



CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
STUDENTS' UNION

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 –

- (1) “Academic Year” means the Academic Year prescribed by the University;
- (2) “Adjudication Committee” means the Adjudication Committee constituted under Article 5.1 of this Constitution;
- (3) “Adjudication Committee Member” means any member of the Adjudication Committee;
- (4) “Adjudication Panel” means the Adjudication Panel constituted under Article 5.4;
- (5) “Annual Report” means the Annual Report of the Union;
- (6) “Associate Body” means any entity referred to under Article 2.7;
- (7) “Associate Representatives” means the Associate Representatives referred to under Article 3.6;
- (8) “Board of Trustees” means the Board of Trustees of the University;
- (9) “Constituent Body” mean any entity referred to under Article 2.6;
- (10) “Constitution of the University” means the Constitution of the National University of Singapore registered under the Companies Act (Cap. 50) as may be revised from time to time;
- (11) “Council” means the Union Council constituted by paragraph 9 of Regulation 9 of the University and which is governed by this Constitution;
- (12) “Council Meeting” means the Council Meetings referred to under the Meetings Regulations;
- (13) “Council Representatives” means the Council Representatives referred to under Article 3.5(1);
- (14) “Discipline Regulations” means the Discipline Regulations prescribed by the Union;
- (15) “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee referred to in Article 4.1 of this Constitution;
- (16) “Executive Committee Meetings” means the Executive Committee Meetings referred to under the Meetings Regulations;

- (17) "Executive Committee Officers" means the Executive Committee Officers referred to under Article 4.1(1);
- (18) "Executive Committee Officers Regulations" means the Executive Committee Officers Regulations prescribed by the Union;
- (19) "Executive Committee Representatives" means the Executive Committee Representatives referred to under Article 3.5(3);
- (20) "General Meeting of the Union" means the General Meeting of the Union referred to under the Meetings Regulations;
- (21) "in writing" means written or produced by any substitute for writing or partly one and partly another and shall include (except where otherwise expressly specified in this Constitution or the context otherwise requires, and subject to any limitations, conditions or restrictions contained in the Constitution of the University, the Statutes and the Regulations, policies or procedures established by the Board of Trustees or where applicable the President or the Senate) any representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information which may be displayed in a visible form, whether in a physical document or in an electronic communication or form or otherwise howsoever;
- (22) "Management Committee" shall refer to the Management Committee of a Constituent Body;
- (23) "Meetings Regulations" means the Meetings Regulations prescribed by the Union;
- (24) "Motion" means any motion raised during a General Meeting of the Union, Council Meeting or Executive Committee Meeting;
- (25) "President" means the President of the University;
- (26) "Referendum" means a referendum carried out among all Union Members referred to under Article 6.1;
- (27) "Referendum Regulations" means the Referendum Regulations prescribed by the Union;
- (28) "Rules" means any written law or regulations passed by the Council or pursuant to a Referendum;
- (29) "Senate" means the Senate of the University;
- (30) "Statutes" means the statutes of the University made or revised by the Board of Trustees from time to time;
- (31) "Union" means the National University of Singapore Students' Union referred to under Article 1.3;
- (32) "Union Member" means any member of the Union;
- (33) "University" means the National University of Singapore;
- (34) "University Administration" means the administration of the University;

- (35) "Voting Council Representatives" means the Voting Council Representatives referred to under Article 3.5;
- (a) Words importing gender include both genders;
- (b) References to persons include bodies corporate, firms and unincorporated associations;
- (c) The singular includes the plural and vice-versa; and
- (d) 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".

Functions

- 1.6 The functions 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 registered, 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 functions.

