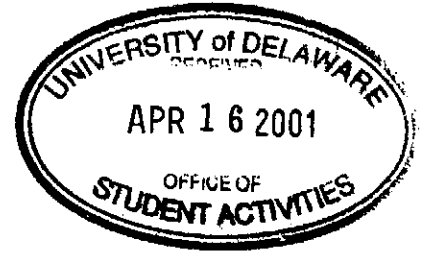


Constitution



Group Name: Japaru

Preamble

We, the students of the University of Delaware, hereby form the organization known as the Japaru for the purpose of:

1. Creating an opportunity for students of different backgrounds to meet and share experiences centered around American and Japanese culture.
2. Allowing American students of Japanese as well as Japanese students of English to practice their speaking skills in a casual social context.
3. Giving members opportunities to partake in activities that have to do with Japanese culture that are both enjoyable and enlightening.

Article I

Name

This organization shall be known as the Japaru

Article II

Object

The object of this organization shall be to:

Bring together Japanese and American students and members of the University community in order to promote learning about one another's culture and language through group meetings, discussions, and activities. Meetings simply consist of Japanese and American students intermingling and talking about any topic, either in English or Japanese, depending on the individual ability of each student. Activities are planned based on the suggestions of the members and are done at a time also chosen by the members.

Article III

Qualifications for Membership

Any full-time matriculated undergraduate student of the University of Delaware who agrees with the object and purpose of this organization may become a member. ELI students may only become associate members, but are still eligible to participate in meetings and activities as they wish. There is no minimum language requirement for

American students, but either being currently or recently enrolled in a Japanese class is recommended.

Article IV Non-Discrimination Clause

The organization agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University and all local, state, and federal laws. Members will become acquainted with policies and procedures in the official student handbook and other policies and procedures provided by the University. This organization is a viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six full time undergraduate students and we do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, veteran, handicap status, or sexual orientation.

Article V Duties and Privileges of Membership

Members can take full-advantage of meeting native speakers with which to inquire about linguistic issues or cultural facets. We often have visiting students from Universities in Japan. Members also have the option to either coordinate or participate in group activities pertaining to Japanese culture. Members are expected to be courteous, respectful and patient when speaking with either other members or visitors and also not to become outwardly frustrated and disruptive to the group. This is a fun, enriching experience and there is no reason for anyone to ruin it for the other members or guests.

Article VI Absence Policies

While attendance is not mandatory, we encourage members to come to every meeting so they may be informed of any changes in agenda or activities that we may plan. Also, attending whenever possible is fun and really promotes language skills. Members are asked to give their e-mail address to the Secretary so that everyone may be informed of group business, even if they do not attend the meeting or are not informed at the meeting.

Article VII Policies and Procedures for Disciplining/Removing Members

While this organization does not have many rigid rules, members must always carry a sense of cultural open-mindedness. There may naturally be misunderstandings, either cultural or linguistic but maintaining one's decency is necessary. Members who slander other members or guests in any way will be reprimanded and possibly removed based on the judgement of the officers and faculty advisor. The member is entitled to a warning for a first offence as opposed to immediate dismissal. Depending on the serious of the offense, this is up to the discretion of the officers, the faculty advisor, or in some cases the other members. Also, if any activities involve an off-campus trip, members are expected to follow University policy as well as local, state and federal laws, as stated in

the Non-Discrimination Clause. Any member who violates these policies may, depending on the seriousness of the violation, be dismissed from the group.

Article VIII Officers

Section 1: President

This organization shall have a president with duties including the calling and running of meetings and being involved with day-to-day affairs of the group. The President shall be responsible for the registration of the Registered Student Organization and all required paperwork for the continuation of the organization. The President along with the Vice-President and the Faculty Advisor has the authority to approve/disapprove plans for activities and setup of meetings. He/She may also name members as activity planning committee heads and, if so requested, assist in the planning of activities. The President also has the responsibility of asking for activities suggestions and finding out the level of interest from the members.

Section 2: Vice President

The Vice President shall serve the role of President if the President is either absent, unable to perform his/her duties, or resigns. The Vice President may also approve or assist in the planning of activities along with the President. The Vice President also carries the responsibility of assisting the President in handling the affairs of the group during meetings.

Section 3: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The Treasurer shall sign any checks written by the organization for the purpose of the organization and maintain group ledgers. The treasurer is also responsible for requesting funds from the allocation board. The Treasurer will have checks so-signed by the appropriate administrator.

