

QASR Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I: NAME & PURPOSE

Section A: Name – The name of this club shall be the Quantitative Approaches to Social Research Society (QASR).

Section B: Purpose – The Quantitative Approaches to Social Research Society (QASR) aims to promote the understanding and utilization of quantitative approaches in social science research both in academic and professional circles at large. This goal will be accomplished through academic, career, and social focused events including at least one of each per semester. QASR membership is open to all students within the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS).

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership – Any current student within the GSAS is eligible for membership, conditional on meeting the following criteria. Each candidate has attended at least one meeting and at least one event hosted by QASR in the preceding or current semester, of which a proof (including but not limited to a copy of the invitation, attendance roster from the meeting, attendance confirmation, emails) can be produced by any of the current Officers or the student. Eligible candidates shall express their interest in writing (email) to the QASR Communications Coordinator (CC) who shall keep a record of the meetings' attendance. Candidates for membership who have met the aforesaid criteria by the time of their writing to the CC shall become Members upon receiving a confirmation of their membership by the CC, and no later than two weeks from the time of the original dispatch of their email to the CC.

Section B: Minimum Membership – The membership of this organization will at all times consist of at least 10 Columbia GSAS students, no less than 50% of our membership will consist of GSAS students currently represented by ASGC.

Section C: Nondiscrimination – In compliance with Columbia's Nondiscrimination Statement, this organization shall not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

Section D: Dues – If this organization charges monetary dues, there will be exceptions made for students that cannot afford them. The students who cannot make payments should notify the QASR President or the QASR Treasurer at least 1 week in advance of the event.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section A: Officers – The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Alumni Outreach Coordinator, Technology Coordinator, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator. President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary positions are not open for co-chairing. Other positions stated otherwise are open for co-chairing.

Section B: Eligibility – To run for President, the candidate must have attended at least one workshop hosted by QASR and at least two board meeting events by QASR. For other officer positions, the same conditions as those appertaining to Members shall apply. CC will be responsible to oversee the eligibility criteria for voters.

Section C: Election – The Officers shall be elected by ballot at a convocation especially called for that purpose by all the Officers either ad hoc or no later than one month before the expiry of the terms of the current Officers by a majority of the vote cast for that office. Only members may vote. The election shall be communicated in advance to all current Members. For single candidate positions, if there is an overwhelming majority against one holding Vice President, Secretary, Alumni Outreach Coordinator, Technology Coordinator, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator position, the position will be left vacant. For President and Treasurer positions, if there is an overwhelming majority against a candidate, a re-election will be scheduled.

Section D: Term – The Officers shall serve for the duration of the semester in which they were elected and their term of office shall begin immediately following the vote by the ballot.

Section E: Vacancy – If a vacancy occurs in any office, the office shall be filled by a special election.

Section F: Exceptional case - If QASR ceases to be active and loses its ASGC status, but then decides to revive its ASGC status, and hence cannot apply the above conditions for elections below rules will apply. The President and Treasurer position will be selected from the group of students who gathered together to revive QASR. One should be a GSAS student. Those who choose to be part of the revived QASR will have election rights to cast a ballot. One who wins a majority vote will be elected.

ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section A: President – It shall be the duty of the President to:

Maintain the overall direction and wellbeing of the organization. The President will organize meetings, and shall coordinate the activities of the other Executive Board members. The President shall be the QASR liaison to the faculty as well as any partner organizations, except for by explicit arrangement (in writing) with other Officers so designated or when delegated to another Officer.

Section B: Vice President– It shall be the duty of the Vice President to:

Support the President as necessary. The Vice President will monitor the organization's email and maintain the mailing list. Finally, the Vice President will keep a timeline, tracking for events and planning with support of the Technology Coordinator.

Section C: Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

Manage the organization's financial resources. The Treasurer will work with the President to apply for various sources of funding as well as budget for organization events. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for managing and collecting the records and documents of all the financial records.

Section D: Community Outreach Coordinator – It shall be the duty of the Community Outreach Coordinator to:

Organize events aimed at helping the Columbia community as well as other surrounding communities. The Community Outreach Coordinator shall be responsible for communicating with other Officers members to promote events by advertising or other means, the recruitment of new Members and involving the current Members in organization events. They shall be responsible for maintaining event attendance lists and membership list.

Section E: Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

Take meeting minutes of all Officer-level meetings and membership meetings and distributing the minutes to the Members.

Section F: Alumni Outreach – It shall be the duty of the Alumni Outreach Coordinator to:

Take a leading role in organizing events and contact with alumni, delegating responsibilities or coordinating as necessary.

Section G: Digital Media Coordinator – It shall be the duty of the Technology Coordinator to:

Maintain the organization website (<https://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/qasr/>), and use social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn etc.) for promotion of the organization.

Section H: Communications Coordinator – It shall be the duty of the Communications Coordinator to:

Serve as the medium for information flows between the QMSS, maintaining a database of interested student's contact information, and supporting advertising for events.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section A: Meetings – Regular executive board meetings shall be held at the discretion of the executive board, to be decided at the start of each semester.

Section B: Special Meeting – Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section C: Quorum – A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the membership.

Section D: Parliamentary Authority – Robert's Rules of Orders, shall govern this club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section A: Responsibility – Management of this club shall be vested in an Executive Committee responsible to the entire membership to uphold these bylaws.

Section B: Membership – This committee shall consist of the Officers as listed in Article III.

ARTICLE VII: REPRESENTATION

Section A: Voting – Decisions for the group will be made by the QASR Officers. If only one QASR Board member is present, decisions for the group will be made by eligible voting members of the entire group.

Section B: Selection – Only Columbia students, enrolled in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and physically present at the QASR meeting during which the decision is raised may vote.

Section C: Rules – Each group member who qualifies may cast one vote per decision.

Section D: Decision – A simple majority vote (more than fifty percent) is required to approve a decision.

Section E: Method – Votes may be cast publicly (voice vote or hand raising) or privately (paper or electronic ballots). Ties will be referred to the President for resolution.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section A: Selection – This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote (the Quorum) of all QASR members eligible to vote.

Section B: Notice – All Members shall receive advance notice of the proposed amendment at least five days before the meeting.

ARTICLE IX: ASGC GOVERNANCE CLAUSE

Section A: Clause – The Society for Quantitative Approaches to Social Research (QASR) agrees to abide by the Essential Policies (<https://www.essential-policies.columbia.edu/>) for the Columbia Community. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASGC Executive Board to ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.