



COMMUNITY CODE

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Table of Contents

The New York University Abu Dhabi Community Code

Preamble	I
Article I: Persons	I
Article II: Property	I
Article III: Groups	I
Article IV: Representation	I
<u>The Community Council Internal Code of Conduct</u>	II
<u>The Community Council Rules and Guidelines</u>	II
Amendments	VII

The New York University Abu Dhabi Community Code

Preamble

In order to uphold and maintain the integrity of NYUAD in all aspects of student life, we hereby establish this Community Code of Conduct for current and successive generations of students. By doing so, we aim to not only promote adherence to the NYUAD Standards of Conduct but also to develop a culture of personal accountability. Although all references to the NYUAD Student Body refer to undergraduates, it is expected that all members of the NYUAD community uphold its expressed values to the best of their ability.

I. Persons

With such a diverse network of students, faculty, and staff, as well as diverse expectations of the college experience, conflicts are inevitable and natural. It is our goal to utilize these conflicts as opportunities to learn from one another. Communication and compromise are essential to promote understanding, and we commit to the use of these methods to achieve mutual respect. A foundation of trust is also essential to the strength of our community, in which every member feels valued and safe. As the behavior of one affects us all, we have a responsibility to ourselves and to our peers to uphold these values.

II. Environment

As part of a constantly evolving environment, it is the responsibility of each member of the NYUAD Student Body to uphold the values of a healthy and considerate atmosphere conducive to learning and personal growth. We will take it upon ourselves to respect the property of NYUAD and any other entities.

III. Groups

Student groups exist to benefit the NYUAD Student Body and the broader community with a spirit of inclusiveness. In order to do so, groups must make every effort to represent their purpose and activities accurately and to use their allocated resources responsibly. Group leadership is charged with the responsibility to exercise preventative measures and ensure, to the best of their ability, that groups abide by the Community code and the principles outlined above.

IV. Representation

The NYUAD community will strive to exemplify good citizenship wherever we are, both as students and in future ventures. In order to do so, we will be mindful of how we represent NYUAD in public spaces. We will always accurately represent our accomplishments whether academic, personal, or professional. We will respect visitors and be welcoming hosts for study abroad students and others entering our community.

The Community Council Internal Code of Conduct

I, _____, will first and foremost uphold the values and standards set forth in the Community Code, serving as an example to the entire Student Body.

I will respect the confidentiality of the Community Council's members and of each person whose matters come before the Community Council, throughout the process and after a decision has been made.

I will endeavour to approach each case without preference or bias so that all parties may be considered equally.

I recognize that my position on the Community Council entails the responsibility of maintaining fairness within the NYUAD Student Body, and I do solemnly swear to fulfil this task to the best of my ability.

The Community Council Mission Statement and Review

I. Mission Statement & Purpose

- A. The purpose of the Community Council is to uphold, inspire, and promote the principles outlined in the Community Code and to encourage students to develop the self-discipline, personal accountability, and moral integrity required to abide by the Community Code. This will be achieved by:
1. Commending outstanding behavior and providing positive reinforcement to individuals who stand by the Community Code.
 2. Referring members of the NYUAD community to effective programs for facilitation of mediation.
 3. Deciding upon disciplinary action and the form it will take on cases handed over by the Office of the Dean of Students.
 4. Offering advice to the Office of the Dean of Students on issues that promote intercultural understanding and relate to the well-being of the student body.

II. Structure

- A. The Community Council will consist of one Chair and one Vice-Chair from the Student Body present in Abu Dhabi, in addition to one member from each class.
1. Responsibilities of the Chair
 - a) The Chair organizes and presides over all meetings of the Community Council unless she/he is unavailable.
 - b) The Chair serves as the liaison between the Student Body,

Community Council, and the Administration.

- c) The Chair makes him or herself readily available to meet any student who would like to voice his or her opinions or concerns.
- d) The Chair delegates other specific duties to the members of the Community Council.

