

The Constitution of the Mid-Atlantic Union of Vietnamese Student Associations

Article I – Mission

MAUVSA serves the Vietnamese American community, unifies the VSAs of the Mid-Atlantic region, and empowers young Vietnamese Americans by fostering cultural awareness, promoting social justice, and developing leadership.

Article II – Constitution

- A. The constitution of the Mid-Atlantic Union of Vietnamese Student Association will be made accessible to all MAUVSA Executive Board Officers, Representatives of the Council of Regional Representatives (CORR), the member Vietnamese Student Associations of the region, as well as the public.
- B. Amendments to the constitution must be made in accordance with Article IX. [1]
- C. No member shall compromise the integrity, mission, or honor of MAUVSA through their actions, endorsements, or extracurricular activities including but not limited to their social media, personal lives, and career. [22]

Article III - Members

- A. Non-discrimination clause
 1. The organization will not restrict membership and/or activity by reason of age, citizenship, disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam eras.
 2. Notwithstanding these requirements, the organization may restrict membership based on an ability to perform the activities related to the organization's purpose.
- B. Requirements
 1. Participating in the founding of MAUVSA through 2/3 attendance of the founding meetings:
 - a. VSA at George Mason University
 - b. VSA at George Washington University
 - c. VSA at James Madison University
 - d. VSA at University of Maryland College Park
 - e. VSA at University of Virginia
 - f. VSA at Virginia Commonwealth University
 - g. VSA at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University [2]
 2. Inducted into MAUVSA through successful completion of the application process, trial period, and approval vote:
 - a. VSA at Georgetown University [10]
 - b. VSA at University of Maryland Baltimore County [21]
 - c. VSA at North Carolina State University [29]
 - d. VSA at Old Dominion University [33]
 3. VSAs within the Mid-Atlantic region (Delaware, the District of Columbia [3], Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina [30] and West Virginia) requesting admission into MAUVSA must complete an application process as well as trial period.
 - a. The application will include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Founding date
 - ii. List of events
 - iii. List of Executive Board officers since establishment
 - iv. List of members
 - b. The trial period will consist of, but is not limited to:
 - i. Attendance of and participation in 3 CORR meetings without voting rights
 - ii. Attendance of MAUVSA events
 - iii. A semester waiting period
 - c. Admission into MAUVSA will be granted with:
 - i. Voting approval of 2/3 of the required CORR voting quorum

Article IV – Executive Board

A. Definition

1. The executive board will consist of five elected officers, namely: President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. [7]
2. Executive board positions are open to those within the VSA community and no longer limited to only those who have previously held office in their VSA. Candidates for Executive board must belong to a VSA. [20]
3. All executive officers must be at least in their second year of college or a young professional.
4. All executive officers must be based out of the Mid-Atlantic region.
5. Executive officers as a collective group share one vote. [12]

B. Executive Officers

1. President

- a. The president shall oversee all internal and external affairs.
- b. The president shall work with the secretary to create meeting agendas.
- c. The president shall preside over Executive and CORR meetings.
- d. The president shall maintain order and delegate responsibilities.
- e. The president shall ensure the organization operates in conformity with the constitution.
- f. The president shall be expected to attend all MAUVSA events.
- g. The president cannot concurrently be president of any other VSA.

2. Internal Vice President [28]

- a. The internal vice president shall assume presidential responsibilities in the event the president is unable to perform them.
- b. The internal vice president shall manage internal affairs with the executive board.
- c. The internal vice president shall maintain relations among the VSAs within the MAUVSA.
- d. The internal vice president will mediate and resolve conflicts between executive board and CORR members.
- e. The internal vice president shall assist other officers.
- f. The internal vice president shall ensure the organization operates in conformity with the constitution.

