Article I

Name

The name of the organization shall be Culturas United Student Organization, otherwise known as CUSO.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose for which Culturas United Student Organization is formed is herein stated:

A) The Culturas United Student Organization’s purpose is to encourage, facilitate and promote the transition from high school to college by providing opportunities for professional growth, development, and advancement within IUPUI and the community. Culturas United Student Organization is organized around four main goals: high school outreach, mentorship, scholarship, and political activism.

Other objectives are:

To promote student development as scholars and professionals and facilitate integration into the higher education program.

To increase the number of underrepresented students at IUPUI and in higher education by visiting high schools in order to motivate them and answer questions about admissions and university life.

To help students navigate the obstacles, rewards, challenges, and support networks of academic life.

Article III

Membership

A. Membership is open to all IUPUI students and affiliates, including alumni and graduate students, who identify with underrepresented minority experiences and struggles and who demonstrate a willingness to further the constituency’s aims.

B. Membership shall not be denied on the grounds of religion, race, ethnicity, political views/affiliation, or sexual orientation.

C. Members shall be encouraged to contribute ideas and actively participate in the development and implementation of all programming.

D. To become a member, one must attend at least one general body meeting per month and at least two Culturas United events per semester, express interest in becoming a member, and provide the group with their contact information.

E. Members are encouraged to join committees headed by executive board members.

F. Voting members consist of all members who are currently enrolled in the undergraduate and graduate schools and the alumni association, that have consistently attended general body meetings, constituency meetings, Culturas United events and/or Culturas United Council meetings as representatives.
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Article IV

Officers and Duties

Only the following members are allowed to vote on internal board decisions or Constitutional changes. The officers (executive board members) of Culturas United shall consist of:

A) President
   1. The President shall preside over all meetings and may only vote at the end of an election.
   2. The President shall be the main contact person representing Culturas United.
   3. The President shall oversee all chairs of committees.
   4. The President shall promote minority recruitment and shall maintain active networks with other student organizations on campus, especially but not limited to students of color organizations.
   5. The President shall commit to dedicating him/herself to furthering the Culturas United mission.
   6. The President shall work alongside with Vice President and Treasurer in creating the Culturas United budget.

B) Vice President
   1. The Vice President shall preside over all meetings in the absence of the president and will take office in the event the president is no longer able to continue in his/her charge.
   2. The Vice President shall maintain communication with committee members.
   3. The Vice President shall work alongside with President and Treasurer in creating the Culturas United budget.
   4. The Vice President shall attend all meetings.
   5. The Vice President shall ensure that other executive board members are performing their duties and will call emergency meetings as necessary. S/he will act as a check on the power of the president.
   6. The Vice President shall work closely with the Public Relations Chair.
   7. The Vice President shall work closely with the chairs of committees to ensure they are productive.

C) Political Chair
   1. The Political Chair shall be responsible for keeping Culturas United informed on past and present political developments which may affect minority students on all levels – on campus and the political spectrum at large.
   2. The Political Chair shall be responsible for helping to bridge the political differences between minority students on campus.
   3. The Political Chair shall be responsible for understanding the “University Guidelines for Political Activity” and the “Rules of University Conduct”.
   4. The Political Chair shall be responsible for coordinating political events and actions, as well as drafting statements in conjunction with the President and Vice President of the Executive Board should the need arise.
   5. The Political Chair, as every other member of the executive board, is expected to propose, plan and spearhead at least one event during the academic year.

D) Education Chair
   1. The Education Chair shall serve as a resource for tutoring information, mentoring information, and other general information as will benefit Culturas United members.
   2. The Education Chair shall be in charge of coordinating events and mentoring opportunities between members of the community at IUPUI.
   3. The Education Chair shall be responsible for maintaining communication with groups working with Culturas United pertaining to education.
4. The Education Chair shall be responsible for seeking to build a bridge between the underrepresented community at IUPUI and the larger community in the city of Indianapolis.
5. The Education Chair(s), as every other member of the executive board, is expected to propose, plan and spearhead at least one event during the academic year.

