

The Constitution of the South Asian Society

Last updated August 11th, 2021

Article I: Name

The name of this organization is “Rice South Asian Society.”

Article II: Mission Statement

The South Asian Society exists to promote friendship among members of the Rice community and to encourage awareness of South Asian culture. It is our belief that cultural activities contribute to the diversity, educational enrichment, and sense of community that are integral to the Rice undergraduate experience.

Article III: Purpose

The functions of the South Asian Society include, but are not limited to:

- a) To build an understanding of South Asia among Rice undergraduates through social functions, recreational activities, and educational events;
- b) To host cultural programs every semester showcasing South Asian performance art forms for the benefit and enjoyment of the Rice and Greater Houston community;
- c) To partner with charity and volunteer groups in the Houston area to provide service opportunities for Rice students;
- d) To work with other organizations at Rice and throughout Houston to raise awareness and provide support for events aligned with our goals of cross-cultural exchange.

Article IV: Membership

Any full-time Rice student can be a member of this club. Events are open to any undergraduate student. Only members who have paid dues are eligible for certain membership benefits, including, but not limited to, participation in cultural shows, reimbursement for supported events, and organization-themed apparel. During the 2021-2022 school year, membership dues will be \$10 with added membership benefits.

Article IV: The Executive Board

The executive board of the South Asian Society is comprised of the following positions:

- a) The Co-Presidents (i) set the organization’s agenda for each academic year, (ii) conduct all meetings and events, (iii) delegate responsibilities to other members and the Executive Board, and (iv) represent the South Asian Society in communication with other organizations.
- b) The Treasurer (i) handles financial transactions, (ii) maintains records of finances and all monetary activity, and (iii) solicits and maintains communications with sponsors.
- c) The Secretary (i) serves as administrator for the listserv, (ii) works with the Publicity Officers to coordinate communication and online publicity for events, (iii) keeps records of membership and attendance, and (iv) maintains a periodic newsletter for club members with notifications on announcements, upcoming events, and relevant opportunities on campus or in the surrounding community.
- d) The Publicity Officers (i) notify the undergraduate community of upcoming events, (ii) update online communication resources, and (iii) select and manage the College Representatives system.

e) The Event Coordinators (i) handle all show and event details, (ii) coordinate logistics for these shows and events, and (iii) manage rehearsals, set-ups, and take-downs for events.

f) The Technology Lead (i) develops and maintains SAS website/archive, (ii) helps with tech-related needs at events, and (iii) manages Alumni networking page

g) The Historian (i) documents SAS events with pictures and videos throughout the school year

The board will meet, at a minimum, once every other week, at a time designated by member consensus.

Should an officer of the organization act in a manner unbecoming of the organization or neglect the duties of officership, the Executive Board and the Faculty Sponsor may, by unanimous consensus, decide to remove the officer.

Article V: Selection of Officers

Officers are elected each year at the end of the spring semester. Candidates must have a minimum of one semester of prior involvement in the organization in order to seek an officer position. Only Rice students who have paid dues are eligible to cast ballots. Voting is done by secret ballot, and the candidate with the most votes in each position wins.

Newly elected officers are expected to assume responsibility for their offices within one week of the election.

If there is a vacancy on the Executive Board at any other time during the academic year, the Executive Board has discretion on whether to assume the responsibilities of that position or to hold an election for the position.

The Executive Board has the discretion to appoint additional members to ad-hoc positions, as deemed necessary by consensus of the Board.

At the beginning of each academic year, the Publicity Officers select one to three representatives at each residential college who are responsible for publicity activities at their college. The Publicity officers determine the functions of the College Representatives, as per the needs of the organization.

Article VI: Finances

The Presidents shall prepare a proposed budget by November 1 of each year.

All funds gathered by the organization must be deposited into a club account through the Office of Student Activities within one week of their receipt. The presidents and members of the executive board have spending authority of club funds within the organization.

The sponsor shall refer to the relevant University office(s) any member reasonably suspected of spending club funds without authority, failing to deposit club funds appropriately, or otherwise misusing or abusing club funds.

Article VII: The Faculty Sponsor

The organization must have a sponsor who is a member of the Rice faculty or staff and who plans to be at Rice for the full academic year.

The sponsor shall be selected by the presidents.

The sponsor shall serve until his or her resignation or replacement.

The sponsor must meet the training criteria set by the Office of Student Activities by the deadline determined by that office.

If the sponsor resigns, is replaced, or is otherwise unable to continue serving as the sponsor for the remainder of the academic year, the organization shall select a new sponsor and notify the Office of Student Activities of the change within 15 class days.

Article VIII. Primacy of the Student Association

This organization will recognize the primacy of the Student Association Executive Committee, the Student Association Senate, and ultimately, the Student Association.

This organization will follow the Student Association Constitution and By-Laws and any associated rules and regulations.

This constitution is subordinate to the Student Association Constitution and By-Law

Article IX: Nondiscrimination Policy. This organization shall not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status.

Article X: Anti-Hazing Policy. This organization shall not engage in any form of hazing, as defined by the Code of Student Conduct and any other applicable Rice University rules and regulations.

Article XI: Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any member and reviewed by the Executive Board, as well as the Student Association Parliamentarian. Amendments to the organization's constitution are to be made available for viewing to all members for a period of 1 week, after which time a meeting will be held where two-thirds of all present members must vote in favor of approving the proposed amendments. The Executive Board will then ratify the Constitution and update the document as indicated.