



Rangoli

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION *at* PENN

# Constitution

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## Preamble

We, the Graduate and Professional Students at the University of Pennsylvania, having solemnly resolved to constitute **Rangoli - the South Asian Association at Penn** into an organization and to secure to all its constituents:

**Representation**, at the University of Pennsylvania and the student governments and student groups associated with it;

**Advocacy**, for matters pertaining to South Asia and South Asian students;

**Programming**, that is social, professional and academic;  
and to promote among them all.

**Community**, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of Rangoli - the South Asian Association at Penn;

In our General Body Meeting on sixth September, 2020, do hereby adopt, enact, and give to ourselves this constitution.

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**Article I: NAME**

I.1. The name of the organization shall be “Rangoli - the South Asian Association at Penn,” henceforth referred to as “Rangoli” or ‘pennrangoli.’

**Article II: PURPOSE**

II.1. The purpose of Rangoli shall be to enhance the quality of life for graduate and professional students at the University of Pennsylvania who:

- a. Are citizens of, **but not limited to**, South South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka)
- b. Self-identify as South Asian
- c. Self-identify as belonging to the South Asian diaspora
- d. Self-identify as allies of “South Asia” or the culture of “South Asian Subcontinent”

II.2. Rangoli shall carry out its purpose through programming, service, advocacy and providing representation.

II.3. Rangoli shall be a not-for-profit organization.

II.4. Rangoli shall not identify with any religion, institutionalized or otherwise.

II.5. Rangoli shall not identify with any political ideology or political party.

II.6. **Rangoli will not form partnerships based on religious or political affiliations and will ensure that such affiliations do not influence its actions and decisions.**

**Article III: MEMBERSHIP AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

III.1. **All graduate and professional students at the University of Pennsylvania who express an interest in joining Rangoli are deemed members during their period of enrollment at the university.**

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III.2. All members of Rangoli shall be treated equally in all of its activities and operations, irrespective of their nationality, ethnicity, religion, language, caste, gender, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, political affiliation, **socio-economic status, marital status, or parental status.**

III.3. In formal capacities, the Rangoli Executive Board and Standing Committees shall communicate exclusively in English. **However, Rangoli may host programs or provide services tailored to cater to specific linguistic or cultural sections of its membership.**

#### Article IV: EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

##### IV.1. Executive Board Composition:

The Executive Board shall consist of the following positions:

- a. **President**
- b. **Vice-President**
- c. **Chair for the Committee on Finance**
- d. **Chair for the Committee on Logistics**
- e. **Chair for the Committee on External Affairs**
- f. **Chair for the Committee on Social Activities**
- g. **Chair for the Committee on Advocacy**
- h. **Chair for the Committee on Communications**

##### IV.2. Standing Committee:

A Standing Committee may be formed upon the initiative of a simple majority of the Executive Board. Rangoli shall have the following Six Standing Committees. With the exception of the Finance Committee, any committee may be dissolved at the discretion of a simple majority of the Executive Board.

- a. The Committee on Finance shall be chaired by the Chair for the Committee on Finance and is responsible for managing the financial affairs of Rangoli.
  - b. **The Committee on Facilities shall be chaired by the Chair for the Committee on Logistics and is responsible for managing the logistics for Rangoli.**
  - c. The Committee on External Affairs shall be chaired by the Chair for the Committee on External Affairs and is responsible for coordinating the external affairs of Rangoli.
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- d. The Committee on Social Activities shall be chaired by the Chair for the Committee on Social Activities and is responsible for coordination of social programs, cultural activities, athletic events, and community service.
  - e. The Committee on Advocacy shall be chaired by the Chair for the Committee on Advocacy and is responsible to provide policy direction and advocacy for Rangoli and its constituents.
  - f. The Committee on Communications shall be chaired by the Chair for the Committee on Communications and is responsible for communication for Rangoli.

#### IV.3. **President:**

The President shall provide leadership and direction to Rangoli Executive Board and the Standing Committees, and in conjunction with the Executive Board shall devise and implement annual goals and strategies for fulfilling the purpose of Rangoli.

#### **In the event the President cannot perform their duties:**

- a. The Vice President will assume the role of Interim President until the next Executive Board Meeting.**
- b. At this meeting, the Board may choose to confirm the Vice President's position as permanent President based on a two-thirds majority vote.**
- c. If the Vice President is unable or unwilling to assume the role, the Chair for the Committee on Finance will serve as the Interim President until a special election can be organized.**

#### IV.4. **Vice President:**

- a. Serve as the chief of staff of the Executive Board.
- b. Collaborate closely with the President on all Rangoli matters.
- c. Organize agendas for both Executive Board meetings and General Body Meetings in coordination with the President.
- d. Coordinate the planning of special events and projects.
- e. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.