3. External Vice President [4]

- a. The external vice president shall assume internal vice president responsibilities in the event that the internal vice president is unable to perform them.
- b. The external vice president shall act as a liaison between UNAVSA and MAUVSA.
- c. The external vice president shall be responsible for publicizing and advertising on behalf of MAUVSA.
- d. The external vice president shall act as a media liaison.
- e. The external vice president shall seek out new resources for MAUVSA.
- f. The external vice president must be able to effectively communicate with the Vietnamese and Vietnamese American community.
- g. The external vice president shall ensure the organization operates in conformity with the constitution. [17]

4. Treasurer

- a. The treasurer shall assume the responsibilities of the external vice president in the event that the external vice president is unable to perform them.
- b. The treasurer shall set and balance the budget to be approved by the President. [26]
- c. The treasurer shall be responsible for reimbursements.
- d. The treasurer shall keep detailed and accurate records of receipts.
- e. The treasurer shall seek out monetary sponsorships.
- f. The treasurer shall be responsible for applying for grants.
- g. The treasurer shall be responsible for the management of MAUVSA bank accounts.
- h. The treasurer shall be responsible for coordinating fundraising events.
- i. The treasurer shall ensure the organization operates in conformity with the constitution. [17]

5. Secretary

- a. The secretary shall assume the responsibilities of the treasurer in the event the treasurer is

- unable to perform them.
- b. The secretary shall take meeting minutes and send them to the executive board and CORR within 48 hours of the meeting.
- c. The secretary shall be responsible for keeping detailed and accurate records of events.
- d. The secretary shall maintain and update contact information.
- e. The secretary shall reserve meeting rooms and other necessary spaces.
- f. The secretary shall work with the president to create meeting agendas.
- g. The secretary shall ensure the organization operates in conformity with the constitution.[17]
- h. The secretary shall create and maintain a master calendar of MAUVSA events. [27]

Article V – Council of Regional Representatives (CORR)

- A. Definition
 - 1. The CORR is the primary voting body of MAUVSA.
 - 2. The CORR will consist of two members selected by individual VSAs to represent the interests of each VSA.
- B. Responsibilities
 - 1. CORR members shall be a liaison between MAUVSA and individual VSAs.
 - 2. CORR members shall attend MAUVSA meetings.
 - 3. CORR members shall be expected to attend the majority of MAUVSA events.

Article VI – Chairpersons [5]

- A. Definition [13]
 - 1. Chairpersons are individuals appointed and/or elected by the executive board to perform specific tasks to aid [8] in the maintenance of MAUVSA.
 - 2. Chairpersons must be at least in their second year of college or a young professional.
 - 3. Chairpersons must be based out of the Mid-Atlantic region.
 - 4. Chairpersons do not have voting rights.
- B. Chair Positions
 - 1. Webmaster
 - a. The webmaster shall be responsible for the creation of the official MAUVSA website.
 - b. The webmaster shall be responsible for the maintenance of the MAUVSA website.
 - c. The webmaster shall periodically attend MAUVSA meetings as determined by the executive board.
 - 2. Historian
 - a. The historian shall maintain records for member VSAs.
 - b. The historian shall keep, organize, and maintain photo records for MAUVSA as well as member VSAs.
 - c. The historian shall make sensitive records belonging to a particular VSA only available to its current executive board members.
 - d. The historian shall periodically attend MAUVSA meetings as determined by the executive board.
 - 3. Alumni Association Chair
 - a. The alumni association chair shall keep records of contact information of member-VSA alumni.
 - b. The alumni association chair shall act as a liaison between member-VSAs, MAUVSA, and alumni.
 - c. The alumni association chair shall create events for the purpose of networking among alumni and students.
 - d. The alumni association chair shall periodically attend MAUVSA meetings as determined by the executive board.

Article VII – General Voting Practices

- A. A quorum of at least 66% of the CORR is required to vote. [14][25]
- B. A majority consists of 2/3 of CORR member schools present to vote.
- C. Each VSA will be permitted 1 vote.
- D. VSAs with no CORR members present at a meeting are not permitted to vote.

