

# **Hong Kong Student Association at The Ohio State University**

## **Constitution**

### **Article I. Name, Purpose and Non-Discrimination Policy**

The official name of our organization is The Hong Kong Student Association at The Ohio State University; abbreviated as HKSA (OSU).

Purpose: Our primary focus is the exploration of Hong Kong's unique culture and customs. In order to facilitate a better understanding across multiple culture barriers, we hope to expose The Ohio State University community to Hong Kong culture. A secondary focus is the establishment of a visible and tight-knit community of Hong Kong students. We wish that through this community, our members may develop lifelong friendships with others, whether they return to Hong Kong or remain in the country.

Non-Discrimination Policy: This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status.

### **Article II. Membership**

Our organization is open to any Ohio State University student and their respective families, friends, or any interested parties. Individuals who wish to join HKSA should contact the President or Public Relations officers. All news regarding the organization is disbursed through the official Facebook page and members are responsible for keeping up to date with events and meetings.

### **Article III. Organization Leadership**

HKSA committees will consist of the following officers:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Event Organizer(s), Public Relations, and Secretary.

The position of President is selected in the month of March. Each current executive board member has the opportunity to apply for next year's presidency given they will continue to enroll in classes for the next academic year (one cycle of Autumn and Spring semesters). Current executive board members not running for presidency will vote on the candidates during a meeting, and ties will be broken in the order of officers listed above. For example, if there are two candidates and each have two votes, the President's vote is weighted more than the Vice President's, and the Vice President's vote is weighted more than the Treasurer's. If there is only one existing officer interested in presidency, that individual automatically receives the position.

In the event that no current eligible officers are interested in presidency, the position of President is selected following the same process as the other officers.

Anyone interested in becoming an officer must apply by the announced deadline posted on Facebook. The incumbent president and succeeding president will interview all the applicants together. If the incumbent president has been reelected, he or she may select another incumbent officer not running for a position to assist in the interviews process. After all the interviews, the interviewers decide on the best candidate for each position. If there is a disagreement that cannot be resolved, the succeeding president has the final say. In the event that a position has no applicants, the succeeding president may appoint an appropriate individual to the position provided the individual accepts, bypassing all formal requirements.

Below are a few rules regarding executive board member selection:

- ❖ The officers must be reelected every year.
- ❖ The President of HKSA should be voted on by all committee members. Before the election, all candidates need to clearly introduce their future plans for the organization.
- ❖ The term of President is one academic year (two semesters).
- ❖ Reappointment for President and Vice President cannot extend beyond two years.
- ❖ In the event an officer cannot fulfill his/her role, the President has the right to remove him/her from the position.

#### **Article IV. Meetings**

The public relations officer is responsible for informing members about upcoming meetings or events. At least three general meetings or events are required each academic term except for the summer. Notice of each meeting or event should be announced through a Facebook event on the HKSA Facebook page.

The treasurer must report financial affairs to the President on a monthly basis and must report all funding progress to the executive board. The handover of financial affairs and estate must be officially reported through an annual financial report submitted in May.

The secretary is responsible for taking meeting minutes at all executive board meetings. Each meeting's notes shall be uploaded to an online storage service such as Microsoft OneDrive or Google Drive.

HKSA, established as a democratic organization, requires that all major issues be voted upon. If there is a split vote, then the decision will be made by the President's recommendation.

#### **Article V Amending the Constitution**

Modification of this Constitution must be agreed upon by at least three-fourths of the executive board members and be forwarded to the President a week prior to submission to the committee meeting for discussion.

### **Article VI Dissolution**

The dissolution of the organization should be based on the voting of all executive board members. The number of votes necessary for dissolution must exceed three-fourths of the total votes. Disposing of assets is to be based on the amount gained through sale and should be divided equally among members of the organization.

### **Article VII Removal of Members**

If a member conducts themselves in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization or is in violation of the OSU Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through a majority vote of the other voting membership or unanimous vote of the officers, with the consultation of the advisor.