

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.”

لا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

“There is no one, nothing worthy of worship except Allah. Muhammad is His messenger.”

St. George’s University Muslim Students Association Constitution

Prepared for: MSA Board, Present and Future

Last amendment: December 20, 2015

Includes:

- I. Preamble
 - A. Name and Jurisdiction
 - B. Purpose
 - C. Membership
 - D. SGU MSA Board
 - E. Elections for the SGU MSA Board
 - F. Amendments to this Constitution
- II. SGU MSA Executives - Roles and Responsibilities
- III. SGU MSA Directors - Roles and Responsibilities
- IV. Signatories

I. Preamble

A. Name and Jurisdiction

This is the official Constitution of the St. George's University Muslim Student Association, hereafter referred to as "SGU MSA".

Institutionally, SGU MSA is under the jurisdiction of St. George's University in St. George's, Grenada.

Current Assoc. Dean, Students: studorg@sgu.edu

Current Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Bhaiyat**
Tel: 473-4444175 X.3338
Email: mibhaiyat@sgu.edu

Islamically, SGU MSA is under the jurisdiction of the **Grenada Islamic Foundation (Masjid Al Medina)** in St. George's, Grenada.

External Advisors: **Shaykh Mufti Muhammad Na'eem**
Shaykh Farid Patel
Br. Imran Patel
Address: Point Salines, St. George's, Grenada
Tel: 473-4185033
Email: grenadaislamicfoundation@hotmail.com

B. Purpose

The purpose of SGU MSA, Allah-willing, is to serve the Islamic community of St. George's University, Grenada, and to provide functions and services to further Muslim life on and off campus. This includes, but is not limited to, spiritual and worship services, networking, as well as academic support, within the arrangements of the SGU Honor Code, and this SGU MSA Constitution.

C. Membership

1. Membership in SGU MSA shall be open to all members of the St. George's University community interested in furthering SGU MSA's purpose.
2. Membership may or may not be attained for a nominal Term Fee.
3. Each member of SGU MSA shall have the right to vote at General Elections.
4. Each member of SGU MSA *may* be eligible to hold a Director position.
5. Each member of SGU MSA *may* be eligible to hold an Executive position.
6. SGU MSA Board *Executives* reserves the right to withdraw an individual's membership or Board position if he/she is deemed to have acted in extreme contradiction to SGU MSA's purpose.

D. SGU MSA Board

1. **Executives:** President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Islamic Coordinator (un-elected)
2. **Directors:** Community Services Director, Brothers Representative, Sisters Representative, Term Representatives (School of Medicine), Prayer Services Liaison (un-elected), Senior Advisor (un-elected)

E. Elections for the SGU MSA Board

SGU MSA is a representation of all Muslims at SGU, as well as the world. SGU students and faculty come from around the world with many perceptions on Islam and Muslims. It is important to remember to conduct ourselves with the purest of intentions, to please Allah, to serve humanity, regardless of personal agendas. It is important to treat Elections as a *Sunnah* (beloved action) of our pious predecessors (may Allah be pleased with them). Serve for Allah.

1. Nominations:

- a. will be held for each Executive and Director position towards the end of each academic term (April, November) *except* the Islamic Coordinator and Prayer Services Liaison positions.
- b. are open for all eligible SGU MSA members.
- c. role descriptions should be displayed at the time of nominations (e.g. on nomination form)

2. Pre-screening:

- a. is done in order to prevent popularity or other factors from being a factor in determining election results, and should be done with the sole intention of preserving the Islamic integrity of SGU MSA.
- b. should be done in consultation with the current Executives, and (if necessary) Faculty Advisor and/or Senior Advisor, unless they are returning students.
- c. is done by evaluating not necessarily how many events a candidate attended, but their apparent spirituality. Allah refers to, in the Quran, about spirituality (or lack thereof) being displayed as behaviors (e.g. Quran 47:29) to remind us that we only are allowed to judge behaviours. For example, how apparently particular candidates are about coming to Salah, how their moral character is among peers and the Muslims on campus, how effective they would be as academic, professional, Muslim leaders (especially as Executives), how respected they are among peers, and how much they respect peers, should all be considered.
 - *why not ask Allah before accepting/eliminating a candidate?*

3. Elections:

- a. should be held after nominees have time to consider their candidacy.
- b. should be held anonymously, by ballot on select days.
- c. should be presided over by non-returning, non-voting, Executive members only.
- d. should be counted and results displayed for SGU MSA members to witness.

F. Amendments to this Constitution

1. Amendments should be made in consultation with current Board members.
2. In order to preserve integrity and continuity, and to avoid bias, amendments should be finalized by current Executive Board members, Senior Advisor(s), Faculty Advisor(s), and External Advisor(s). If appropriate, the Associate Dean of Students may also be included.
3. Amendments should be made in writing, and presented publicly to all SGU MSA members.
4. It is preferable that amendments be voted on by SGU MSA members.

