

# The Columbia University Society for the Philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism Constitutions

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## Article I Name

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be The Columbia University Society for the Philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism, hereafter referred to as "CUSPTB."

**Section 2.** The officers of The Columbia University Society for the Philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism shall make up the Executive Board of The Columbia University Society for the Philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism, hereafter referred to as the 'Board'.

## Article II Purpose

**Section 1.** Buddhism is primarily a system of education, a science that guides individuals to live life to its fullest. The Columbia University Society for the Philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism is a student organization whose mission is to provide students an opportunity to achieve the essence of inner well-being through the interpretation of traditional Buddhist philosophy and its application on global issues and modern life.

**Section 2.** The Board will hold regular study groups, open discussions and dialogues, events, and community meals to discuss the philosophy of Buddhism and develop friendships. The CUSPTB is not affiliated with a specific temple and welcomes everyone of all cultural and religious backgrounds.

## Article III Membership

**Section 1.** The general body of the CUSPTB shall welcome all matriculated students of Columbia. The sole requirement of membership is regular attendance of scheduled meetings and events. Attendance of 4 meetings per academic year are required to be considered as an active member.

**Section 2.** Members assume the responsibility of adhering to all the university's regulations and accepted practices of the Columbia University, both academic and non-academic, and the rules established by the various colleges, until such time when these may be officially changed. The responsibilities of membership are the participation in on-campus activities and meetings.

**Section 3.** When non-compliant behaviors occur which adversely affect the society and members, CUSPTB reserves the right to revoke the individual's membership. There will be no distinction or exclusion as to ethnicity, race, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, culture, sexual orientation, disability status, etc.

## Article IV Meetings & Procedures

**Section 1.** Meetings are held on a monthly basis and are called by the President.

**Section 2.** Decisions are made by a majority vote of the active members or a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

## Article V Officers

**Section 1.** The organization shall have the following officers that form the Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations may be made at meetings before the election meeting. All officers must be elected each year by the active club members in accordance with the constitution of CUSPTB. Potential candidates must be current Columbia University students. Election meeting minutes and attendance forms are required.

**Section 2.** The duties of these officers shall be:

- **President/Co-President:** The president is responsible for overseeing the society's operations and supervising the other leaders. He or she is the official spokesperson of the society, and represents the group to the campus and local community.
- **Vice President:** The Vice President oversees all internal operations of the society, ensuring that other leaders and members have what they need to accomplish their goals.
- **Secretary:** The Secretary is responsible for maintaining notes and records on all activities of the society, including meetings, events and members.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for establishing and maintaining all financial records for the society. He or she must work closely with other officers to ensure that the society has the funds necessary to accomplish its goals.

**Section 3.** An elected president is limited to two terms in office, a total of 1 academic calendar year.

**Section 4.** Only members who are graduate and undergraduate students of Columbia University may hold the position of president or treasurer. No single member may be both the president and treasurer simultaneously.

## Article VI Electing, Appointing & Removing Officers

**Section 1.** The election will take place once per year. General election rules are listed as below:

- Candidate for each position is nominated by the Board.
- The election committee is formed by the Board members.
- During the election meeting, the election committee should be at the door and use the membership list to verify that only active members who has attended 4 club activities or meetings receive the voting ballots. Only voting members should be allowed in the room.
- The candidates should give a 3-5 minutes speech about their qualifications and reasons for participating in the election for the specific position.
- A majority vote from all active members is required for a candidate to be elected.
- After voting, the election committee count the votes, notify all members of the club and the Club Advisor of the election results within 24 hours.

**Section 2.** Officers of the Board may be impeached and removed from office for the following violations:

- Unethical behaviors.
- Failure to adhere to the regulations of the Columbia University.
- Inability to fulfill the responsibilities of the office.
- Absence from two or more regular or special Board meetings during one semester without a legitimate excuse.

To initiate the impeachment procedure, a Board Member must distribute a written memo to all other Board Members, stating the reasons for impeachment. The memo can be distributed by that Board Member or anonymously through the President of the Board. All of the members shall be notified at least one week prior to impeachment proceedings. On the first meeting

following that week, a decision to impeach is made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board. The officer who is being impeached cannot participate in the vote or be present in the meeting room during the vote. That officer has a right to speak for his or her defense during that meeting before the vote.

**Section 3.** When an office is vacated due to resignation or impeachment, a new officer must be elected. Election meeting minutes and attendance forms are required.

## **Article VII Committees**

**Section 1.** The primary purpose of standing committees shall be to consider and recommend actions and propose policies in the functional areas under their jurisdictions, subject to final approval by the Board.

**Section 2.** After consultation with the involved individuals, the Board shall appoint members to serve one or two academic years as the standing committee. Committee members will be removed or positions vacated shall be conducted in the same manner as original appointments of the committee.

**Section 3.** A committee can be formed or removed if it is determined that the committee is not in the best interest of CUSPTB. A committee can be formed or removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

## **Article VIII By-Laws**

**Section 1.** By-Laws of the organization shall be established and altered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

## **Article IX Amendments to the Constitution**

**Section 1.** Any active member who is eligible to vote or hold office can propose an amendment. The constitution shall be altered by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

## **Article X Ratification**

**Section 1.** This constitution shall be established by a vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of the society and subject to the approval by the Club Advisor.