

How to get involved in FASA at VT

A guide to becoming a member of the Filipino American Student Association at Virginia Tech

The Filipino American Student Association at Virginia Tech is one of the university's 700+ student organizations. Its main purpose and goal is to unite students based on their interest in Filipino culture and educate them through activities and create bonds providing new students with connections and family based friendships that last throughout their college career. The organization is about 200 persons at any given academic year and provides for various events throughout both the fall and the spring semester. Through different events, students bond with each other and are introduced to close knit circles inside the organization to develop close friendships. The students who are involved in the organization are also sponsored to go on trips with the organization to other colleges. FASA provides students with a way to experience a lot of things they normally wouldn't. It also provides students to an opportunity to participate in a cultural show in the spring. The culture show is a presentation of Filipino Culture and is an annual student run event through FASA to provide a showcase of different elements of Filipino life and history. These showcases are from anything from Dances to theatrical dramatic scripts to fashion shows. Everyone in the organization is given the opportunity to participate in the show and there is usually a role for everyone to participate. All students who decide to join are never forced to participate in any activity. There are also weekly general body meetings for updates and a website that provides information on the organization.

Lupang Hinirang

Bayang magiliw, perlas ng silanganan.
Alab ng puso, sa dibdib mo'y buhay.
Lupang hinirang, duyan ka ng magiting
Sa manlulupig, di ka pasisiil.

Sa dagat at bundok, sa simoy at
sa langit mong bughaw,
may dilag ang tula at awit
sa paglayang minamahal.

Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y
tagumpay na nagniningning.
Ang bituin at araw niya
kailan pa may di magdidilim.

Lupa ng araw, ng lualhati't pagsinta,
buhay ay langit sa piling mo.
Aming ligaya na pag may mang-aapi,
ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo.

Philippine Anthem (English Translation)

Land of the morning
Child of the sun returning
With fervor burning
Thee do our souls adore.

Land dear and holy,
Cradle of noble heroes,
Ne'er shall invaders
Trample thy sacred shores.

Ever within thy skies and through thy clouds
And o'er thy hills and seas;
Do we behold thy radiance, feel the throb
Of glorious liberty.

Thy banner dear to all hearts
Its sun and stars alight,
Oh, never shall its shining fields
Be dimmed by tyrants might.

Figure 1. Filipino National Anthem



Figure 2. FASA Facebook Page

Glossary

Interest Meeting: The interest meeting held by FASA helps people who are not sure of whether they want to join or want to learn more about the organization do so at the beginning of every semester. This is the initial meeting a student would have to attend to gain information about the first general meeting and registration processes for the year.

First General Meeting: This meeting is where students will gain the knowledge they need to pay their dues to join and also hear about upcoming events for the first time. Attendees will be able to meet other students who are in charge of the organization and help plan the events that they will participate in. The subcommittees of the organization each provide a presentation and show what is in store for the rest of the semester.

Member Dues: When a student wants to join FASA, or most Virginia Tech Organizations, there is an associated member fee. This fee is used to enhance the events that the organization can provide for the members. All of the budget goes back to the students collectively. These dues are used for trips, different events that require serving food, and gathering materials and production for the culture show in the spring.

Regular Members: These are members that attend meetings on a regular basis.

Active Members: These are members that attend meetings on a regular basis, have paid their member dues and participate in events. They are given voting rights when inducting the executive council.

Executive Council: This is the group of leaders in the organization that help plan and lead the different events and functions of the organization. This council shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, and all standing committee chairpersons. The executive council manages the website and all social media updates via the facebook pages. (Figure 2)

Non-Discriminatory Statement: This is a statement in the constitution that provides for a clear indication that anyone can join the organization. The organization will not be discriminatory based on race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

Membership Process

Required materials:

Membership Fee Cost: \$15-20

Steps



1. Attend Interest Meeting

At the beginning of every semester, organizations at Virginia Tech normally hold interest meetings where students can learn about what the organization does and how they function. Here you need to learn about the different aspects of the organization and see if it is what you are looking for. Once you decide you want to join, obtain information about the first general meeting and try to join any notification system or listserv that is provided.



2. Attend 1st General Meeting

Once you are at the first general meeting, you want to learn as much as possible during the presentations of the different committees of the organization. During these presentations the different activities will be described for the year. This will also be your first chance to pay your member dues.

3. Pay Member Dues

To become an official member you have to pay a due amount at the beginning of the semester. If you pay at the first general meeting you get a discounted price of \$15 in relation to the regular price of \$20.



4. Attend Events

Once you are a member of FASA it is your choice to attend events to become a part of the

organization. The more you get involved, the more chances you will have to gain knowledge and new friendships.



5. Apply for Ate/Kuya

Once you have become a paid member of FASA, you can apply for the Ate/Kuya program. This program lets students meet mentors who can positively influence them and help them grow during their college career. This program lets each student have a sort of family figure that will always be there to support and bring advice to them through aspects that relate to their future.



6. Participate in the Culture Show

Whether you join in the fall or spring, in the spring there is an annual Culture Show that FASA conducts to showcase the history of Filipino culture. Every member is suggested to participate and there is always a role for everyone. Find something you want to participate in whether it be traditional or modern dance, script acting, or production. This is the final step in becoming a

member of FASA and part of history in the organization forever. One requirement for the culture show is that you have to memorize and recite the Filipino National Anthem in a group. (Figure 1)