

Students Allied for Freedom and Equality Constitution

Mission

Students Allied for Freedom and Equality is a group of student activists organized to promote social justice, human rights, liberation, equality, and self-determination for the Palestinian people as the fundamental principles for a just resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Code of conduct

SAFE will only engage in peaceful and constructive actions. SAFE rejects actions that violate the guiding principles as stated above, including those of members. Individuals or groups acting as members, representatives, or sponsors of SAFE agree to abide by the code of conduct and endorse the principles of the organization.

Guiding Principles

As an advocacy group, SAFE is committed to a core set of principles grounded in international law, human rights, and basic standards of justice. These include but are not limited to the following:

1. The end of confiscation of all Palestinian lands and the return of and/or compensation for all previously confiscated lands to their original owners.
2. The end of the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, as asserted by United Nations Resolution 242 and grounded in the impermissibility of the acquisition of land by war.
3. An end to the Israeli system of occupation and discrimination against the Palestinians, via granting citizenship rights to all peoples under Israeli civil or military control and the reform of Israeli policies, within Israel proper, to ensure equal benefits, treatment, and rights for all citizens, regardless of race or religion.
4. The implementation of the right of return and/or reparation for all Palestinian refugees as stipulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Resolution 194.
5. An end to the construction of illegal settlement and transfer of Israeli citizens into the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as stipulated by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Just as SAFE condemns the racism and discrimination resulting from Israeli policies and laws, SAFE rejects any form of hatred or discrimination against any religious, racial, or ethnic group. SAFE supports oppressed and exploited peoples in their struggles for freedom and basic human and civil rights. SAFE welcomes individuals of all ethnic and religious backgrounds to join in solidarity with the struggle for justice and peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Article I. Name

The name of the organization is Students Allied for Freedom and Equality, heretofore and henceforth to be referred to as SAFE.

Article II. Purpose

SAFE is established in order to educate and generate discourse within the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor campus community on the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and on the Palestinian narrative specifically. SAFE shall also actively engage the University administration, other student groups, and responsible community organizations in our collective attempt to contribute to the ending of the occupation of Palestine.

Article III. Membership

Section 1.

SAFE membership is open to all faculty, staff, and students at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. Executive board membership is restricted to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students.

Section 2.

There are two different kinds of membership available to students, staff, and faculty at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor:

Active Membership

- Active members attend all weekly meetings, and are expected to attend or assist with at least 80 percent of SAFE sponsored events. Attendance will be taken at all meetings and events. Less than perfect attendance at meetings is acceptable if the member notifies the secretary with a reasonable excuse in advance.
- Only active members will have access to the core TeamSAFE listserv and CTools site.
- New members will be considered active members after they have attended three consecutive meetings and until they fail to fulfill the above criteria

General Membership

- General members are those that do not fulfill the criteria for active membership, but are nevertheless involved in SAFE by occasionally attending meetings and events.
- General members will have access to the iheartsafe listserv only.
- The Outreach chair can determine when a general member has shown enough commitment and involvement

to become an active member.

Interested/Community members

- Those who do not fulfill the criteria for membership or do not attend meetings, but are still interested in the Palestinian cause
- These non-members have access to the rotating freethep listserv

Article IV. Executive Board Officers

Section 1. Co-chair

The SAFE Co-Chairs are responsible for holding other chairs accountable to their respective duties. SAFE Co-Chairs should be comfortable speaking in public, working with the Michigan Daily (and other news outlets), and have an intimate knowledge/understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They are responsible for the overall well-being of the group including, but not limited to:

- Working directly with the treasurer to manage SAFE's account
- Working with the outreach chair to engage general members and network/coalition build externally
- Keeping up constant communication with University Administration
- Mediating conflict as it arises within the organization
- Maintaining a healthy balance between internal development (retreats, socials, etc.) and external visibility (through events, demonstrations, workshops, teach-ins, etc.)
- Maintaining all of SAFE's respective listservs
- Maintaining a clear vision for SAFE, motivating members to take on positions of leadership and to remain actively engaged with events and related activities.

Section 2. Secretary/Historian

- The Historian must attend all events that SAFE hosts or sponsors. His/her responsibilities are to collect records of the event through pictures or video. At the following SAFE meeting, the group will discuss the successes and failures of the event and the historian will put together a report recapping the event for future members of SAFE. The pictures, video, report and fliers are all then uploaded to the CTools site.
- His/her responsibilities are to take minutes and attendance at SAFE meetings and to make sure action items are noted. Meeting minutes are then emailed to the TeamSAFE listserv and uploaded to the CTools site.

Section 3. Treasurer

The Treasurer performs two primary jobs:

1. Spearhead SAFE Fundraising Efforts

- Work with Co-Chairs in developing semester budget for all events
- Develop fundraising plan for each event
- Grants: Coordinate which grants to apply for each event. This constitutes the largest portion of fundraising efforts
- Selling Goods
- Collecting Donations
- Coordinate with fundraising team: who is doing what?

2. Bookkeeping

- Keep up with SOAS: is all of the money that is supposed to be in our account there?
- Transferring money to and from accounts when necessary (mostly to/from other student groups SAFE works with)
- Handling all other miscellaneous account activity
- Member reimbursements
- Other

Section 4. Technology Chair

The technology chair is responsible for updating the website (www.umich.edu/~umsafe) as well as the blog (umsafe.blogspot.com). Information about events should be updated with a flier as well as other educational items. The blog is primarily to upload articles that are sent via email to the group; this gives the opportunity for people who are not active members of SAFE to follow our blog as well as keep up-to-date with information about Palestine. The tech chair also should make facebook events and e-mail fliers for any events SAFE puts on.

