

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Oromo Studies Association (OSA)

Revised and Presented by 2006-2007 OSA Board of Directors
July 28, 2007

ARTICLE I: NAME AND ADDRESS

- 1.1 The name of the Association shall be the Oromo Studies Association (OSA).
- 1.2 The mailing address of OSA shall rotate annually to a venue selected by the incoming President, and announced to the membership within one month of the President's election to office.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Oromo Studies Association is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary organization established to promote and foster scholarly studies in all fields pertaining to the Oromo people.
- 2.2. To realize its objectives the Oromo Studies Association guides, develops and promotes scholarship on the history, economy, culture, health, education, politics and laws of the Oromo, in addition to biological and bio-medical sciences, physical sciences, social welfare and other disciplines as they pertain to the Oromo by
 - 2.2.1 Providing a forum for well-informed intellectual exchange.
 - 2.2. 2 Expanding Oromo studies by inviting non-Oromo scholars to engage in the development of research related to the Oromo.
 - 2.2.3 Organizing programs that encourage, nurture and aid the development of scholars whose goals are to contribute knowledge and data related to Oromo studies.
 - 2.2.4. Seeking and coordinating financial and other support and assistance from both public and private sources for the advancement of Oromo studies.
 - 2.2.5 Promoting interaction and mutual understanding between Oromo, their neighbors and people globally who encounter common issues of concern.
 - 2.2.6 Promoting the culture of democracy, the rule of law and the study of indigenous forms of governance such as the Oromo Gada system and its legacies.
 - 2.2.7 Undertaking all reasonable means to implement its objectives.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. Membership in the Oromo Studies Association shall be open to anyone who accepts and adheres to provisions of the Constitution and by-laws of the Oromo Studies Association and agrees to participate in the activities of the Association and pays an annual membership fee.
- 3.2. To remain in good standing, a member shall pay annual membership fee and participate in the activities of the Association.
- 3.3. An OSA member shall have the right to vote on all matters brought before the general membership meetings, to elect OSA officers and be elected and/or appointed to positions within the Oromo Studies Association.
- 3.4. All OSA member, in good standing, shall receive the *Journal of Oromo Studies* and the OSA Newsletters.

ARTICLE IV: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 4.1 OSA shall have a Board of Directors composed of members who are qualified to advance the Association's objectives, elected by and accountable to the General Assembly.
- 4.2 OSA Board of Directors governs and regulates the Association's affairs.
- 4.3 The Board of Directors shall determine the policies of OSA and take all necessary actions to realize OSA's objectives, including assumption of primary responsibility for fund-raising.
- 4.4. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to supervise the management of all OSA properties and review the books of the Association on a regular basis.
- 4.5 The term of office of a member of the Board of Directors will be limited to 3 years.
- 4.6 A member of the Board may be re-elected once and then must take a hiatus of two years before standing for re-election to the Board.
- 4.7 To insure the continuity of the work of the Board of Directors, the terms of Board members are staggered with at least one member elected each year.
- 4.8 The Board shall have seven voting members, including a Chairperson and a Secretary.
- 4.9 The President of OSA shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board of Directors.
- 4.10 A Board member when unable to attend a Board meeting may give his/her written proxy to another Board member.

- 4.11 The Board of Directors shall have written by-laws, consistent with the OSA Constitution that regulate its business meetings, decision-making process and other internal matters.
- 4.12 The Board shall render a report of its activities to the members at the annual membership meeting.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 5.1. The OSA shall have an Executive Committee elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee shall implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the directives of the Board of Directors.
- 5.3. The Executive Committee shall be accountable to the Board of Directors and the General Assembly.
- 5.4. The OSA Executive Committee shall be composed of: the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Public Relations Officer.
- 5.5.1. The OSA President shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve a two year term; the first year as the President-Elect and the second year as President.
- 5.5.2 The OSA President shall be the Chief Executive and Public Representative of OSA.
- 5.5.3. The President of OSA shall convene and chair all meetings of the Executive Committee, prepare its agenda, organize and coordinate the OSA conferences.
- 5.6.1 The President-Elect of OSA shall serve the first year as Vice president.
- 5.6.2 The President-Elect shall perform duties given to him/her by the President, oversee the production of conference Proceedings and, when the President cannot discharge his/her duties, shall execute all duties and responsibilities of the OSA President.
- 5.7.1. The Secretary of OSA shall be elected by the general Assembly to serve for a two-year term.
- 5.7.2 The Secretary shall keep records of all actions of the Executive Committee, the minutes of all membership meetings, the reports and recommendations from the Association's various committees; keep current all files of the Association's records, prepare all mail ballots and referendums; and notify the Executive Committee of all meetings convened by the President.
- 5.8.1. The Treasurer of OSA shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve for a two-year term.

