



CONSTITUTION



1- *Organizational Name*

The name of the organization shall be the Thaqaalayn Muslim Association. Its nature shall be that of a non-profit student organization.

2- *Mandate/Purpose*

The Thaqaalayn Muslim Association's mission is to cater primarily, although not exclusively, to the needs of the Shi'a students at the university, while simultaneously representing their collective voices and pursuing their ideals.

3- *Objectives*

3.1- To Educate through seminars, panels on and off campus and biweekly discussions on campus.

3.1.1- To endow Muslim students with an Islamic heritage and to cultivate an informed and balanced Islamic understanding according to the teachings of the *Thaqaalayn*- the Qur'an and the authentic sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Ahl al-Bayt (a). Focus will be placed on the application and implementation of the *Thaqaalayn* to contemporary times and contemporary issues.

3.1.2- To educate the university community on Islamic values and culture through the teachings of the *Thaqaalayn*; to present an accurate understanding of Islamic teachings; and to foster greater acceptance of Shi'i students in particular, and Muslim students in general, as integral members of their campus.

3.1.3- To develop and improve relations amongst Muslims as well as with non-Muslims through engaging in intra and inter-faith dialogue in order to achieve peace, harmony, mutual respect, and greater understanding.

3.2- To Encourage Personal Growth and Reflection, through biweekly prayer sessions and biweekly discussions.

3.2.1- To encourage students towards attaining excellence by assisting them in the pursuit of their individual spiritual goals.

3.2.2- To cultivate a cadre of Muslim individuals who are driven to contribute towards the betterment of their community, society, and humanity.

3.3- To Offer a Holistic Campus Experience through interacting social events and activities monthly.



3.3.1- In addition to serving the student's academic and spiritual needs, to provide a healthy social and recreational atmosphere.

4- *Definitions*

4.1- The Holy Qur'an is defined as the final revelation from Allah, exalted is He, given to Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), as a guidance for mankind in all their secular and spiritual affairs.

4.2- Based on the numerous authentic ahadeeth, unanimously agreed upon by all Muslims, the Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them) are defined as the family of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and the twelve Imams, and thus consist of only the following fourteen infallibles:

- Prophet Muhammad al-Mustafa (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
- Fatima al-Zahra daughter of Muhammad (peace be upon her)
- Ali son of Abu Talib (peace be upon him)
- Hassan son of Ali (pbuh)
- Hussain son of Ali (pbuh)
- Ali Zainul 'Abideen son of Hussain (pbuh)
- Muhammad Al-Baaqir son of Ali (pbuh)
- Ja'far as-Sadiq son of Muhammad (pbuh)
- Musa al-Kadhim son of Ja'far (pbuh)
- Ali ar-Ridha son of Musa (pbuh)
- Muhammad at-Taqi son of Ali (pbuh)
- Ali an-Naqi son of Muhammad (pbuh)
- Hassan al-Askari son of Ali (pbuh)
- Muhammad al-Mahdi son of Hassan (may Allah hasten his reappearance)

5- *Definition of Membership*

5.1- Membership of TMA will be open to all University of Toronto students at no cost.

6- *Organizational Structure*

6.1- The TMA executive council shall consist of:

6.1.1- President

6.1.2- Vice-President Internal

6.1.3- Treasurer



- 6.1.4- Events Coordinator
- 6.1.5- Communication director
- 6.1.6- Vice-President External

6.2- The six (6) executive council members are the only voting members for the approval of events and spending club resources.

6.3- Duties and Responsibilities

6.3.1- All students, faculty, staff and alumni are eligible to serve on the executive committee.

6.3.2- The President shall:

6.3.2.1- Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh)

6.3.2.2- Provide leadership and guidance to the executive and general members

6.3.2.3- Act on all matters of general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of TMA upon the approval of the council.

6.3.2.4- Be a member of all standing committees.

6.3.2.5- Serve as a voting official representative of the students on all occasions.

6.3.2.6- Enforce and maintain the constitution and by-laws of TMA.

6.3.2.7- Chair each executive and general meeting.

6.3.2.8- Serve as the chief advisor to the executive council when required.

6.3.2.9- Be a co-signing authority to the Treasurer.

6.3.3- The Vice-President Internal shall:

6.3.3.1- Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh)

6.3.3.2- Assist the President with all of his/her duties as stated in 6.3.2.

6.3.3.3- Take charge of the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence.

