



CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL HELLENIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION (NHSA) OF AMERICA

Article I - Name, Purpose and Policies of the Organization

Section 1 (Name): The National Hellenic Student Association (NHSA) of America hereafter sometimes referred to as NHSA.

Section 2 (Purpose): The purpose of the National Hellenic Student Association is:

- a. To provide a platform for Hellenic students as well as students interested in Hellenism nationally to share their ideas and projects from one body to another.
- b. To serve as an umbrella organization at the national level with the purpose of supporting local Hellenic Student Associations without interfering or challenging their autonomy.
- c. To assist in any way possible universities, schools, organizations, and individuals in resources, research and guidance
- d. To promote fellowship among members of the Hellenic community through cultural, social, athletic and educational activities.
- e. To welcome and to counsel all Hellenic students and visitors from Greece.
- f. To create bonds with Greece (with individuals and institutions) and to develop a useful network in Greece for the members of the Association
- g. To preserve and to promote Hellenism in general encompassing culture, education and religion.

Section 3 (Non-Discrimination Policy): This Association 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.

Section 4 (Parliamentary Authority): Though the minority shall be heard and absentees protected, the majority will decide.



Article II – Membership

Section 1: Membership shall be open to any individual member of the academic community in the US who is either of Greek, Cypriot or Greek-American descent or demonstrate an active and genuine interest in Hellenic culture and affairs, without regard to race, ethnic origin, color or religious beliefs and who is interested in and supportive of the purposes, principles, programs and policies underlined by the said organization.

Section 2: Any organization consisting of at least five individuals residing in a university, where no other chapter of the NNSA exists, can petition to the Board of Directors (the role of the Board of Directors is defined in Article IV, Section 1) to be accepted as a member-Chapter of the NNSA with the name of “Hellenic Student Association (HSA)” of that specific university.

Voting membership is limited to individual members of Chapters that have been accepted as member-Chapters of the Association by the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Other university affiliates including faculty, staff members, alumni, professionals, and partners and members of family of members can become individual Associate members or members of the NNSA Advisory Board (defined in Article II, Section 4), if they are called to do so by the Board of Directors. Advisory Board and Associate members shall not have the right to vote but may attend General Assemblies as stated in Article III, Section 2.

Section 4: The NNSA Advisory Board is a group of affiliates to NNSA, including but not limited to university faculty, professionals and partners, which has the role of advising the NNSA Board of Directors and commenting on NNSA strategies; whenever the Board of Directors asks for such advice/comments. Typically the NNSA Advisory Board is comprised of individuals who value the Hellenic heritage and culture, who are genuinely interested in issues affecting Greek, Greek-American and Cypriot students and who bear great recognition in their professional fields or within their communities. Membership to the NNSA Advisory Board follows invitation sent out by the Board of Directors.

Section 5: If no different decision of the Board of Directors exists, there are no annual dues for membership of the individual Hellenic Chapters to the National Hellenic Student Association of



America. NHSa does, however, accept donations for support of its programs from its member-Chapters.

Article III - Meetings and Committees

Section 1: The organization shall have a general meeting once every year at a time and place to be set by the standing Board of Directors (usually in the spring). During this meeting -also referred to as the “NHSa Convention” or the “General Assembly”- the elections shall be held. The Board of Directors is responsible for composing the agenda of the General Assembly and for notifying all the Hellenic Student Associations about it. The Board of Directors has also the right to seek support for the organization of the General Assembly from local HSAs or other external to NHSa sources. Special meetings may be held pursuant to a majority vote by the members-Chapters or to a decision of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Every individual member of NHSa or Associate member or NHSa Advisory Board member is eligible to participate in the meetings, but only voting members as defined in Article II, Section 2 can vote. However, when any voting procedure takes place, every member-Chapter of NHSa has the right to only one vote; even if more than one voting representative/member of that Chapter participate in the NHSa meeting.

Section 3: Twenty five percent (25%) of the total current number of Chapters-members to NHSa, in good standing, shall constitute a quorum. Only if every single Association-Chapter has been notified for the General Assembly it can be said that there is a quorum and if this twenty five percent was failed to be met, the Board of Directors has the authority to oversee whether or not voting is necessary at the particular meeting.

Section 4: Committees will be created as needed. The Board of Directors has the authority to appoint committees to pursue special projects. These committees may consist of any mix of officers and non-elected members.

Section 5: Committees may also be formed at the initiative of members and may begin working on a proposed project on behalf of the Association with the Board’s approval.



