

University of Southern California Nikkei Association

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the University of Southern California Nikkei Association, in order to provide for the promotion, maintenance, and regulation of such matters as are so delegated, do ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the University of Southern California Nikkei Association (USC Nikkei).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1. The Purpose of USC Nikkei is to bring together a community of students enthusiastic about exploring the rich Japanese-American heritage that began to flourish during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Though USC Nikkei consists primarily of students of Japanese descent, we encourage people of all backgrounds to join us in our exploration of Japanese-American Culture.

Section 2. The USC Nikkei shall:

- Explore and promote cultural awareness and a sense of identity in the Japanese American population of the University of Southern California
- Promote cultural sharing and to educate people not of Japanese American descent in the Japanese American culture.
- Participate in community service in the surrounding areas of the university while accomplishing the other purposes of the organization.
- Promote social interaction internally amongst Nikkei members and externally amongst other collegiate Nikkei organizations.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership is open to all USC students, graduates, staff and faculty.

Section 2. There will be no discrimination to any of the afore-mentioned persons due to age, race, religion, creed, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

Section 3. All members are required to pay a membership fee for each year the amount of which will be decided upon by the current officers of the organization.

Section 4. Membership may be denied or revoked from anyone at anytime if the person in question is found (by members of the association through majority vote in which there is a quorum of at least two-thirds of the voting population of the association present) to practice behavior not according with the good intention of the association.

ARTICLE IV: VOTING PROCEDURES

Section 1. Constitutional amendments and the revocation or denial of membership to anyone must be decided upon by majority vote in which there is a quorum of at least two-thirds of the voting population of the association present.

Section 2. In the case of opposition to any activity of the association, all decisions regarding the activity in question must be decided upon by majority vote in which there is a quorum of 50% plus one member of the voting population of the association present.

Section 3. The voting population of the association consists of all members of the association.

Section 4. Elections of new officers will be held during the last month of the school year or following the impeachment of an elected officer.

Section 5. Impeachment of an officer must be decided upon by a two-thirds majority vote in which there is a quorum of at least two-thirds of the voting population of the association are present.

ARTICLE V: THE CABINET

Section 1. The Cabinet shall consist of the President, Vice-President External, Vice-President Internal, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian/Webmaster, Publicity Chair, Day of Remembrance Chair, Culture Night Chair, and USC Kazan Taiko Representative.

Section 2. Powers – The Cabinet shall assume all executive functions of the association.

1) President

- a. Has the power to rule over all transactions/negotiations of the association not being voted upon.
- b. Chairs all meetings and activities of the association and meetings of the current officers of the association.

2) Vice-President External

- a. Oversees all activities and events.
- b. Plans and promotes social, cultural, recreational and service activities and events.
- c. Attends and records all Intercollegiate Nikkei Council meetings.

3) Vice-President Internal

- a. Assumes the duties of the President in the event that the President is absent.
- b. Chairs all committees of the association in charge of special activities of the

- association.
- c. Attends and records all Asian Pacific American Student Assembly meetings.
- 4) Secretary
 - a. Takes, records, and files minutes of the association, meetings of the current officers of the association, and meetings of all committees.
 - b. Produces all official correspondence for the association.
 - 5) Treasurer
 - a. Handles all financial negotiations/transactions of the association.
 - b. Maintains records and reports on the financial negotiations/transactions of the association.
 - 6) Historian/Webmaster
 - a. Is responsible for taking pictures at the association's activities and events.
 - b. Maintains the association's website.
 - 7) Publicity Chair
 - a. Is in charge of generating all forms of association publications, including flyers, postcards, advertisements, and pamphlets.
 - b. Is in charge of coordinating and executing the distribution of all advertisements and publications.
 - 8) Day of Remembrance Chair
 - a. Plans and organizes all events associated with Day of Remembrance.
 - b. Assists the Culture Night Chair in his/her duties.
 - 9) Culture Night Chair
 - a. Plans and organizes the association's Culture Night.
 - 10) USC Kazan Taiko Representative
 - a. Acts as liaison between the association and the USC Kazan Taiko Team.

ARTICLE VI: REQUIREMENTS FOR CABINET

Section 1. All officers and candidates for office must be current members of the association.

ARTICLE VII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations for all offices will be taken in two rounds during the last month of the spring semester each year.

Section 2. Any member may nominate any other member, including himself/herself.

Section 3. During the first nomination meeting, members shall nominate their fellow members for next year's cabinet positions; no declines will be accepted at this time.

Section 4. At the second nomination meeting, additional nominations may be made. Members who wish to decline a nomination will do so at this time.

Section 5. Nominations may also be made during the election meeting itself, prior to closing of nominations and taking the vote.

Section 6. Nominated members will present short speeches explaining why they would be good choices for the position for which they are running.

Section 7. A member may run for any number of offices, but if he/she cannot be elected to more than one office.

Section 8. An election chair will be appointed for every election prior to nominations. The election chair will run the election meeting.

Section 9. A majority vote of the quorum present at the election meeting will be sufficient to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates for any one officer and two or more candidates share the majority vote in a tie, then there will be a run-off between the top vote recipients in the general voting.

Section 10. If all candidates for an office share the majority vote in a tie, the current election chair will be the tiebreaker.

ARTICLE VII: AFFILIATIONS

Section 1. This organization recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization, and the University is not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities expressly benefit and further the goals of the University, and have received prior review, approval and consent of the Offices of Student Activities, Risk Management and/or General Counsel.

Section 2. This organization is a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, but is not part of the University itself.

Section 3. In all correspondence and business transactions, it may refer to itself as an organization at USC, but not as part of USC itself.

Section 4. This organization accepts full financial and production responsibility for all activities it sponsors.

Section 5. This organization agrees to abide by all pertinent USC policies and regulations. Where USC policies and regulations and those of USC Nikkei differ, the policies and regulations of USC will take precedence.