E) Publication and Public Relations Chair
1. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall be mainly responsible for ensuring the publication, the Culturas United Council publication, at least two times per semester.
2. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall foster relationships with organizations within IUPUI.
3. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall be responsible for coordinating all forms of public communication under Culturas United, including but not limited to: business cards, event flyers, posters, banners, palm cards, phone messages, event programs and all advertisement for Culturas United events.
4. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall establish and maintain external relations with media and businesses.
5. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall oversee the Public Relations Committee, which is open to all general body members and duties shall be determined by PR Chair.
6. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall maintain communication with the Multicultural Recruitment Committee.
7. The Publication and Public Relations Chair shall assist in recruiting new Culturas United members through programming and coordinating Perspectives on Diversity events with Admissions.
8. The Publication and Public Relations Chair, as every other member of the executive board, is expected to propose, plan and spearhead at least one event during the academic year.

D) Treasurer
1. The treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all funds received and spent by Culturas United.
2. The treasurer shall make monthly reports to the Culturas United Executive Board.
3. The treasurer shall make a budget proposal each semester.
4. The treasurer is responsible for making budget appeals to the Undergraduate Student Government at IUPUI.
5. The treasurer shall host a budget making workshop at the beginning of the year, immediately after Treasurer’s training, so that Treasurer’s duties can be shared amongst the board throughout the year.
6. The treasurer shall work alongside the president and vice president to create the annual Culturas United budget.
7. The treasurer shall ensure that before he/she leaves the position, there is a budget allocation for the following academic year in place.
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E) Secretary
1. The Secretary shall take minutes of each meeting and make them accessible to the general body.
2. The Secretary shall keep a historical account of Culturas United events and any relevant articles in the form of a scrapbook, to be available for display at events.
3. The Secretary shall be in charge of reserving meeting space.
4. The Secretary shall establish and maintain a general body email list.
5. The Secretary shall send the general body a weekly schedule of upcoming events, not limited to Culturas United events.
6. The Secretary shall work closely with the president and vice president on pre-calendaring each semester.

Article V

Culturas United Student Organization Chairs

Alumni Outreach Chair
1. The Alumni Outreach Chair shall be the Graduate Advisor of Culturas United Student Organization.
2. The Alumni Outreach Chair shall establish and maintain contact with alumni and recent graduates.
3. The Alumni Outreach Chair shall open and maintain communication with the Alumni Programs.
4. The Alumni Outreach Chair, as every other member of the executive board, is expected to propose, plan and spearhead at least one event during the academic year.

Sophomore Representative
1. The Sophomore Representative shall be elected at the same time as the rest of the executive board and shall be a first-year student at the time of elections.
2. The Sophomore Representative shall be responsible for maintaining communication with the sophomore class, help recruit candidates for Freshman Representative in the fall semester of the academic year and help recruit students for Culturas United events.
3. The Sophomore Representative shall select another member of the executive board to work closely with on projects throughout the year, based on their interest.

Freshman Representative
1. The Freshman Representative shall be elected in the fall semester following executive board elections, no later than the end of October.
2. The Freshman Representative shall be responsible for communication with the freshman class.
3. The Freshman Representative shall select another member of the executive board to work closely with on projects throughout the year, based on their interest.
4. The Freshman Representative, as every other member of the executive board, is expected to propose, plan and spearhead at least one event during the academic year.
Article VI

*Culturas United General Body*

In order to continue the aims of Culturas United and to create a multicultural presence at IUPUI, General Body meetings will be held weekly on a regular basis, and the guidelines for such meetings are herein stated:

A) The primary purpose for Culturas United General Body meetings is to create a sense of family and camaraderie among students interested in learning more about the issues and concerns about higher education in the community.

B) The structure and objectives of Culturas United General Body meetings are as follows:

1. The Culturas United General Body meetings shall be held weekly on a regular basis.
2. Each Culturas United General Body meeting will have a basic topic of discussion and will be spearheaded by the President, Vice President and another member of the Culturas United Executive Board.
3. General Body members are encouraged to participate in committees in order to
   a) Be considered deluxe voting members and
   b) Contribute to the growth of the organization.
4. Every other General Body meeting will have a committee meeting within it as well as a report to the general body meeting as a whole.