Section 5. Media Chair

Media chair is responsible for coordinating all of SAFE's activity with media on campus and in the area. This means being in close contact with various writers and staffers at the Daily, keeping them updated on our events and occasionally meeting with people at the Daily if it is necessary. Also, media chair is responsible

for coordinating writing viewpoints in the Daily, working with the co-chairs and other members to keep SAFE visible on campus and in the paper. The media chair must also deal with and respond to any controversial issues or "press" affecting SAFE in order to maintain and further a positive reputation on campus.

The media chair should also coordinate with other local newspapers/news distributors and organize members to write letters to the editor and viewpoint pieces several times a month for local papers, such as the Michigan Daily, Michigan Review, Michigan Independent, and Ann Arbor News.

Section 6. Education Chair

The Education Chair is responsible for educating SAFE members and keeping them up to date regarding relevant current events. This will be accomplished by: coordinating short educational presentations at the beginning of each weekly meeting, sending out links to articles, and recommending other resources. The Education Chair will assemble information which will be disseminated to the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor community in the form of pamphlets, posters, bulletin boards. The Education Chair will be tasked with actively reaching out to other groups via educational presentations, the topics of which will be determined at weekly meetings.

Section 7. Outreach Chair

The outreach chair collaborates with other organizations on campus, looking for energetic people who want to get involved. The Outreach Chair is responsible for welcoming new members and giving them information about SAFE and how to get more involved. He/She is also responsible for determining when general members have shown enough initiative and involvement to become active members. The Outreach Chair is responsible for attending at least 2 other organization meetings per month, formulating a list of possible ally organizations, and initially contacting other groups interested in education presentations (to be done by the Education chair). The Outreach Chair will provide pamphlets and other information to new members and "bridge the gap" between the executive board and the general membership.

Section 8. Other officer positions

Officer positions may be created as need arises after approval of an initial proposal by a majority vote of active members.

Section 9. Collective Responsibilities

All officers are responsible for keeping the organization up to date on their progress with their various goals and responsibilities. They must involve active and general members in their activities by sharing them with volunteers and explaining how to complete the tasks volunteers take on, as well as making sure those tasks are completed in time. Officers should make sure there are clear electronic instructions available on CTools on how to complete tasks related to their positions (such as filling out grants, meeting with department chairs, updating the blog, etc) so that members can learn how to contribute.

Article V. Operations

Section 1. Elections

1. Nominations: any active members may be nominated or may nominate themselves for any executive board position. Nominations will be submitted to an agreed-upon third party to be decided upon by the executive board.
2. The third party notifies the nominees of their nominations with ample time for the nominees to accept or reject the nomination(s).
3. After nominations are accepted/rejected, the third party notifies all members SAFE of who the nominees are for each position before the election meeting
4. Election Meeting:
 - Nominees have a chance to address the members and give a short speech before voting
 - Each member present votes for one nominee for each e-board position and two nominees for co-chair. Only those present at the election meeting can vote.
 - In the event that a nominee wins a plurality of votes for a position but not a majority OR in the event of a tie, the vote for that position is resolved via a run-off
 - In the event of a tie that cannot be resolved with a run-off, the current E-Board (not the one being voted on) will decide the position with an internal discussion followed by a vote

Section 2. Meetings

Meetings occur weekly. Anyone may submit an agenda item to one of the co-chairs prior to the meeting.

Article VI. Finances

Section 1.

SAFE will finance its activities through voluntary donations, fundraisers, University and other funding bodies, and potentially other means that would be discussed and decided on at meetings.

Section 2.

The treasurer shall be responsible for all finances, with the input of the executive board.

Article VII. Amendments

Section 1.

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed at weekly meetings.

Section 2.

Any member, active or general, may propose an amendment.

Section 3.

Voting on amendments shall take place no earlier than the closest scheduled meeting following the time when the amendment was proposed.

Article VIII. Registration Renewal

Section 1. Registration renewal should be completed by the exiting co-chairs following the conclusion of the academic school year.

Article IX. Removal of Membership

Section 1.

Officers will be considered for removal if:

- They fail to attend any executive board meetings
- They fail to comply with the mission, code of conduct, or guiding principles as stated above
- They fail to attend any weekly meetings without proper notification

Officers may also be considered for removal if there is a consensus among other executive board and active members that their presence is detrimental at SAFE meetings and/or events.

Section 2.

Officers may be voted out by a majority of the executive board.

Section 3.

Members will be considered for removal if they fail to comply with the mission or code of conduct as stated above.

Members may also be considered for removal if there is a consensus among other executive board and active members that their presence is detrimental to the mission of the organization at SAFE meetings and/or events.

Section 4.

Organization members may be removed by a vote of the simple majority of the executive board.

Bylaws

1) Responsible community groups are those community groups which abide by SAFE's code of conduct and guiding principles.

2) While anyone is welcome to participate in SAFE as active or general members, executive board membership is restricted to undergraduate and graduate students only. This is to ensure that the integrity of SAFE as a student-run organization is maintained.