Date of implementation

- 1.10 The amendments to this revised Constitution shall come into force on such date as the Board of Trustees may prescribe.
- 1.11 An amendment to this Constitution shall not, unless the contrary intention appears, affect:
- (1) the previous operation of this Constitution or anything duly done or suffered under the previous operation of this Constitution; or
 - (2) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the previous operation of this Constitution.
- 1.12 Without prejudice to the foregoing, in the event that any amendment to this Constitution affects the appointment, office or position of any person in the Union, the Council or the Constituent Bodies, such amendment shall, unless the contrary intention appears, take effect only upon the conclusion of the next election, appointment or new appointment to the relevant office or position, as the case may be.

Part II – The Union and the Constitution

Supremacy of this Constitution

- 2.1 Any Rules enacted by the Union which are inconsistent with this Constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution, in the event of:
- (1) any provision of this Constitution being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the University or any Statutes, Regulations, policies or procedures established by the Board of Trustees or where applicable the President or the Senate; or
 - (2) any Rule being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the University or any Statutes, Regulations, policies or procedures established by the Board of Trustees or where applicable the President or the Senate or the provisions of this Constitution,

the provisions of the Constitution of the University or Statutes, Regulations, policies, procedures established by the Board of Trustees or where applicable the President or the Senate or this Constitution, as the case may be, shall prevail and that provision of this Constitution or Rule, as the case may be, shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

Amendment

- 2.3 The provisions of this Constitution shall be amended or removed by a Motion passed by the Council in a Council Meeting or passed in a General Meeting of the Union.
- (1) Subject to Articles 2.3(2) and 2.3(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 Voting Council Representatives of every Constituent Body 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 2.3, 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 2.3, amendment of provisions includes addition, amendment or repealing of provisions.
- 2.4 Any Motion passed pursuant to Article 2.3 shall be publicised and made available within 14 days of its passing. The Motion shall be void if a Referendum seeking

to block the Motion is called and held within 40 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.

2.5 Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution, any proposed changes to:

- (1) this Constitution; or
- (2) any Rule relating to discipline, elections, finance, meetings, referendums, the Council, the Executive Committee, Management Committees and standing committees

shall not take effect unless the prior approval in writing of the Board of Trustees has been obtained on the proposed changes.

Constituent Bodies

2.6 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' Conservatory Club;
- (12) Students' Sports Club;
- (13) Students' Cultural Activities Club;

- (14) Students' Community Service Club; and
- (15) Students' Political Association.

Associate Bodies

- 2.7 The following entities shall be known as the Associate Bodies (which, for the avoidance of doubt, do not form part of the Union):
- (1) Eusoff Hall Junior Common Room Committee
 - (2) Temasek Hall Junior Common Room Committee
 - (3) Kent Ridge Hall Junior Common Room Committee
 - (4) Sheares Hall Junior Common Room Committee
 - (5) Raffles Hall Junior Common Room Committee
 - (6) King Edward VII Hall Junior Common Room Committee
 - (7) College of Alice & Peter Tan Student Committee
 - (8) Tembusu College Student Committee
 - (9) Ridge View Residential College Student Committee
 - (10) Residential College 4 Student Committee
- 2.8 Notwithstanding Article 2.7, any Associate Body representing fewer than fifty members shall cease to be an Associate Body.
- 2.9 For the purposes of Article 2.7, Cinnamon College shall not have an Associate Body as long as the Students' University Scholars Club is a Constituent Body of the Union.
- 2.10 The Union shall not affiliate with any Associate Body other than those set out in Article 2.7 without the approval of the President. Subject to receiving such approval, the Union may affiliate itself with Associate Bodies which are entities or bodies recognised and existing under Singapore law.
- 2.11 If the Union has any existing affiliation with any Associate Body other than those set out in Article 2.7, the Union shall immediately notify the President and shall take all necessary steps to discontinue such affiliation within such period as directed by the President.

Part III - The Council

- 3.1 The legislative power of the Union shall be vested in the Council. Such legislative power shall include the power to pass Rules.
- 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 Representative 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.
- 3.4 The Council may provide for certain Rules passed by the Union to prevail over other Rules passed by the Union.

