

SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace Constitution

Article 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” at Iowa State University.

Article 2 – Purpose

The fundamental purpose of “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” is to help students unlock their hidden potential and achieve creative harmony with their environment through the philosophy and practice of Nichiren Buddhism in the Soka Gakkai International–USA (SGI-USA). This is the ultimate expression of individual empowerment—that each student can transform the inevitable challenges of daily life into sources of growth and fulfillment and become a positive influence in their school, workplace, family, and community. By promoting an understanding of how Nichiren Buddhism can be applied to the challenges of modern living, our activities contribute to the development of peace, culture, and education within society, inspire respect for cultural diversity and human rights, and encourage the protection of nature and the environment.

Article 3 – Statement of Compliance

Section 1: “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” abides by and supports established Iowa State University policies, State and Federal Laws and follows local ordinances and regulations.

Section 2: “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” agrees to annually complete President’s Training and Treasurer’s Training.

Section 3: “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” abides by and supports the guidelines established by the SGI-USA organization, which shall not infringe on Iowa State University policies or local, state, and federal laws and regulations. In cases in which conflicts are found between university policies and SGI-USA guidelines, “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” shall strictly abide by the university policies.

Article 4 – Non-Discrimination Statement

Iowa State University and “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” do not discriminate on the basis of genetic information, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, race, ethnicity, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a US Veteran.

Article 5 – Membership

Section 1: Membership is open to students (including graduate and undergraduate), faculty, and staff at Iowa State University. Any eligible person who voluntarily completes and signs a club membership application shall be deemed a member.

Section 2: Club members may voluntarily withdraw membership from the “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace.”

Section 3: “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” invites participation from all members of the Iowa State University community, regardless of genetic information, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, race, ethnicity, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a US Veteran.

Section 4: Membership removal reasons include, but are not limited to, use of derogatory language, bullying, harassment, theft, repeated disruptions during meetings, or any other action deemed unacceptable by the current Student Disciplinary Regulations (Code of Conduct).

The removal process may be initiated by any member of the organization.

- A formal call for removal must first be brought to the officers of the organization. A member may call for removal of another member by emailing the President of the organization and requesting to discuss their concerns at the nearest officer meeting.
- Officers must have a majority vote of approval to move the removal process to a general membership vote. Officers will vote by show of hands.

Membership may be revoked by a majority vote of club membership present at the voting meeting.

Voting will be conducted by secret ballot at a general meeting.

- The voting method will be an anonymous virtual form or secret paper ballot (method decided by organization officers).

The member in question must be provided a summary of the reasons for removal at least one week in advance of the general membership vote.

The vote will be announced at least one week prior to the meeting with a summary of the reasons for removal.

The member will be allowed to speak to the membership for a maximum of 5 minutes before voting occurs. The member in question will be asked to leave

the meeting while deliberation and voting commences. The member in question will be informed of the results and be allowed access to the ballots if requested.

The member in question may attempt to appeal the results of the vote by contacting the Adviser of the organization and submitting a written statement. The adviser must respond with their decision within 10 days. No secondary appeals will be permitted.

Member in question may request reinstatement 365 days after removal.

- Member must submit a written request for reinstatement to officers.
- Officers must reach a unanimous vote through a show of hands to reinstate member.

Article 6 - Officers

Section 1: The Executive Committee consists of two club members who preside as president and treasurer at organization meetings and who plan events and activities. They share duties in representing the policies, views and opinions of the organization in relation to Iowa State University and the community at large. These officers will accept further responsibilities as required and necessary for the fulfillment of the mission of the organization. Additional officers will be elected to the Executive Committee on an ad hoc basis.

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Be in good standing with the university and enrolled: at least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and at least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.
- (b) Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office. For undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, the minimum GPA is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration.
- (c) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b).

The officers of “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” are as follows:

President

- Facilitate officer meetings and general meetings.
- Oversee the activities of the officers and general membership.
- Maintains record of membership in the student organization database.
- Serve as the Risk Management Officer to (a) help minimize potential risks for club activities, (b) recommend risk management policies or procedures, (c) to submit documentation to ISU’s Risk Management Office and (d) to ensure that proper waivers and background checks are on file with Risk Management for events.
- Maintain contact with the Adviser regarding organization activities and concerns
- Complete all trainings as required by Iowa State University policy.

Treasurer

- Manage the club’s finances.
- Hold the club’s purchasing card (p-card) and assigns additional p-card(s) to other designated club members.
- Maintain the club’s budget and work with officers to determine spending allowances.
- Work with Adviser to approve each expenditure before payment.
- Complete all trainings as required by Iowa State University policy.

