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CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF  
SINGAPORE STUDENTS' UNION

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## Part I – Preliminary

### **Citation**

- 1.1 This Constitution may be cited as the “Constitution of the National University of Singapore Students’ Union” or the “NUSSU Constitution”.

### **Interpretation**

- 1.2 In this Constitution, unless it is otherwise provided or the context otherwise requires –
- “Academic Year” means the Academic Year prescribed by the University; “Adjudication Committee” means the Adjudication Committee constituted under Article 5.1 of this Constitution;
- “Adjudication Committee Member” means any member of the Adjudication Committee;
- “Adjudication Panel” means the Adjudication Panel constituted under Article 5.4;
- “Annual Report” means the Annual Report of the Union;
- “Associate Body” mean any entity referred to under Article 2.6;
- “Associate Representatives” means the Associate Representatives referred to under Article 3.5;
- “Constituent Body” mean any entity referred to under Article 2.5;
- “Council” means the Council constituted under Article 3.4 of this Constitution; “Council Meeting” means the Council Meetings referred to under Meetings Regulations;
- “Council Representatives” means the Council Representatives referred to under Article 3.4;
- “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee constituted under Article 4.1 of this Constitution;
- “Executive Committee Meetings” means the Executive Committee Meetings referred to under Meetings Regulations;
- “Executive Committee Member” means any member of the Executive Committee;
- “Executive Committee Representatives” means the Executive Committee Representatives referred to under Article 3.4;
- “General Meeting of the Union” means the General Meeting of the Union referred to under Meetings Regulations;
- “law” means any written law, Constitutional provisions or regulations passed by the Council which is in operation in the Union;
- “Management Committee” shall refer to the Management Committee of a Constituent Body or an Associate Body;
- “Motion” means any motion raised during a General Meeting of the Union, Council Meeting or Executive Committee Meeting;
- “Referendum” means a referendum carried out among all Union Members referred to under Article 6.1;

“Union” means the National University of Singapore Students’ Union referred to under Article 1.3;

“Union Member” means any member of the Union;

“University” means the National University of Singapore referred to under Article 1.5;

“University Administration” means the administration of the University;

“University Council” means the University’s Board of Trustees, the University’s Senate or the University’s Senate Delegacy;

“Voting Council Representatives” means the Voting Council Representatives referred to under Article 3.4;

- (1) Words importing gender include both genders;
- (2) References to persons include bodies corporate, firms and unincorporated associations;
- (3) The singular includes the plural and vice-versa; and
- (4) Clause headings do not affect its interpretation.

#### **Name, Place of Business and Crest**

- 1.3 The name of this entity shall be the “National University of Singapore Students’ Union” and hereinafter the “Union”.
- 1.4 The place of business of the Union shall be NUSSU Secretariat, Yusof Ishak House, 31 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119078.
- 1.5 The crest of the Union shall be that of the National University of Singapore (Company Registration Number: 200604346E), hereinafter the “University”.

#### **Objects**

- 1.6 The objects of the Union are:
  - (1) To promote and safeguard the interests of the members of Union within the University.
  - (2) To uphold and respect the dignity and equality of every member of the Union without regard to religion, race or politics.
  - (3) To promote the welfare of members of the Union within the University.

#### **Membership**

- 1.7 Membership of the Union shall be restricted to and compulsory for matriculated, full-time, undergraduate students of the University.
  - (1) For the purposes of Article 1.7, undergraduate students shall include students with degrees reading a second or subsequent undergraduate degree.
- 1.8 Subject to reasonable, necessary and expedient restrictions, Union Members shall have the right to speak and vote at all General Meetings of the Union and to participate in the Union’s activities.
- 1.9 Union Members shall abide by the Constitution and shall not act in any way inconsistent with its objects.

**Date of implementation**

1.10 This Constitution shall come into force on 4 August 2012.

## **Part II – The Union and the Constitution**

### **Supremacy of this Constitution**

- 2.1 Any law enacted by the Union after the commencement of this Constitution which is inconsistent with this Constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.
- 2.1A Notwithstanding Article 2.1, NUS Statutes and Regulations shall prevail over this Constitution to the extent of any inconsistency.

