any General Body Meeting, the members must be notified at least two weeks in advance. This is excepting situations of unavoidable postponement.

SECTION 3 — Rules of Order

- 1) The President is the chairman of the general meeting and shall recognize a member before the member provides input if he deems open discussion ineffective.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall agree on an agenda for the General Body Meeting at least two days in advance of the meeting. The President will take reasonable additions to the discussion at the time of the meeting, providing that time permits.

Article V — Constitutional Amendments and Revisions

SECTION 1 — Requirements

Any amendment of the constitution must not violate:

- 1) Any laws in Islam as derived from the Qur'an or authentic sayings of Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Should ambiguities arise, the Executive Committee will refer to the MIT Muslim Chaplain's judgment in order to help make their decision.
- 2) Any rules or regulations of MIT, including those of MIT Association of Student Activities and MIT Campus Activities Complex.

SECTION 2 — Procedure

- 1) The proposal for an amendment or revision must be made in writing to the Executive Committee by at least one of the MSA members.
- 2) The proposal for the amendment or revision must be circulated among all the MSA members one week prior to a general meeting.
- 3) The amendment or revision must be approved by two-thirds majority yes/no vote of the MSA members present at a General Body Meeting.
- 4) The amended and ratified constitution immediately supersedes the previous constitution.

Article VI- Hosting and Sponsoring Events

Section 1--- Religious Standards

- 1) As an Islamic organization, events sponsored by the MSA should be in line with the Shari'ah. If there is a unanimous consensus of the Executive Committee on a particular event being in conflict with the Shari'ah, the Executive Committee should rule out the possibilities of sponsoring the event.
- 2) If there is no consensus on a particular event being in conflict with the Shari'ah, the Executive Committee should refer to the opinion of the MIT MSA Chaplain.
- 3) In case a disagreement arises during an absence or non-availability of the MIT MSA Chaplain, it is the president's responsibility to seek for the opinion of an Imam in the greater Boston area and the MSA shall take in to consideration his opinions before voting.

Section 2---Political Standards

Keeping in mind that MSA is politically unaffiliated:

- 1) Any event that has an obvious political purpose, i.e., to gain support for a particular political party should not be sponsored by the MSA.
- 2) In case of an event being held by a particular political party, but does not have an obvious political purpose, the executive committee should thoroughly understand the goals of the event. Should the goals of the event comply with the goals and purpose of the MIT MSA, i.e., to educate and cater to the needs of Muslims on campus and around the Boston area, the Executive Committee should come to a decision by formal voting procedures.
- 3) In case of a close call vote (80%-20%), the executive committee should rule out the possibilities of holding the event. If more than 20% the executive committee disagrees, the committee should refer to the opinion of the MIT MSA Chaplain and a re-vote should take place.
- 4) In case a disagreement arises during an absence or non-availability of the MIT MSA Chaplain, it is the president's responsibility to seek for the opinion of an Imam in the greater Boston area and the MSA shall take in to consideration his opinions before voting.
- 5) Any political talk/debate/discussion held at MIT should comply with the general SAO guidelines for a political event and should only be held in CAC spaces.
- 6) The official event organizers must send an official sponsorship request via email to the entire executive committee and the prospects of holding or sponsoring the event will be discussed in the next EC meeting.

Article VII- Funding and Donations:

Section 1--- Jumuah Donations

Jumuah donations are to be collected every Friday, after Jumuah prayer and the cause must be specified and is limited to non-profit Islamic support organizations. The donations should be handled by the Musallah officer and the treasurer and should not be used for the running expenses of the MSA. However, the donations could be used for a purpose of serving the greater Muslim community in Boston, such as Musallah Renovations.

Section 2--- Ramadan Donations

All donations to Ramadan account should only be used for the purpose of serving the community for Ramadan related events.

Section 3--- General MSA Donations

Any amount of donation to the MIT MSA can be accepted so long as the designation is

clearly stated to be the MIT MSA running expenses.

The Muslim Students' Association agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the bylaws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.. In particular, the Muslim Students' Association will not discriminate based on any characteristic in the MIT non-discrimination policy.