

# **Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association**

## Preamble and Mission Statement

We are members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community who have become renowned for their commitment to peace, their law-abiding nature and determination to create a harmonious society for all people, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity or faith. The objective of our students association is to provide a forum for an open dialogue among students of various religions and beliefs to encourage harmony, tolerance and understanding among all individuals on campus. AMWSA (Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association) will also provide its members with religious knowledge in regards to practicing the true and peaceful teachings of Islam. AMWSA will also organize events and booths for inter-faith dialogue periodically on campus.

## ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

### I.I Name

The name of the student group shall be Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association, it may also be referred to as AMWSA.

### I.II Compliance

The student group operates at the University of Manitoba, subject to University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) policies and procedures. This group will also comply with all local, provincial, and federal laws and procedures. AMWSA will follow all bylaws, policies, and procedures of the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) especially those found in the UMSU Student Clubs Policies and Procedures document.

### I.III Objectives and Goals

The group shall operate for the purpose of:

- Educating members and reinforce the necessity of living their lives according to Islamic teachings (for the members of the group)
- To prepare members to serve their fellow beings lovingly and to preach Islam in the best manner possible
- To encourage members to instruct, guide and train their children in the precept and practices of Islam
- Provide guidance and/or counseling for its members in matters of academic, social and spiritual importance, and promote interfaith dialogue and co-operation in order to promote peace and harmony on campus.

## ARTICLE II: Membership and Eligibility

### II.I Membership

- A. Membership in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association is open to students, faculty, and staff at the University of Manitoba who are also part of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim Association Canada so long as no less than two-thirds of the club is undergraduate students. Eligible individuals who wish to become part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association, must indicate this by contacting the president of AMWSA, Minaam Mahmood, at [amsawinnipeg@gmail.com](mailto:amsawinnipeg@gmail.com)

- Members are admitted by being part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada (our external affiliation). There is no deadline for membership sign-up.
- B. The classes of membership that exist in Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association are as follows.
- a. General Members: A General Member is defined as any current University of Manitoba student who has fulfilled membership recognition requirements as specified as II.I.A. General Members are able to vote in all group matters.
  - b. Executive Members: An Executive Members is a General Member who is elected to an executive position or appointed duties by the president. Executive Members are able to vote in all group matters.
- C. The conditions of membership in Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association are as follows.
- To be in good standing with the club: attendance at meetings, eagerness to participate in group events, response to texts/emails.
  - Potential causes of bad standing; nonattendance to group meetings, unwillingness to help in group events, lack of participation in discussions over emails/texts.

## II.II Membership Dues

Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Student Association will charge \$0 for membership status.

## Article III: Elections

### III.I Eligibility

- a. In order to be eligible to run and hold office, a member must meet the following requirements:
  - Be a University of Manitoba Student in their second year of Undergraduate Studies or above.
  - Be in good standing with the former/current Executive Members
  - Be part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada
- b. In order to be eligible to vote in an election, a member must be a General or Executive Member in good standing.

### III.I Election Supervision

Elections will be monitored by the former president & vice president, as well as executive members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada (external affiliation). Votes will be counted by a non-member of AMWSA, with a total of three recounts. The Elections Supervisor(s) will provide candidates and voting members with information on election and all associated procedures a few months (2-4) prior to voting.

### III.II Election Procedures

- a. Elections will be held biennially in August
  - Presidential terms last two years, hence, the elections will take place every two years in the August prior to the start of the semester.
  - The election is held as a separate meeting.
- b. Members will declare their candidacy by receiving two nominations on the elections day. There is no campaigning involved.
  - The only elected position is President, who, after being elected, appoints a Vice President.
  - Every member who is in their second year or above is eligible to be nominated for the position, granted that they receive two nominations. At least three names need to be proposed in order for the election to proceed, as well as 50% attendance needs to be reached.
  - The name of person who receives the highest amounts of votes is sent onto the head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada for approval. Once approval is achieved, they begin to serve as President.
- c. All eligible members will be given the opportunity to nominate a person and then vote by raising their hands (one vote per person). If a member nominates a person, their vote must go to that person. The voting logistics will be determined by the Elections Supervisor(s) and will be communicated to all members immediately following the elections.
- d. A candidate must receive the highest amount of votes with 50% attendance to be elected.
  - A candidate is not able to run unopposed, as we need a total of three names nominated in order for the election to take place.

### III.IV Appeals and By-Elections

- a. A candidate or General Member may appeal election results within one week of the announcement by the Election Supervisor(s)
  - The Election Supervisor(s) or the head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada decides whether the appeal is valid or what should be done in the case of an appeal.
  - Three recounts are done during the election to ensure accurate numbers
- b. Should an executive position not be filled by a general election or become vacant partway through the year, the Vice President steps into the role of the President.

## ARTICLE IV: Executive Committee

### IV.I Executive Committee Members

The composition of the Executive Committee will be 100% U of M students

The Executive Committee will be composed of:

- President; planning of meetings and other events, attendance at all meetings.
- Vice President/Treasurer; step-up to position of President when he/she is not available, attendance at all meetings

### IV.II Duties of Executive Committee Members

- President and Treasurer (or equivalents) will be responsible for completing annual training.
  - If the president is ever not available or unable to fulfill duties, the vice president/treasurer is expected to step up to their duties until their position can be restored.
  - Both the President and Treasurer is a signing authority for UMSU.
  - The president is required to plan all of the meetings and events, record agendas of meetings as well as attendance rates. Both the president and vice president are required to attend all meetings.
  - The president and treasurer will both possess signing authority on the group bank account (if one is created). Both will be able to approve expenses, handle funds, and make deposits.
  - The main contact person for UMSU is the President, Minaam Mahmood.

#### IV.III Impeachment/Removal and Replacement of Officers and Members

- a. Members in bad standing will be removed in compliance with II.I.A.
- b. If an Executive Member fails to fulfill the duties of their position, the head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada will act accordingly to their removal from this positions.
  - For further information refer to III.IV.

#### IV.IV Other Executive Members

Since AMWSA is part of a greater external affiliation there are members who are not students or faculty of the University of Manitoba. These are non-voting members who will conduct elections, approve names of president, and provide guidelines on what is taught and talked about in meetings. They will also provide tasks and events that need to be completed by the President within the school year.

### ARTICLE VI: Meetings

#### VI.I Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in August of every year. All members will be notified in writing 2-4 months prior, and reminded two weeks prior to event.

#### VI.II Meetings

Monthly meetings will follow a very casual style. We will start off with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an (Muslims Holy Book) and then proceed to discuss various topics provided to us by our external affiliation, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada.

- The president of the group will be the one to call the meetings and the date and timings will be voted on by the General Members over email format.
- Meetings will be held at least once every month during the school year (September-April)
- No specific quorum needs to be reached in order for the meeting to take place.

## ARTICLE VII: Amendments to the Constitution

### VII.I Amendments

- Amendments to the constitution can only be made by the General Members after approval from Executive Members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada.
- Any changes (amendments) to this constitution must be approved by a formal vote of the entire student club membership at a publicized meeting of the club.
- The proposed changes must be made available to all members of the club at least two weeks before the meeting, and require the support of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the meeting.
- A copy of the amended constitution must be submitted to UMSU within two weeks of the meeting

## ARTICLE VIII: Dissolution

### VIII.I Dissolution

- The groups dissolution must be approved by the external affiliation, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada, before it is dissolved by the President at the University of Manitoba.
- Any resources associated with the group will be returned to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canada.