- 5.8.2 The Treasurer of OSA shall record and account for all incoming funds of the OSA as well as their expenditures according to the directives of the Executive Committee and in keeping with the policy of the Board of Directors, and shall establish a bank account in the name of OSA, keep up-to-date financial records of the association, open the financial records to the Auditor when requested.
- 5.8.3. The Treasurer shall have the authority to withdraw up to \$500 for miscellaneous expenses.
- 5.8.4 A single withdrawal from the OSA account that exceeds \$500.00 shall require written approval of the Executive Committee.
- 5.8.5 The President and the President-elect shall be authorized signators on the OSA's account.
- 5.9.1. The Public Relations Officer of OSA shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve a two year term.
- 5.9.2 The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for the management of the OSA Website and publications except for the *Journal of Oromo Studies*.
- 5.10. The Executive Committee of OSA may form *ad hoc* committees and determine their duties and responsibilities and term of office in so far as the activities do not contravene directly or indirectly any provision in this Constitution.

Article VI: Editor of the *Journal of Oromo Studies*

- 6.1 The Editor of the *Journal of Oromo Studies* shall be elected by the General Assembly for a two year term and shall be accountable to the Board of Directors.
- 6.2 The Editor shall solicit publishable articles and oversee the process of their review, acceptance for inclusion in *Journal of Oromo Studies*, final preparation for publication, and shall be responsible for the distribution of the publication.
- 6.3. The Editor shall nominate and recommend the following to the Board of Directors for approval: Editorial Advisory Committee members, Associate Editor(s), Book Review Editor(s) and other editorial assistance as needed.

Article VII : OSA Web Site

- 7.1 OSA shall have a Website with address: www.oromostudies.org.
- 7.2 The OSA Board of Directors shall set guidelines for the management of the OSA Website.
- 7.3 The OSA Public Relations Officer, in cooperation with the President, shall manage the OSA Website based upon the guidelines set by the OSA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

- 8.1 OSA shall have an annual conference and a business meeting of the membership.
- 8.2 OSA shall hold one or more mid-year conferences for purpose of fulfilling the mission of the association.
- 8.3 A quorum of the annual business meeting shall be 25% of members in good standing.
- 8.4 Decisions by the OSA membership at the annual business meeting shall be carried by a simple majority vote.
- 8.5. The OSA General Assembly may override a policy decision made by the Board of Directors by a simple majority vote of members in good standing present at the business meeting.

ARTICLE IX: ELECTIONS AND ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

- 9.1. No member shall hold more than one elected office in OSA at one time.
- 9.2. To stand for election a candidate must be in attendance at the annual business meeting.
- 9.3 Term of office of all elected officers shall commence at the close of the OSA annual conference.
- 9.4 Elected OSA officers shall receive all records pertaining to their office from out-going officers no later than 30 days after their election.
- 9.5 When matters requiring decision by the membership arise between the annual business meetings the Board may require a vote to be taken by mail ballot.
- 9.6 All OSA elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- 9.6 Members will submit mail ballots to an *ad hoc* elections committee appointed by the Board of Directors for counting.

ARTICLE X: FINANCE

- 10.1. The OSA shall operate as a non-profit organization
- 10.2. The Executive Committee, with the assistance of an ad hoc Budget and Finance Committee, if present, shall, prior to the annual business meeting, prepare a proposed budget for the forthcoming fiscal year.
- 10.3. The budget proposal prepared according to Section 10.2 shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors prior to submission to the annual business meeting for approval.

- 10.4. The budget adopted at the annual business meeting shall be binding for all officers and members of the OSA.
- 10.5. An independent Auditor, approved by the General Assembly of OSA, shall audit the accounts of the Association and present an Annual Audit Report to the General Assembly of the OSA.
- 10.6. The Board of Directors of the OSA may request an audit report from the Auditor of OSA, prior to the Annual Membership meeting of the OSA.

ARTICLE XI: RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

- 11.1. The OSA may affiliate itself with other professional research and educational bodies.
- 11.2. The affiliation of Section 11.1 shall be decided by the Board of Directors and be approved by the General Assembly of OSA.

ARTICLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1. The OSA is organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes as specified in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- 12.2. The OSA shall not carry on any activities not permitted for tax exempt organizations under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- 12.3. In the event of dissolution, all remaining assets of and property of the OSA, after obligatory and necessary expenses deducted thereof, shall be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or other organization(s) which may best accomplish the purposes for which OSA was formed.
- 12.4. Every attempt shall be made to reach consensus for decisions and actions of the committees and the Board of Directors that conduct the business of OSA. Failing that, Robert's Rule of Order, the newly revised in the latest edition, shall govern the OSA proceedings, provided it shall not contravene the OSA Constitution, or special rules of order of the Association.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENT

- 13.1. Amendment proposal(s) to the OSA Constitution may be submitted to the Board of Directors or to the General Assembly by any member if supported by petition of twenty members in good standing.
- 13.2. The Board of Directors may propose amendments to the OSA Constitution.
- 13.3. Amendment to the OSA Constitution shall be made by Two-Thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members voting within posted deadlines.

This draft incorporates amendments adopted by the OSA General Assembly on:

August 5, 1996 and July 28, 2002, Washington, D.C.

We particularly acknowledge and appreciate the work of the member of the OSA By-Laws Committee who reported on July 30, 2006 at Minneapolis, MN:

Guluma Gemedo, Coordinator

Ezekiel Gebissa

Abraham Mosisa

Bonnie Holcomb

Respectfully submitted,

2006-2007 OSA Board of Directors

Asafa Jalata

Mohammed Hassen

Bonnie Holcomb

Gudata Hinika

Mesfin Abdi

Asfaw Beyene

Gobana Huluka