6.3.3.4- Oversee the planning of the Annual Ashura Awareness campaign.

6.3.3.5- Manage the organization's logistical needs.

6.3.4- The Treasurer shall:

6.3.4.1- Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh)

6.3.4.2- Act with the approval of the TMA executive council on all matters concerning finance.

6.3.4.3- Keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of TMA.

6.3.4.4- Present the budget, financial status and/or history of transactions to the executive council as deemed necessary by the council.



6.3.4.5- Work in association with all executive members and present all matters involving financial transactions to the executive members for approval.

6.3.4.6- Be the official financial signing authority.

6.3.5- The Event Coordinators shall:

6.3.5.1- Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh)

6.3.5.2- Conduct at least two events (preferably one in each semester) during the year.

6.3.5.3- Be immediately responsible for policies and events of a social/service nature established by the council.

6.3.5.4- Act with the approval of the council on all matters concerning social activities.

6.3.6- The Communication director shall:

6.3.6.1- Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh)

6.3.6.2- Manage and update the association's facebook page and email list.

6.3.6.3- Assist in the production of all multimedia endeavours such as audio/visual productions.

6.3.6.4- Advertise and promote TMA events to the campus community, with the approval of the council.

6.3.7- The Vice-President External shall:

6.3.7.1- Adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh)

6.3.7.2- Liaise with other groups or organizations.

6.3.7.3- To explore collaborations with other University of Toronto groups.

6.3.7.4- To Be the main point of contact to community groups outside University Of Toronto.

6.4- Each of the executive members will have a term of office equivalent to one year.

6.5- Any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest, may be given notice of removal. The member up for removal shall the right to defend his or her actions. A vote will be held at an executive meeting, and a two-thirds majority vote of the current executives present in favour of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter.

7- *Election Procedure*

7.1- Eligibility:



7.1.1- All members of TMA, provided they are willing to abide by the constitution and fulfill the duties established by section 6.3, are eligible to run for one of the nine executive positions

7.2- Elections will be held in May, with the exact date to be set forth by the executive council

7.3- The executive council must appoint an individual to serve as an Elections Officer

7.4-In order to become an Elections Officer, one must:

7.4.1-Be unbiased towards all candidates

7.4.2-Be selected from either the general membership or the executive council

7.4.3- Not be an individual currently running for the upcoming election

7.5-Responsibilities of the Elections Officer:

7.5.1-To ensure a smooth and problem-free transition from the current executive council to the new, incoming executive council

7.5.2-To appoint, with the approval of the executive, other members of the general membership to assist in his/her affairs with regards to running the election

7.5.3- The Elections Officer shall accept the nominations only from group members that are also registered U of T members (staff, faculty, students, and alumni) for candidacy of executive positions from the general membership before the beginning of May. Candidates have to be members in good standing and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period

7.6- Voting Procedure:

7.6.1- All registered members are allowed to cast one vote for each running position by electronic ballot in person

7.6.2- In preparation for a tie, the Elections Officer shall select an executive from among the executive committee, to cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, the Elections Officer shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.

8- *Amendments to the constitution*

8.1- Any amendments to the constitution must be presented as a formal written proposal to the executive

8.2- Any registered U of T members may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.



- 8.3- Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.
- 8.4- The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices within two weeks of its approval by general members.

9- *Affiliations*

- 9.1- TMA embraces diversity and as such, as an organization as opposed to as individuals, is not affiliated to any individual or institution, be it a mosque, organization, political party, *marja' taqlid* (jurisconsult), scholar, etc.

10- *Financial and Administrative Procedures*

- 10.1- The treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses. They shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meeting.
- 10.2- Expenditures for any events will be purchased directly using the TMA bank card. In the case that an approved personal purchase is made, all accompanying receipts must be submitted to the treasurer for reimbursement.
- 10.3- It is the responsibility of the treasurer to submit the funding application on time every year with the approval of the other executive members.
- 10.4- The President and Vice-President Internal will be responsible for any communication with UTSU or the University for administrative matters.
- 10.5- An Annual General Meeting will be held once each year in the Winter semester. It is up to the executive committee to decide on a date. Two weeks' notice will be given to all TMA members about the upcoming AGM.
- 10.6- Executive meetings will take place one per week during the academic year, unless the executive members agree that a meeting is unnecessary for a particular week.
- 10.7- The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