Article IV - Organization Leadership

Section 1: The standard positions-officers of the organization -referred to as the “Board of Directors” or the “NHSA Board”- shall be: the President, the Vice President for External Affairs, the Vice President for Internal Affairs, the Treasurer, the English Secretary, the Greek Secretary and the Communications/Technology Chair. In need of additional positions, the General Assembly can vote for their creation before the elections process. Elections for the aforesaid officers shall be held at the annual General Assembly to convene at a time and place set by the current Board of Directors, as Article III, Section 1 prescribes.

Section 2: No individual member shall hold two of the offices listed in Article IV, Section 1 simultaneously.

Section 3: Each officer, upon accepting office, shall agree to abide by the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 4: The NHSA Board has the authority to make all policy decisions of the Association. The NHSA Board’s decisions shall be made by majority vote of its members (defined as half plus one of all votes cast in favor or against a proposal, not counting abstentions). Before leaving office, the NHSA Board shall present a complete report of the Association's activities during the past year to all members before the elections take place at the regular annual meeting.

Section 5: The duties of the members of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

a. President: The President shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Directors and shall preside the meetings and/or other functions of the Association. The President sets the policies of the Association according to the Constitution regulations and together with the other officers define a course of action for NHSA. The President is responsible to call the Board of Directors meetings, elections, and the annual General Assembly.

b. Vice President for External Affairs: The Vice President for External Affairs shall be responsible for co-conducting meetings -including both NHSA Board meetings and the General Assembly- with the assistance of the Vice President for Internal Affairs in the



absence of the President. The Vice President for External Affairs shall also be responsible for organizing events and/or facilitating relationships with other Hellenic organizations. Maintains close communication with universities and recruits new members.

c. Vice President for Internal Affairs: The Vice President for Internal Affairs shall be responsible for co-conducting meetings -including both NHSA Board meetings and the General Assembly- with the assistance of the Vice President for External Affairs in the absence of the President. The Vice President for Internal Affairs is in charge of communications with only those members already in the organization. Maintains an active list-serv of members from each university to be passed on from one NHSA Board to the next. It is their responsibility to attend the upkeep of amendments and changes to the Constitution.

d. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for all Association funds; shall collect all fees and donations; shall pay all bills under the direction of the Board of Directors; shall keep a record of all receipts and disbursements and shall present an annual report at the last meeting of the current Board of Directors and the last General Assembly of the academic year, before the elections. The Treasurer is also in charge of passing down all of his records to the next Treasurer. The funds of NHSA are kept in a business bank account for which responsible is the Treasurer and supervisor the President.

e. English Secretary: The English Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings -including both NHSA Board meetings and general meetings- in English. He or she is the sole person responsible for all English communicative responsibilities. This includes sending out an English version of minutes taken. In addition, the English Secretary puts together the agenda of the meetings along with the President and keeps the archive of NHSA. They are also responsible for sending out emails and notifications to all members or to outside sources and they should be very closely managing the email taken into the Association. For communications that need to be translated in Greek, the English Secretary should forward them to the Greek Secretary.

f. Greek Secretary: The Greek Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings -including both NHSA Board meetings and general meetings- in Greek. He or she is the sole person responsible for all Greek communicative responsibilities. This includes sending out a Greek



version of minutes taken. They are also responsible for sending out translated emails and notifications to all members. A high proficiency in the Greek language is suggested for this position.

g. Communications/Technology Chair: The Communications/Technology Chair is responsible for everything that has to do with the Association's web appearance and communications through the Internet. He or she closely collaborates with the other NHSA Board members when it comes to communicating information and provides technical support. The Communications/Technology Chair is in charge of marketing issues for the Association, the NHSA logo etc.

Section 6: The term of office for all members of the Board of Directors shall be one calendar year. Members elected to the Board of Directors in exceptional elections, caused by any reason (e.g. resignation), shall retain their offices until the end of the term of office of the members they replaced.

Article V – Elections

Section 1: Only voting members as defined in Article II, Section 2, are eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Regular elections shall be called by the Board of Directors; they shall be held during the annual NHSA Convention, as defined in Article III, Section 1.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall notify all members, at least two weeks in advance, of the exact date and place of the elections meeting. Only voting members, as defined in Article II, Section 2 are eligible to vote in the elections.

Section 4: An elections meeting must consist of a quorum, as defined in Article III, Section 3. A quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting.

