



GSA Clubs Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME & PURPOSE

Section A: Name – The name of this club shall be Association of Iranian Muslims (AIM)

Section B: Purpose – AIM is a non-political club focusing on religious and cultural activities. The objectives of this Club are:

1. To create a spiritual, religious and friendly environment for the countless Iranians and Muslims on campus,
2. To facilitate the spiritual and academic growth of its members,
3. To promote the study and understanding of the Holy Quran in an academic and respectful environment,
4. To embrace interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding with other religious clubs in McMaster,
5. To raise awareness and project a more accurate and peaceful image of Islam and Shia faith, and condemn religious extremism.

Section C: Activities – The main activities of AIM are:

1. Organizing a weekly program which concentrates on studying the exegesis of the Holy Quran in an academic and respectful environment followed by congregational prayer,
2. Inviting speakers (in-person or via video conference) preferably from the academia who specialize in Islam and Quran,
3. Managing an annual event on campus to spread the true and peaceful message of Islam and raise awareness and mutual respect, and disprove the common misconceptions about Islam,
4. Coordinating several religious and cultural celebrations and commemorations such as Birthday of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh), Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Ghadir, Eid al-Adha, Birthday of Imam Mahdi (pbuh), Norouz, Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), Anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's Passing (pbuh), The Mourning of Muharram, and Martyrdom of Lady Fatemeh (pbuh),
5. Organizing a couple of joint sessions with other religious clubs on campus to promote interfaith dialogue and positive collaboration,
6. Arranging field trips to Hamilton and surrounding areas in order to connect with nature and promote environmental ethics.

Section D: Affiliations – AIM is not affiliated with any local, provincial, national or international groups or society.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Section A: Eligibility –

1. Membership is open to all GSA members, except where it jeopardizes the integrity of the Club's purpose.
2. Membership is open to undergraduate students only upon invitation of the Club's President or Vice President. As discussed in the "GSA Clubs Operating Policies" document, such members may not hold executive positions.
3. Community members and interested people from outside the University are eligible to become members only upon invitation of the Club's President or Vice President.
4. Membership in this club is open in accordance with all the criteria discussed in the "GSA Clubs Operating Policies" document, irrespective of race, religion, gender, etc.

Section B: Membership –

1. A minimum of 1/3rd of the Clubs' membership must be constituted of GSA members (full-time or part-time graduate students).
2. The community members invited in the Club shall be mainly the spouse or family members of the GSA members.
3. The annual awareness session (discussed in Article I, Section C, Number 3 of this document) and the joint interfaith sessions (Article I, Section C, Number 5) are open to everyone. All other events are only open to the members of this Club or to people invited by the Club's Executives.
4. All members of the Club will have the right to participate in all activities organized by the Club.

Section C: Dues – Dues shall be \$10 per year. If less than 6 months are remaining for that year and a new member wants to join the Club, \$5 will be collected.

ARTICLE III: CODES OF CONDUCT

Even though the majority of the Club members have high integrity and strong ethics, the following rules are outlined as a preventive measure and to keep the events as peaceful and respectful as possible:

1. Female participants - who constitute approximately half the Club's population - must be treated with utmost respect in all events and meetings.
2. Human dignity and ethics must be paramount in all discussions and events; any racist or sexist remark will not be tolerated.
3. Diversity is appreciated and everyone is welcome from all ethnic and religious backgrounds, however, any form of disrespect or insult towards God (Allah), the prophets (in particular Prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Prophet Mohammad and his holy progeny) and the Holy Quran will not be tolerated or allowed in any of the discussions or events.
4. All applicable laws of the land, including but not limited to GSA, McMaster University, local, provincial, and national by-laws, laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures shall be followed.
5. Failure to follow any of the above rules will result in being asked to promptly leave the event/ meeting and may result in membership being revoked.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVES

Section A: Officers – The officers shall consist of the following:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Treasurer
- d. Event Coordinator

The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall be signing authorities for the Club.

Section B: Eligibility – Officers must be Club's Executives and GSA members.

Section C: Election – All executives are elected and reelected each year in the month of May by the voting members of this Club.

Section D: Vacancy – If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume the office for the remainder of the term. Vacancies in any other office shall be filled by a special election.

