

**LSC Cultural Ambassador Society:**  
*Intercultural Friendship and Community Service*

**Mission, Philosophy and Constitution**

**Mission:**

The *LSC Cultural Ambassador Society* is about increasing cultural intelligence and promoting intercultural friendship and cooperation. We initiate activities where we enjoy making new friends as we share our cultures and learn more about other cultures.

We are a democratically run, student-interest-driven organization and we serve our community by promoting cultural integration and the development of cultural intelligence in our shared educational experience. We help to enrich the lives of all members of the Lyndon State College community by encouraging a sense of shared identity and basic interconnection with others and by promoting friendship between people of various cultures within our school. In doing so, we intend to become more aware of our basic commonalities and shared social and ecological interests while learning to respect our relative cultural and individual differences.

By sharing language and other aspects of our culture and cultural history with one another, we all gain access to a larger menu of options for thought and action. In this way, we gain greater personal freedom and power as we promote kindness and care for others as essential values in our community. Through greater interpersonal understanding and cooperation, we come to recognize and help others recognize that “We are in this together!” as members of a global community whose survival and prosperity may depend on mutual understanding and harmonious and peaceful intercultural cooperation.

## **Cultural Ambassador Society (CAS)**

### **Philosophy:**

**The philosophy of the Cultural Ambassador Society is reflected in three sayings:**

*No one of us knows more than all of us.*

**Every person and every culture has strengths and weaknesses. By putting our minds together we enrich our mental experience. By making friends with people from other cultures we can gain insight and understanding which leads to greater freedom and power by enriching and enlarging our own menu of choices for thought and action.**

*We've got something in common.*

**Every person is a learner, a creator and a potential friend and ally. Because this is true we can keep a sense of identity with people of all cultures even as we enjoy exploring and learning from the differences between us.**

*We are in this together.*

**The future of our planet and species depends on us being able to see the interconnections between people, cultures and ecology. If we can learn to understand and develop friendships with people from other cultures then we are more likely to be able to work together in meeting social and ecological challenges.**

## **Cultural Ambassador Society (CAS)**

### **Constitution:**

#### **Article 1: Democratic decision making and student-interest focus.**

An important part of the overall CAS mission is to provide students with experience in the culture of democratic decision making and rule by law. Thus, to whatever extent possible, and in accordance with the Lyndon State College mission, core values and policies, CAS decisions will be made democratically according to the basic procedures of Robert's Rules of order where motions are made, seconded and then voted on by CAS core group members.

Thus the initiatives undertaken by the group and the policies selected by the group shall reflect the interests of students and their values and opinions. All CAS initiatives are thus introduced by members, and generally the person introducing the initiative also volunteers to serve as director of this initiative. The directors of initiatives shall be appointed by majority vote, and assistant directors are also appointed by majority vote. Initiatives may be cancelled and directors and assistant directors may be replaced based on a motion supported by the majority of CAS core members.

#### **Article 2: Advisor.**

A faculty advisor is appointed by the school administration to serve as an organizer of the group and as moderator of core member meetings. The advisor is also responsible for ensuring that all CAS activities align with the mission and policies of Lyndon State College and for overseeing the financial transactions of the chapter.

The faculty advisor also enjoys the voting rights and privileges of any core member and may introduce, second and vote on motions relating to CAS procedures, policies and initiatives.

If a majority of voting CAS members are less than satisfied with the performance of the faculty advisor, they may vote to petition the LSC administration as a group to appoint a different advisor. However, the final decision for the appointment rests at the discretion of the LSC administration.

### **Article 3: Membership.**

In order to accommodate varying levels of interest in and commitment to the CAS, three levels of membership are offered and are summarized in the following descriptions:

1.) **Practicing Members**-All members of the Lyndon State College community are welcome to identify themselves as “practicing members” as long as they share the values of our basic mission and make a general commitment to reach out to others of different cultures and work for positive cultural integration and the development of cultural intelligence at Lyndon State College.

2.) **Associate Members**-All Lyndon State College students have the option to become associate members by indicating their intent to promote the CAS mission and by asking to be placed on the CAS listserv by contacting the CAS director of communications or faculty advisor. Associate members will be invited to regular CAS meetings and activities (although they will not have the voting privileges of core CAS members). After demonstrating regular attendance and a strong commitment to the CAS mission, associate members may, with the approval of the majority of CAS core members, become core members with full voting privileges. Associate membership and its invitational privileges may only be revoked for reasonable cause based on a majority vote of CAS members.

3.) **Core Members**-Lyndon State College students who demonstrate a deep and ongoing commitment to the CAS mission and maintain regular attendance at CAS meetings are eligible to be core members. Typically core members direct or assist in the direction of CAS initiatives and make a strong commitment of time and energy to the CAS mission. CAS core members enjoy full invitational and voting privileges which may only be revoked for reasonable cause based on a majority vote of CAS core members.

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