

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst Student Alliance for Israel Charter

Article I. Name

- A. This organization shall be named the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Student Alliance for Israel.
- B. The name of this organization may be abbreviated as UMass Student Alliance for Israel or as SAFI.

Article II. Purpose and Mission

The Student Alliance for Israel exists to give voice to pro-Israel members of the UMass community in an open and non-intimidating environment. Our goal is to educate and encourage political and cultural awareness of Israel, as well as to promote and explore Israel's diverse cultural heritage through cultural, educational, political and social programming.

Article III. Membership and Registration

- A. Any college student, staff or faculty member, alumni or community member may attend SAFI-sponsored events.
- B. SAFI will not deny membership or admittance to a meeting or event on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation. Freedom of speech and expression is granted to all and encouraged by SAFI.
- C. Any University of Massachusetts at Amherst undergraduate student who has attended at least two SAFI-sponsored events during a given academic year (August-June) shall be considered a member of SAFI.
- D. To have voting privileges for SAFI, a person must meet the requirements of membership outlined in Article III, section C, and must have attended at least twenty five percent (25%) of the General Meetings held from the beginning of the present academic year to date.
- E. Should a person who has not met the requirements of Article III, section C and/or D, wish to become a voting member of SAFI, he/she may petition the Executive Board in writing for membership and/or voting privileges. The President of SAFI may either deny or approve said petition.
- F. Disputes shall be dealt with by the President or highest ranking Executive Board Officer.

Article IV. Meetings

- A. The President shall set agenda.
- B. The President schedules and presides at all Executive and General meetings.
- C. In order for a motion to be passed, a simply majority must be received by the members present at the meeting.

Article V. Executive Office

Section 1. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of voting members of SAFI. The Executive Officers must be undergraduate students at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The Executive Board shall meet weekly during the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's fall and spring semesters at a time and place determined by the President. The Executive Board may meet more frequently and at other time of the year as necessary. The President shall preside over the meetings. The Executive Board shall set the agenda for the General Meetings, as well as oversee all aspects of the Student Alliance for Israel. The Executive Board may also set the SAFI policy and allocate funding.

Section 2. Responsibilities of the Executive Officers

- A. President
 - i. Oversees the SAFI Executive Board
 - ii. Schedule and presides at Executive Board and General meetings
 - iii. Meets regularly with on-campus advisors
 - iv. Ensures that SAFI adheres to this Charter
 - v. Completes work not otherwise completed by other Executive Officers with the help of the Vice President of Long Term Affairs
 - vi. Runs elections (unless running for an Executive Board position)
 - vii. Receives a vote
- B. Vice President of Cultural Affairs

- i. Assumes the responsibility of the President in his/her absence
 - ii. Chairs a cultural planning committee
 - iii. Plans at least two (2) cultural SAFI or co-sponsored events a semester
 - iv. Receives a vote
- C. Vice President of Political Affairs
 - i. Plans at least two (2) political SAFI or co-sponsored events a semester
 - ii. Chairs a political planning committee
 - iii. Maintains information for the membership of SAFI
 - iv. Maintains positive relationship with other political groups on campus
 - v. Receives a vote
- D. Vice President of Administrative Affairs
 - i. Maintains all records and archives
 - ii. Takes minutes at all meetings
 - iii. Maintains financial records
 - iv. Holds signature responsibility
 - v. Receives a vote
- E. Vice President of Communications
 - i. Maintains contact with SAFI members via e-mail, telephone or delivered mail
 - ii. Designs and copies flyers and posters
 - iii. In charge of all publicity
 - iv. Maintains website
 - v. Receives a vote
- F. Vice President of Public Relations
 - i. Oversees membership and recruitment
 - ii. Coordinates at least two (2) outreach programs a semester
 - iii. Maintains contact with media and larger community beyond campus
 - iv. Coordinates the SAFI table in the Campus Center concourse on a regular basis
 - v. Receives a vote
- G. Vice President of Long Term Affairs
 - i. Plans one (1) large scale event per semester
 - ii. Completes work not otherwise completed by other Executive Officers with the help of the President
 - iii. Chairs a planning committee for large scale events
 - iv. Maintains relationships and communication when SAFI is a co-sponsor of an event
 - v. Holds signature responsibility
 - vi. Receives a vote

Section 3. Term of Office

- A. The term of office shall commence one immediately following the election and conclude at the end of the last week of the following Spring Semester
- B. The newly elected Executive Board shall operate concurrently with the outgoing Executive Board through the end of the Spring Semester
- C. The outgoing Executive Officers will chair their respective committees, and the outgoing President shall preside at all meetings until the end of their respective terms.