### **Amendment**

- 2.2 The provisions of this Constitution shall be amended or removed by a Motion passed by the Council in a Council Meeting or a General Meeting of the Union, except for provisions of this Constitution outlined in Article 2.4.
- (1) Subject to Articles 2.2(2) and 2.2(3), a Motion seeking to amend or remove any provision in this Constitution shall not be passed by the Council unless it has been supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of the Voting Council Representatives present during the Meeting.
  - (2) A Motion seeking to amend or remove any provision in this Constitution shall not be passed by the Council if it has not been supported by at least one vote from the Council Representatives and Executive Committee Representatives of every Constituent Body as defined in Article 2.5 present during the Meeting.
  - (3) A Motion seeking to amend or remove any provision in this Constitution shall not be passed by the Council if it has not been supported by the votes of not less than half of the total number of Executive Committee Representatives.
  - (4) For the purposes of Article 2.2, the votes shall be accompanied by the name of the Constituent Body that the Voting Council Representative is representing.
  - (5) For the purposes of Article 2.2, amendment of provisions includes addition, amendment or repealing of provisions.
  - (6) A Motion seeking to amend Article 2.5 shall only add, amend or remove one Constituent Body from Article 2.5. For the purposes of such a Motion, the meaning of “every Constituent Body” under Article 2.2(2) shall mean every Constituent Body under Article 2.5 excluding the Constituent Body whose amendment or removal is being sought by the Motion.
  - (7) Any Motion(s) passed pursuant to Article 2.2(6) for the addition, amendment or removal of Constituent Body/Bodies by shall take effect only after the end of the General Meeting of the Union or the Council Meeting in which the Motion(s) was/were passed.
- 2.3 Any Motion passed by the Council pursuant to Article 2.2 shall be void if a Referendum seeking to block the Motion is called and held within 28 days of the passing of the Motion and the Referendum is supported by no less than two-thirds of the total number of votes cast provided that the total number of votes cast is not less than half the total number of eligible voting members of the Union.

- (1) The passing of such Referendum shall not invalidate any action undertaken in reliance of the Motion passed by the Council between the passing of the Motion and the date of the Referendum.
  - (2) The passing of such Referendum shall not preclude the Council from proposing or passing a new Motion that is similar.
- 2.4 A Motion seeking to amend Articles 1.4 and 2.6 of this Constitution shall not be passed by the Council unless it has been supported by the votes of not less than half of the total number of the Voting Council Representatives present during the Meeting.
- (1) Such Motion shall not be subjected to the Referendum as referred to in Article 2.3.

### **Constituent Bodies**

- 2.5 The following entities shall be known as the Constituent Bodies of the Union:
- (1) Students' Arts and Social Sciences Club;
  - (2) Students' Science Club;
  - (3) Students' Medical Club;
  - (4) Students' Dental Club;
  - (5) Students' Law Club;
  - (6) Students' Business Club;
  - (7) Students' Design and Environment Club;
  - (8) Students' Engineering Club;
  - (9) Students' Computing Club;
  - (10) Students' University Scholars Club;
  - (11) Students' Sports Club;
  - (12) Students' Cultural Activities Club;
  - (13) Students' Community Service Club; and
  - (14) Students' Political Association.
- 2.6 Notwithstanding Articles 2.5 and 2.6, any Constituent Body or Associate Body comprising fewer than fifty members shall cease to be a Constituent Body or Associate Body of the Union.
- 2.7 For the purposes of the above provision, Cinnamon College shall not be deemed as a Constituent Body or an Associate Body as long as the University Scholars' Club is deemed to be a Constituent Body or an Associate Body of the Union.

### **Part III – The Council**

- 3.1 The legislative power of the Union shall be vested in the Council.
- 3.2 The executive authority of the Union shall be vested in the Council and exercisable by the Council, the Executive Committee or any Executive Committee Member authorised by the Executive Committee.
- 3.3 The Council may appoint such standing or other committees as are necessary for the proper administration of the Union.