Section 5: An Electoral Committee presides over the election. It consists of three members, not candidates for any NHSA Board position, elected from the eligible voters by open ballot after a



quorum has been established. The Electoral Committee has the responsibility to establish the ballots and supervise the voting process. Immediately after the end of the voting process, the Electoral Committee shall count the votes in public and declare the members elected to the Board of Directors. The Electoral Committee must inform all members of the results of the election within one week of the election date. After confirming that the election was valid and declaring the members elected to the Board of Directors, the Electoral Committee dissolves.

Section 6 (The Electoral Process): The rules governing the Electoral Process for the NHSA Board are given below.

- The officers shall be voted on in the order of: President, Vice President for Internal Affairs, Vice President for External Affairs, Treasurer, Communications/Technology Chair, English Secretary, Greek Secretary and then any other position the General Assembly establishes under Article IV, Section 1.
- Each member-Chapter of NHSA is allotted one vote per position under Article III, Section 2.
- More than one person may run for a particular position from the same university/member-Chapter. However, there can only be one person from the same member-Chapter taking that position in the end under Article II, Section 2.
- Once a representative from a member-Chapter occupies a position in the NHSA Board, no other representative/member of the same member-Chapter can hold another position.
- Candidates for the NHSA Board shall be nominated by at least two voting members of the NHSA. A candidate shall be able to nominate him or herself.
- The members of the Board of Directors are elected with secret ballot.
- To be elected, a candidate must receive the plurality of all votes cast by the voting members present at the General Assembly meeting. In the case that the plurality-winning candidate has got less than two fifths of the votes, there will be a runoff second election between the two front-runners.
- Impeachment suspended Board members shall never be eligible to run for a NHSA Board position again (Impeachment reference in Article VI, Section 2).
- It would be suggested that at least one of the Vice-Presidents be pursuing a different level



of degree than the President. The two levels are defined, as “Undergraduate students” who are students pursuing a bachelor's degree; and “Graduate Students” who are defined as students who are pursuing any other post bachelor's degree.

Section 8: There shall be no voting by mail or proxy.

Section 9: The duties of the new Board of Directors shall begin immediately after the elections. The outgoing Board of Directors must transfer all documents within one week of the elections and be available to assist and train the newly elected officers, if needed, for at least one month following the elections.

Section 10: The longest period a person can serve in the same position of the Board of Directors of the Association is two academic years.

Article VI – Vacancies

Section 1: Any member of the HSA Board can resign by submitting a written letter/e-mail of resignation to the NHSA Board.

Section 2: One third of the NHSA members or one third of the NHSA Board members can submit a proposal to impeach one other NHSA member. The proposal upon simple majority approval of the Board of Directors shall state the cause of the impeachment. The Board of Directors shall bring the proposal to the General Assembly for decision. Two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly will decide the outcome of the impeachment process. A potential suspension from the NHSA Board or NHSA membership shall be effective immediately after the General Assembly decision.

Section 3: In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer or any other position, the vacancy shall be filled after internal NHSA Board election until a new officer is elected.

Section 4: More than 4 vacancies are grounds for automatic suspension of the current NHSA Board and call for immediate elections for the vacant positions.



Article VII - Method of Amending Constitution

Section 1: Any active member(s) may propose an amendment to the Constitution. Amendments shall be discussed and voted on during a regular General Assembly with prior notification to all members by the member(s) who demand(s) the amendment.

If the amendment is urgent the President of NHSA is responsible to process it through a majority vote within the NHSA Board, present it to all the members-Chapters of the Association and incorporate it into the Constitution with a pending status. This pending status can only change to a permanent one after the confirmation of the amendment with the regular procedure described above. The reason for issuing a pending status is that many times it is not feasible, even in urgent occasions, to achieve a quorum immediately since the members/representatives of local HSAs come from all the different regions/universities across the USA.

Section 2: Amendments to all Articles under the regular amendment process shall require a one-half majority vote. Voting is conducted by open ballot.

Article VIII - Termination of the Association's Operations, Method of Dissolution

Section 1: The ending of the Association's operations requires the two-third majority of the total number of the Chapters-members of the Association (a quorum being present).

Section 2: Should any organization assets and debt exist, a Dissolution Committee should be defined by the members of the last General Assembly or if this is not possible by the members of the last Board of Directors with the participation of at least 5 members of different universities-Chapters. The members of the Dissolution Committee must specify all remaining assets and debts and find the way to manage this specified balance.

Article IX - Other Legal Issues

The issues that are not addressed in this Constitution are regulated by the law.