The term of office will be one full year (August to August the next year). All officers shall comprise the Executive Committee of the organization. The Executive Committee shall meet in addition to regular organization meetings. The Executive Committee shall appoint additional committees that are needed to carry out organization goals, if such needs are apparent.

Section 2: Campus club presidents must turn in an SGI-USA Campus Club Leadership Application for all candidates for office in the Executive Committee. All applications must be reviewed and approved by the SGI-USA region personnel committee before elections are held. Candidates must be enrolled in a minimum of three credits hours at Iowa State University. And have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0. Candidates for president should be actively practicing in a local district and have a leadership position within the SGI-USA line youth organization. In addition, the president should seek out the support/advisory role of the local SGI-USA four divisional line leaders in planning and carrying out campus activities. All outgoing presidents must propose a slate of Executive Committee officers to the SGI-USA region personnel committee for review and approval before elections are held.

In the event an election results in a tie, approved candidates may share a position and the corresponding responsibility of the position or run the poll one more time.

Section 3: In the event of misconduct resulting in the obstruction of the rights of members to enjoy the benefits of the campus club organization, officers may be removed from office by a two-thirds approving vote from the SGI-USA region personnel committee. Officers expelled from office may appeal the matter to the zone personnel committee.

- a. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, failure to uphold the responsibilities of the position, use of derogatory language, bullying, harassment, theft, repeated disruptions during meetings, or any other action deemed unacceptable by the current Student Disciplinary Regulations (Code of Conduct).
- b. Any club member may initiate the impeachment process by bringing a written request for removal and reasons for removal to the highest-ranking officer not in question for removal.
 - The officers will hold a special meeting with the Adviser to deliberate with SGI-USA region personnel committee.
- c. The officer in question must be provided a summary of the reasons for removal at least one week in advance of the vote.
- d. A voting meeting will be held where the officer in question will be allowed to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes before voting occurs. The officer in question will be asked to leave the meeting while deliberation and voting commences. The officer in question will be informed of the results and be allowed access to the ballots if requested.
- e. The officer in question may attempt to appeal the results of the vote by contacting the Adviser of the organization and submitting a written statement which will be forwarded to the SGI-USA zone personnel committee for appeal. The adviser must respond with the decision within 10 days. No secondary appeals will be permitted.

Article 7 - Adviser

Section 1: The duties of the adviser are to provide general oversight such as support, encourage, and offer suggestions to the group and to ensure that the organization is complying with the standards set forth by Iowa State University and Memorial Union Student Engagement.

Section 2: There is no specified selection method. Anyone who is interested is welcome to volunteer for the position.

Section 3: Adviser can serve at their leisure. However, once the responsibility has been taken, adviser is required to perform their duties.

Section 4: If any issues arise, the club president and/or executive cabinet will meet together to discuss about the concern. The decision to remove an adviser will be done by taking poll within the executive officers. The adviser involved will be able to present their opinion or feedback prior to final decision. However, adviser should not present at the final vote.

Section 5: Officers of the club are responsible to find a new adviser if the previous adviser decided to step down or be removed.

Article 8 – Finances

Section 1: All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within 48 hours after collection. The Adviser to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

Section 2: Upon disbandment of “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace”, all funds and properties in excess of liabilities and expenses of dissolution will be distributed as determined by a majority of officers.

Section 3: No dues of “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace” will exist.

Section 4: Financial records shall be maintained by generally accepted accounting principles. Treasurer must authorize any disbursements. All disbursements in excess of \$100 require the majority approval of the executive committee.

Section 5: The SGI-USA has no interest in the financial affairs of the “SGI-USA Buddhism for Peace.” All matters regarding the use of funds for club activities are to be conducted at the sole discretion of the club leadership.

Article 9 – Amendments and Ratification

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall propose constitutional amendments to the SGI-USA region youth leaders and national student division leaders for review and approval before being voted on.

Section 2: Upon approval by the region youth leaders and national student division leaders, a vote to pass a constitutional amendment may be held. Approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular meeting shall pass a proposed amendment. The amendment shall be put into effect immediately, unless otherwise stipulated in the amendment.

Section 3: Amendments to the organization's constitution must be submitted to Student Engagement within 10 days for approval.

Section 4: In the event a constitution is rejected because it does not meet Iowa State University policy and/or constitution requirements, the following may occur.

- Any changes to bring the constitution into compliance may be made with unanimous approval from the President, Treasurer, and Advisor.
- Notification of these changes must be communicated at the next full organizational meeting and to the SGI-USA region youth leaders and national student division leaders.