



## Greater Atlanta Malayalee Association

### Amendment to Section 8 (Board of Trustees) of the GAMA constitution

#### Background

The 2015 GAMA General Body had tasked the 2016 GAMA Executive Committee with the duty of formulating and presenting a constitutional amendment proposal for establishing a Board of Trustees OR Advisory Board for the organization.

**Section 8** of the GAMA constitution allows for establishing a Board of Trustees for the organization, if desired so by the General Body. Based on this the 2016 Executive Committee presented a proposal for establishing a Board of Trustees for GAMA along with the required amendments. This was done after considerable review of the constitutions of several similar organizations, and also the original proposal submitted by the 2015 Ad Hoc Study Committee (appointed for this purpose by the 2014 General Body). The proposal was presented to the GAMA member base and feedback solicited for a 30-day period starting November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. All feedback received was reviewed along with the initial proposal at the 2016 Annual General Body Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at the Mountain View High School, 2351 Sunny Hill Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. Relevant feedback was also incorporated to the initial proposal after these discussions. Following this, the General Body passed a motion ratifying the proposed amendments to Section 8 of the GAMA constitution.

Given below is the final constitutional amendment for Section 8 approved by the GAMA General Body at the 2016 Annual General Body Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at the Mountain View High School 2351 Sunny Hill Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

### Amendment to Section 8 (Board of Trustees) of the GAMA constitution

(Approved by the 2016 Annual General Body held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Mountain View High School, 2351 Sunny Hill Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30043)

#### **8.1 Board of Trustees**

1. There shall be a Board of Trustees for the organization

#### **8.2 Term & Composition**

1. The Board of Trustees for the upcoming calendar year shall consist of Presidents of the organization from the prior five (5) years
2. The senior most trustee will serve as the Chair of the Board and retire automatically at the end of the calendar year
3. The vacancy will be automatically filled by the President completing his/her tenure that calendar year.
4. An individual cannot serve simultaneously in the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the organization.

### 8.3 Vacancy (Death, Resignation and Removal by Impeachment)

1. A member of the Board of Trustees may resign at any time by providing a written notice to the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
2. A member of the Board of Trustees who fails to repeatedly attend official meetings without prior notification and/or fails to comply with the organization's by-laws can be removed by the impeachment process defined in Section 7 of the by-laws
3. In the event of a vacancy or the current President continuing for another term in the Executive Committee, an interim replacement shall be appointed from among the remaining officer bearers (Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer) of the Executive Committee to which the vacating Trustee /current President belonged.

### 8.4 Roles & Responsibilities

1. The Board of Trustees shall only serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee and shall not involve in the day to day operations of the Executive Committee.
2. The Board of Trustees shall assist the Executive Committee where needed by
  1. Rendering guidance, advice and support in operational matters referred to them by the Executive Committee
  2. Making recommendations to align operations with long term objectives where relevant
  3. Assist with community outreach, fundraising and public relations activities when requested by the Executive Committee
3. The Board of Trustees shall ensure continuity of operations of the organization by
  1. Serving as the independent election commission for the Executive Committee elections. (Members of the Board of Trustees can contest Executive Committee elections only after resigning from their position to avoid conflict of interest).
  2. Monitoring and ensuring a smooth transition between successive Executive Committees
  3. Monitoring and ensuring that the organization's registration and non-profit status is maintained with the appropriate government agencies by the successive Executive Committees
  4. Monitoring the tangible, intangible and intellectual assets of the organization including the separation of Operational and Corpus funds
4. The Board of Trustees shall further the long term goals of the organization by
  1. Providing oversight and guidance for long term and strategic planning for the organization
  2. Execution of long term projects approved by the General Body. Long term projects are defined as anything that spans multiple calendar years.
5. The Board of Trustees shall also present an annual report of their activities along with recommendations for long term and strategic planning to the General Body

### 8.5 Meetings

1. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once every quarter
2. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once every quarter with the Executive Committee
3. The minutes of meetings shall be shared with the Secretary of the Executive Committee who is the custodian of all organizational records.

**Presented by: Kannan Udayarajan, Secretary, 2016**

**Proposed by: Manoj Jose, Secretary, 2015**

**Seconded by: Jerish Augustine, President, 2015**

Signature: 

Signature: 

Signature:

*Jerish Augustine*