Composition

- 3.5 The Council shall consist of Council Representatives and Executive Committee Representatives. The Council Representatives and Executive Committee Representatives shall be collectively known as the Voting Council Representatives.
 - (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, subject to a maximum of four Council Representatives from each Management Committee.
 - (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.

- (d) Notwithstanding the numbers in Articles 3.5(3)(b) and 3.5(3)(c) above, there shall be two Executive Committee Representatives elected from each of the Constituent Bodies listed in Articles 2.6(12)-2.6(15).
- (4) Each Executive Committee Representative shall have one vote on any Motion in a General Meeting of the Union or Council Meeting.
- 3.6 There shall be an Associate Representative elected from each Associate Body by the members of the Management Committees of the respective Associate Bodies. The Associate Representatives may attend the meetings of the Council provided that such Associate Representatives shall not form or be regarded as members of the Council.
 - (1) There shall be one Associate Representative from each Associate Body.
 - (2) The President of each Management Committee of the Associate Bodies shall be the Associate Representative.
 - (3) Notwithstanding that the Associate Representatives may attend meetings of the Council, such Associate Representatives shall neither count towards any quorum requirements nor have voting rights at such meetings.
- 3.7 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 3.7, the Chairman of the Council shall only be elected from the Council Representatives.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 An Executive Committee Representative on the Council shall cease to be an Executive Committee Representative if:
 - (1) he resigns from the Council;
 - (2) 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
 - (3) a vote of no confidence is passed on him at a General Meeting of the Union.
- 3.10 An Associate Representative's right to attend meetings of the Council shall cease 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.

- 3.11 A Council Representative or Executive Committee Representative representing two or more Constituent Bodies shall be entitled to only one vote on any Motion.

Functions

- 3.12 The Council shall:

- (1) be responsible for laying down the policies of the Union, consistent with its functions;
- (2) maintain such premises as may be assigned to it by the Board of Trustees in accordance with such conditions as may be laid down by the Board of Trustees;
- (3) be responsible for the organisation of such events and activities as are consistent with the functions of the Union;
- (4) provide such facilities for the welfare and convenience of its members as are consistent with the functions of the Union; and
- (5) publish the Union's activities in an Annual Report which shall also include the Union's annual accounts.

- 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 functions of the Union.

Powers

- 3.14 The Council shall have the power to:

- (1) delegate to its Executive Committee, standing committees or other committees 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) invite 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.

Terms of Office

- 3.15 Elections to the Council shall be completed by the Management Committees of Constituent Bodies or the Constituent 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 elected in accordance with the Executive Committee Election Regulations. The Executive Committee 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; and
 - (2) other Executive Committee Representatives not elected as Executive Committee Officers.
- 4.2 The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the President of the Union.
- 4.3 All Executive Committee Representatives shall be eligible for re-election to the Executive Committee for the following Academic Year.
- 4.4 All Executive Committee Officers shall be eligible for re-election 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 recognised means of communication between the Union and the University Administration or any external body.
- 4.6 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the general policies consistent with the functions of the Union and 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 functions of the Union;
 - (2) accept the resignation of any member of a standing committee or other committee and fill the vacancy thus arising;
 - (3) make rules regulating the proper management of such premises as may be assigned to the Union by the Board of Trustees, provided that such rules are in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Board of Trustees ;

- (4) approve applications for the use of such premises as are assigned to the Union by the Board of Trustees, provided such use is in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Board of Trustees and with the functions of the Union; and
 - (5) 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 election 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 – The Adjudication Committee