ARTICLE V: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVES

Section A: President – it shall be the duty of the President to:

- Represent the Club;

- Preside at meetings;
- Oversee the other members of the executive in fulfilling their responsibilities;
- Vote only in case of a tie;
- Have signing authority for the Club;
- Ensure the Club's adherence to GSA Clubs Operating Policies;
- Ensure the members' adherence to the Codes of Conduct outlined in this document;
- Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

Section B: Vice-President – It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:

- Perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence and shall assist the President where required;
- Assist the President in their duties;
- Ensure the members' adherence to the Codes of Conduct outlined in this document;
- Preside in the absence of the President;
- Have signing authority for the Club.

Section C: Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

- Be responsible for overseeing all financial dealing of the Club;
- Keep complete records of all financial dealings of the Club;
- Have signing authority for the Club;
- Perform such other duties that are from time to time assigned by the President, executive or general membership.

Section D: Event Coordinator – It shall be the duty of the Event Coordinator to:

- Make all necessary arrangements with GSA and the University for the various events (celebrations and commemorations) throughout the year;
- Publicize the events in an appropriate manner;
- Invite the Club members and interested people to the events;
- Assist the other executives in their duties at the request of the President.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section A: Meetings

1. At least three general meetings shall be held during the school year, including the annual General Meeting.

2. Members will be informed of each meeting at least two weeks in advance

Section B: General Meetings

1. General meetings shall be open to all Club members
2. At least one general meeting shall be called by the President per academic year.
3. Upon the receipt of five signatures by the President from Club members requesting a general meeting, a meeting shall be called by the President at the earliest possible date.
4. Voting procedure for regular business at a general meeting shall be by simple majority.
5. Notice of a general meeting must be sent to the Clubs Administrator no less than one (1) week prior.

Section C: Special Meetings – Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section D: Executive Meetings

1. At least one executive meeting shall be called by the President per academic term.
2. Voting procedure for regular business at an executive meeting shall be by simple majority.

Section E: Quorum

1. A quorum of 1/3 of the total membership is required for a general meeting.
2. A quorum of 2/3 of the executive is required for an executive meeting.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

1. Elections for the Executive will take place in May of each year.
2. All Executives shall be GSA members at large and shall be elected by the general Club membership.
3. The length of the mandate of executive members is from June 1st to May 31st of the following year.
4. The executive positions will be open to members of the Club who are graduate students at McMaster University.
5. Elections will take place during a meeting on a date determined by the executive. This date must be set and conveyed to Club members no less than two weeks in advance along with a call for members to submit their candidacy for the available executive positions.

6. Candidates for executive positions must convey their interest in a particular position to the current executive no less than one week before the voting date. Candidates also have the opportunity to submit a platform for the position, which will be circulated to Club members prior to the vote. In the event that there is nobody contesting the any one of the executive positions in advance of the vote, interested persons may indicate their interest in the position at the elections meeting.
7. During the election, each Club member will have one (1) vote for each executive position. This vote will be secret.
8. The President of the Club may only vote in the event of a tie.
9. The winner for each position will be the candidate with the greatest number of votes. In the case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCES

1. The Club may be eligible to solicit financing from the GSA.
2. The annual membership fee is expected to be \$10
3. Monies received shall not involve any obligation of the GSA.
4. The Club's books may be subject to an annual audit by the GSA and shall be filed with the GSA auditor or Clubs Administrator within two weeks of the request for audit.
5. All cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and either the President or the Vice President.

ARTICLE IX - REFUND POLICY

Club members can apply for a refund which shall include the following format and minimum standard:

1. A member may apply to their Club for a refund within one (1) month of becoming a member of the Club, or within one (1) week of the Club's first official event if:
 - a. There has been a misinterpretation of the Club's mandate and proposed activities as specified of the member when signing onto the Club.

2. Where a Club and its members cannot resolve the refund issue, a Club or the member may request assistance from the Clubs Administrator who will act as a mediator between the Club and the member to reach a resolution.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

1. Passage of amendments to the constitution shall be 2/3 affirmative vote at a quorum meeting.

ARTICLE XI - BYLAWS

1. Passage of bylaws shall be by at least 60% affirmative vote at a quorum general meeting.

ARTICLE XII

1. The views and actions of this Club in no way reflect the views of all the members of the McMaster University Graduate Students Association or McMaster University.