

# TGSA Constitution

Turkish Graduate Student Association (TGSA)

November 6, 2003

## Article 1: Preamble

We, the graduate students of University of Massachusetts, Amherst do hereby form the organization known as Turkish Graduate Students Association for the purpose of integrating the Turkish community in Amherst/Five College area and developing the awareness of the contemporary Turkey and its culture.

## Article 2: Name

The name of this organization shall be TURKISH GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION hereinafter referred to as the TGSA.

## Article 3: Purpose

The purpose of TGSA is to integrate the Turkish community in Amherst/Five College area to serve incoming and existing Turkish students, to develop the awareness of the contemporary Turkey and its culture and to promote Turkey.

## Article 4: Membership

- (1) Membership is limited to UMASS, Amherst graduate students, faculty and staff.
- (2) Members of the TGSA shall be accepted without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical disability.
- (3) Members of this organization are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution and harassment.
- (4) Membership is terminated at the written request of the member. Annulment of membership requires a General Meeting, and more than 50 percent of the members voting for the annulment.
- (5) Members of the TGSA should file member info sheet each year.

## Article 5: Organization:

- (1) An executive committee consists of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chair and Information Systems Manager.
- (2) The President shall call and preside over all meetings, appoint all committees, serve as ex-officio member of all committees, assign duties to the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chair and Information Systems Manager or assume their duties when appropriate, preside as election officer, and perform such other duties as prescribed in the constitution

(3) The Vice-Presidents shall assume all duties of the President in the event of absence and carry out other duties as assigned by the President, coordinate the activities of the standing committees and ensure that they are performing their duties in accordance with the TGSA Constitution.

(4) The Secretary shall record all meetings and handle all correspondence of the TGSA, record a written history of all relevant events that occur in the TGSA, keep a current list of all committee members and relative chair persons, assist the President in presiding over elections, prepare and post a monthly calendar of events.

(5) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all money received and spent by the TGSA, subject to prior approval from the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of such books of account and records as may be necessary to conform to the requirements herein and prepare a status report for the Executive Committee each semester. All transactions require advance approval of the treasurer.

(6) Social Chair shall be in charge of communication of members of the TGSA within themselves, be responsible of campus wide advertisement of the events of the association, coordinate sports activities of the association members and assist the President in appointing all committees.

(7) The Information Systems Manager is responsible for the design and maintenance of the Web Page of the Association and keeps an updated list of all TGSA members.

## **Article 6: Election of Officers**

(1) Elections for officers in the executive committee shall be held annually during the Spring semester.

(2) The outgoing President shall call for elections and should allow reasonable amount of time for a member's declaration of candidacy to be submitted.

(3) The outgoing President shall determine the date of the election. Elections shall be held during a general meeting in which only full members present will be allowed to vote.

(4) All members of the TGSA are eligible to run for offices in the executive committee. Candidates may run for as many positions he/she desires, but may accede to only one office.

(5) Elections shall be held by secret ballot, and the officers will be selected by simple majority. If there is not a 50 percent margin, a run-off election will immediately take place between two top candidates. The presiding officer shall only vote in the event of a tie between two candidates.

(6) With a majority vote of the members present at an official meeting, the membership may delegate to the officer's council additional responsibilities beyond their stated duties as deemed necessary to enable the TGSA's activities.

## **Article 7: Resignation and Removal**

(1) The President shall notify TGSA of his will to resign in writing, and the resignation shall be approved by the 50 percent or more of the members of General Assembly. Any Executive Committee member other than the President shall notify the committee of his/her will to resign, and the resignation should be approved by 50percent or more of the Executive Committee.

(2) In case the President does not fulfill his/her duties, he/she will be removed from the office by the approval of 50 percent or more of the members of General Assembly. In case any Executive Committee member other than the President does not fulfill his/her duties, he/she will be removed from office by the approval of 50 percent or more of the members of Executive Committee.

## **Article 8: Meetings**

(1) There shall be a Fall and a Spring meeting of the General Assembly. Additional Meetings can be called upon by a petition request of the Executive Committee or 50 percent or more of the

members.

(2) The TGSA Executive Committee shall meet once in two weeks during the academic year. Other meetings may be called as requested by the President.