Composition

- 5.1 There shall be in and for the Union an Adjudication Committee which shall consist of the President of the Union, the Chairman of the Council and other members of the Union as may be appointed by the Council.
- 5.2 The Chairman of the Adjudication Committee shall be elected from the members of the Council. The President of the Union or the Chairman of the Council shall not be eligible to be elected as the Chairman of the Adjudication Committee.
- 5.3 The members of the Adjudication Committee shall elect a Secretary of the Adjudication Committee from among themselves. The Secretary of the Adjudication Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the records of the Adjudication Committee.
- 5.4 During adjudication processes, the Adjudication Committee shall form an Adjudication Panel for the purposes of hearing the dispute.
 - (1) The Adjudication Panel shall consist of the Chairman of the Adjudication Committee and other Adjudication Committee Members such that the total number of members on the Panel is an odd number and not less than five.
 - (2) There shall be no more than one member from any Constituent Body on the Adjudication Panel.
 - (3) If the Chairman of the Adjudication Committee is, by any reason, unable to sit on the Adjudication Panel, the members of the Adjudication Panel shall elect a Chairman from among themselves.
- 5.5 Every member of the Adjudication Committee shall have a duty to avoid a conflict of interest with his duties as member of the Adjudication Committee. Every member of the Adjudication Committee who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a matter before the Adjudication Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge:
 - (1) declare the nature of his interest at an Adjudication Committee meeting or send a written notice to the Adjudication Committee containing details on the nature, character and extent of his interest in the matter before the Adjudication Committee; and
 - (2) where required, recuse himself from participating in all or part of the proceedings of the Adjudication Committee.

Functions

- 5.6 The Adjudication Committee shall be the recognised body of the Union on adjudicating disputes:
 - (1) between the Union and its member(s);

- (2) between the Union and its Constituent Body/Bodies or Associate Body/Bodies where relevant;
 - (3) between Constituent Body/Bodies or Associate Body/Bodies where relevant; and
 - (4) between Constituent Body/Bodies and its/their member(s).
- 5.7 The Adjudication Committee shall be responsible for the interpretation of the provisions in this Constitution.
- 5.8 The Adjudication Committee shall hear any appeals arising from any disciplinary actions taken pursuant to the Discipline Regulations.

Powers

- 5.9 The Adjudication Committee shall have the power to:
 - (1) interpret the provisions of this Constitution;
 - (2) refuse to adjudicate any dispute if it is of such opinion that adjudication of such dispute has no merits;
 - (3) hear any appeals from any disciplinary actions taken pursuant to the Discipline Regulations.
- 5.10 The decision of the Adjudication Committee shall be conclusive and binding on the parties involved.
- 5.11 The Adjudication Committee shall not have the power to hear any disputes that may fall within the jurisdiction of the University's Board of Discipline or the University's Disciplinary Appeals Board.
 - (1) Notwithstanding Article 5.11, the Adjudication Committee shall have the power to hear any appeals from any disciplinary actions taken pursuant to the Discipline Regulations.

Terms of Office

- 5.12 Adjudication Committee Members 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.

Part VI – Referendum

Procedure

- 6.1 Any member of the Union may call for a Referendum on any issue that Referendums are contemplated 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 NUSNET ID (or equivalent) 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 under Article 6.1, provided that it is supported by not less than half of the total number of Executive Committee Representatives defined under Article 3.5(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 3.5(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 2.4 or on the matters referred to in Articles 6.10(1) and 6.10(2), shall be passed if the Referendum is supported by no less than half 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 Referendum on the matters referred to in Articles 6.10(1) and 6.10(2) shall be passed if 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.
- 6.9 The result of the Referendum shall not be challenged on any grounds save for procedural impropriety.
- (1) The adjudication of such disputes shall be done by the Adjudication Committee.

Powers

- 6.10 A Referendum can only be held on the following subjects:
- (1) Provisions of this Constitution;
- (2) Rules of the Union;
- (3) Motions passed by the Council;

- (4) Removal of a Council Representative;
 - (5) Removal of an Executive Committee Representative; and
 - (6) Removal of an Associate Representative.
- 6.11 For the purposes of Articles 6.10(4), 6.10(5) and 6.10(6), each Referendum question may only decide on the removal of one Council Representative, Executive Committee Representative or Associate Representative respectively.