



center for middle eastern studies
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

THE CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES FOR MEMBERS

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) at the University of California, Berkeley promotes the interdisciplinary study of the Arab World, Turkey, Israel, and Iran, privileging no single country, topic, or political position. A federally funded Title VI National Resource Center, the CMES organizes a rich interdisciplinary lecture and film series each semester, supports advanced research on the Middle East by faculty, students, and visiting scholars, and conducts Middle East-related outreach to K-14 institutions and community partners throughout the Bay Area.

I. The Value of a Student Advisory Committee

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is an Organized Research Unit (ORU)—an academic unit the University established to provide a supportive infrastructure for interdisciplinary research complementary to the purely pedagogic goals of departments of instruction. As an ORU, the CMES reports to the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research for all fiduciary and governance issues. The Chair of the CMES is supported by a standing Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by a senior faculty member, which meets regularly and participates actively in setting the Center's goals and evaluating its effectiveness on a continuing basis.

The role and value of a Student Advisory Committee is to offer the CMES the following type of support:

- To serve as CMES student ambassadors to the Berkeley student community, increasing student awareness of services and programs provided by the Center and encouraging interdisciplinary student participation in its activities.
- To take an active role in soliciting input from students and providing feedback and advice to CMES staff on services and programs related to Middle Eastern Studies on campus.
- To advocate for the mission of the CMES on campus (through student organizations) and beyond (through alumni networks).
- To establish and sustain a mentorship program that connects UC Berkeley students to alumni and professionals.
- To assist with fundraising activities, and take a lead on planning and implementing Big Give and Cal Day.

II. Qualifications and Terms

- Committee members shall be undergraduate or graduate students enrolled at UC Berkeley.
- Committee members shall have a demonstrable interest in the field of Middle Eastern Studies.
- Terms are one semester. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the CMES Chair for terms of one (1) semester and may serve consecutive terms up to five (5) semesters in total, pending semesterly review by CMES Events Coordinator.
- Resignation from the Committee is submitted in writing to the CMES Chair.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

- Committee Members will take the lead in planning and implementing Big Give and Cal Day at the CMES.
- Committee Members will take the lead in organizing the CMES student professional development program.
- 1 Committee Member will serve on the editorial board of the Student Journal for Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley.
- A Committee Member will remain informed about the CMES's history, goals, current operations, and concerns.
- A Committee Member will attend all Committee meetings and a reasonable number of CMES events.
- A Committee Member will propose at least 1 alumni for the mentorship program.

IV. Governance Principles

- Committee members shall be selected through an open application process.
- The Committee will be composed of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of nine (9) members.
- Responsibilities will rotate among members, including drafting meeting agendas.
- The Committee will draft its own internal governance procedures.