#### **Composition**

- 3.4 The Council shall consist of Council Representatives and Executive Committee Representatives. They shall be known as the Voting Council Representatives, subject to Article 3.5(3).
  - (1) Council Representatives shall be elected from each of the Management Committees of the Constituent Bodies by members of that Management Committee
    - (a) The ratio of Council Representatives in relation to the size of a Management Committee being 1:5 or part thereof.
    - (b) The President of each Management Committee shall be a Council Representative.
    - (c) Co-opted members on any Management Committee shall not increase the proportion of Council Representatives to be elected from that Management Committee and shall not be eligible for election to the Council.
  - (2) Each Council Representative shall have one vote on any Motion in a General Meeting of the Union or Council Meeting.
  - (3) Executive Committee Representatives shall be elected from each of the Constituent Bodies by members of the respective Constituent Bodies.
    - (a) Executive Committee Representatives shall not concurrently be members of a Constituent Body's Management Committee
    - (b) One Executive Committee Representative shall be elected from a Constituent Body with up to one thousand members
    - (c) Two Executive Committee Representatives shall be elected from a Constituent Body with more than one thousand members.
  - (4) Each Executive Committee Representative shall have one vote on any Motion in a General Meeting of the Union or Council Meeting.
- 3.5 There shall be a Chairman of the Council who shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of the Meetings Regulations.
  - (1) For the purposes of Article 3.6, the Chairman of the Council shall only be elected from the Council Representatives.
- 3.6 A Council Representative on the Council shall cease to be such member if, before the expiry of his term of office, he ceases to be a member of the Management Committee of the Constituent Body which he represents and, if he has been elected Chairman of

- the Council, shall forthwith cease to be Chairman.
- 3.7 An Executive Committee Representative on the Council shall cease to be an Executive Committee Representative if:
- (2) he resigns from the Council;
  - (3) if a unanimous vote of no confidence is passed and ratified in writing by the entire Management Committee of the Constituent Body (excluding co-opted members) he represents; or
  - (4) if a vote of no confidence is passed on him at a General Meeting of the Union.
- 3.8 If an Executive Committee Representative is removed pursuant to Article 3.8, it shall not preclude him to be a co-opted member of the Executive Committee.
- 3.9 An Associate Representative on the Council shall cease to be such member if, before the expiry of his term of office, he ceases to be a member of the Management Committee of the Associate Body which he represents.
- 3.10 A Council Representative, Executive Committee Representative or Associate Representative representing two or more Constituent Bodies or Associate Bodies shall be entitled to only one vote on any Motion.

### **Functions**

- 3.11 The Council shall:
- (1) be responsible for laying down the policies of the Union, consistent with its objects;
  - (2) maintain such premises as may be assigned to it by the University Council in accordance with such conditions as may be laid down by the University Council;
  - (3) be responsible for the organization of such functions as are consistent with the objects of the Union;
  - (4) provide such facilities for the welfare and convenience of its members as are consistent with the objects of the Union; and
  - (5) publish the Union's activities in an Annual Report which shall also include the Union's annual accounts.
  - (6) be the recognized body of the Union on adjudicating disputes between various bodies within the Union.
  - (7) be responsible for the interpretation of the provisions in the Constitution under the advice of the President of the Union.
- 3.12 The decision of the Council shall be conclusive and binding on the various bodies involved within the Union.
- 3.13 The Council may publish such books, papers, articles or other things as it deems necessary provided that all such publications are consistent with the objects of the Union.



## **Powers**

3.14 The Council shall have the power to:

- (1) delegate in its Executive Committee, standing committees or other committee such powers and duties as the Council may determine;
- (2) exercise control over the Executive Committee, standing committees and any other committee of the Union;
- (3) accept the resignation of any member of the Council, its Executive Committee or any other committee of the Union and cause such vacancies to be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution;
- (4) co-opt members of the Union to attend its meetings. Such members may take part in the discussions, but shall not have the right to vote;
- (5) take such disciplinary action against any member who has acted in any manner derogatory to the Union, or who has violated any of the Articles of the Constitution or any of the rules of the Union as may be in force for the time being;
- (6) employ, control and dismiss servants of the Union;
- (7) give a decision upon any matter which affects the welfare within the University of any member of the Union but is not provided for in this Constitution.

## **Terms of Office**

3.15 Elections to the Council shall be completed by the Management Committees of Constituent Bodies or Associate Bodies by the tenth week of the academic year.

3.16 The Council shall hold office from the date of election until the date of the election of the next Council in the following academic year.

