

Association of Bangladeshi Students (ABS) at  
University of Virginia

# **CONSTITUTION**

**Approved by:**

Leadership team on 13 May, 2018



## ***Article I. Name***

**Section 1.01** The name of the organization shall be “Association for Bangladeshi Students at University of Virginia”. It can be conveniently abbreviated as “ABS@UVA” or simply “ABS” when necessary.

## ***Article II. Nature of Organization***

**Section 2.01** The organization will be a union of students, enrolled at University of Virginia, who closely cherish the desire as outlined by the purpose of the organization in Article III. This will be a non-profit student organization. The organization cannot promote any particular political/religious views and racial discriminatory doctrine of any kind (All of UVA, state and federal nondiscriminatory policy applies). The organization will not engage in any activity against the interest of Bangladesh.

**Section 2.02** Although this organization has members who are University of Virginia students and may have University employees associated or engaged in its activities and affairs, the organization is not a part of or an agency of the University. It is a separate and independent organization which is responsible for and manages its own activities and affairs. The University does not direct, supervise or control the organization and is not responsible for the organization’s contracts, acts or omissions.

## ***Article III. Purpose***

The purpose of ABS at University of Virginia will be:

**Section 3.01** To form a platform to unite all students and alumni of University of Virginia, and friends and families around the surrounding areas who belong to (either by citizenship or family heritage) or are interested in Bangladesh and share closeness to the cause of the birth of the great nation, Bangladesh and her prosperity.

**Section 3.02** To represent Bangladesh (History, Culture, Literature, Social values, Scholarly achievements, Concerns & Prospects) in all aspects in a formal way (as permitted by regulations for student organizations) at University of Virginia.

**Section 3.03** To uplift the uniting spirit of freedom of the great nation by offering tribute to all martyrs (including but not limited to those during Language movement and Liberation war) who laid the foundation to give birth of Bangladesh.

**Section 3.04** To help in the development of Bangladesh in all possible means such as (but not limited to) donations, technical assistance, and intellectual contribution on a priority basis.

**Section 3.05** To assist new students to blend in academic and social environments.

**Section 3.06** The organization can also extend its assistance (in any form) to any other cause (not related to Bangladesh). However, considering the limited scope of the organization, issues related to Bangladesh will have clear priority over other issues.

#### ***Article IV: Membership***

**Section 4.01** Any enrolled student of the University of Virginia shall be eligible for membership upon payment of membership dues for the current academic year. *Association of Bangladeshi Students (ABS) at University of Virginia does not restrict its membership, programs, or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information.*

**Section 4.02** The Executive Board (standing leadership team of officers, detailed in Article 5) shall determine the amount of the annual budget at the beginning of each academic year.

**Section 4.03** Annual membership fee is currently \$15 (fifteen dollars). This fee can only be changed upon approval of the three fourth majority of the members.

**Section 4.04** The membership fee is due by the first month of each academic year. However, if new members are to be added during the year, the executive committee hold the right to add members upon collection of full membership fee of that year. Those who are financially unable to pay dues or fees may file a petition towards Executive Board for the remission of membership fee.

**Section 4.05** Membership privileges include voting rights, participation in cultural and social events, conference attendance and the ability to run for an elected position of the Executive Board.

**Section 4.06** Any member who joins the ABS@UVA agrees to all of the rules, regulations, and statutes expressed with this Constitution.

#### ***Article V: Standing Executive Board Members***

**Section 5.01** The elected officers on the Executive Board shall be one President, one Secretary, and one Treasurer. There shall be 2(two) other appointed members who will act as event

requestors. The members of “Executive Board” will represent and be the spokesperson of the organization.

**Section 5.02** Executive Board elect shall appoint 2(two) Event Requestors within 2(two) weeks of election result announcement.

**Section 5.03** All Executive Board members must be registered students who have cleared all their dues to ABS.

**Section 5.04** Executive Board members are required to attend all official events of ABS. In the event that a member is unable to attend, he or she must notify and obtain prior approval from the President. All elected officers and appointed Board Members must be consulted for consent prior to planning any event.

**Section 5.05** An “Executive Position” will be considered “vacant” if any of the following happens: the member resigns, absent for more than 3 months, lost University of Virginia student status due to graduation/transfer or violation of university laws or impeached. Otherwise, it will not be considered as “vacancy” and will be considered as “temporary absence” of the officer.

**Section 5.06** If President is absent temporarily (less than 3 month), he/she may or may not choose to confer responsibilities to Secretary. In case of temporary (less than 3 months) absence of either Secretary or Treasurer, responsibilities may or may not be conferred to President. In case of temporary absence of more than 3 months, responsibilities must be conferred as described in this section.

**Section 5.07** In case of temporary absence of President, Secretary will assume additional responsibility of the “Interim President”. In case of temporary absence of Secretary or Treasurer, President will assume additional responsibility of the “Interim Secretary” or “Interim Treasurer” respectively.

**Section 5.08** In case of vacancy(ies) of any elected “Executive Board” member, interim election shall be held to fill up the vacancy.

**Section 5.09** Executive Board can appoint sub-committee(s) during special events. Any member of the organization can initiate planning an unofficial event (eg. potluck, travel, sports tournament etc) and is required to consult with Executive Board if the event involves the name or banner of the organization.

## ***Article VI. Responsibility of Standing Executive Board Members***

**Section 6.01** The “Executive Board” is entitled to lead the organization’s progress in their preferred style of planning (as long as consistent with every section of this constitution) to meet the purposes. Each Executive Board member will be accountable to the members of the organization for their activities.

**Section 6.02** President will have the responsibility of formulating general policies and plans for different activities commensurate with the organizational nature and purpose as outlined in this constitution. President alone cannot enforce any plan without consultation with other “Executive Board members”. President reserve the right to call and preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee and the organization as a whole.

**Section 6.03** Secretary will assist the President in implementing the policies and coordinating the activities of the organization. Secretary will keep the records of the Executive Board and General meetings, and submit reports of the activities of the organization during annual general meeting of the organization and at other instances depending on any specific request by any member (Accountability provision in Section 6.01).

**Section 6.04** Treasurer is the financial bookkeeper of the organization who will be responsible for all collections and payments in conjunction with the activities of the organization. He/She will prepare and submit reports of financial activities of the organization at the General meetings. If any member raises the question of accountability, the report shall be audited by a nominee of members of the organization not affiliated with the Executive Committee.

**Section 6.05** The duties of the Event Requestors shall be, but are not limited to assisting the Executive Board in organizing and completing special projects, cultural activities/sports, and other cultural events organized by the organization, and attending all Executive Board, Special and General meetings and performing such other duties applicable to the Executive Board. Event requestors shall work as the liaison between ABS and UVA Student Activities Center (SAC) and Media Activities Center (MAC).<sup>1</sup>

**Section 6.06** Members of the “Executive Board” are expected to maintain good coordination among them. If there is any difference in opinion among them on any strategic issue, they can seek opinion of the Members.

**Section 6.07** ABS will continue maintaining an alumni database to have a close interaction with all the alumni of this organization. The organization will always welcome their active participation, recommendations and donations to every event of the organization.

**Section 6.08** “Executive Board” will have to arrange at least one General meeting each semester to ensure smooth functioning of the organization based on members’ views and suggestions. Other than that “Executive Board” may choose to communicate with members on various issues.

**Section 6.09** In extreme case, any member can raise point of “Impeachment” against any member of the “Executive Board” and The “Executive Board” has to call for a general meeting within 30 days. During “Impeachment meeting, each side will be first given a chance to defend

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themselves and based on that all members will decide upon whether to go with “impeachment or not”. For “Impeachment” three-fourth majority of the “Student Member” vote will be required.

### ***Article VII. Cancellation of Membership***

**Section 7.01** Any member can lose membership due to nonpayment of “membership fee” prior to the deadline set by “Executive Board” unless exempted from the fee.

**Section 7.02** Any member will lose his/her membership if absent from 33% of the meetings organized/called by the organization.

**Section 7.03** Any person whose membership has been cancelled can reinstate his/her membership as a new member by the approval of the “Executive Board”. “Executive Board” shall have to give a statement to the members about the reason to reinstate.

### ***Article VIII. Election Procedure for Executive Board Members***

**Section 8.01** “Executive Board” will be elected by voting from members of the organization.

**Section 8.02** The term of office of the elected “Executive Board” will start from the beginning of Fall semester to the last day of Summer. The Executive Board will gradually handover responsibilities to the upcoming committee.

**Section 8.03** “Executive Board” will announce the voting date at the beginning of Summer and election should be held conveniently on mid-Summer. However, current Executive Committee must announce the election result at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the end of term.

**Section 8.04** Each candidate can be either self-nominated or nominated by any other person upon prior approval from nominee.

**Section 8.05** “Executive Board” will conduct the election by secret ballot method. "Executive Board" will become "Election Committee" during an election and President will be chief election commissioner. This committee can include any other member (except candidates) to conduct the election.

**Section 8.06** Top 3 (three) candidate with highest votes will form the “Executive Board” and hold the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer in order. However, Executive Board members can interchange positions among themselves at the beginning of the term. Such interchange shall be made public prior to the commencement of the committee.

**Section 8.07** No person can be the ‘President’ of the “Executive Board” of the organization more than one term. No more than 2 (two) members can be elected and/or appointed to the new committee from the previous committee.

**Section 8.08** Each member of the organization will have to participate in the Election procedure as a voter.

### ***Article IX. Collection and Disposition of Funds***

**Section 9.01** “Executive Board” will formulate plans to collect “membership fee”.

**Section 9.02** “Executive Board” will continuously look for innovative ideas to raise funds through participation in different activities, launching fund raising events and voluntary contributions from friends and alumni.

**Section 9.03** “Executive Board” will reserve the right to spend funds in its own organizational events but will be held responsible to ensure transparency and accountability if raised by any member. The events must not contradict any of fundamental principles stated in any section of the constitution. If there is any confusion, “Executive Board” is encouraged to consult with its members for clarification.

### ***Article X. Amendment of the Constitution***

**Section 10.01** A three-fourth majority of the “Student members” will be required in a general meeting to amend any section of this constitution except as stated in section 10.02.

**Section 10.02** All sections under Article II (Nature of Organization) and Article III (Purpose of Organization) of this constitution cannot be removed at any time. However, addition can be made but should not contradict with existing sections.