#### IV.5. **The Chair for the Committee on Finance:**

- a. Handle all financial matters concerning Rangoli.
  - b. Maintain accurate and up-to-date financial reports.
  - c. Budget, allocate, and oversee funds for all Standing Committees & their events.
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- d. Apply for funding and financial grants on Rangoli's behalf.
  - e. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.

**IV.6. The Chair for the Committee on Logistics:**

- a. Oversee logistics for Executive Board Meetings, General Body Meetings, and Rangoli events.
- b. Record and maintain minutes of meetings and summaries of Rangoli activities.
- c. Handle reservations and coordinate with vendors.
- d. Oversee Executive Board elections and Standing Committee appointments.
- e. Conduct an annual review of the Constitution.
- f. Collaborate with the Chair for the Committee on Finance on budget management.
- g. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.

**IV.7. The Chair for the Committee on External Affairs:**

- a. Coordinate Rangoli's external affairs and activities.
- b. Represent Rangoli and its constituents at the University of Pennsylvania and affiliated organizations, notably at GAPSA and the IDEAL Council.
- c. Engage with alumni and perform community outreach.
- d. Foster relationships with other universities and organizations.
- e. Issue official Rangoli statements on significant matters affecting its members.
- h. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.

**IV.8. The Chair for the Committee on Social Activities:**

- a. Co-ordinate all Rangoli social and special events, including cultural activities, parties, receptions, dance nights, film screenings, invited speakers, athletic events, and off-campus events.
- b. Collaborate with the Chair for the Committee on Finance on event budgeting.
- c. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.

**IV.9. The Chair for the Committee on Advocacy:**

- a. Provide policy direction to the Executive Board.
  - b. Advocate for Rangoli's causes and concerns, which may include social, cultural, and academic affairs.
  - c. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.
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#### IV.10. **The Chair for the Committee on Communications:**

- a. Oversee internal communications for Rangoli, its Executive Board & members.
- b. Promote open communication between Executive Board & Rangoli members.
- c. Collaborate with school newspapers and other media outlets.
- d. Manage Rangoli's online and social media presence.
- e. Monitor, screen, and disseminate all Rangoli email communications.
- f. Maintain the Rangoli website, ensuring current contact information for the Executive Board and details of upcoming Rangoli events are available.
- g. Perform other duties as delegated by the President.

#### **Article V: MEETINGS AND PROCEDURE**

##### V.1. Executive Board Meetings:

- a. The Rangoli Executive Board shall convene (in-person or virtually) at least once during the months of August, September, October, November, January, February, March, and April.**
- b. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by the request of a third of the Executive Board members.**

##### V.2. Quorum for Executive Board Meetings:

- a. A quorum for the Executive Board Meetings shall be achieved when at least one-third of its members are present.
- b. No resolutions can be passed in the absence of a quorum.
- c. If a seat on the Executive Board remains vacant, it will not be counted when determining the quorum.

##### V.3. Attendance at Executive Board Meetings:

- a. Executive Board Meetings shall be open to members of the standing committee.
- b. A closed session can be initiated if a simple majority of the Executive Board votes in favor.

##### V.4. General Body Meetings:

- a. General Body Meetings shall be conducted at least once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester.**
  - b. These meetings are open to all graduate and professional students of the university.**
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## Article VI: ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND TERMS

### VI.1. Annual Elections:

**a. The forthcoming Executive Board shall be elected during the General Body Meeting in April by a simple majority vote.**

b. Every graduate & professional student at the university holds the right to vote.

### VI.2. Eligibility:

All graduate and professional students are eligible to contest for an Executive Board position.

### VI.3. Concurrent Positions:

An individual may hold only a single position on the Executive Board at a given time unless appointed as an interim Board member in exceptional cases.

### VI.4. Handling Vacancies:

**In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Board, the remaining board members shall appoint a qualified graduate or professional student to fill the vacancy, subject to a two-thirds majority agreement.**

### VI.5. Election Oversight:

The Chair for the Committee on Logistics is tasked with supervising the election process and annually reviewing election rules, in collaboration with the Chair for the Committee on Advocacy.

### VI.6. Appointments to Standing Committees:

Chairs of respective Standing Committees will appoint members to their committees based on their discretion.

### VI.7. Removal of Members:

**a. Any member of the Executive Board or a Standing Committee can be removed upon achieving a two-thirds majority vote from the Executive Board.**

**b. Grounds for removal include violations of this CONSTITUTION, MALFEASANCE, MISFEASANCE, NONFEASANCE, or any other significant reasons as deemed appropriate by the Board.**

### VI.8. Tenure Restrictions:

a. An individual cannot serve on the Executive Board for more than 3 years in total.

b. Serving in the same Executive Board position is capped at two consecutive years.

This provision will be effective from the term that follows the adoption of this constitution.

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**Article VII: AMENDMENTS**

VII.1. Any amendment to this Constitution can be made at an Executive Board Meeting and must receive two-thirds of the votes cast.

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