

University of Southern California

# **Buddhist Association Constitution**

**We the members of the USC Buddhist Association** are dedicated to explore, understand, and practice the multi-disciplinary philosophies of Buddhism and its context. We include in our exploration the three major branches of Buddhism such as: Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.

## **To Welcome**

USC Buddhist Association accepts anyone into membership indiscriminately upon one's religion or beliefs. Anyone is welcome to explore the philosophy without the obligation of becoming a member. This statement is based on Buddha's words explaining that Buddhism is not for everyone, meaning that it may not appeal to everyone, and it is acceptable. However, everyone is welcome to taste it. Anyone is welcome to leave anytime if the group causes any dissatisfaction, however the person must state the reason for the purpose to better our group.

## **To Spread Compassion**

The knowing and feeling other's suffering or the ability to emulate other's feelings will mean to develop action towards reducing or ending suffering. UBA group members should be sensitive to other's suffering therefore refrain from actions that will hurt others. As a manifestation of compassion, UBA members must commit to serve the community and surroundings to all living things from suffering.

## **To Promote Sharing of knowledge and understanding about Buddhism and historical context (*Encouragements of reflection and debates while avoiding extreme beliefs*)**

The UBA group must avoid fundamentalism however respect those who have such beliefs. The group be open to new concepts, and question them in intellectual debates. The interest of this group can be propagandized, however the group must refrain from the use of force against one's will, or such as death treats, insults to spread the word.

## **To Encourage mutuality with other groups on campus**

In the past Buddhism had existed peacefully in parallel with other religions. UBA can also achieve a mutuality relationship with other groups on campus. UBA be encouraged to work together with other groups to better the lives of the community, may this be to relieve suffering.

Andrew Zaw,  
President, Spring 2002  
USC Buddhist Association