Section 4. Impeachment of Executive Officers

An Executive Officer may be impeached if four (4) out of five (5) Executive Officers vote for impeachment. To be removed from office, two thirds (2/3) of voting members at the next General Meeting must vote to remove the impeached officer from office.

Article VI. Elections

Section 1. Elections Chair

The President of SAFI shall be the chairperson and preside at the election of Executive Officers. If the President is running for an Executive Office, the Executive Board shall appoint an acting chairperson to preside over the election for that particular office.

Section 2. Nomination Procedures

- A. Nominations for Executive Officers will be held one (1) week beginning in the first week following the UMass spring break.
- B. Any voting member of SAFI may submit his/her name to the President for placement on the ballot during the nominations period only. Any non-voting member who is nominated may submit a petition for voting rights as outlined in Article 3, section E.
- C. Elections will be held approximately two (2) week after the beginning of the nomination period.

- D. No less than two (2) weeks prior to the election, the Executive Board shall announce the speech time allotted for each office.
- E. All candidates who followed the nomination procedure as outlined in Article VI, section 2, part B, shall be considered *Declared Candidates*.
- F. The order of the election of Executive Officers shall be: President, Vice President of Cultural Affairs, Vice President of Political Affairs, Vice President of Administrative Affairs, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Public Relations and Vice President of Long Term Affairs.

Section 3. Election Procedure

A. Recognizing the Candidates

- 1. The Elections Chair shall ask for all declared candidates for the particular office to rise.
- 2. Declared candidates shall be recognized in alphabetical order and shall sit in a designated area.
- 3. The Elections Chair will ask for final nominations from the floor. Any voting members may nominate a candidate, except for one who is already declared.
- 4. Candidates who lost a previous race during the same elections and wish to run for a subsequent office may also be nominated from the floor.
- 5. All nominations from the floor must be seconded by another voting member.
- 6. The Elections Chair shall ask all nominees if they accept the nomination. If they accept, then they shall join the declared candidates in the designated area.

B. Speeches

- 1. Each candidate shall receive time in which they may address the General Membership on the day of the election.
- 2. Candidates nominated from the floor shall speak first. Then declared candidates shall speak in order of recognition.

C. Voting Procedure

- 1. The voting for Executive Officers shall be by secret ballot, with ballots distributed by the President, acting chairperson, or his/her designee.
- 2. A candidate must receive a simple majority, one half (1/2) plus one (1) of the votes to be elected.
- 3. The Elections Chair and one advisor shall count the ballots. The Elections Chair shall destroy all ballots immediately after the election.
- 4. If there is no simple majority, a new vote shall be taken. During this ballot, only the two candidates with the highest number of votes may appear on the ballot.

D. Unfilled Positions at Election Time

In the event that an executive office remains unfilled at the end of elections, the outgoing President and the highest-ranking member of the incoming Executive Board shall appoint a voting member to fill any vacant positions. These appointments shall be ratified at the first General Meeting of the following semester.

Section 5. Replacement of Officers

- A. Should an Executive Officer be unable to remain in office for the remainder of his/her term, the President (or Acting President) shall appoint a voting member of the JSU to replace that officer.
- B. If the appointed member for the vacant Executive Board position is a current board member the appointment shall be final and require no ratification. In this case, a voting member will be appointed to replace whichever office remains open.
- C. In cases of Emergency, an Executive Officer may hold two (2) Executive Offices within SAFI for a period no longer than three (3) weeks.
- D. If the appointed officer is not a current board member, the appointment shall be ratified or overturned by a simple majority of voting members present at the next General Meeting.

Article VII. Co-Sponsored Event

For all events where SAFI is the primary sponsor, all so-sponsoring parties shall have decision-making authority and weight congruent to the amount of capital they contribute to the event.

Article VIII. Official Documents

All official document generated by SAFI shall be on stationary identifying SAFI and its Executive Officers.

Article IX. Charter/By-Laws Review

- A. To ratify the Charter, it shall be voted on upon the majority of the voting membership of this organization, approved the Secretary of the Registry of the Student Government Association and a copy will be made available to all members.
- B. In order to comply with the University of Massachusetts Student Activities Center procedure, a committee shall be formed bi-annually to review and amend this charter.

Article X. Amendments

A voting member may propose amendment to this Charter at any time. Amendments must be proposed in writing to the Executive Board no less than one (1) week prior to a General Meeting. Amendments must receive a two thirds ($2/3$) majority of ballots cast from the voting membership to be added to this Charter.