

TARANG

A Society Aimed at Increasing the Understanding and Appreciation of South Asian Culture.

The Constitution

I. Name of the organization:

‘TARANG- A Society Aimed at spreading awareness of South Asian Culture.’

II. Mission Statement:

Tarang aims to foster increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of South Asian Culture among members of the UCONN community. This organization will function independent of all existing organizations at UCONN and will work towards exposing community members to, and educating them about, a variety of South Asian art forms (music, dance, drama, cinema, literature, painting, etc.) and sports. Activities organized in this regard will include, but are not limited to:

- i. Solo/ group performances
- ii. Invited lectures/ demonstrations/ workshops
- iii. Exhibitions/ screenings
- iv. Promotion of local talent (students and other community members)
- v. South Asian cuisine
- vi. Fundraising for charities

III. Membership:

- i. Requirements
 - a) Graduate students of UConn who contribute to the achievement of organizational objectives will be considered members, and will constitute the general body.
 - b) Members’ contribution to organizational functioning will be assessed in terms of their attendance at General Body meeting. Any member is required to attend at least 75% of all such meeting held during a given academic year, to maintain his/her voting privileges for the subsequent academic year.
 - c) Other persons belonging to the University community (faculty members, staff, employees, alumni, etc.) can become members but will not possess voting privileges.
- ii. Disciplinary Action
 - a) Members shall face disciplinary action if they engage in any activity (e.g. improper conduct during meetings/ events, tampering with equipment, etc.) that violates the letter and/ or spirit of the constitution. Sanctions can range from written warnings, and temporary suspension of rights to outright expulsion.
 - b) Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Executive Committee shall issue a Show-Cause Notice to the concerned member, who will be given the

opportunity to present his/her reply to the Executive Committee at a special meeting convened for that purpose. Decisions regarding the nature and duration of sanctions to be imposed will reflect the severity of the violation and the show-cause proceedings, and will require the approval of 2/3rd of the Executive Committee.

IV. Working Committees:

- i. Purpose and Structure
 - a) Working committees are formed based on the discretion of executive committee and based on the requirement during that academic year.
 - b) Working- Committees will oversee the organization's activities as per Executive Committee's recommendations. These committees will be headed by coordinators, and will comprise of volunteers drawn from the General Body.
 - c) After the Executive Committee assumes office, it will decide coordinators and volunteers from General Body interested in joining the working committees and assign them duties, bearing in mind the aptitudes and interests of those volunteering, as well as the personnel needs of the coordinators.
- ii. Dismissal
 - a) If a coordinator is not satisfied with either the quantity or quality of work put in by any of his/her members, (s) he shall recommend the dismissal of that member to the Executive Committee.
 - b) Upon reviewing such recommendation, the executive Committee shall issue a Show-Cause Notice to the member concerned, giving him/her the opportunity to respond to the charges.
 - c) A special meeting of the Executive Committee shall be convened to discuss the member's reply to the Show-Cause Notice. The concerned member is required to be present at this meeting. Decisions regarding dismissal will need to be approved by 2/3rd majority of the Executive Committee.
 - d) Members of the working Committees will also be subject to all forms of disciplinary action that apply to the conduct of the General Body Members.

V. The Committee:

- i) Purpose and structure
 - a) The committee shall comprise the Executive committee and other members assigned a specific role by the executive committee based on their discretion and requirement for the academic year.
 - b) The Executive Committee shall comprise the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Organization.

- c) The Executive Committee shall be the decision-making unit of the organization and will be responsible for delegating work to other members of committee and managing & executing all the organizational activities, either through direct supervision or delegation.
- d) Any student-member of the General Body who has served on a Working Committee as a volunteer for an immediate 9-month period preceding the nominations shall be eligible to become part of the Executive Committee. If a member has served for any 9-month period prior to the past year, then he/she may be eligible at the discretion of the outgoing executive committee.

ii) Collective Responsibilities

- (a) Managing the affairs of the Organization in accordance with the Constitution.
- (b) Convening meeting of the General Body, and preparing the agenda for the same.
- (c) Assigning volunteers to the various Working Committees.
- (d) Evaluating and acting upon suggestions from the general body regarding the functioning of the organization.
- (e) Approving the budget for the organizational activities.

iii) Responsibilities of Individual Committee Members

(a) PRESIDENT –

- a. Representing ‘Tarang’ at any forum (within and outside the University of Connecticut) that relates to the aims or activities of the organization.
- b. Presiding over meetings of the Executive Committee, and maintaining minutes of the same.
- c. Supervising procedures pertaining to the election of the next Executive Committee.
- d. Overseeing all aspects of the organizational activity.

