

(Amended May 2003)

## **Association for Asian American Studies Constitution**

### ***Preamble***

The Association for Asian American Studies is a private non-profit organization. It is dedicated to serving the special needs and interests of students, teachers, scholars, and professionals in the field of Asian American Studies in the United States.

### ***Article I – Name***

The name of the Association shall be Association for Asian American Studies.

### ***Article II – Powers***

The Association, through its membership and elected officers and committees, shall have the power to take all lawful action which is appropriate to the achievement of its purposes.

### ***Article III – Purposes***

The purposes of the Association reflect long-term goals and interest of the membership, and serve to guide the Association's policies and activities.

- A. To promote the highest professional standards of excellence in teaching and research in the field of Asian American Studies.
- B. To promote better understanding and closer ties between and among various sub-components within Asian and Pacific American Studies.
- C. To promote a meaningful and useful collegium among all individuals professionally involved and committed to the study of Asian Americans.
- D. To coordinate professional activity involving meetings, research projects, teaching, advocacy projects, and community relations among members; and between members and non- members.
- E. To support increased communication and scholarly exchanges among students, teachers, and scholars in the field of Asian American Studies.
- F. To promote professional dignity in the field, its many programs and practitioners, so as to have a positive influence upon American public opinion, society, and government in all areas where Asian Americans are affected.
- G. To act as an advocate for the interests and welfare of Asian American Studies in academia and government.

- H. To assist with the task of educating American society and government with the history of Asian Americans and the contemporary issues and problems they face in the United States.

***Article IV – Membership***

- A. Membership shall be open to all individuals and groups interested in the field of Asian American Studies.
- B. There shall be three categories of membership:
  - 1) Student members (any individual enrolled in any institution of higher education).
  - 2) Regular members (any individual not enrolled in any full-time institution of higher education).
  - 3) Institutional members (any group or organization wishing to affiliate for the purpose of receiving Association publications and announcements).
  - 4) Associate members (any individual not desiring the privileges and responsibilities of regular membership but desiring to participate in a particular function of the Association).
- C. Membership dues shall be payable annually. Any member in arrears for more than two months shall not receive any Association publication or announcements. Any member in arrears for one year shall, after receiving official notice from the Association, lose his/her/its membership in the Association.

***Article V – Organization***

- A. Membership  
The ultimate authority of the Association shall be vested in the full membership of all members in good standing. This authority shall be expressed in voting at either the annual membership meeting or through mail polls conducted by the officers and council of the Association. Only student and regular members shall be entitled to vote and hold office. Institutional members shall only receive publications and announcements of the Association.
- B. Officers of the Association
  - 1. Elected Officers
    - Section 1*  
The elected executive officers of the Association shall be: a president, a president-elect, and a secretary/treasurer.
    - Section 2*  
There shall be a Board of Directors, consisting of the officers and representatives elected from the following areas:
      - 1) Northwest; 2) Northern California; 3) Southern California; 4) Midwest/Mountain/Canada; 5) New England; 6) Mid Atlantic/South; 7)

Hawai'i/Pacific Islands; 8) Graduate Student; and 9) Undergraduate Student.

The president shall serve as chairperson of the board of directors and with the president-elect, and the secretary/treasurer serving accordingly. The Board of Directors shall form whatever committees it seems necessary and desirable.

### *Section 3*

The full Board shall have charge of general operation of the business of the Association. It shall be composed of the following:

- 1) The executive officers of the Association.
- 2) The regional representatives and student representatives.
- 3) Three at-large members annually appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority of the elected members of the Board.
- 4) Newsletter editor appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority of the Board members for a three year renewable term. The Newsletter editor shall serve as an ex-official non-voting member of the Board.

### *Section 4*

The executive officers, elected board of director members, and graduate student representative shall serve a two-year term. The Undergraduate Student representative will serve a term of one year.

### *Section 5*

The terms of office shall be staggered for the Board of Directors such that there will be yearly elections for positions commencing with the 1994 elections. In odd years, the President-elect, and odd numbered representatives shall be elected. The elevation of the presiding President-elect shall be confirmed during the odd-year elections. Even numbered representatives, the Graduate Student Representative, and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected in even numbered years. The Undergraduate Representative will be elected each year.

