

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

### **ARTICLE I (Name)**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be **Italian American Student Organization**.

### **ARTICLE II (Purpose)**

Section 1. Our main purpose will be to share and develop a better understanding of our Italian culture, while being a positive influence on campus and in our community.

### **ARTICLE III (Affiliation)**

Section 1. There will be no affiliation between the Italian American Student Organization and any other local, state, or national organizations.

### **ARTICLE IV (Membership)**

Section 1. A general membership will be granted to any SJSU student. There is no language requirement to become a member.

Section 2. Voting membership is restricted to Official Members who are matriculated, currently enrolled students, faculty, and staff at San Jose State University.

Section 3. At least eighty percent (80%) of all members of the organization are matriculated, currently enrolled students at San Jose State University.

Section 4. Membership in the organization will not be denied to anyone on the basis of race, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, veteran's status, or sexual orientation, except as sanctioned by law (California Administrative Code, Title 5, Section 41500; Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX).

Section 5. There shall be no hazing.

### **ARTICLE V (Officers)**

Section 1. The officers of the Italian American Student Organization will consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Together they will make up the Council of Officers.

Section 2. Term of office for the President and Treasurer will be two (2) semesters; starting in Fall and ending in Spring. Term of office for the Vice President and Secretary will be two (2) semesters; starting in Spring and ending Fall. There will be no recalling of any officer. However, any officer can be asked to step down, at anytime, if it is apparent that he/she cannot fulfill his/her duties or is in violation of conduct unbecoming of an officer by a majority vote of the Council of Officers. Any one of the Council of Officers may make a motion at anytime to impeach another officer for either of the reasons stated earlier. Upon this motion a special vote will take place where the other three officers will present the evidence against the officer in question and vote whether or not to impeach. If the vote passes, and the Council of Officers has chosen to impeach the officer in question, a notice will be sent to request the presence of the Official Members at the next general meeting. They will be asked if the officer in question should leave or remain in office due to the circumstantial evidence at hand. Based on a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s (67%) vote of the Official Members present, the decision will be made on whether or not to remove the officer in question from his/her position. If the 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s (67%) mark is not met, then the officer in question will remain in power. The 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s will only consist of Official Members and they must be present in order to make this decision. The officer in question does not get a vote in the decision process. The number of Official Members present must be greater or equal to a minimum of two. Term length of any officer may be stopped, at anytime, at that officer's request due to circumstances beyond that officer's control. The Council of Officers votes will be figured into the total vote as a whole.

Section 3. The Italian American Student Organization will fill the vacancies of any of the offices by means of appointment (First time/brand new positions only) and then by election (At the end of term) in which candidates will either volunteer or be nominated and then voted into office by the members based on a majority vote.

Section 4. All officers of this organization are Official Members and are matriculated, currently enrolled students at San Jose State University.

## **ARTICLE VI (Duties of Officers)**

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, name all special committees and appoint all committee chairs. The President will preside over all trials that seek to have any officer removed from office, if necessary, with the exception of his/her own. If the President is asked to step down the Vice President will assume the position of President. The President will carry the power of one (1) vote within the Council of Officers; however, the President will have the final say in the case of any and all split decisions.

- Section 2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence. The Vice President will also assume the duties of the either the Secretary, Treasurer or both in their absence. The Vice President will carry the power of one (1) vote within the Council of Officers.
- Section 3. The Secretary shall record the minutes of each meeting, maintain accurate records of all business pertaining to the organization, receive and respond to all official correspondence. The Secretary will carry the power of one (1) vote within the Council of Officers.
- Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse funds as directed by organization, make monthly financial reports to the general membership and keep the entire Council of Officers informed of the financial status of the organization. The Treasurer will carry the power of one (1) vote within the Council of Officers.

## **ARTICLE VII (Nominations and Elections)**

- Section 1. The Italian American Student Organization will nominate new officers four (4) weeks prior to the end of each term as listed in Article V Section 2. However, in the case that one of the officers resigns or can no longer fulfill his/her duties or is asked to step down, as also listed in Article V Section 2, an emergency election will take place. The election will first call for volunteers who are also Official Members to fill the open position. If more then one (1) Official Member volunteers, the Council of Officers will ask for any additional nominations to be made. An election will then be held to decide who will fill the open position from the list of volunteers and or nominees. This election will take place at the very next meeting.
- Section 2. Officers will be elected by plurality vote, meaning that the one candidate or nominee who gets more votes than anyone else does wins.

## **ARTICLE VIII (Meetings)**

- Section 1 Meetings will be held on every other week of every month in the Student Union at San Jose State University
- Section 2. Any three (3) of the four (4) officers from the Council of Officers will have the authority to call together a special or otherwise unplanned meeting.
- Section 3. The parliamentary authority of this organization shall be Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.

## **ARTICLE IX (Committees)**

- Section 1. The President will have the power to name all special committees and appoint all committee chairs. This will be done by an Official Member volunteer basis followed by presidential appointments of an Official Member.

## **ARTICLE X (Dues, Fees)**

- Section 1. Membership fees will be set by the Council of Officers, however, no one person will be excluded from participating in the meetings and/or events due to not being able to pay the Official Member fee. The only difference between an Official Member and a general membership member is that the general members do not get to vote in any matter requiring one and do not get to take advantage of any other member benefits being offered by the Italian American Student Organization. Additionally, from time to time, the Italian American Student Organization may conduct fund raising or receive donations from members that will be used to enhance the development of the organization, take trips or participate in events which further our cultural experience.

## **ARTICLE XI (Amendments)**

- Section 1. Any Official Member can originate an Amendment to this Constitution. The amendment will be brought forth before the Council of Officers for review.
- Section 2. After review the Council of Officers will vote to see if the amendment is going to be presented to the organization. If a majority vote takes place the amendment will go before the organization (2) two weeks from when Council of Officers approved the amendment.
- Section 3. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s (67%) of the Official Members present vote in favor of the amendment it will be immediately ratified. If the 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s (67%) mark is not met, then the amendment will be thrown out. A minimum of two (2) Official Members must be present in order to make this decision. If the necessary two (2) Official Members are not present, notice will be sent out to show up at the next meeting in order to vote on the amendment in question.
- Section 4. If the amendment is approved by the Council of Officers and approved by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s (67%) vote of the Official Members, it will become an immediate part of the Constitution.

DATE THE CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS WERE ADOPTED

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President

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Secretary