2. Responsibilities of the Vice-Chair

- a) The Vice-Chair assists the Chair in conducting meetings and assumes all duties of the Chair in the event of absence.
- b) The Vice-Chair arranges for the necessary training sessions to be provided to members of the Community Council.

- B. In the event that less than 20% of a specific class remains at the NYU Abu Dhabi campus due to study abroad, the seat of their member will become vacant unless a previously-elected member remains to fill the position. Members of that class who are present in Abu Dhabi are still eligible to run for Chair or Vice-Chair so long as they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Article VI.

III. Procedure

- A. Any member of the NYUAD Community may bring concerns regarding students violating the Community Code before the Office of the Dean of Students. They will have the option of remaining anonymous. When a case is brought before the Office of the Dean of Students, the complaint will either be retained and will proceed with the Conduct Review Process or the complaint will be referred to the Community Council, assuming the complaining party agrees, to be reviewed following the Community Council Conduct Review process. Upon receiving a referral from the Office of the Dean of Students, the Community Council will:

1. Investigate:

- The Community Council will be debriefed by the Office of the Dean of Students. The Community Council will then communicate to the student(s) in question and conduct an investigation as needed to reach a decision.
- If the accused refuses or fails to appear, the case will go to the Office of the Dean of Students unless the accuser decides to drop the case. If the accused agrees to appear, the Community Council will hear from both the accused and the accusing parties.

2. Decide upon a disciplinary action:

- The Community Council will vote on what action will be taken. In order for the decision to pass, the decision must be unanimous, excluding any abstentions due to conflicts of interest. If it is concluded that no unanimous decision can be

reached, the Chair will complete a report that entails the process by which the case became inconclusive and the rationale for any objections and reservations by the Community Council. The compiled report must be approved by unanimous vote of the committee before being sent to the Dean of Students, to ensure approval of its contents by all members.

- Once the decision has been made, the Community Council must inform the Dean of Students prior to informing the students involved of the final decision.
 - The Community Council will provide a written summary of the decision determined relevant and fair for the situation. The student may appeal the decision to the Dean of Students, who will review the case, consult with the Chair of the Community Council, and then make a final decision.
 - The Community Council may also refer the conflict to other bodies of mediation. If the information presented is determined to be insufficient or if no decision can be reached, the case will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.
- B. A Community Council member may abstain only when s/he faces a compelling conflict of interest. The abstention must be approved by the remaining Community Council members. Should two or more members abstain, the case must be directed towards the Administration with an accompanying rationale detailing the reasons for which the Community Council failed to garner enough votes.
- C. In cases presented to the Community Council regarding Student Interest Groups or other officially recognized student groups, it is at the discretion of the Community Council whether the case will regard individual members or the group as a whole. If the Community Council chooses to address the group as a whole, the leaders of the group may request that the case go straight to the Office of the Dean of Students rather than being dealt with by the Community Council.
- D. If members of the Community Council wish to bring cases regarding violations of the Community Code, they will go straight to the Office of the Dean of Students to prevent a conflict of interest.
- E. If a case brought to the Community Council is deemed beyond its jurisdiction for reasons such as but not limited to:
1. It may involve harm or the threat of harm to any individual or group in the university,
 2. It may be a perceived threat to the integrity of the university;

It is necessary for the Community Council to pass the case on to the Office of the Dean of Students. In ambiguous circumstances, the

chair shall consult the Dean of Students.

IV. Member Misconduct

- A. If a member of the Community Council is alleged to have violated the Community Code, the case will be dealt with by the Office of the Dean of Students, who has the power to remove a member of the Community Council.
- B. If the Community Council as a whole believes a member is violating the Community Council's Internal Code of Conduct or underperforming in his or her duties on the Community Council, they will ask the Dean of Students to consult with them in the absence of the member under review before any further action is taken. The final decision will rest with the Office of the Dean of Students.
- C. Members who are under review for misconduct will be suspended from Community Council duties until a decision regarding their standing on the Community Council is reached.

