

NCSU LASA Constitution

Fundamental Principles

The Latin American Student Association is a student body organized within the rules and regulations of North Carolina State University.

The Association promotes the professional development for NCSU students and the interaction and coexistence of people from the five continents who share an interest for Latin America. LASA organizes academic and social events in order to disseminate aspects of Latin American life, culture, tradition and values while enhancing the interaction between the student community members.

Attendance to LASA events is open to all persons and not restricted to members of the community.

LASA's Mission

- Establish closer ties with North Carolina State University alumni and enhance networking opportunities for students
- Inform the academic community of events that pertain to Latin America
- Analyze the current political, social and economic situation of Latin America by organizing academic events such as conferences, roundtables and workshops
- Organize social events to forge closer relationships between people interested in the region
- Promote Latin American culture both by organizing events and advertising those presented in the Raleigh – Durham area
- Work with local organizations in promoting Latin American and Latino issues

Membership

1. LASA membership is open to all people interested in Latin American and Latino affairs in the community. The association does not discriminate the inclusion of members because of academic program, country of origin, race, religion, ethnicity or preferences.

Executive Board

1. The Executive Board consists of elected and appointed members. Elected positions are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Academic Chair, Cultural Chair, Social Chair, and Communications Chair. The Executive Board has the prerogative to appoint any other board positions during their administration.

2. In order to fulfill the goals of the Association, the Board is obliged to perform the following duties:

- a. Develop and execute a program of activities for each semester;
- b. Submit a detailed Budget, following student groups' guidelines;

- c. Encourage the participation of the student community in the execution of events;
 - d. Create synergy with other student groups at NCSU and other graduate programs;
 - e. Organize elections for the next Executive Board.
3. The Board is responsible for the obedience of the articles of this Constitution.
 5. At the end of the period, the Board is responsible for the transmission of all documents, resources and relevant information to the incoming board.

Elections

1. Only full time students may request to run as candidates.
2. Only LASA members can cast votes during the elections.
3. Elections are held on the first week of the month of December, as follows:
 - a. The Board must convene an open assembly for the sole purpose of holding elections;
 - b. Students interested in being Board members must present their candidacy to the Assembly;
 - c. Candidates must present proposed activities according to the post they are running for;
 - d. Assembly members will cast their vote for each position through closed ballots which will be counted at the end of the Assembly.
 - e. The winners will be those who get the plurality of votes on the day of the election

Elected Officers and their Duties

President: As chief executive officer for LASA, the President oversees all aspects of the Organization's operations. The President will work cooperatively with the other officers and the cabinet to achieve the organization's overall goals.

Vice-President: It is the responsibility of the Vice President to assist the President in the workings of the Organization's operations. The VP directly oversees the cabinet of appointed officers as well as assists in the coordination of activities sponsored by LASA. In the event that the president is unable to execute the responsibilities of his or her office, the VP will assume the office of the President until the elected President of that term returns to his or her post or a new election for the office of the President is held.

Treasurer: As chief financial officer for the Organization, it is the responsibility of the

Treasurer to oversee all the financial aspects of LASA's activities. These activities include but are not limited to: budget planning and presenting, special financial requests, budget for social, cultural and academic events, and general management of funds. All receipts collected on the behalf of the Organization must be submitted to the Treasurer.

Secretary: It is the responsibility of the secretary to maintain a complete and accurate record of all meetings and activities of the Organization. Other responsibilities of the secretary include, but are not limited to, compilation and maintenance of an Organizational calendar of events, distribution of events and announcements, all correspondence, and control of the listserve of all members and individuals connected with LASA.

Marketing Officer: Design marketing materials for all events, strategic distribution of materials at North Carolina State University and throughout the city of Raleigh – Durham area, including other universities; maintain and update LASA website and offer assistance and support to fellow board members' projects.

Academic Co-Chair: Organize the Distinguished Speakers series (at least one per semester) and offer assistance and support to fellow board members' projects.

Cultural Co-Chair: Planning cultural activities of interest such as film festivals, cooking classes, dancing classes, etc. Raise awareness of Latin American events on- and off-campus and offer assistance and support to fellow board members' projects.

Social Co-Chairs: Organize each semester's LASA Party, the main fundraising activity of the organization; organize other social activities, including joint events with other student organizations and offer assistance and support to fellow board members' projects.

Amendments

1. In order to amend the present constitution, any officer may present a proposal, and it must be ratified by the majority of the members of the Executive Board.

By-Laws of the NCSU Latin American Student Association

Article I

Membership

Section A - Members who wish to resign from the Association must submit a written resignation to the Secretary stating their desires. Such members will be reinstated upon request.

Article II

Eligibility of Officers and Directors

Section A - President and Vice Presidents

Any nominee for these positions shall have been an active regular member of the Association for a minimum of one academic year before taking office.

Section B - Secretary, Treasurer

Any nominee for these positions shall have been an active regular member of the Association and an enrolled full time student at the University of North Carolina.

Section C - Directors

Any nominee for these positions shall have been an active regular member of the Association for a minimum of one academic year before taking office and an enrolled full time undergraduate, graduate, medical, or law student at the University of North Carolina.

Eligibility of Standing Committees

Any nominee for these positions shall have been an active regular member of the Association for a minimum of one academic year before taking office and an enrolled full time undergraduate, graduate, medical, or law student at the University of North Carolina.

Section D - Re-Election

The term of office for an officer shall be one calendar year. Officers may succeed themselves for indefinite terms if re-elected.

Article III

Duties of Officers and Board of Directors

See Constitution

Article IV

Duties of Standing Committees

Section A - Committees

The Program Committee shall comprise of the Chairpersons of the Booster/Fundraising, Culture/Education, Membership, and Publicity/Public Relations.

The Education/Culture Committee shall determine the need of the Association's educational activities. These activities shall be aside from monthly membership meetings, but planned in conjunction with the monthly meetings.

The Membership Committee shall conduct a constant program for enlisting new members. Maintaining a permanent and current membership record shall be the responsibility of this committee.

The Publicity/Public Relations Committee shall keep the membership and the public informed of the activities of the Association. A regular newsletter shall be published by this committee. Assists in the design and creation of publicity materials which include posters, flyers, banners, and Pitt News ads.

Article V

Vacancies of Office

Section A - If a vacancy occurs in an elective office during the year, the Board of Directors shall appoint a qualified member to serve for the balance of the year.

Article VI

Section A - Dues

There will be no annual dues for regular members. Annual dues for associate members shall be ???

Article VII

Ammendments

Section A - The By-Laws necessary for the proper administration of this constitution shall be enacted and may be revised by the Board of Directors with approval by the Associate Director Student Activities Office.

Section B - Any amendments to the By-Laws must be presented in writing to the Board of Directors two months prior to consideration. Amendment must be read at four regular meetings before being acted upon. A two-thirds vote of the Board members at any meeting of the Board of Directors will be required to approve consideration and action of the proposal. A two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors will be required to approve such amendments.