



Texas Christian University

Native and Indigenous Student Association

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Native and Indigenous Student Association (NISA) Constitution

This constitution is provided for the use of those affiliated and active with the Native and Indigenous Student Association of Texas Christian University. Native and Indigenous Peoples are communal peoples with a strong emphasis on fellowship and focus on a collective goal rather than an individual one. NISA will create a community for Native and Indigenous peoples and allies.

Article I. Name

- Section 1. The official name of this organization shall be The Native and Indigenous Student Association (NISA).

Article II. Purpose

- Section 1. The purpose of this association is to form a coalition of resilient individuals, to build a community, and create a space for and by Native and Indigenous peoples and allies to share their cultures, heritages, traditions, languages, and customs in a respectful manner.
- Section 2. This association will encourage unity and solidarity with other Indigenous and Native interest groups on campus and within the broader community, participate in cultural and traditional events, educate others and promote awareness of Native and Indigenous cultures and issues, share their own experiences and heritage, and express themselves culturally in a safe and respectful environment. This organization will be committed to connecting and establishing a network of Native and Indigenous peoples and allies and other related organizations.

Article III. Membership and Dues

- Section 1. Membership of this organization shall be open to any current TCU student, and TCU alum and will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, covered veteran status, or any

basis protected by law.

- Section 2. The TCU alum and/or non-student, and/or affiliate should be in good standing with TCU and respective authorities and will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, covered veteran status, or any basis protected by law.
- Section 3. Members of this organization are not required to pay dues unless an official vote passes by the officials to move to pay for dues, which can then be decided on separately and abide by Section 3 protocol for voting.
- Section 4. To maintain membership status, one must attend a minimum of one NISA event and/or meeting a semester.
- Section 5. Individuals face removal and/or expulsion from this organization and/ or gathering if said individual is in direct violation of the following guidelines: disrespectful and/or disorderly conduct including, but not limited to the use of inappropriate, aggressive, or offensive language, actions and/or behavior. These criteria extend to both verbal and physical behavior towards other members of the organization, faculty, or present individuals during, but not limited to NISA affiliated events, meetings and/or excursions.

Article IV. Officers

- Section 1. Officers will be elected by members only whenever any position is vacant and/or in the event that an officer is expelled, suspended, graduated, renounced and/or deceased. Official titles and responsibilities including full role descriptions are outlined below as follows:
- a. President:
 - i. Organizes and presides over meetings
 - ii. Establishes committees
 - iii. Collects votes and publish results
 - iv. Oversee recruitment of new members
 - v. Attend risk management training
 - vii. Create/revise risk management policy/plan



viii. Ensure risk management policy/plan is implemented

ix. Act as Student Government Representative in order to represent this organization as needed to the Student Government Association

x. Organize activities to benefit the community

xi. Appoints an officer to preside over voting process and can oversee it if he/she is not on the ballot

b. Vice President:^[1]_[SEP]

i. Preside over meetings in the absence of the President and in the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the President will appoint someone to preside over meetings

ii. Co-organize activities to benefit the community

iii. Organize activities for members

iv. Assist the President in any of his/her duties in the event of absence or request of acting President

c. Secretary:^[1]_[SEP]

i. Maintain an accurate record of all organization meetings and post for members^[1]_[SEP]

ii. Maintain membership directory^[1]_[SEP] and member rolls

iii. Correspond when necessary with University administration and other recognized organizations

iv. Act as Technical Coordinator in order to publish activities happening at TCU in order to maintain online group activities

vi. Record attendance at all meetings

e. Treasurer:^[1]_[SEP]

- i. Collect all membership dues for the organization^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- ii. Responsible for maintaining financial records^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- iii. Collect and deposit records with the financial institution determined by the organization

Section 2. Membership

a. Undergraduate Membership^{[[L]]}_{SEP}

- i. Be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per semester each semester of membership
- ii. Have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average
- iii. Students must have and maintain 2.0 cumulative grade point average in order to maintain active membership
- iv. Under no circumstances may a non-student and/or affiliate be an officer, voting member or have any other official status within the organization

b. Graduate Membership^{[[L]]}_{SEP}

- i. Be enrolled in a minimum of three (3) credit hours of graduate courses each semester of membership
- ii. Achieve a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average during all semesters in office.

c. Non-Student Membership

- i. Individuals who abide by Article III Section 3. and are in good standing with TCU and local authorities

Section 3. Officer positions can be held only by current TCU students. Non-students and affiliate members cannot hold a position in office.

Section 4. Officers must be TCU students in good standing and active members of the association. In the event that there are officer positions vacant and incoming students would like to become officers, they may if they are elected according to Section 5.

Section 5. Election and Terms of Officers

- a. Term of office held during the entirety of calendar year
- b. No later than the second meeting of the spring semester
- c. Paper ballot in at a called or regular meeting, or online electronic vote
- d. Majority votes will determine election
- e. Announcement of winner(s) given by any of the elected officials who were not on ballot and/or by the faculty advisor
- f. Discipline/membership removal of officers of any member will occur if found to be in violation of the academic standard requirements of TCU and/or Article 3. Section 3. will be immediately removed from organizational membership.

Article V. Faculty Advisor

- Section 1. Advisor must be chosen from the Texas Christian University faculty and/or staff after consultation with members of the association. The advisor will be supportive of the goals and mission of the organization. The advisor understands and agrees to the University policies regarding the advising of student organizations. This is outlined in the constitution and/or found in the TCU student handbook. It is entitled Standards Applicable to Faculty and Staff Advisors located on page 24.

Article VI. Meetings

- Section 1. A minimum of three formal meetings must be held during the span of each semester for the purpose of introducing officers, informing new members, and general information sharing.
- Section 2. Communication from officers distributed through my.tcu.edu official emails, orgsync messages, and other multimedia platforms, but all official announcements about meetings and/or events must come from a TCU vetted platform such as Wiggio, my.tcu.edu email account, and orgsync or any future platforms TCU might use.

Article VII. Amendments

- Section 1. Proposed amendments should be submitted to the President and Vice President in writing at least one week prior to being discussed within the group either online or at a regular or called meeting.
- Section 2. The constitution can be amended by a 2/3-majority vote if the vote abides by Article IV. Section 3. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be received one week prior to

discussion and/or voting of proposed amendments.

Article VIII. Ratification

- Section 1. The new constitution can be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote if it abides by Article IV. Section 3.

Article IX. Hazing

- Section 1. This organization and individuals follow the TCU institution bans hazing in its Code of Student Conduct (section 3.2.2) and takes appropriate disciplinary action against groups or individuals found to have violated the Code.
- Section 2. The organization defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off the campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include any act of personal servitude; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of TCU. Hazing under the statute means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one (1) person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include, students in an educational institution. The term hazing under the statute includes but is not limited to offenses that subject the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Section 3. Individuals within the organization as well as the organization itself may be found in violation. Investigations and/or sanctioning of individual hazing offenses will be conducted in collaboration with the office of Campus Life. Individuals who have firsthand knowledge of hazing, including those being hazed, are required by law to report that knowledge to appropriate University officials. Any student who has been hazed or thinks he/she is going to be hazed should report such actions to the University Hazing Hotline at 817-257-HAZE (4293), the OSO, Office of Campus Life or the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

