



Constitution of the Asian American Brotherhood

PREAMBLE

We, the brothers of the Asian American Brotherhood, have united ourselves in order to forge a stronger sense of unity among Asian Americans in our community and to foster solidarity without coercion. In promoting understanding and bonds across ethnic lines, the Asian American Brotherhood seeks to empower both our members and the communities that we serve.

ARTICLES

ARTICLE I

CIRCUMSTANCE AND NECESSITY

Section 1. Asian Americans at Harvard are divided along various ethnic and socioeconomic lines. Despite our differences, however, all of us are faced with a similar challenge: overcoming obstacles fixed by society based solely on race. We must unite the diversity of our perspectives in order to rise successfully to this challenge.

Section 2. The various Asian American ethnic groups on campus have neglected to unite for the sake of what should be our common goal: to provide a collective voice for the Asian American community. Consequently, misunderstandings among individual organizations have led to a fragmentation of the Asian American community at Harvard, compromising the unity of our voice and the recognition of our presence.

Section 3. The absence of unity and the lack of a common goal have resulted in widespread apathy among Asian Americans at Harvard and beyond. We must address this lack of motivation and participation in our culture and identity for, if ignored, it unquestionably exacerbates the current condition of society.

Section 4. The aforementioned circumstances are the grounds that have given birth to the Asian American Brotherhood. **WE HAVE FORMED OUT OF NECESSITY.** A fraternal social structure allows us to transcend the fundamental constraints inherent in the structure of traditional organizations. Our undying loyalty to one another marks the beginning of a proud tradition.

ARTICLE II

MEANS

Section 1. We shall achieve our goals by committing ourselves to providing service to the communities around us.

Section 2. We shall encourage dialogue among our members and the community at large with the explicit goals of communication, understanding, and respect.

Section 3. We shall foster an awareness of individual and collective Asian American experiences.

Section 4. We shall build a community in which people will interact comfortably, regardless of ethnicity.

Section 5. We shall hold social activities and events in order to promote solidarity within our brotherhood and cultivate a positive relationship with our community.

Section 6. We shall hold ourselves responsible towards maintaining the integrity of this constitution.

ARTICLE III

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. For the purposes of coordinating the activities of the AAB, we have instituted a board of directors consisting of a Director of Archives, Director of Service, Director of Finance, Director of Public Relations, and Director of Social Functions. This select committee will ensure the efficient and just operation of our organization.

Section 2. The Director of Archives holds the responsibility of recording logs of meetings, keeping records of AAB history, and communicating with and informing members within the Brotherhood of our proceedings. Part of this responsibility entails taking attendance at meetings. The Director of Archives runs elections, and coordinates votes for electoral purposes.

Section 3. The Director of Service holds the responsibility of managing AAB involvement in the community through the coordination and publicity of various community service activities.

Section 4. The Director of Finance holds the responsibility of handling economic concerns which include, but are not limited to, collecting dues, determining budgets, and managing funds of the Brotherhood.

Section 5. The Director of Education and Political Awareness holds the responsibility of fostering awareness of both on-campus and off-campus issues relevant to Asian-Americans, within the brotherhood and the community. Said director is also responsible for coordinating and publicizing Ed/Pol activities accordingly.

Section 6. The Director of Social Functions holds the responsibilities of organizing, coordinating, and publicizing events sponsored, endorsed and funded by the Brotherhood.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Elections shall take place annually before winter break in mid-December, on a date that shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors. Their terms in office shall not exceed the duration of one year from the date of their inauguration. The results of these elections shall take effect in mid-February, at which time the new Board of Directors will take office.

Section 2. No person shall be a director of the same position for more than two terms.

Section 3. The electoral process shall adhere to the following procedures:

- 1.** One member nominates a candidate; another member must second the nomination. Self-nomination will not be allowed, but a candidate can decline nomination.
- 2.** Once all nominations have finished, the candidates give speeches outlining what they intend to do if elected.
- 3.** The candidates step out of chambers, and the remaining members discuss the qualifications of the candidates.
- 4.** A secret ballot is held.
- 5.** A two-thirds majority (rounding downwards) is necessary to win.
- 6.** If no candidate captures a two-thirds majority, the results shall be announced and discussion repeated to reach a definite decision.
- 7.** Another vote is conducted on the top two candidates.
- 8.** When a second round of voting is conducted, a simple majority is necessary to win.

Section 4. Attendance at elections is mandatory for all members (see Article VII Section 4).

ARTICLE V

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Section 1. At a legislative meeting, one member shall motion to discuss a topic of legislation. Another member must second this motion to initiate discussion. Once the motion is seconded, discussion shall ensue. The right to speak must be recognized by the Director of Archives (or another Director so appointed in his place), who shall preside over these meetings.

Section 2. Once discussion has finalized, a member shall motion to bring the topic of legislation to a vote. Another member must second this motion to initiate the voting procedure. Once the motion is seconded, a general vote ensues. A majority is necessary to pass legislation.

Section 3. In making an amendment to this Constitution, the above processes shall be followed. However, for an amendment to be enacted, two-thirds of the general vote, as well as the votes of three-fifths of the Board of Directors is necessary.

ARTICLE VI

JUDICIAL PROCESS

Section 1. [General Members] When a member of the Brotherhood suspects another member of questionable conduct, he shall request a special meeting with the entire Board. At this special meeting, the suspecting member shall notify and explain the suspected member's questionable conduct. The suspecting member shall remain anonymous to all other parties besides the Board. The Board shall discuss and investigate the problem, and hold meetings as necessary. The Board shall meet with the suspected member and give him a chance to defend his position. Once the Board has heard all of the evidence, it shall decide on the appropriate punishment and action. Any decision shall be made by consensus. All information pertaining to these events shall be limited to the parties involved.