Article VIII – Elections

A. CORR

1. CORR members are elected by their individual VSAs according to the election process set out by their VSA.

B. Executive Board

1. The executive board will be elected by the CORR serving the previous school year, with one vote per VSA.
2. Absentee voting
 - a. Schools that cannot provide representation at the election may apply for absentee votes.
 - b. Applications showing need for absentee voting must be turned into the executive board one month prior to the election.
 - c. Those permitted absentee voting must vote concurrently with the actual election.
 - d. Votes not cast concurrently with other schools will not be counted.
3. Election of a new executive board must occur before June of each year, with June being the official inauguration of each new executive board. [9][23]

C. Executive Board Elections

1. All executive board elections will be open to the public.
2. The CORR will elect an individual not running for an executive board position to preside over the elections.
3. The order of elections will follow the order of officers presented in Article IV.
4. For each office, the order of speeches will be randomized.
5. Each candidate will have a maximum of three minutes to present a speech during which all other candidates for the same office will not be present.
6. Each candidate will take questions from the audience for a maximum of five minutes during which all other candidates for the same office will not be present. One motion to extend questioning will be allowed, for a maximum of five additional minutes. [15]
7. After all the candidates for a particular office have given a speech and have taken questions, deliberations will be held for a maximum of twenty minutes during which none of the candidates are present. One motion to extend deliberation will be allowed, for a maximum of ten additional minutes. [16] Conversely, motions to end deliberations will also be allowed for CORR vote. [31]
8. Each member school is permitted one vote.
9. Executive board members are elected with 51% of the required CORR voting quorum.
10. Results of elections must be immediately announced.
11. If no single candidate receives 51% of the vote, the number of votes each candidate received can be made public.
12. A deliberation period with a maximum of ten minutes will occur before each re-vote.
13. There will be a maximum of three re-votes. If a candidate cannot be elected with 51% of the required CORR voting quorum, the election will be tabled until the next summit.
14. If a candidate does not win a particular office, he or she is permitted to run for any other subsequent position(s).
15. If elections cannot be completed in a single session, CORR may vote to adjourn, provided that they select another date to continue. [32]

Article IX – Revisions to the Constitution

- A. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be submitted in writing to the executive board.
- B. Proposed amendments must be addressed at the next possible summit unless addressed in an online forum in circumstances of expedition. [24]
- C. Amendments must be approved by 2/3 of the required CORR voting quorum.

Article X – Motion of No-Confidence

- A. A motion of no-confidence may be brought forth upon members of the executive board or the board of advisors. [19]
- B. A motion of no-confidence must be brought forth by members of the executive board, the board of advisors, or the CORR. [19]
- C. A motion of no-confidence may be brought forth as a result of, but not limited to, the following reasons:

1. Lack of attendance
 2. Violating the constitution
 3. Negligence
- D. A motion of no-confidence will keep to the following procedure:
1. All motions of no confidence must be submitted in written form to the President. In the event that the motion is being served upon the president, the motion will be submitted to the internal vice president.
 2. The officer whom the motion is served upon will receive a copy of the written motion at least one week prior to the next summit.
 3. At the next summit, the motioner has a maximum of ten minutes to present his or her case against the motionee.
 4. The motionee will have a maximum of ten minutes to respond.
 5. The CORR will have a maximum ten minute question and answer period for the motionee.
 6. The CORR and remaining executive board members will have a maximum of ten minutes for deliberation which the motioner and motionee will not be present for.
 7. If 2/3 of the required CORR voting quorum approves the motion, the motionee will officially be asked to resign.

Article XI – Non Profit Status [6]

- A. MAUVSA exists for charitable and educational purposes.
- B. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. [11]

Article XII – Advisors [18]

- A. Definition
 1. Advisors are individuals selected to provide guidance and support to the executive board and chairpersons
 2. All advisors must have served as a MAUVSA officer
 3. Advisors must be based out of the Mid-Atlantic region
 4. Advisors do not have voting rights
 5. The number of advisors cannot exceed the number of executive officers and chairs currently serving in office at the time of selection
 6. Advisors will be selected for a one-year term by the Executive Board and approved by the CORR via written application by the first summit of the year
 7. The application will include, but will not be limited to
 - a. Name
 - b. VSA experience
 - c. MAUVSA experience
 - d. Vietnamese American community involvement
 - e. A paragraph explaining why the candidate would like to be an advisor
- B. Duties
 1. Advisors shall provide ongoing support and guidance to the executive board and chairpersons by being available to answer questions and concerns
 2. Advisors shall provide the organization with leads to financial, cultural, educational and community resources
 3. Advisors shall attend a minimum of one summit per semester
 4. Advisors shall have mandatory participation in the planning or execution of at least two major MAUVSA events
 5. Advisors shall ensure the organization operates in conformity with the constitution.