V. Amendments

- A. Students wishing to propose an amendment to the Community Code may bring it before the Community Council during the time allotted in their weekly meetings for discussion/ enactment.
- B. There will be an annual review of the Community Code. Proposed Amendments by students will be brought to the Chair of the Community Council for presentation at the next regular meeting of the Community Council. Amendments that are unanimously approved by the Community Council will be published to the Student Body to be voted upon by a general referendum and passed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of voting students. Regarding proposed Amendments not approved by the Community Council, the proposing student(s) may still present their amendment to the Student Body and have it included in the proposed Amendments to be voted on by general referendum by collecting a petition with the signatures of 10% of the Student Body, to be presented to the Community Council. Students may propose Amendments at any point during the semester and, if necessary, will have until the end of the semester to collect this petition before the general referendum vote.
- C. The remainder of this document, regarding the tasks and operations of the Community Council, will be reviewed on a semesterly basis and proposed Amendments will be published to the Student Body for a general referendum in which proposed Amendments will be passed by a simple majority vote. Students may propose Amendments according to the procedures outlined above. If the proposed amendment is not approved by the Community Council, the student(s) proposing the amendment may still have it brought for a general referendum by presenting it to the Student Body and collecting a petition with the signatures of 5% of the Student Body.

- D. Voting will be conducted online by secret ballot. All members of the NYUAD Student Body, in Abu Dhabi or abroad, may vote on the general referendum.

VI. Elections

- A. Members of the Community Council will be voted upon by the Student Body at the end of each Academic and Calendar Year. Voting will be conducted online by secret ballot according to the procedures outlined below.
- B. Full-time undergraduate students enrolled at NYUAD and in good academic standing may run for positions on the Community Council (except for freshmen in their first semester).
- C. Each Community Council member will serve a minimum of two semesters.
- D. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at the end of each academic year.
- E. The freshman Community Council member will be elected at the end of each Calendar Year.
- F. After serving the minimum of two semesters, members' responsibilities may be discharged voluntarily, for study abroad or other personal reasons. If a student is to resign from the Community Council, they must notify the Community Council two weeks before the elections. Members may also be removed during their term by impeachment for dishonorable conduct, according to the procedures outlined in Article IV.
- G. The voting ballot will contain two sections:
 - 1. The first for selecting class-specific members.
 - 2. The second for selecting the Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - 3. The candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair will include those on the ballot for Class members, as well as any students from classes with no representatives (as outlined in Article II) who wish to put their names forward. Class-specific members will be voted on only by members of their class, in Abu Dhabi or abroad. The entire Student Body, in Abu Dhabi or abroad, will vote for Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be the candidates who receive the first and second highest number of votes, respectively. From the remaining candidates, those with the highest number of votes from each class will act as Class Members.

VII. January Term and Summer School

- A. Cases referred during January Term will be brought before the Community Council when it reconvenes for Spring Semester. If the case cannot be delayed until then, it will be dealt with directly by the Office of the Dean of Students. Cases arising during Summer School will be dealt with directly by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Amendments

First Amendment

I. Amendment Procedure

During the first two semesters of enactment, amendments will be proposed according to the procedure written in Article V. However, if the Community Council does not approve an amendment, the signatures of 5% of the student body will be needed for inclusion in the general referendum. Additionally, during the first year amendments proposed by general referendum at the end of the semester will be passed by a simple majority. Should the Community Council deem it necessary to do so, they may call for one or more general referendum votes on amendments before the end of the semester. These adjusted procedures will ensure there is time for the document to be tested during the time it is first implemented and becoming established.

II. Committee Structure

In the interests of maintaining a suitable committee size, during to the first two semesters of enactment, the Community Council will consist of one Chair, one Vice Chair in addition to three members who may be voted upon from any class. The duties of the Chair and Vice Chair still follow those outlined in Article II, A. The Chair and Vice-Chair will still be those candidates who receive the highest and second highest number of votes (as indicated in Article VI, G). The next three highest vote-getters will form the rest of the committee. Article II, B and the remainder of Article VI will come into full effect after this amendment has been dissolved.