Section 2. [Board Members] When a member of the Brotherhood suspects a member of the Board of questionable conduct, he shall request a special meeting with the rest of the Board. At this special meeting, the suspecting member shall notify and explain the suspected Board member's questionable conduct. The suspecting member shall remain anonymous to all other parties besides the rest of the Board. The rest of the Board shall hold meetings as necessary to discuss appropriate action. The rest of the Board shall meet with the suspected Board member and give him a chance to defend his position. If deemed necessary, the suspected Board member shall be called to defend himself in front of the general assembly. Then a vote to determine guilt shall be enacted among the general assembly. Two-thirds of the votes are necessary for conviction. If the suspected Board member is not convicted, the rest of the Board shall decide on his punishment.

ARTICLE VII

REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. The following requirements must be maintained to uphold the high standard of membership in the Asian American Brotherhood.

Section 2. [Academic] A minimum Grade Point Average of 2.5 must be maintained per semester during a member's career at Harvard University.

Section 3. [Public Service] A member must serve a minimum of 8 hours of community service per month.

Section 4. [Attendance] Attendance at all official meetings is mandatory unless otherwise approved by the board. In addition, members must attend at least one Brotherhood sponsored event per month.

Section 5. [Elections] The right to vote and run for a position on the Board of Directors shall be determined by good membership status within the Brotherhood. A probationary status of membership is not defined as good membership status, and thus such privileges shall be suspended.

Section 6: Membership in this organization shall be open to all students in good standing currently enrolled in Harvard College, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, or physical disability. All officers shall be registered undergraduates in Harvard College.

ARTICLE VIII

CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 1. We shall hold ourselves to the integrity of this constitution.

Section 2. We shall not take the name of the Brotherhood in vain.

Section 3. We shall always uphold gentlemanly behavior.

Section 4. We shall always represent the Asian American community with pride and dignity.

Section 5. We shall treat all members with respect.

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT I

In upholding the standards of behavior set forth by the CODE OF CONDUCT (Article VIII), it is hereby decreed that all members of the Asian American Brotherhood shall come to the aid of another Brother. We shall lend a brother a helping hand anytime he is in need of assistance.

AMENDMENT II

MEMBERSHIP SIZE & RECRUITMENT

It is hereby decreed that the optimal number of members for the Asian American Brotherhood is 25 persons. The members shall make all efforts to adhere to this optimal number. The absolute maximum for membership size is decreed to be 40 persons. Membership shall not exceed this number under any circumstance. These limitations have been constructed to best serve the interests of the preservation of solidarity and sense of community within the Brotherhood.

Recruiting for new members shall thus adhere to these size limitations as well as to serve the longevity and survival of the organization.

AMENDMENT III

PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT

The Public Service Requirement (Article VII, Section 3) which a member must serve shall hereby be established at a minimum of 2 hours of community service per month. The 2 hours per month must be served through activities other than those sponsored by the AAB. These activities include but are not exclusive to volunteer organizations, community service programs, as well as active participation in political and ethnic organizations.

AMENDMENT IV

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT

The Academic Requirement (Article VII, Section 2) to which a member must adhere shall henceforth not be measured by a specific GPA. Rather, it is required that members make their best efforts to be in good academic standing with the university. If they find themselves unable to adhere to this requirement, members are encouraged to take a leave of absence from the Brotherhood.

AMENDMENT V

It is hereby decreed that Article III, Section 3. will read as follows: The Director of Service holds the responsibility of managing AAB involvement in the community through the coordination and publicity of various community service activities.

It is hereby decreed that Article III, Section 5. will read as follows: The Director of Education and Political Awareness holds the responsibility of fostering awareness of both on-campus and off-campus issues relevant to Asian-Americans, within the brotherhood and the community. Said director is also responsible for coordinating and publicizing Ed/Pol activities accordingly.

It is hereby decreed that Article III, Section 6. will read as follows: The Director of Social Functions holds the responsibilities of organizing, coordinating, and publicizing events sponsored, endorsed and funded by the Brotherhood.

AMENDMENT VI

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

It is hereby decreed that the position of Director of Alumni Relations shall be established. The Director of Alumni Relations holds the responsibility of maintaining consistent and effective lines of communication with the alumni of the Brotherhood.

AMENDMENT VII

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

In addition to the statutes set forth by the Attendance Requirement (Article VII, Section 4), it is hereby decreed that the Brotherhood shall reserve the right to institute and modify member attendance policies.

AMENDMENT VIII

PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT

The Public Service Requirement (Article VII, Section 3 and Amendment III) which a member must serve shall hereby be established at a minimum of 2 hours of community service per month or attendance at least two Brotherhood-sponsored events per semester. The 2 hours per month may be served through activities other than those sponsored by the AAB.

AMENDMENT IX

MEMBERSHIP SIZE & RECRUITMENT

It is hereby decreed that the optimal number of members for the Asian American Brotherhood as established by Amendment II shall be specified as 25 persons in the fall semester and 35 persons in the spring semester. The maximum number of members at any time shall be 40 persons.

AMENDMENT X

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

It is hereby decreed that the members of the AAB shall be required to review the Constitution on an annual basis. This requirement has been constructed to recognize and respond to the fluid nature of the Brotherhood and to preserve the relevance of the Constitution.

AMENDMENT XI

It is hereby decreed that the Director of Social Functions, as established by Article III, Section 6, shall henceforth be known as the Director of Brotherhood & Social Functions.

AMENDMENT XII

DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT

It is hereby decreed that Article III, Section 7. will read as follows: The Director of Recruitment holds the responsibility of planning, programming, and publicizing events related to the recruitment of new members. Part of that responsibility entails working closely with the Director of Archives.