Article VI

*The Culturas United Council*

In order to meet the mission of the organization, the Culturas United Council is formed. The primary purpose of the Council and its structure is herein stated:

A. The primary purpose for the Culturas United Council is to create a recurring, monthly forum for discussion of issues and events pertaining to the groups working with Culturas United and ensure adequate communication between these groups.

B. The structure and objectives of the Culturas United Council are as follows:

1. The Culturas United Council shall serve to actively maintain contact with student organizations working with Culturas United.
2. The Culturas United Council shall meet the last Friday of every month, whereby two representatives from each organization must attend.
3. The Culturas United Council meeting shall be the time where representatives of each organization shall submit the organization’s plans for the upcoming month in order to create a Community Calendar.
4. The Culturas United Council shall facilitate co-sponsoring between groups as well as between Culturas United and each group.
Article VII

Election Procedures

A. Elections for the executive board of Culturas United of the following academic year shall take place at the end of the second semester of the previous academic year.

B. Nominations for office on the executive board of Culturas United must be submitted via email to the Culturas United executive board at least one week prior to the election date.

C. Any member of Culturas United, voting or non-voting, can nominate a candidate for a position as a Culturas United officer.

D. Nominations for any office of Culturas United shall go to active members of the organization.

E. Nominations for the position of President of Culturas United shall go to individuals who have held previous office on the executive board of Culturas United for at least one semester.

F. Prior to the elections, each nominated candidate shall submit a paragraph presenting their platform for Culturas United. The Secretary of Culturas United shall then notify membership of all nominees and their platforms via email.

G. Any member of Culturas United entitled to vote may cast only one vote for each office for any candidate. No proxy votes shall be permitted.

H. On the day of elections, each candidate shall speak briefly and present their platform to the executive board and the general body of Culturas United. Time will be allotted for the candidates to respond to questions. After all of the speeches, voting will take place.

I. Officers of Culturas United shall be elected by a simple majority of the votes cast for that office by eligible Culturas United members. Eligible voting members include those that have been present at Culturas United Council meetings and have shown active participation in the Culturas United general body.

J. The President and the Secretary shall count the votes. If either the President or the Secretary is running in the election, then he/she will be replaced by a senior member of the general body for the counting of the votes.

K. In the case of a tie, those candidates for whom the numbers of votes are tied both fill the position in question as co-chairs for that academic year.

Article VIII

Maintaining Office in the Executive Board

A. An officer shall hold only one elected position in Culturas United per academic year.

B. Officers must attend a majority of the Culturas United general body meetings, if officer cannot attend, or will be late to, a general body meeting, he/she shall notify the board at least 24 hours in advance.

C. Attendance at executive board meetings is mandatory; if officer cannot attend, or will be late to an executive board meeting he/she shall notify the board at least 24 hours in advance.

D. Recurring absences of officers at executive board and/or general body meetings shall be grounds for formal impeachment by the board.

E. An officer must fulfill the duties stipulated within the constitution and those agreed upon by the rest of the executive board.

F. Each officer is expected to propose, plan and spearhead at least one event during the academic year.
Article VIII

Impeachment Procedures

A. If an officer does not fulfill his or her duties, as stated in article II, or fails to uphold the constitution of Culturas United, he or she is subject to impeachment.
B. Formal motions of impeachment of an officer shall be made at a Culturas United executive board meeting. The individual in question shall be notified of the meeting for the impeachment proceedings.
C. The officers moving to impeach and the officer in question shall present their respective arguments and cases before the executive board.
D. After discussion, the E-Board of Culturas United shall then vote on the motion. In order for the motion pass, three-fourths majority vote of the E-Board is required.

Article IX

Unexpected Vacancies

A. If at any point in the first semester of the academic year a vacancy is created on the executive board, then elections shall take place as soon as possible to fill the vacancy.
B. If a vacancy is created during the second semester, then the E-Board will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the year.
C. The election for filling a vacancy shall preside under the same guidelines set forth in article V.
D. Officers of Culturas United voluntarily resigning shall submit a written resignation two weeks prior to date of exit.

Article X

Amendments

This Constitution may be altered, amended, repealed or otherwise changed by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum at the meeting following the proposed change, or, if necessary, a special meeting called for such purpose.