

CONSTITUTION

Chinese Students & Scholars Association at the University of Washington (Mar. 2016)

Article I - General

Section 1 The name of the association shall be "Chinese Students & Scholars Association at the University of Washington" and will be hereafter acronymized as and referred to as "UWCSSA" or "CSSAUW".

Section 2 UWCSSA is an independent, non-profit, non-political Registered Student Organization (RSO) at the University of Washington.

Section 3 UWCSSA is committed to promoting mutual understanding, mutual assistance, and mutual benefits among UWCSSA members, and we are dedicated to contributing to cultural diversity of the University of Washington, and the greater Seattle area.

Section 4 The majority of the membership of this organization consists of regularly enrolled undergraduate, graduate students and scholars at the University of Washington, with a special emphasis on Chinese students and scholars.

Section 5 UWCSSA will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical and mental disability, medical condition ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship or status as a covered veteran.

Section 6 UWCSSA reserves the exclusive right to discipline any members who are involved in any activities that are inconsistent with this constitution or any laws. The disciplines shall include but not limited to suspension or cancellation of the membership.

Article II - Officers

Section 1 Daily operation of UWCSSA is conducted by the UWCSSA officers. The total number of UWCSSA officers shall be at least five (5). Officers shall be limited to registered full-time students from the University of Washington.

Section 2 Officers are subject to evaluation at the end of each quarter (except summer quarter). The evaluation criteria shall be based on the work attendance requirements and the quality of the work accomplished. The evaluation decisions shall be made by the UWCSSA

board. Any officer of a certain position shall automatically resign his/her position if he/she fails to pass the evaluation.

Section 3 Every officer is subject to impeachment. The impeachment procedure shall be triggered upon the proposal of the President or at least five (5) officers. The defending officer shall immediately be suspended from any activity assigned by or related to the UWCSSA upon the notification of the impeachment.

Section 4 The board shall organize a discipline committee regarding every impeachment within three (3) days of the receipt of the impeachment proposal. The committee shall consist of three (3) officers who have no personal experience with the event that triggered the impeachment. The committee shall conduct a discipline hearing within twenty (20) days of receipt of the impeachment proposal. The defending officer may defend himself/herself without representation by others. The disciplinary action will be decided through voting by UWCSSA officers (excepting suspended officers). The decision on the disciplinary action is final and exclusive without any appeal right reserved by the defending officer.

Section 5 UWCSSA conducts two regular recruitment sessions in autumn and spring quarters. The spring quarter recruitment session may be optional and only conducted as needed. Any recruitment decisions shall be made within the board, provided that the President shall have the power to appoint officers under emergency situations. An appointed officer may resign at the President's approval or be removed upon the discretion of the President.

Section 6 New group members admitted from recruitment sessions become intern officers of UWCSSA. Intern officers shall have the same rights and obligations as general officers except: 1) Being nominated during elections; 2) Voting during elections; 3) Other rights that may affect the membership of current officers and board members.

Section 7 Intern officers are subject to evaluation at the end of each quarter (except summer quarter). The evaluation criteria shall be no less than the requirements for general officers. Intern officers who pass the evaluation shall become the general officers of UWCSSA. The term of the intern officer shall be no longer than two consecutive quarters (except summer quarter).

Article III - Board

Section 1 The UWCSSA board is responsible for organizing, coordinating and distributing work among the group as well as decision making in the cases when general group voting does not apply. The UWCSSA board shall consist of at least four (4) officers who have the titles of or act as the roles of one (1) President, one (1) or more Vice Presidents, one (1) Secretary, one (1) Treasurer and other board members.

Section 2 The President shall be responsible for initiating, coordinating and executing all UWCSSA activities, and for appointing non-elected officers under emergency situations.

Section 3 The President must arrange at least six (6) mandatory group meetings during autumn, winter, and spring quarters, or the President must resign. If the President fail to appear at four (4) group meetings within an academic year, no matter excused or not, he/she will automatically resign. The President shall have the responsibility to notify officers by email in advance of the meeting.

Section 4 The Vice President(s) shall act as an associate to the President in all activities and shall act in the capacity of the President when the President is absent or suspended under the impeachment process. When one of the Vice President(s) is absent, an officer, nominated by the President, shall act in the capacity of the Vice President.

Section 5 When the President and Vice President(s) are all absent or suspended under impeachment, a temporary president shall be decided through the group election. The temporary president shall assume all rights of the President of UWCSSA. The temporary presidency shall be terminated when the official President is elected from annual board elections, or revoked from the impeachment process.

Section 6 The Treasurer shall keep an accurate financial record for UWCSSA. The Treasurer shall be the primary signatory for all of UWCSSA's expenses.

Section 7 The Treasurer shall ensure that any expenses must be authorized by the President or Vice President(s) before being reimbursed. The Treasurer shall be responsible to keep the record for all expenses and file all receipts.

Section 8 The Secretary shall be responsible for organizing recruitments and internal activities, as well as keeping records of group meetings.

Section 9 Board advisors are persons who have served in UWCSSA for at least two years and with at least one year as board members, and nominated by the President. The tenure of board advisors shall not exceed the tenure of the nominating President, unless renominated by the next President.

Section 10 Board advisors shall have the same rights as officers except: 1) Being nominated during elections; 2) Voting during elections; 3) Other rights that may affect the membership of current officers and board members.

Section 11 Board advisers are subject to the impeachment procedure. The same procedure shall apply unless the advisership is revoked by majority of the officers. The impeached adviser cannot use or imply that they hold the title of "Adviser of UWCSSA" to the public at large unless the impeachment is dropped by the UWCSSA board.

Article IV - Voting and Elections

Section 1 UWCSSA board members shall be elected through the general election meeting of UWCSSA officers. The board member positions are only open to current UWCSSA officers who have served for at least two (2) consecutive quarters. The tenure of all board members shall not exceed one (1) year.

Section 2 The annual board election shall be held in the spring quarter of each school year and shall be announced no later than two (2) weeks prior to the election date. The board shall organize an election committee to conduct the election. The election committee shall consist of three (3) current officers who do not vote or nominate.

Section 3 An officer may nominate himself/herself or other officers.

Section 4 Any candidate for a certain position must submit a written platform to the group prior to the election meeting. Every candidate shall do a presentation to the group before voting.

Section 5 Voting is only valid when more than half of the board members participate in. Any decisions made through voting shall follow the majority (more than half of the votes) rule.

Section 6 When there are multiple candidates and none get more than half of the votes, a second round of votes shall apply. In the second round of votes, the only candidates are the candidates who got the top two ranked votes in the previous round.

Section 7 When a tie occur or no candidate gets more than half of the votes in the vote between two candidates, debating will apply. Extra rounds of votes with just the two candidates will be used to make a final decision. If the final decision cannot be made after two (2) extra rounds, random picking of candidates may apply.

Article V - Constitutional Amendments

Section 1 The President or at least five (5) UWCSSA officers may propose to amend the Constitution. The Constitution may be amended by a vote of majority officers for the proposal of amendment.