

Constitution of the Omani Students' Association at the University of Alberta

The Omani Students' Association (OSA) at the University of Alberta aims at representing the actual and the civilized character of Oman and Arabic countries in the Middle East in front of the Canadian and International societies. Social events will be organized to celebrate traditional holydays in Oman and other Islamic countries in addition to Oman National Day. OSA will try to help upgrading the research activities in Oman utilizing practical resources available. The association will also support recreational activities such as sports, family gatherings and traveling.

Article I. Name and Nature:

The Omani Students' Association at the University of Alberta, (OSA), is a democratic student organization.

Article II. Goals and Objectives:

1. To protect and care for the affairs of its members by representing them in front of all official and non-official levels upon their request.
2. To show the actual civilized and cultural character of Oman and Arabic countries in the Middle East in front of the Canadian and International societies.
3. To help developing solutions to upgrade the research activities in Oman as much as available resources allow.

Article III. Membership and Organizational Structure:

Membership in the OSA is open to all students and researchers at the University of Alberta. Membership in the OSA is open to these students as long as they accept these bylaws and pay the designated membership fees, which is 30 Canadian Dollars per year for a single member and 40 Canadian Dollars per year for a member who has a family.

Membership is classified as follows:

1. Full (voting) members (Class A) who hold full membership in the OSA by being studying or conducting researches at the University of Alberta.
2. Associate (Non-voting) members including:
 - a. Companions of the voting Member as husband, wife, parents and children older than 16 years of age.
 - b. Non-student researchers and their companions.
 - c. Graduate students after holding a Ph.D. degree.

Failing to pay the membership fees by the deadline (September 30 each year) will result in the termination of the membership. The termination of any membership will be decided in a general meeting and that member will be asked to show up in that meeting. Being on the mailing list (e-mail list) is tied with the membership status for members A while Members B are welcome to be on the list in any condition.

Article IV. OSA Organizational Structure:

OSA organizational structure consisted of:

1. The General Assembly of OSA members (GA)
2. The Executive Committee (EC)

Article V. General Assembly:

- General meetings comprise all voting members of OSA. There will be 4 general meetings in a calendar year (from April to March).
- The General Assembly of OSA members is the legislative branch of OSA and is vested with all the authority necessary to make and approve policies and general guidelines for OSA. The legal quorum of the GA should be at least 5 members.
- The GA has the following responsibilities:
 1. Discuss and approve activity reports and OSA financial report; the GA has the right to question the EC or any OSA member regarding these reports.
 2. Determine the general policy of OSA in order to achieve OSA goals.
 3. Revise and/or modify and/or approve any decision including OSA Constitution.
 4. Annual election of the OSA executive committee (EC).

Article VI. Executive Committee:

The OSA Executive Committee (EC) of the OSA is composed of two members who are:

1. OSA EC President.
2. OSA EC Vice President.

Nominees for EC positions should have at least one year to go before the end of their program/mission at the time of the election. In case of a vacancy for OSA EC Vice President, replacement is made according to the following criteria:

1. The second highest vote counts during the previous OSA Elections.
2. A substitute member selected by calling for a general meeting.

The Vice President completes the term of the President and carries all his authorities in case the position becomes vacant.

Article VII. Election Regulations:

1. Nominations for EC positions by OSA members have to be sent first to an election officer who is selected by the executive committee to oversee, explain, and perform the election process. The election officer does not have the right to vote or nominate himself or any other member for an executive position.
2. Eligible nominees collected by the election officer are those who:
 - a. Have been nominated by at least two members.
 - b. Have one year at least before graduation.
 - c. Have accepted the nomination.
3. Election officer has to inform OSA members about Election Day at least two weeks in advance. However, this condition may be waived upon the approval of OSA members.

4. In case of failing to inform deliberately any member of OSA about the Election Day, the election will be considered illegal.
5. It is recommended, but not necessary, to have the elections done on weekends through the period of May 1st till the end of June.
6. The minimum attendance should not be less than 5 members if item 3 is satisfied, otherwise, the legal quorum will be two third of the unit voting members.
7. Attending the elections is open to all OSA members, but only voting members are eligible to vote or nominate others for EC positions. Nominees should not accept more than one position. Each voting member of the OSA elects one person only for each position by secret ballot; and executives are chosen by highest vote.
8. In case of only one nominee in any executive position, there must be a vote by Yes or No on this acclaimed position.
9. No voting is allowed through pre-authorization.
10. Members who attended less than 50% of the general meetings in a calendar year (from April to March) will not have the right to vote.

Article VIII. Terms of Office:

Chairmanship and membership in the EC is one year. Executives may be nominated for the same position for an additional 1 year only.

Last updated, January 2006.