(b) VICE PRESIDENT –

- a. Managing the affairs of the Working Committee for the Event Organization
- b. Convening over the meeting of Executive committee.
- c. Maintaining relations with Participants and their Management for events and exploring local talent.
- d. Developing an organizational database to keep a record of the above-mentioned contacts.
- e. Scheduling events in consultation with other members of the Executive Committee.
- f. Negotiating appearance-fees with the Artists (or their management) in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee.

(c) TREASURER –

- a. Managing the affairs of the Working Committee of Finance.
- b. Maintaining the accounts of the Organization and preparing reports of the same for the perusal of the Student Government.

- c. Updating the Executive Committee and the General Body about the financial status of the Organization (at least once a semester).
 - d. Planning and overseeing fundraising activities, advising the Executive Committee on all deliberations and decisions relating to the budget.
 - e. Maintain healthy relations with funding sources and keep track of patrons.
 - f. Overseeing the distribution/sales of tickets for events.
 - g. Coordinating the operation of vendors at event-venues.
- (d) GENERAL SECRETARY
- a. Managing the affairs of the Working Committee for Membership.
 - b. Planning and implementing activities relating to the recruitment of new members.
 - c. Maintaining records of attendance at General Body meetings to be used for the purpose of determining the voting status of members.
 - d. Preparing the minutes of General Body meetings and distributing copies the same to the Faculty Advisor, and the Student Government.
 - e. Maintaining a volunteer-list for all the Working Committees, to be used in assessing eligibility for Executive-Committee positions.
- (e) OUTREACH COORDINATOR
- a. Managing the affairs of the Working Committee for Public Relations.
 - b. Creating public awareness of the Organization, its events and its objectives, both within and outside the UConn community.
 - c. Establishing links with other organizations (within and outside the UConn community) that have similar aims.
 - d. Planning and implementing activities designed to publicize the organization, in general, as well as the specific events organized under its auspices (e.g., posters, Byers, TV/radio announcements, web pages, mailing lists, etc.)
 - e. Contacting individuals/organizations to explore opportunities for co-sponsorship of events, and vendor-partnerships.
 - f. Coordinating coverage of organizational activities by the media (local and otherwise).
- (f) TECH SECRETARY
- a. Maintaining the information on Website, general outreach using social media, point of contact for the cyber media i.e. responding to e-mail etc.
 - b. Maintaining social network accounts of the organization.
 - c. Designing promotional materials as per the requirement of the event and executive committee's recommendations.
 - d. Editing audio/video files during events, activities as per the recommendations of executive committee.
- (g) CULTURAL SECRETARY–
- a. Managing the affairs of the Working Committee for Event Organization
 - b. Planning and implementing the logistics of the event – staging (e.g., arranging for venues, equipment, personnel etc.).
 - c. Arranging transportation, accommodation, and other facilities for visiting artists.
 - d. Interacting with other campus organizations in as much as the interaction pertains to any of the above-mentioned responsibilities.

- (h) SENATOR TO Graduate Student Senate(GSS)-
 - a. Represent the organization in GSS meetings
 - b. Communicate updates from GSS meeting with the executive committee and coordinate special requests such as special allocations, advertisements via GSS etc.

iv) **DISMISSAL**

- a. Any member of the Executive Committee can be impeached for not abiding by the provisions of file Constitution, misusing organizational resources, or for any of the reasons discussed with reference to the dismissal of other members of the General Body
- b. Impeachment proceedings can be initiated by any member of the General Body with the support of 50% General Body members (excluding initiator). A special General Body meeting shall be convened to discuss the allegations of misconduct in the presence of the concerned Executive Committee member. The motion to impeach will be put to a vote and will require the approval of 2/3rd of the General Body members in attendance.