Amendment/Revision History

Organizing document approved, ratified, and adopted by the governing body on July 21, 2007

1. Revised 3-30-08. Article II(A). Original text: "...Article VIII."
2. Revised 3-30-08. Article III(B)(1)(g). Original text: "Virginia Polytechnic University."
3. Revised 3-30-08. Article III(B)(3). Original text: "District of Columbia..."
4. Revised 3-30-08. Article IV(B)(3). Removed original text: "f. The external vice president shall be responsible for maintaining the MAUVSA website." Subsequent clauses renumbered.
5. Amended 3-30-08. Article VI. Subsequent articles renumbered 3-30-08.
6. Amended 3-30-08. Article XI.
7. Revised 6-14-08. Article IV(A)(1). Original text: "...Secretary, and Treasurer."
8. Revised 6-14-08. Article VI(A)(1). Original text: "aide"
9. Revised 7-20-08. Article VIII(B)(3). Original text: "...before July 31st of each year, with August 1st being the official inauguration of each new executive board."
10. Amended 2-28-09. Article III(B)(2)(a).
11. Revised 6-13-09. Article XI(B). Original text: "Upon dissolution of the organization, the remaining assets must be used exclusively for the purposes listed above and in the mission statement."
12. Revised 4-18-10. Article IV(A)(5). Original text: "Executive officers do not have voting rights."
13. Revised 4-18-10. Article VI(A). Removed original text: "2. Chairpersons must have served as a VSA officer at his or her respective school." Subsequent clauses renumbered.
14. Revised 4-18-10. Article VII(A). Original text: "A quorum of 3/4 of the CORR is required to vote."
15. Amended 9-11-10. Article VIII(C)(6).
16. Amended 9-11-10. Article VIII(C)(7).
17. Amended 9-10-11. Article IV(B)(3)(g), Article IV(B)(4)(i), Article IV(B)(5)(g).
18. Amended 9-10-11. Article XII.
19. Revised 9-10-11. Article X(A), Article X(B). Original text: "A. A motion of no-confidence may be brought forth upon members of the executive board by CORR member(s) or other executive board members." Subsequent clauses renumbered.
20. Revised 12-22-12. Article IV(A)(2). Original text: "2. All executive board officers must have served as a VSA officer at his or her respective school."
21. Amended 1-26-13. Article III(B)(2)(b).
22. Amended 2-9-14. Article II(C).
23. Revised 2-9-14. Article VIII(B)(3). Original text: "August 14th" and "August 15th"
24. Revised 2-9-14. Article IX(B). Original text: "Proposed amendments must be addressed at the next possible summit"
25. Revised 2-9-14. Article VII(A). Original text: "A quorum of 5/8 of the CoRR is required to vote".
26. Revised 2-9-14. Article IV(B)(4)(b). Added text: "...to be approved by the President."
27. Revised 2-9-14. Article IV(B)(2). Removed original text: "g. The internal vice president shall compile a master calendar of VSA events throughout the region."
28. Amended 2-9-14. Article IV(B)(5)(h).
29. Amended 3-22-15. Article III(B)(2)(c).
30. Amended 3-22-15. Article III(B)(3).
31. Amended 3-22-15. Article VIII(C)(7).
32. Amended 3-22-15. Article VIII(C)(15).
33. Amended 2-24-16. Article III(B)(2)(d).
34. Revised 2-24-16. Article VI(A)(1). Added text: "...appointed and/or elected by the executive board..."
35. Revised 2-24-16. Article VII(A). Revised text: "...A quorum of 6/9 (66%) of the CoRR is required to vote..."
36. Revised 2-24-16. Article I. Original text: "To serve, empower, and unify the Vietnamese American community, the VSAs of the Mid-Atlantic region, and the wider Mid-Atlantic region, through inspiring young Vietnamese Americans, fostering cultural awareness, promoting social justice and leadership, and being the voice of our members."