

A Constitution and By-Laws (April, 1986)

Article One: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society.

Article Two: Purpose

The Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society (hereafter referred to as TCS) shall be dedicated to the following goals:

1. To advance the understanding of and interest in Taiwanese culture and related issues in the general Harvard community
2. To cultivate friendship among students and scholars from Taiwan, or of Taiwanese background
3. To promote contact with alumni around the world

Article Three: Criteria for Membership

1. Membership in this organization shall be open to all students in good standing currently enrolled in Harvard College, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical disability.
2. Membership shall also be open to all Harvard affiliates interested in the advancement of this organization's goals as specified in Article Two.
3. Membership dues shall be paid annually, the sum and methods of payment to be determined by the Executive Board.

Article Four: General Meetings

1. All TCS members in good standing shall convene in General Meetings to be held at least twice a year at the beginning of each semester, the Introductory Meeting and the General Elections Meeting for the fall and spring semesters, respectively, and at any other time as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. The Introductory Meeting shall be used to formally welcome new and old members to the Society and to disseminate information about the year's planned events. The General Elections Meeting shall be used to elect a new Executive Board under the terms and procedures delineated in Article Six of this Constitution. Under formal petition by one-fourth of the Society, the Executive Board shall also be required at any time to convene a provisional General Meeting.
2. The General Meetings shall be presided over by the Co-Presidents of TCS.
3. The powers of the TCS members attending General Meetings shall be as follows:
 - a. To elect officers
 - b. To recall officers
 - c. To review the activities of the Society
 - d. To raise concerns or suggestions as to the Society's future direction

4. All members become full members upon payment of the annual dues.

Article Five: The Executive Board

1. Officers in the Executive Board shall all be registered undergraduates in Harvard College.

2. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the execution of the decisions made at General Meetings, and shall have open meetings regularly. The Co-Presidents of the Society shall preside over these meetings. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board members.

3. The Executive Board shall be composed of no more than fifteen full members who shall all be elected as prescribed by Article Six of this Constitution, each holding a title of one or more of the following:

- a. Co-President (2)
- b. Treasurer
- c. Secretary
- d. Education-Cultural Co-Chair (2)
- e. Publicity Co-Chair (2)
- f. Social Chair
- g. Interethnic/Intercollegiate Representative
- h. Webmaster

4. In addition to these positions, the Executive Board shall also include two officers, elected to office under the terms specified in Article Six of this constitution, one to represent the Society in affairs involving the Minority Student Alliance and the other to represent the Society in affairs involving the Harvard Foundation for Race and Interethnic Relations as well as the Student Advisory Council of the Undergraduate Council.

5. At the beginning of each school year in September, the Executive Board shall also solicit applications for and appoint two first-year representatives. These first-year representatives shall serve terms beginning at the time of their appointment and ending with the completion of the school year in May, except in the case that a first-year representative runs for and is elected to office under the terms specified in Article Six of this Constitution. In this case, the first-year representative ends his/her term as representative upon being elected to the other office.

6. Current officers on the Executive Board may propose additional positions to be added to the Board at any time, subject to the approval of the current Board as defined by a simple majority vote. Members of the general membership of TCS may also propose additional positions by seeking out an officer of the Executive Board to act as an advocate for the proposal of the new position(s). As with officer-proposed positions, member-proposed positions will be approved or denied according to a simple majority vote of the current Board. Any position formed in this way will be filled at the time of its creation by appointment by the Co-Presidents. Beginning with the next election and continuing thereafter, the position will be filled by standard election procedures as prescribed by Article Six of this Constitution.

7. All Executive Board members shall be elected to office from among the full membership of TCS by members attending the General Elections Meeting as specified in Article Four and shall serve for a term of one year.

8. The Co-Presidents of TCS shall be responsible for the handling of the affairs of TCS and shall serve as representatives for TCS and its interests in outside functions. Co-Presidents shall be limited to two full terms in this office.
9. The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting dues, managing properties, and keeping financial records, all of which are subject to review at any time by the Executive Board and TCS's general membership.
10. The Secretary shall be responsible for organizing official files, maintaining the minutes, and assisting in the undertaking of academic activities.
11. The Educational-Cultural Chair shall be responsible for advancing the educational and cultural awareness goals of the Society in a manner as determined by the Executive Board.
12. The Publicity Co-Chairs shall be responsible for coordinating and implementing publicity campaigns to advertise TCS events and producing the TCS newsletter.
13. The Public Relations Chair shall be responsible for conducting all correspondence with outside organizations, Taiwanese or otherwise, on-campus or off-campus, student or otherwise, on behalf of the Society.
14. The minutes of an Executive Board meeting shall be issued within one week after its adjournment.
15. In case of Presidential vacancy, the remaining Co-President shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the office of the President, and shall convene a provisional General Assembly to elect a new Co-President within two months. In case of a vacancy in the Executive Board, the President shall appoint a replacement from among the general membership. The Publicity Co-Chairs shall be responsible for informing the general membership of all decisions covered by this Article.

Article Six: The Election of the Executive Board

1. Election of officers to the Executive Board shall take place annually at the beginning of the spring semester at the General Elections Meeting.
2. Any currently enrolled Harvard undergraduate who has attended at least one TCS function in the current year prior to the General Elections Meeting shall be eligible to run for any office.
3. Any Harvard affiliate who has attended at least one TCS function in the current year prior to the General Elections Meeting shall be eligible to vote in the general elections.
4. The Executive Board shall also act as the Voting Committee which determines the methods of voting and nominating, all of which must be announced ten days before the election.

Article Seven: Amendments

1. Under joint petition of one-fourth of the members, communicated to the Secretary, a motion to amend the constitution must be placed on the agenda of an Executive Board meeting within one month.

2. The Board shall be required to vote twice on amendments made to the constitution. The first time shall be when the motion to amend the constitution first appears on the agenda. After the Board has ratified this preliminary amended version by a simple majority, the constitution must be made available for inspection by all the members of the Society for the duration of one week. During this time, any TCS member may voice concerns about any part of the constitution to the officer(s) of his or her choice. At the Board meeting following this one week evaluation period, the Board will vote once again, bearing in mind any concerns raised by Society members in the past week. A 2/3 majority approval is required at this second meeting in order to pass the amended constitution.