VI. DECISION MAKING MODEL

- a. Decisions can be taken during general body meeting, committee meeting or executive committee meeting, depending on the requirement determined by the executive committee.
- b. Decisions are taken by vote of all the eligible members. If the vote is a tie, the executive committee's vote is considered. If that is a tie, the President's decision would be final.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a) All members of the Executive Committee shall serve a term of one academic year. Any member of the Executive Committee can be nominated for re-election, unless previously impeached.
- b) Any member of the Executive Committee can propose the appointment of an individual, in an advisory capacity, to the Executive Committee. Such appointments have to be backed by 2/3rd of the Executive Committee. Appointees will be allowed to participate in Executive Committee meetings, but will not possess voting privileges.

VIII. ELECTIONS:

- a) Elections for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be held during the first month of each academic year.
- b) A meeting of the General Body meeting will be convened to call for nominations.
- c) Nominees must have worked as a volunteer with the Executive Committee during the past nine months.
- d) Nominations for Executive Committee positions can be proposed by any General Body member and must be seconded.
- e) Nominations can be validated only if the nominee accepts the nomination, and has met the eligibility criteria.
- f) If there is more than one nomination for a particular position, elections will be held for that position. Elections will be held for a week after the nominations have been finalized, to give the nominees sufficient time to gather General Body support for their candidacy.
- g) The outgoing President will preside over the election proceedings.
- h) Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and will involve only those members who are certified by the Membership Coordinator from the preceding Executive Committee to possess voting rights.
- i) The outcome of these elections will be decided by a simple majority of polled votes. In the event of a tie, the outgoing President decides who takes up the position.
- j) Newly elected Executive Committee members will assume office at the beginning of the Fall semester of the academic year after the outcome of the elections.

IX. MEETINGS:

- a) General Body meetings shall be held at the beginning and end of each semester, and as-and-when deemed necessary by majority of the Executive members.
- b) Special meetings of the General Body may also be convened by 50% of members of the Organization after they have informed the Executive Committee of their agenda.
- c) A minimum of 25% of the members have to be in attendance to constitute a quorum at any General Body Meeting.

- d) Issues presented to the General Body for discussion shall be decided upon by a simple majority vote involving all members in attendance.
- e) The Treasurer shall be called upon to report on the Organization's accounts during the last General Body meeting of each semester.
- f) Any members not present at time of voting shall relinquish their right to vote.

X. FINANCE:

- a) Graduate Student senate is the main financial support apart from money raised from ticket sales at the events organized by Tarang. Treasurer must look into options of donations to the organization.
- b) Treasurer must propose all expenditures to the Executive Committee and this Committee has to approve it.
- c) The Coordinator, Finance will present accounts to the General Body at the last meeting of each Semester

XI. DISSOLUTION:

- a) In the event of the Organization dissolving, any funds remaining in the accounts shall be donated to benefit the Special Olympics, 2666 State St, Hamden, CT-06517, (203) 230-1201.
- b) The Executive Committee shall use its discretion to re-designate the beneficiary(ies) of the above mentioned donation(s), after seeking approval of the General Body.

XII. AMENDMENTS:

- a) All provisions of the Organization's Constitution are open to Amendment. The Executive Committee shall convene a special meeting of the General Body to discuss any proposed Amendment.
- b) The motion to amend the Constitution shall be tabled only after allowing for an exhaustive oral discussion of the proposal at the particular General Body meeting called for that purpose or otherwise. To pass such a motion will require the support of 2/3rd of all General Body members in attendance.

XIII. RATIFICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION:

- a) The provisions of the Constitution shall take effect after it is ratified by 2/3 of this present at the first formal organizational meeting.

XIV. ENABLING CLAUSE:

All the Executive Committee members voted on the constitution and agreed to be effective from Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

XV. FACULTY ADVISOR:

- a) A member of the full time faculty or full time staff at the University of Connecticut shall be nominated to advise the Organization regarding all aspects of its functioning.
- b) The Faculty Advisor shall also act as an observer during election and budget proceedings.
- c) The Executive Committee can ask the Faculty Advisor to step down if (s)he does not abide by the provisions of the Constitution, or if (s)he attempts to impose his/her will on organizational decision making. In taking such action, the Executive Committee shall seek the prior approval of the General Body who have to agree to Ibis decision with a 2/3rd majority of members present.

Final Draft Copy (subject to ratification by the membership of the General Body)

Amended by the Tarang Executive Committee.

Dated: 03-13-2018

Verified: 03-13-2018

Saketh Gudipati, President

Deepa Shukla, Vice President

Ajinkya Deshmukh, Treasurer

Preeti Srinivasan, Secretary