### *Section 6*

No official of the Association may receive financial compensation in return for services rendered to and for the Association in the performance of official responsibilities except for reimbursement of personal expenses incurred by officers of the Association in the course of their work on behalf of the Association. Exceptions may be granted by a recommendation by the President and a 2/3 vote of the Board excluding the affected member(s). NO COMPENSATION FOR TIME SHALL BE ALLOWED FOR PERFORMING THE REGULAR DUTIES OF AN OFFICER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

## C. Appointed Officers of the Association

### *Section 1*

The president of the Association may appoint individuals to serve in various positions to assist the elected officers of the Association. These positions require confirmation by the Board of Directors by a majority vote, either by mail poll, telephone, FAX or meeting of the Board. Some, but not all of these appointed positions are:

- 1) Coordinator of the annual meeting of the Association,
- 2) Heads of Committees for special projects and programs,
- 3) Chairpersons for special symposiums, workshops,
- 4) Editors for special projects or works sponsored by the Association
- 5) Special representatives of the Association to attend specific meetings of special interest to the Association, and
- 6) Two at-large members of the Board to ensure balance with respect to gender, ethnic background, region, and other factors.

### *Section 2*

The appointment of officers of the Association shall be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Association.

### *Section 3*

No appointed officers of the Association shall receive any financial compensation for services rendered to or on behalf of the Association, except for reimbursement of personal expenses incurred by officers of the Association in the course of their work on behalf of the Association. Exceptions may be granted by a recommendation by the President and a 2/3 vote of the Board excluding the affected member(s). Appointed officers may be reimbursed for time and expenses for special projects termed by the President and approved by a majority of the Board.

## D. Vacancies

### *Section 1*

If the president should resign, be recalled or die, then the president-elect shall succeed for the remainder of the term.

### *Section 2*

If the president of the Association shall become unable to discharge the duties and responsibilities of that office, but remains unwilling to vacate his/her office, or performs contrary to the goals and purposes of the Association, then the Board shall determine if and when the president-elect shall take over as president and the conditions of such a transfer by a 2/3 vote of the Board excluding the vote of the President.

*Section 3*

If the president or president-elect should not be able to serve, then the Board shall select one of their members to serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of office by a majority vote.

*Section 4*

- a. If any vacancy for any office shall occur, the president of the Association shall appoint a replacement, within a 30 day period. All such appointments require Board approval by a 2/3 majority.
- b. If any Board Member of the Association shall become unable to discharge the duties and responsibilities of that office, but remains unwilling to resign from his/her office, or performs contrary to the goals and purposes of the Association, then the Board shall be empowered to remove that individual and declare a vacancy by a 2/3 vote of the Board excluding the member in question.

E. Standing Committees

The Board shall create standing committees to assist in the operation of the Association's activities, including, but not limited to the following areas: Advocacy, Awards, Publications, Publicity, and Professional Development and Standards.

F. Elections and Inauguration of Officers

Elections for officers shall be held in January of each year. New officers of the Association shall be inaugurated and take office at the conclusion of the annual meeting or on July 1st which ever comes first.

***Article VI – Elections***

A. Coordination of Elections

The secretary/treasurer shall supervise and monitor all mail balloting for the elections of issues submitted to the full membership. If the secretary/treasurer is up for re-election, those responsibilities shall devolve on a Board member not up for re-election and appointed by the president.

B. Nominating Committee

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the president. The committee shall present a slate of candidates on October 1st, for those offices scheduled for election.

C. Elections

The election shall take place by mail ballot before the expiration of the current term. The official announcement of the election results shall be made within 30 days after the date of the elections.

D. Petition for Candidacy

Any member in good standing in the Association may become a candidate for office by a petition signed by three other members in good standing in the Association. This petition must be submitted to the nominating committee at least 30 days prior to the election.

E. Student Representatives (From Article V, B, Section 4)

The Student Representatives shall be elected by student members of the Association in good standing. Graduate students are eligible to vote for the Graduate Student Representative and Undergraduates are eligible to vote for the Undergraduate Representative. Only currently enrolled students are eligible for candidacy. Representatives shall be enrolled in their respective category for the duration of their term of office.

***Article VII – Meetings***

A. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association.

*Section 1*

The annual meeting shall be planned by the Board of Directors.

B. There shall be a Board meeting held prior to the opening of the annual meeting of the Association.

C. All meetings of the Board shall be open to all members in good standing except where issues of confidentiality are determined by the Board.

***Article VIII – Amendments***

*Section 1*

Proposed amendments of the constitution or bylaws of the Association may be submitted to the membership for approval by either:

1. A 2/3 vote of the Board of the Association;
2. A petition to the Board, in care of the secretary/treasurer of the Association, signed by one-quarter of the voting membership of the Association.

*Section 2*

The secretary/treasurer shall conduct, and certify the balloting by mail of any referendum

for a constitutional amendment or change in the bylaws.

### Section 3

Announcement of a proposed amendment must be made at least 30 days prior to a ballot.

### Section 4

To become effective, any proposed amendment must be approved by a majority of the members voting.