II. SGU MSA Executives - Roles and Responsibilities

A. President

- a. Role Summary: Oversees internal and external operations of SGU MSA. Presides over meetings and sets day-to-day activities of SGU MSA. Coordinates, monitors, and maintains the direction of the entire SGU MSA in order to achieve its purpose with maximal efficiency. Will be the only one with access to MSA bank accounts and finances, along with Treasurer.
- b. Conditional: WGPA \geq 80%; one of President or VP is male (in order to fulfil the required participation with local Muslim scholars and families). Should be of sound Islamic knowledge (*'ilm*) and practice (*'amal*).
- c. Asset: Served in SGU MSA Board for at least 1 semester prior.

B. Vice President

- a. Role Summary: Oversees internal SGU MSA events and programs. Assists the President in overseeing the day-to-day activities of SGU MSA, especially with regards to scheduling, and planning events and activities. The Vice-President can preside as President if President and Islamic Coordinator are unable.
- b. Conditional: One of President or VP is male (in order to fulfil the required participation with local Muslim scholars and families).
- c. Asset: Served in SGU MSA Board for at least 1 semester prior.

C. Secretary

- a. Role Summary: Maintenance of SGU MSA communications (website, Facebook, email, announcements, etc.) and scheduling of events (25live) and activities. Managing meeting minutes, and maintaining important SGU MSA documents.
- b. Asset: Tech-savvy.

D. Treasurer

- a. Role Summary: Maintenance of SGU MSA accounts and balances, funding, donations, and treasury. Responsible for arranging fund-raising activities and financial projects (e.g. *Sadaqah*/donation initiatives). Will be the only one with access to MSA bank accounts and finances, along with President.

E. Islamic Coordinator (un-elected)

- a. Role Summary: The Islamic Coordinator has superiority over all Board members with regards to religious counseling and will ensure that meetings are run in accordance with Islamic traditions. Responsible for arranging and reviewing Friday sermons (*khutbahs* and *khateeb*s), prayer timings. Also responsible for Islam Awareness and Education activities (with team). The Islamic Coordinator can preside as President if President is unable.
- b. Conditional: Assigned by current Board with current Islamic Coordinator. Current Islamic Coordinator may repeat roles if appropriate. Islamic Coordinator should be an individual of superior knowledge (*'ilm*) and practice (*'amal*).

III. SGU MSA Directors - Roles and Responsibilities

A. Community Services Director

- a. Role Summary: The community services director is responsible for MSA volunteering and community outreach activities, including the local Grenada community as well as the local Muslim community.

B. Prayer Services Liaison (un-elected)

- a. Role Summary: Manage all physical aspects of the Musalla and prayer places, including structural repairs and supplies necessary. Communicates with Facilities Staff regarding Musalla maintenance. Manages volunteers for cleaning of the Musalla, and arranges for Prayer mats when and where necessary. Responsible for congregational prayer location changes.
- b. Conditional: Must live on-campus or near; assigned by current Board.

C. Brothers Representative(s)

- a. Role Summary: Responsible for events and activities pertaining to Brothers. Crucial role in maintaining and strengthening brotherhood and leadership among Muslim brothers on and off campus. Crucial in communicating brothers' concerns to SGU MSA Board.
- b. Asset: Strong community link among brothers on campus.

D. Sisters Representative(s)

- a. Role Summary: Responsible for events and activities pertaining to Sisters. Crucial role in maintaining and strengthening sisterhood and leadership among Muslim sisters on and off campus. Crucial in communicating sisters' concerns to SGU MSA Board.
- b. Asset: Strong community link among sisters on campus.

E. Academic Representatives (School of Medicine)

- a. Role Summary: Responsible for academic support and communication among Term students and faculty. Crucial in communicating concerns of students in academic difficulty to SGU MSA Board. Plays an important role in maintaining the brother/sisterhood among peers.
- b. Asset: Strong academic performance. Active on social media and communications.
- c. NOTE: TWO Term 2 Representatives (1 brother, 1 sister) should be elected, serving as Term 1 Representatives as well. Term 1 Representative is elected mid-way through the upcoming academic term.

F. Senior Advisor(s) (un-elected)

- a. Role Summary: For consultation on matters pertaining to SGU MSA Board and SGU MSA day-to-day activities. Senior Advisor should be consulted along with Faculty Advisor(s) and Local Scholars if amendments to this constitution are made.
 - b. Conditional: Volunteer Year 3 or higher student or alumnus; must have served as an *Executive* in the past for at least 1 semester.
-

IV. Signatories

May Allah accept the efforts, and forgive the shortcomings and mistakes, of all the parties involved. May Allah bless and protect SGU, and SGU MSA, always. May Allah allow this effort to be a means to attaining His pleasure and salvation. Ameen.

The above St. George's University Muslim Students Association Constitution is accepted and signed by the following Signatories. All prior documents are void. Further amendments should be made as outlined in Part I (F) of this Constitution. This Constitution serves as a contract for all parties to abide by.

Signed on the date of: _____

Current Faculty Advisor:

External Advisor 1:

External Advisor 2:

Current Executive, SGU MSA: