

# CONSTITUTION OF STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

## Article I: Name & Purpose

The name of this organization shall be Students for Justice in Palestine.

## Article II: Affiliation

This organization shall be affiliated with National Students for Justice in Palestine and shall abide by its constitution and bylaws. The constitution and bylaws shall not be in conflict with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign policies and procedures, local, state, federal laws. UIUC Student Code ~ Article 2: General Policies and Regulations shall take precedence over the constitution and bylaws.

## Article III: Purpose

The purpose of SJP at UIUC\* is to serve as an organization committed to the freedom and autonomy of the Palestinian people which recognizes the Palestinian struggle as rooted in a broader struggle against capitalism, white supremacy, sexism, queerphobia, anti-Semitism, and other systems of oppression that are mutually reinforcing. SJP recognizes the multi-faceted nature of the oppression which Palestinians face and the ways in which Zionism props up this oppression and legitimizes it. SJP does not recognize the legitimacy of any settler-colonial state that legally enshrines the ethnic cleansing of the indigenous people living within its borders. SJP supports the vision and tactics of the BDS movement: a call to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel for its violations of Palestinian rights. SJP pledges to work with any group committed to the liberation of the Palestinian people and the broader struggle for equal rights for all people.

\*henceforth SJP at UIUC will simply be referred to as SJP. This document strictly applies only to SJP at UIUC. The views expressed strictly represent the views of SJP at UIUC.

## Article IV: Membership

### A: Eligibility

Section 1: Membership is open to anyone with an interest in advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people.

Section 2: There are two classes of membership: Full Membership and Probationary Membership.

a. Every new member is automatically given Full Membership unless the Executive Board determines otherwise.

b. Full members have voting privileges. Probationary members do not have voting privileges; however, they may regain voting privileges upon regaining Full Membership status.

Section 3: In this document the term “members” will be inclusive of both Full and Probationary members unless otherwise stated.

### B. Requirements for Prospective Members

Section 1: Prospective members will be given an online form verifying that they have read the mission statement, providing a space for sharing any pertinent medical history, and affirming that they have never been accused of sexual harassment/assault or partner abuse. Section 2: Prospective members who report a history of being accused of sexual harassment/assault will have their application forwarded to an ad hoc committee (see: TERMS DEFINED) that will deliberate on their membership status.

- a. The ad hoc committee will submit their recommendations to the Executive Board who will decide on whether to accept this individual as a member and under what conditions.
- b. The Executive Board decision to induct a member in these circumstances must be unanimous.

Section 3: Prospective members who lie on the form about their history of being accused of sexual violence or partner abuse will be permanently banned from being members of SJP.

### C. Blocking or Voiding Membership

Section 1: The Executive Board reserves the right to block or void the membership to individuals whose motivations for being part of the group are suspect, and/or knowingly undermine the spirit of SJP's mission statement.

- a. Blocking or voiding an individual's membership for the above reasons requires  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Executive Board members to agree (see: ACCOUNTABILITY section).
- b. Any member may motion for a referendum on blocking or voiding an individual's membership in these circumstances. Once the motion is seconded, a vote will be held during the next general body meeting. For an individual's membership to be blocked or voided  $\frac{3}{4}$  of voting members must be in favor.

Section 2: Downgrading an individual's membership status or violating the SJP mission statement requires a simple majority of the Executive Board members to agree. a. An individual may regain their Full Membership status if they agree to an accountability process (see: TERMS DEFINED) drafted by the Vice-President Internal and approved by the Executive Board.

Section 3: The Executive Board reserves the right to block or void the membership of any individual accused of sexual violence or partner abuse.

- a. After a complaint is received the individual's removal from the group is automatic unless the Executive Board and all other involved parties can unanimously agree on an accountability process.
- b. An accused individual may be placed in a Probationary Membership class until which time the Executive Board and all other involved parties can unanimously agree on an accountability process.

D: Participation- Every board member is expected to be a professional ambassador and to take a participatory role with Official **[Student for Justice in Palestine]** business including, but not limited to the following:

- 1) Attendance
- 2) Promotional & Marketing Efforts (Tabling, Chalking, Marketing Input etc.)

- 3) Workshops & Presentations
- 4) Selection Meetings (The reading of applications and selecting replacements)
- 5) Conducting Consulting/Office hours

#### E: Responsibility

- 1) Members MUST maintain fairness and equality in allocation of RSO funds
- 2) Members MUST make recommendations on items deemed for the good of ALL RSOs

F: Violation Procedures- To be an active and productive member of **[Student for Justice in Palestine]** is crucial to the success of the organization and as such; any violation or disruption to that productivity such as missing meetings or not actively helping to promote **[Student for Justice in Palestine]** will result in the following:

- 1) One Unexcused absence and then probation for a determined amount of time by the board
- 2) After two unexcused absences from **[Student for Justice in Palestine]** activities (including missing a committee and/or special meeting, not participating in appointed or scheduled outreach, etc.) members will be removed.

### **Article III: Bylaws**

#### A. Understanding the Mission Statement

- 1) Every member of SJP will be required to have read the group's mission statement. Alleging ignorance of the group's mission statement will not be a valid excuse for actions that violate the mission statement.
- 2) SJP members who do not fully understand the mission statement are expected to ask the group for clarification during general body meetings.
- 3) The Vice President-Internal may decide to allocate general body meetings for clarification of any concerns with the mission statement. It is at the Vice President Internals' discretion whether these meetings should have a political education component (see: EXECUTIVE BOARD section).

#### B. Code of Conduct

- 1) For events by other groups in which SJP as an organization is co-hosting or officially participating in, members are expected to follow the rules and guidelines established by the event organizers.
- 2) Members are free to follow their own judgement for events in which SJP has no official presence.
- 3) Members are expected to be respectful of other members at all times. This includes a prohibition on members talking over others or belittling others.
- 4) Members are expected to conduct themselves professionally at SJP led events and meetings.
- 5) Members are expected to refrain from violence or physical confrontation at SJP led

events.

- a. SJP members who knowingly engage in activities that would cast a negative light on the group will be given an infraction. Three infractions will merit action by the Executive Board in the form of downgrading this individual's membership status or expelling this individual from the group.
- 6) Members will not claim their views as representative of the views of the group without prior permission given by a clear majority of members or by the President.

#### C. Attendance

- 1) Members are expected to attend at least half of the combined meetings and events held throughout the semester.
  - a. Members who do not attend at least half of the combined meetings and events may have their membership status downgraded at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- 2) If circumstances prohibit a member of SJP from attending SJP events it is their responsibility to inform the Vice President-Internal.
- 3) If the conduct of one or more members in SJP inhibits a member's attendance the Vice President-Internal may at the member's permission raise awareness of this issue to the Executive Board. The Executive Board may then decide whether to pursue an accountability process.

#### D. Assigned Tasks

- 1) Members will be expected to complete any tasks they have been assigned in a timely manner.
- 2) Members will be expected to report any difficulties keeping up with their tasks to the President or relevant committee chair.
- 3) A member who repeatedly fails to complete their assigned tasks may be downgraded to a Probationary Membership at the discretion of the Executive Board.

### **Article IV: Officers**

A: Officers- The Officers of **[Student for Justice in Palestine]** shall be a President, Vice President Internal, Vice President External, Treasurer, & Secretary.

B: Eligibility- Officers must be the following:

- 1) Students (Full or Part Time)
- 2) Commit to a 1-year term
- 3) Served at least 1 academic year as a student at the University of Illinois.

C: Election- The officers shall be elected by ballot at the last meeting of the spring semester by a majority of a vote cast for that office.

D: Term- The officers shall serve for one year and their term of office and will begin at the commencement of the fall semester.

E: Vacancy- If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office for the remainder of the term and vacancies of the Vice-President position shall be filled by special election.

#### **Article IV: Duties of Officers**

##### **A: President - It shall be the duty of the President to:**

- 1) Preside over the meetings
- 2) Create agenda for meetings
- 3) Vote only in the case of a tie
- 4) Represent the Organization (i.e. Participate in Quad Day, RSO Fairs and other events to represent the organization)
- 5) Assist the “advisor” with planning and implementing [RSO] training
- 6) Uphold and keep abreast on the Policies & Procedures of [RSO]
- 7) Appoint committee chairpersons
- 8) Prepare and submit the [RSO] End of the Year Report
- 9) Set up and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the Advisor
- 10) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization B: **Vice**

##### **President-Internal - It shall be the duty of the Vice President-Internal to:**

- 1) Preside in the absence of the President
- 2) Serve as chairperson of appointed committees (research, marketing, program)
- 3) Uphold and keep abreast on the Policies & Procedures of [SJP]
- 4) Plan and execute programs & workshops implemented by [SJP]
- 5) Set and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the Advisor
- 6) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization C: **Vice**

##### **President-External - It shall be the duty of the Vice President-External to:**

- 1) Preside in the absence of the President
- 2) Serve as chairperson of appointed committees (research, marketing, program)
- 3) Uphold and keep abreast on the Policies & Procedures of [SJP]
- 4) Plan and execute programs & workshops implemented by [SJP]
- 5) Set and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the Advisor
- 6) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

##### **D: Secretary- It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:**

- 1) Record the minutes of all meetings

- 2) Keep a file of the Organization's Records (including By Laws)
- 3) Issue notices of meetings and conduct the general correspondence of the Organization 4) Represent the Organization (i.e. Participate in Quad Day, RSO Fairs and other events to represent [SJP])
- 5) Uphold and keep abreast on the Policies & Procedures of [SJP]
- 6) Collect and keep committee reports
- 7) Set and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the Advisor
- 8) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

**E: Treasurer- It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:**

- 1) Keep an accurate budget for [SJP]
- 2) Serve as the primary signatory on financial accounts
- 3) Collects Organization dues
- 4) Pays Organization bills
- 5) Maintains a financial history of the organization
- 6) Provide advisor with summary of financial records at the end of the academic year
- 7) Set and keep 1 to 1 meeting with the Advisor
- 8) Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertaining to this organization

**F: List of officers 2021-2022:**

President-Buthaina Hattab  
Vice President (Internal)- Maram Safi  
Vice President (External)- Eman Zwawi  
Treasurer- Lina Issa  
Secretary- Sireen Amra

**Article V: [SJP] Meetings**

A: Meeting types. [SJP] will host two types of meetings:

- 1) [SJP] Committee Meetings- Regular meetings held [Time-Indicated] during the regular school year
- 2) Special Meeting- Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee (Ie. Selection Meetings, Financial Discussion, planning meetings for different outreach)

B: Quorum- A quorum shall consist of [**determined by organization**] of the membership

C: Parliamentary Authority- Robert's Rules of orders [[Robert's Rules of Order Cheat Sheet](#)] shall govern the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

**Article VI: Advisor**

**A: Selection**

**B: Duties-** The responsibilities of the advisor shall be to:

- 1) Maintain an awareness of the activities and programs sponsored by the Organization.
- 2) Meet on a regular basis with [SJP MEMBER] to discuss upcoming meetings, long range plans, goals, and problems of the club.
- 3) Attend regular meetings, executive board meetings as often as schedule allows.
- 4) Assist in the orientation of new officers.
- 5) Explain and clarify campus policy and procedures that apply to the rso.
- 6) Provide direction in the area of parliamentary procedure, meeting facilitation, group building, goal setting, and program planning.
- 7) Inform [RSO] members of those factors that constitute unacceptable behavior on the part of the club members, and the possible consequence of said behaviors.

**Article IX: Amendments**

**A: Selection-** these bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the board.

**B: Notice-** All members shall receive advance notice of the proposed amendment at least five (5) days before the meeting.