## **Part IV –The Executive Committee**

### **Composition**

- 4.1 There shall be in and for the Union an Executive Committee which shall consist of:
- (1) Executive Committee Officers elected from the Executive Committee Representatives by the Council pursuant to section 6 of the Executive Committee Officers Regulations;
  - (2) other Executive Committee Representatives not elected as Executive Committee Officers; and
  - (3) other Executive Committee Members as may be appointed by the Council.
- 4.2 The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the President of the Union.
- 4.3 All Executive Committee Members shall be eligible for reappointment to the Executive Committee for the following Academic Year.
- 4.4 All Executive Committee Officers shall be eligible for reappointment to the same office for the following Academic Year except for the Financial Secretary.
- (1) For the purposes of Article 4.4, no one shall be eligible for election as the Financial Secretary if he has been elected to that position in a prior Academic Year and served in it for one full term or part thereof.

### **Functions**

- 4.5 The Executive Committee shall be the recognized means of communication between the Union and the University Administration or any external body on the other.
- 4.6 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the carrying out the general policies consistent with the objects of the Union as laid down by the Council.

### **Powers**

- 4.7 The Executive Committee shall have the power to:
- (1) appoint committees for such purposes as the Executive Committee may determine provided that these are in accordance with the objects of the Union;
  - (2) co-opt members of the Union to be present at its meetings and to participate in its deliberations. Such members shall not have the right to vote at its meetings;
  - (3) accept the resignation of any member of a standing committee or other committee and fill the vacancy thus arising;
  - (4) make rules regulating the proper management of such premises as may be assigned to the Union by the University Council, provided that such rules are in accordance with the conditions laid down by the University Council;
  - (5) approve applications for the use of such premises as are assigned to the Union by the University Council, provided such use is in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the University Council and with the objects of the Union;

- (6) convene meetings of the Council or of the Union.
- 4.8 The duties and powers of Executive Committee Officers shall be outlined in the Executive Committee Officers Regulations.
- 4.9 Any proceedings in the Executive Committee shall be valid notwithstanding that some person who was not entitled to do so sat therein or otherwise took part in the proceedings.

**Terms of Office**

- 4.10 Members of the Executive Committee shall hold office on an annual basis, from the date of appointment until the first meeting of the Council elected in the following Academic Year.
- 4.11 No member of the Council shall hold more than one office in the Executive Committee.

**[Part V – Adjudication Committee is removed in the 37<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council Meeting]**

## **Part VI – Referendum**

### **Procedure**

- 6.1 Any member of the Union may call for a Referendum on any issue that Referendums are empowered to decide on by the provisions of this Constitution.
- (1) For the purposes of Article 6.1, there shall be only one question for each Referendum.
- 6.2 To call a Referendum, a member of the Union has to collect the Matriculation Numbers and Signatures of not less than five per cent of the total number of eligible voting members of the Union.
- 6.3 An Executive Committee Representative may call for a Referendum defined Article 6.1, provided that it is supported by not less than half of the total number of Executive Committee Representatives defined under Article 3.4(3).
- 6.4 A Council Representative may call for a Referendum defined under Article 6.1, provided that it is supported by not less than half of the total number of Council Representatives defined under Article 3.4(1).
- 6.5 All members of the Union are entitled to vote in such Referendums.
- 6.6 The Referendum shall be held in accordance with the Referendum Regulations.
- 6.7 The Referendum, except for Referendums referred to in Article 2.3, shall be passed if the Referendum is supported by no less than half over of the total number of votes cast and the total number of votes cast is not less than twenty five per cent of the total number of eligible voting members of the Union.
- 6.8 The result of the Referendum shall not be challenged on any grounds save for procedural impropriety/improprieties.
- (1) The adjudication of such disputes shall be done by the Adjudication Committee.

### **Powers**

- 6.9 The Referendum shall have the power to decide on:
- (1) Provisions of this Constitution;
- (2) Regulations of the Union;
- (3) Motions passed by the Council;
- (4) Removal of a Council Representative;
- (5) Removal of an Executive Committee Representative
- (6) Removal of an Associate Representative
- 6.10 For the purposes of Articles 6.9(4), 6.9(5) and 6.9(6), each Referendum question may only decide on the removal of one Council Representative, Executive Committee Representative or Associate Representative respectively.