Section 4: Secretary

The Secretary has the responsibility of maintaining a full e-mail list of all members and notifying them of any messages from the other officers, or other members. Also, he/she should record all information pertaining to the planning of activities and notify all members accordingly.

Section 5: Qualifications for Officers

All officers must be full time matriculated students at the University of Delaware.

Section 6: Election of Officers

Initially members will be asked to be officers on a volunteer basis, which will most likely take place on the first meeting of an academic year. There are situations when the officers of the previous year will be asked to stay on as officers without any need for elections. The member who volunteers for a position must be willing and competent enough to carry out his/her position. If no one volunteers, then members will be asked to nominate others for the position. The nominee must accept the nomination. No member will be forced to take a position. If more than one member either volunteers or is nominated, then the officer will be elected by a majority of members' votes. Members will vote for a candidate by writing their name on a secret ballot to be counted by the faculty advisor, or whoever is coordinating the meeting at the time of the election. In the case of a tie, it is up to the other officers to make a judgement based on their impression of who will better fulfill the responsibilities of the position in question. Also, in certain situations, an officer may be chosen by the faculty advisor without the need for an election.

Section 7: Procedure for Disciplining/Removal of Officers

An officer who either violates the code of proper conduct in the group (discussed in Article VII), University, state, or local policy, or intentionally fails to fulfill his or her duties may be asked to relinquish his or her position and allow another member to fill it. In the case of violating policy, the officer may be asked to leave the group. The officer is entitled to a warning of the problem and is also given a chance to defend himself/herself of the charges. If an offense has been committed, an officer may be removed by a majority vote of the members, and in some situations by the faculty advisor.

Section 8: Resignations

If an officer wishes to resign for a legitimate reason (can't perform duties, loss of interest in group, overworked, overstressed, medical reasons etc.), he/she must inform the other officers and faculty advisor of his/her resignation so that a new officer can be chosen to replace him/her.

Section 9: Officer Transition

If an officer does not graduate at the end of an academic year, he/she has the option of staying on in the same position for the coming year. If an officer does graduate, decides not to be part of the group, or leaves the University, then the officer selection process to fill the vacant position will take place when the group reconvenes at the beginning of the semester.

Article IX Meetings

Informal meetings will be held once a week, although the officers and the faculty advisor will often keep in contact via e-mail or small meetings concerning group business.

Article X
Dues

There are no official membership dues required for this organization. If an activity requires payment on behalf of the members, members will be informed if and when it is necessary to pay. Participation in activities is optional, so a member will only have to pay the fee if he/she wishes to take part in the activity.

Article XI
Bylaws

Section 1: Authority

This organization shall establish by-laws to carry out the policies set forth in this constitution.

Section 2: Approval of Bylaws

Approval of bylaws and changes to existing bylaws are subject to a majority approval by member voting.

Article XII
Procedures for Decision Making

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition shall govern the organization's procedures, including voting and conducting formal meetings, although the majority of the meetings held for this organization are informal.

Article XIII
Establishment of Committees

Activities Committees

Members will be asked for suggestions for activities, and also may be asked by the officers to lead a committee of any number of members (volunteers) to organize and coordinate the activity (activities). The committees formed will vary depending on the number of activities and the amount of involvement needed to plan them. The leaders of the committees are expected to inform the President and Vice President of their progress and also inform the Secretary of vital issues so that he/she may inform the other members.

Article XIV
Selection of an Advisor

The faculty advisor is normally a Japanese professor at the University who volunteers to help coordinate the group.

Article XV
Disbursal of organizational assets

The University of Delaware shall inherit the assets of any Registered Student Organization should the group become defunct.

Article XVI
Quorum

For official business to be conducted at a meeting, at least half of the members (10 or more) must be present at the meeting. Any business concerning changes in the group or plans for activities will most likely be mentioned before a meeting by e-mail from the Secretary. This is to ensure that every member is aware of the business of the group.

Article XVII
Ratification

This constitution shall be ratified by a 2/3 approval by group members and approval by student Activities and Programs Office.

Article XVIII
Amendments

Constitutional Amendments shall also require a 2/3 approval by group members. Changes will require advance notice to all organization members.

Article XIX
Signatures

President:

Advisor:

Program Coordinator for Leadership Development: