



## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JACOBS UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

### Table of Contents

<b>A CONSTITUTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>V Student <sup>S:</sup>Representation Delegates</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>I The Undergraduate Student Government.</b>	<b>1</b>	17 University Committees with Undergraduate Student Representation	0
1 <del><sup>S:</sup>Executive, Legislative</del> <sup>S:</sup> Legislative, Executive and Judicial Power	1	18 Decision-Making	0
2 Power and Duty	1	19 Tasks of the Undergraduate Student Delegates	0
3 Student Rights	2	<b>VI General</b>	<b>1</b>
4 Student Duties	2	20 Committee Responsibilities	1
<b>II USG Parliament</b>	<b>2</b>	21 Change of <sup>S:</sup> Committee Responsibilities	1
5 Composition of the USG Parliament	2	22 Communication Responsibilities	1
<b>III The Undergraduate Student Executive Unit.</b>	<b>3</b>	23 External Outreach Power	1
6 The Undergraduate Student Executive Unit Structure	3	24 Impeachment of USG members	1
7 The President's Office	3	25 Resignation and Impeachment <sup>S:</sup> <u>procedure</u>	1
8 The Academic Affairs Committee	3	26 Conflicts of Interest	0
9 The Campus Affairs Committee	3	<b>VII Elections</b>	<b>0</b>
10 The Financial Affairs Committee	3	27 Elections	0
11 <sup>S:</sup> <u>The International Affairs Committee</u>	3	28 Candidates Eligibility	0
12 Support structures	3	29 Election of the Members of Parliament	0
<b>IV Student Court</b>	<b>4</b>	30 Election of the College and Focus area representatives	1
13 Power and Duties	4	31 Election of the President's office	1
14 Student Court Formation	4	32 Term Length	1
15 Student Court Procedure	4	<b>B BYLAWS AND PROVISIONS</b>	<b>1</b>
16 Conflicts of Interest	0	<b>VIII General Provisions<sup>S:</sup>for the Executive Committees</b>	<b>1</b>
		33 Membership	1
		34 Decision-Making and By-Laws	1
		35 <sup>P:</sup> The Chair <sup>S:</sup> of a Committee	0
		36 <sup>P:</sup> Powers and Duties of the Chair	0

37	Moderator of a Committee . . . . .	0	76	Conflicts of Interest . . . . .	1
38	General workings of the subcommittees . . . . .	0			
39	Impeachment. . . . .	0			
40	Change of Responsibilities . . . . .	1			
<b>IX</b>	<b>Parliament By-Laws . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>C PROVISIONS . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>	
41	Duties and Responsibilities. . . . .	1	<b>XVI Definitions . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>	
42	Chair of the Parliament . . . . .	1	77 Constitution . . . . .	2	
<b>X</b>	<b>President's Office . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>	78 Students and Undergraduate Student body (USB) . . . . .	2	
43	General Responsibilities of the Presi- dent's Office . . . . .	1	79 <sup>P:</sup> Member of Parliament . . . . .	2	
44	Duties of the President . . . . .	1	80 <sup>P:</sup> Member of the USG . . . . .	2	
45	Duties of the Vice President . . . . .	1	81 Undergraduate Student Representative (USR) . . . . .	2	
46	Event of Untimely Termination . . . . .	0	82 Provision . . . . .	2	
<b>XI</b>	<b>Academic Affairs Committee By-Laws . . . . .</b>	<b>0</b>	83 <sup>P:</sup> Rules of Procedure . . . . .	2	
47	General Responsibilities of the Com- mittee . . . . .	0	84 Student Club . . . . .	2	
48	Composition and Roles . . . . .	0	85 Student Budget . . . . .	2	
49	Major Representatives . . . . .	0	86 Popular Elections . . . . .	3	
50	Focus area representatives . . . . .	0	87 Referendum . . . . .	3	
51	Tasks. . . . .	0	88 Student Opinion . . . . .	3	
52	Duties of the Chair. . . . .	0	89 Popular Initiative . . . . .	3	
<b>XII</b>	<b>Campus Affairs Committee By-Laws. . . . .</b>	<b>0</b>	90 <sup>P:</sup> General Assembly of the USB . . . . .	3	
53	Duties of the Campus Affairs Commit- tee. . . . .	0	91 Absolute and Simple Majority. . . . .	3	
54	Tasks. . . . .	0	92 <sup>S:</sup> Absolute and Simple Unanimity . . . . .	3	
55	Sub-Committees . . . . .	0	93 Campaign Period . . . . .	3	
56	Student Clubs . . . . .	0	94 Impeachment. . . . .	3	
57	Composition and Roles . . . . .	0	<b>XVII Election Procedures . . . . .</b>	<b>4</b>	
58	College representatives . . . . .	0	95 Election Committee . . . . .	4	
<b>XIII</b>	<b>Financial Affairs Committee By-Laws . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>	96 Special Elections . . . . .	4	
59	General Responsibilities of the Com- mittee . . . . .	1	97 Conflict of Interest . . . . .	4	
60	Tasks. . . . .	1	98 Rules of Procedure . . . . .	4	
61	Duties of the Treasurer . . . . .	1	99 Candidates' Applications . . . . .	4	
62	Establishment of the FAC . . . . .	1	100 Election Announcements . . . . .	4	
63	Student's Right to Apply for Funding . . . . .	0	101 Candidates' Eligibility . . . . .	4	
64	Funding Applications. . . . .	0	102 Announcing the Candidates . . . . .	4	
65	Profit-Generating Events . . . . .	0	103 Campaigning. . . . .	5	
66	Miscellaneous Funding Regulation . . . . .	0	104 Candidates' Misconduct. . . . .	5	
<b>XIV</b>	<b>International Affairs Committee By- Laws . . . . .</b>	<b>0</b>	105 Voter Eligibility . . . . .	5	
67	General Responsibilities of the Com- mittee . . . . .	0	106 Online Ballots . . . . .	5	
68	Tasks. . . . .	0	107 Violations . . . . .	5	
69	Procedure and structure of the Commit- tee. . . . .	0	108 Publication of results . . . . .	5	
70	Structure and subcommittees of the In- ternational Affairs Committee. . . . .	0	109 Taking Office . . . . .	5	
71	Duties of the chairs. . . . .	0	<b>XVIII <sup>S:</sup>Meeting Policies and Student Voice . . . . .</b>	<b>0</b>	
72	Composition and Roles . . . . .	0	110 Chair and Quorum. . . . .	0	
<b>XV</b>	<b>Student Court by-laws . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>	111 Regular Meetings . . . . .	0	
73	Power and Duties . . . . .	1	112 Decision-Making . . . . .	0	
74	Student Court Formation . . . . .	1	113 Student Vote . . . . .	0	
75	Student Court Procedure . . . . .	1	114 External Outreach Power . . . . .	0	
			115 Communication Responsibilities. . . . .	0	
			116 Conflicts of Interest . . . . .	0	
			117 Resignation and Impeachment . . . . .	1	
			<b>XIX Final provisions and policy changes . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>	
			118 Constitution Scope. . . . .	1	
			119 Amendments and Referendum . . . . .	1	

120	Overruling. . . . .	1	122	Announcing changes . . . . .	1
121	Internal Changes and Amendments of By-Laws . . . . .	1	123	Termination . . . . .	1

PART A  
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

<sup>S:</sup>Throughout the document the following markups are used to denote changes:

<sup>P:</sup>Parliament approved additions.

<sup>S:</sup>Suggested additions.

<sup>N:</sup> [Notes.] <sup>RP:</sup>

~~Parliament approved removals.~~

~~<sup>RS:</sup>Suggested removals.~~

<sup>S:</sup>~~original~~suggested replacements

**Preamble**

Acting as the voice of all students enrolled at Jacobs University, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) shall actively work to improve the quality of life (in all its aspects) for the Undergraduate Student Body (USB), along with the university administration and community as a whole. The purpose of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is to work in the best interest of the student body.

According to the **Jacobs University Academic Constitution**, "the responsibilities of the Student Government include representing *Students* towards the respective bodies within as well as outside Jacobs University, serving as the link between Students and university authorities, administration or other groups on campus and actively contributing to the communication between those bodies, appointing all representatives of students, and ensuring continuity."

Believing in the right of self-governance, the Undergraduate Student Body (USB) shall elect its representatives. Its Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is entirely student-run and politically independent of any administrative bodies.

**Article I  
The Undergraduate Student Government**

The USG is formed in order to provide an official and representative organization to receive student questions and suggestions, investigate student problems and take appropriate action, provide the official voice through which the student <sup>S:</sup>~~opinion~~interests may be expressed, encourage the development of responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision making processes of the university community, foster an awareness of the students' role in the academic community, enhance the quality and scope of education at Jacobs University Bremen, provide means for responsible and effective participation in the organization of student affairs, and establish guidelines <sup>S:</sup>~~and~~including this Constitution for the Undergraduate Student Government at Jacobs University. <sup>S:</sup> The USG is a technocratic parliamentary democracy.

**SECTION 1. <sup>S:</sup>~~EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE~~LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL POWER**

The Undergraduate Student Body (USB) shall have the right to self-governance through the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), <sup>S:</sup>~~which is~~ the main authority body of the USB, <sup>S:</sup>~~through~~consisting of:

- i. the USG **Parliament** (composed <sup>S:</sup>~~out~~ of the <sup>S:</sup>Elected Offices **10 Members of Parliament**), having the legislative power of the **USB**,
- ii. the USG Executive Unit (<sup>S:</sup>~~composed out of the Student Committees~~composed of the **President's office, the Executive Committees and the supporting structures**), having the executive power of the **USB**,
- iii. the USG **Student Court**, having the judicial power.

**SECTION 2. POWER AND DUTY**

The **USG** shall:

- i. inform the Student Body on recent, present and future endeavours,
- ii. organize <sup>S:</sup>~~and support~~ activities involving the **USB** and maintain the student budget, <sup>Colin:</sup> [I don't like the phrasing of this item: It should be more explicit that the student budget is used to support (financially) for activities involving the USB.]

- iii. establish <sup>S: student</sup> ~~Colin:~~ [This is using a different term than usual, hence confusing.] Committees to deal with specific subjects, define their mandates, appoint their members, and monitor their activities,
- iv. meet regularly to discuss progress in <sup>S: student</sup> Committees and to address all issues on the respective agenda,
- v. at all times uphold and represent the interests of the USB,
- vi. enact legislation governing the conduct of the USB after consultation with the USB,
- vii. serve as liaison with <sup>Colin:</sup> [for?] the university administration, faculty, staff and college authorities.

### SECTION 3. STUDENT RIGHTS

Each student shall have the right to:

- i. vote in popular elections,
- <sup>RS:</sup>
- ii. run for elections or appointments for the offices of the USB. This includes students currently a part of the USB at the time of the elections, and excludes students on disciplinary probation,
- iii. apply to be part of a Committee,
- iv. affiliate themselves with a college of her/his choice, in case of living off-campus,
- v. affiliate themselves with a focus area of her/his choice, for Foundation Year students,
- vi. start a student club <sup>S: and to join any</sup> ~~or join any student~~ club (regardless of background), according to the requirements set by <sup>S: the</sup> Campus Life and the by-laws of the USB,
- vii. initiate a popular initiative or petition to suggest legislative proposals or any kind of action to the USB.

### SECTION 4. STUDENT DUTIES

Each student shall have the duty and obligation to:

- i. act in accordance with the provisions stipulated by the constitution and the active by-laws that support it,
- ii. accept final decisions of the Disciplinary Board <sup>S:</sup> and the University Committee on Academic Integrity, <sup>Colin:</sup> [Is this a good idea? If the decision was according to the Jacobs policies and in compliance with state and federal laws, this doesn't need saying. Otherwise, the decisions should not be accepted at all. ]
- iii. respect decisions taken by the USB as long as they are in accordance with this constitution.

## Article II USB Parliament

The USB Parliament shall have the role to coordinate the USB, to explicitly define its tasks and to distribute workload. The USB Executive Unit shall <sup>S:</sup> ~~fulfill the proposals of~~ work on tasks delegated to them by the USB Parliament, <sup>Colin:</sup> upon common agreement between the two bodies [How does this work? The chair says "Okay" and that's the agreement? This should be explicit.].

### SECTION 5. COMPOSITION OF THE USB PARLIAMENT

The Undergraduate Parliament <sup>S:</sup> ~~shall be composed~~ consists of <sup>S:</sup> ~~the Elected Offices:~~

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| i. President                          | vi. Vice-President                        |
| ii. College Representative: Krupp     | vii. Focus Area Representative: Diversity |
| iii. College Representative: Mercator | viii. Focus Area Representative: Health   |
| iv. College Representative: College 3 | ix. Focus Area Representative: Mobility   |
| v. College Representative: Nordmetall | x. Treasurer                              |

ten (10) elected Members of Parliament. <sup>S:</sup> The chairs of the USB Executive Committees are invited as standing guests <sup>S: Colin:</sup> and given all member rights except voting power [Somewhat not well defined statement. Maybe just omit it? Details are defined in the by-laws.].

**Article III**  
**The Undergraduate Student Executive Unit**

**SECTION 6. THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EXECUTIVE UNIT STRUCTURE**

The Undergraduate Student Executive Unit Structure shall have the following Committees and departments:

- i. **President's Office**, consisting of the **President** and the **Vice-President**,
  - ii. **Academic Affairs**<sup>RS</sup>; ~~chaired by a~~ **Focus Area Representative**,
  - iii. **Campus Affairs**<sup>RS</sup>; ~~chaired by a~~ **Residential College Representative**,
  - iv. **Financial Affairs**<sup>S</sup>; ~~chaired by the~~ **Treasurer**, <sup>S</sup>:
  - v. **International Affairs**,
  - vi. **Support structures**: Secretaries, IT Department, PR<sup>S</sup>: **Department**.
- <sup>Colin</sup>: The chairs for the <sup>S</sup>:Academic and Campus Affairs Committee Executive Committees are <sup>S</sup>:elected within their committee after each USG election (either in May or December) and <sup>S</sup>:elected approved with a simple majority within the **USG Parliament** [Maybe just strike this?].

**SECTION 7. THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

The President's Office shall be the main representative figure of the **USB** and the **USG** and be responsible for the coordination of all activities of the **USG** and its departments, having the following recurring tasks:

- i. ~~<sup>RS</sup>:preside over meetings of the~~ **USG Parliament**, <sup>N</sup>: [The moderation of Parliament meetings is regulated in Section 42]
- ii. inform the **USB** and the **USG** about matters falling within their competence, especially when requested by these bodies,
- iii. be <sup>S</sup>:~~the main~~ responsible for the **USG's** actions and oversee its structure and inner workings,
- iv. oversee the **USG's** public relations externally, and coordinate the **USG's** presentation in the media, both electronically and printed,
- v. supervise the appointment and/or selection of the supportive positions and infrastructure.

It defines its own **Bylaws**.

**SECTION 8. THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) shall be responsible for the representation of the <sup>S</sup>:~~undergraduate~~ **USB** in all Academic University Committees and serve as a point of contact for students regarding all academic matters relevant to education (that is, teaching, learning and assessment), having the responsibilities outlined in its **Bylaws**.

**SECTION 9. THE CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Campus Affairs Committee (CAC) shall be responsible for the representation of the **USB** in all<sup>S</sup>: ~~non-academic~~ university-enacted-structures that affect student life. Its mission is to ameliorate student experience while at Jacobs University and to serve as a point of contact for students regarding all non-academic matters.

**SECTION 10. THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Financial Affairs Committee shall be responsible for all **USG** matters pertaining to finances and strive to direct the students' budget in ways to benefit the student body. Its **Bylaws** define clear guidelines, funding criteria and procedures.

**SECTION 11. <sup>S</sup>:THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

<sup>S</sup>:The International Affairs Committee shall be responsible for all **USG** matters pertaining to cooperations with other universities and their student bodies.

**SECTION 12. SUPPORT STRUCTURES**

The Support structures shall foster the inner workings of the **USG** and help both the **USG Parliament** and Executive Unit in their actions. Further roles can be defined and must be publicly justified, then they

can be attributed to USG members depending on the respective need, in addition to the support structures explicitly listed below:

§1 The Secretaries shall:

- i. set the Agenda for USG meetings,
- ii. be responsible of communication and documents, such as agendas and minutes,
- iii. organize <sup>S:</sup>and follow up on tasks, check for completion; <sup>S:</sup>
- iv. organize and update the USG documentation, ensuring full transparency of the USG's actions

§2 The IT Department shall:

- i. be responsible for the maintenance of the USG related websites and for the updated information,
- ii. be the link between the USB and the IT department of the University.

§3 Public Relations <sup>S:Manager</sup>Department shall:

- i. be responsible for the image of the USG, and implicitly of the University,
- ii. cooperate with the Parliament on internal and external communication.

These roles shall be positions any student can apply for, <sup>S:</sup>and the USG shall elect or choose a candidate, i.e. this decision is to be carried out by USG members only then the candidate is selected within the USG Parliament.

## Article IV Student Court

The Student Court shall be an independent body, responsible of checking and judging the legitimacy of the actions of the USG Parliament and Executive Unit. As it is may not have regular tasks, it shall be formed upon request by either the USB via a petition, the USG Parliament or the USG Executive Unit, in order to prosecute an accused body.

S:

### SECTION 13. POWER AND DUTIES

The Student Court shall:

- i. at all points of time uphold this constitution in the interests of the USB,
- ii. interpret this constitution, by-laws, amendments and all subsequent legislation in the spirit of community standards,
- iii. mediate between two (2) or more parties of the USG or USB, at the request of any of the members involved,
- iv. determine in a trial, as specified in the by-laws on Student Court procedure, the guilt or innocence of any object of its jurisdiction who is accused of violations of this constitution and its by-laws, and assess penalties for such violations according to the by-laws on Student Court procedure,
- v. be permitted to defer a case to the next higher instance as specified in the by-laws on Student Court procedure, if the case is decided to be beyond its competence to judge,
- vi. review the decisions made and actions taken by the Student Parliament and ensure that they are made under the provisions of this constitution and its by-laws,
- vii. issue an evaluation of the Student Parliament's budget allocation, efficiency and progress on agenda points with recommendations for improvement, whenever asked to do so
- viii. recommend, at its discretion, changes in or additions to this constitution, its by-laws, or subsequent legislation,
- ix. be present at official Student Parliament meetings if requested by the Student Parliament or Government.

### SECTION 14. STUDENT COURT FORMATION

The Student Court shall consist of five (5) judges directly elected.

§1 In case the USG Parliament is accused of wrong doings, then the USG Executive Unit takes the task of forming the Student Court. Three (3) Judges shall be members of the USG Executive Unit, and two (2) judges shall be elected from the USB.

§2 In case the USG Executive Unit is accused of wrong doings, then the USG Parliament takes the task of forming the Student Court. Three (3) Judges shall be members of the USG Parliament, and two (2) judges shall be elected from the USB.

§3 In case both the USG Parliament and Executive Unit are accused of wrong doings, then the initiators of the petition against the two bodies takes the task of forming the Student Court. In this case, all five (5) judges shall be elected from the USB.

### SECTION 15. STUDENT COURT PROCEDURE

The Student Court shall form within a week of the accusation and shall take the responsibility to reach a decision within two weeks after its formation.

§1 A quorum for the meetings shall consist of three (3) Student Court judges and decisions shall be made by simple majority vote.

§2 Each judge shall have one vote.



SECTION 16. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Student Court judges must declare all possible conflicts of interest to Student Court prior to any hearing. In the interest of impartiality, any judge that has a conflict of interest and also if a judge is involved in a trial before Student Court as the complainant or as the accused, the respective judge shall remove themselves from the case and be replaced.

Article V

Student <sup>S:</sup>~~Representation~~ Delegates

The USG shall designate the <sup>P:</sup>~~Undergraduate Student Representatives (USRs)~~ Undergraduate Student Delegates (USDs) in all official matters and University Committees. The USDs <sup>S:</sup>~~bring the perspective of Undergraduate Students~~ present the USB's perspective and interests to the Academic Board as laid out in the Academic Constitution of Jacobs University Bremen.

SECTION 17. UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES WITH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATION

The Committees in the USG Executive Unit carry the task of delegating students to the following University Committees with Undergraduate Student Delegates. These USDs are mandated to join the respective University Committee. <sup>S:</sup>~~The USD's don't need to be members of the respective USG executive committee.~~ In particular,

- i. the Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for <sup>S:</sup>~~delegating students to~~ selecting delegates (and substitutes) for the:
  - (a) Academic Senate (AS),
  - (b) <sup>S:</sup>~~University Education Committee (UEC)~~ University Committee on Education (UCE),
  - (c) <sup>S:</sup>~~Quality Management (QM) Team~~ University Committee on Quality management (UCQM),<sup>S:</sup>
  - (d) University Committee on Academic Integrity (UCAI),
  - (e) Teacher of the Year Delegates,
  - (f) Hiring Committees;
- ii. the Campus Affairs Committee is responsible for <sup>S:</sup>~~delegating students to~~ selecting delegates for the:
  - (a) Equality Committee (EQ),
  - (b) Disciplinary Counsel (DC).

<sup>S:</sup>Only in exceptional cases, as decided by the USG Parliament, a student is allowed to be the Undergraduate Student Delegate (excluding substitutes) of more than one University Committee of Jacobs University.

SECTION 18. DECISION-MAKING

The USDs shall be free to vote in the <sup>P:</sup>University Committees as their consciousness dictates. The Student Parliament <sup>S:</sup>or the responsible Committee may however dictate the USDs' votes in their <sup>P:</sup>University Committees, <sup>S:</sup>~~if a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Members of Parliament or respective USG Executive Committee decides so~~ by a simple 2/3 majority vote. If unable to attend the official meetings, the USD is responsible for finding a substitute.

SECTION 19. TASKS OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT DELEGATES

The Undergraduate Student Delegates shall:

- i. attend all meetings of their <sup>S:</sup>~~delegated University Committee~~ University Committee,
- ii. <sup>S:</sup>~~attend all meetings of the responsible USG Executive Committee~~ attend all meeting of the responsible USG Executive Committee, when decided so by the responsible Committee <sup>Colin:</sup> [Not necessary for instance of the UCAI USDs],
- iii. upon decision by the Parliament, additionally attend all meetings of the USG Parliament (as is the case for the USD in the Academic Senate),
- iv. present a summary of the <sup>S:</sup>work of the University Committee to the <sup>S:</sup>~~USG in the responsible Executive Committee and/or the Parliament~~ responsible Executive Committee and/or the Parliament, after each University Committee meeting or whenever asked to do so,
- v. at their discretion, or when mandated by the responsible USG Committee or the Parliament, invite other students as guests to the University Committee meeting.

<sup>S:</sup>



## Article VI General

S:

### SECTION 20. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

<sup>S:</sup>Each Committee shall:

- i. <sup>S:</sup>~~Maintaining~~ maintain a detailed documentation of the projects in progress and/or finished,
- ii. <sup>S:</sup>~~Creating a report to be presented to the USG Parliament during its weekly meetings~~ update the USG Parliament about its work during its weekly meetings. <sup>S:</sup>
- iii. work on any tasks assigned to them by the USG Parliament and keep the Parliament updated about any progress

P:

### SECTION 21. CHANGE OF <sup>S:</sup>COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Any changes related to responsibilities, tasks and duties of <sup>S:</sup>~~the~~ an Executive Committee as well as procedures and guidelines within <sup>S:</sup>~~the~~ that committee that are of a permanent nature must be approved by <sup>S:</sup>~~the~~ USG Parliament by a simple majority a simple majority vote of the USG Parliament, and those of temporary nature are at the discretion of the <sup>S:</sup>~~chair~~ Committee.

### SECTION 22. COMMUNICATION RESPONSIBILITIES

One of the USG's core missions is to inform the USB.

§1 A regular task shall be a <sup>S:</sup>bi-monthly newsletter <sup>RS:</sup>~~of one page~~ with USG past, current and future projects relevant to the respective time-frame.

§2 Failure to do so for two months consecutively constitutes a valid reason for impeachment <sup>S:</sup>of the USG President.

### SECTION 23. EXTERNAL OUTREACH POWER

The USG shall have the right to communicate with external parties, as stated by Academic Constitution of Jacobs University Bremen.

§1 The USG members, as any student, shall have the right to contact any external bodies, only if they do so as individuals and not representing the USG. <sup>RS:</sup>

§2 <sup>Colin:</sup>~~The whole USG~~ <sup>RS:</sup>~~(Parliament and Executive Unit)~~ has to be informed of any intention for external communication. <sup>RS:</sup> [This is bullshit.]

§3 <sup>Colin:</sup>~~A simple majority vote in the~~ USG Parliament, among the USG members or a Student Opinion Decision may enact or prevent any external communication. [Also bullshit.]

§4 In particular, the USG President is the main <sup>S:</sup>person responsible for any external communication.

S:

### SECTION 24. IMPEACHMENT OF USG MEMBERS

In case of a failure of any USG member to live up to his/her responsibilities with regards to the committee, the USG Parliament shall take appropriate actions, ranging from a reprimand to impeachment and/or a re-delegation of tasks.

<sup>RS:</sup><sup>Colin:</sup>~~P:~~ After a successful impeachment of an <sup>S:</sup>~~Committee member~~ elected office, an additional member shall be elected or appointed as soon as possible to fill the open position. [redundant and should be removed]

### SECTION 25. RESIGNATION AND IMPEACHMENT <sup>S:</sup>PROCEDURE

In the event of an <sup>S:</sup>elected USG Member resigning, not being able, not being willing to continue their tasks as a Member, or being successfully impeached, the USG Parliament will appoint an interim for the remaining period of the resigning member. <sup>S:</sup> For resignations and impeachments the following rules apply:

§1 Any elected member of the USG may resign provided that the USG is informed two (2) weeks before the intended date of resignation.

§2 Any member of the USG shall be impeached by either of the two: <sup>S:</sup>~~Two thirds (2/3) of the (other) elected members or referendum.~~ An absolute 2/3 majority vote within the Parliament or a referendum. Such a vote or referendum must clearly state the grounds for impeachment. Repeated <sup>S:</sup>unexcused absence <sup>P:</sup>of three (3) <sup>RS:</sup>~~consecutive~~ <sup>P:</sup>meetings or more and/or not accomplishing designated tasks automatically start the process of impeachment of a <sup>S:</sup>Committee or Parliament member:

i. The accused member and the impeacher (if any) have one (1) week time to <sup>RS:</sup>~~argument and~~ present their case.

ii. At the next USG Parliament meeting, the impeachment is voted upon.

§3 After resignation or impeachment, an officer may not run again for the same office within the term that the resignation <sup>P:</sup>or impeachment took place.

## SECTION 26. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest must be declared and the involved members must be omitted from voting. In case of a tie in the voting procedure, the final decision is made jointly by the President, Vice-President and the respective Committee Head.

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## Article VII Elections

### SECTION 27. ELECTIONS

The USG shall hold a general election twice a year, in particular:

- i. in first week of December for: <sup>RS:</sup>~~Vice-President,~~ Focus Area representatives, Treasurer<sup>S:</sup>, 5 Members of Parliament (and for any open position),
- ii. in first week of May for: <sup>RS:</sup>~~President,~~ College representatives<sup>S:</sup>, 5 Members of Parliament (and for any open position).

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### SECTION 28. CANDIDATES ELIGIBILITY

The student shall be physically present in the respective semester of being in the office.

§1 Students in their second year of study who will spend the fifth semester abroad or will do an internship in their fifth semester may not run for an office in the USG in the May elections of their second year.

§2 Students in their third year of study or Foundation Year students who will not stay as bachelor students afterwards may not run as Focus area or College representatives in the May elections of their last year.

§3 Foundation Year students may affiliate themselves with a Focus area and are allowed to run as representative for that Focus area. In case, they have been offered admission for undergraduate studies and accepted that offer, this must be the Focus area of their future study program.

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### SECTION 29. ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

<sup>S:</sup>Only active members of an USG Executive Committee are eligible to run as a Member of Parliament.

For the election of the Members of Parliament, each student may distribute three (3) votes on candidates. Afterwards, the Members of Parliament are selected based on the outcome of the election as follows:

§1 Firstly, the candidates with most votes (except for a number of candidates equal to the number of Executive Committees) become Members of Parliament.

§2 All remaining positions are filled by the candidate reaching most votes from each Committee, which isn't already chosen as a Member of Parliament in §1. If there is no such candidate, the candidate with most votes (from any Committee) that isn't already chosen will be chosen as Member of Parliament.

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## SECTION 30. ELECTION OF THE COLLEGE AND FOCUS AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Any eligible student according to section 28 may run as a college or Focus area representative in their College or Focus area. Focus area and College representatives are elected by the USB from within their Focus area or College.

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## SECTION 31. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

In the beginning of each Fall semester, the newly elected Parliament shall elect a President and in the beginning of each Spring semester they shall elect a Vice-President amongst the Members of Parliament. Both President and Vice-President can be recalled any time with an absolute 2/3 majority vote in the Parliament. In this case, a new President must be elected immediately.

## SECTION 32. TERM LENGTH

By default, all elected positions' terms within the USG shall be one year long.

§1 Exceptions <sup>S: of the above, with one semester terms,</sup> are:

- i. the candidates are third year students elected in the December election of their third year, and they are graduating at the end of their 6<sup>th</sup> semester,
- ii. the candidates are second year students elected in the December election of their second year, and they are going abroad during their 5<sup>th</sup> semester,
- iii. the candidates are running for an open position from a previous one-semester term, <sup>S:Colin:</sup>
- iv. the candidates receive the second highest number of votes in an election where two positions are to be filled,
- v. the candidates receive the second highest number of votes in an election where any Member of Parliament runs and is elected for a different position within the Parliament, [I don't understand these items: If somebody can explain it to me, I might reconsider.]
- vi. elected members choose to have a one semester term.

§2 The current members at the time of the election will remain in office until the end of the respective semester. After the elections, the newly elected members are already invited as standing guests in the meetings. They obtain voting power already at the beginning of the respective break (winter or summer break). In particular, this means that for the breaks between semesters, both previous and newly-elect students are members of the Parliament and thus have voting rights.

§3 A student can run for a position as many times as they wish.

## PART B BYLAWS AND PROVISIONS

### Article VIII General Provisions <sup>S:for the Executive Committees</sup>

## SECTION 33. MEMBERSHIP

<sup>P:</sup>Next to the Committee chair, the Committee consists of regular members, which are inaugurated by a vote of the Committee <sup>S: after an application process to the respective Committee chair. Colin: [Should be left to the Committee to decide]</sup> Memberships continue until disenrollment, unless the member resigns or is inactive (as decided by the respective committee). Members are either:

- i. active members <sup>P:</sup>with voting rights within the Committee and the USG, who need to attend the mandatory Committee meetings
- ii. passive members <sup>P:</sup>as part of the mailing lists, with the option to join the meetings and engage in discussions, but without voting rights.

## SECTION 34. DECISION-MAKING AND BY-LAWS

A simple majority among the Committee members is required to reach a decision within any committee. <sup>S:Conflicts of interest must be clearly declared.</sup>

<sup>P:</sup>The Committee's decision can be overruled only with a <sup>S:fullsimple</sup> unanimity of the USG Parliament. Each committee shall establish its own By-Laws, afterwards to be approved by the Parliament.

SECTION 35. <sup>P:</sup>THE CHAIR<sup>S:</sup> OF A COMMITTEE

~~<sup>S:</sup>The Chair usually is an elected member of the Parliament.~~ Each semester after the USG elections each committee shall elect its chair amongst its members. The chair can, but doesn't need to be a Member of Parliament. In case the chair is not a Member of Parliament, they will be invited as a standing guest to the Parliament to represent their committee. They are given the right to propose agenda points (including ad-hoc agenda points and comments) and they will be included in the Parliament internal communications, however they don't have voting rights. The chair takes full accountability and responsibility for the work of and within the committee and, thus, it shall be the duty of the chair to ensure that all committee tasks are being duly implemented. Each committee <sup>S: defines</sup> may define additional duties.

SECTION 36. <sup>P:</sup>POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

The Chair is a leading figure for their Committee. They shall ensure the following.

- §1 Communication with the USG Parliament. The chair shall <sup>P:</sup>attend the USG Parliament meetings, represent and communicate relevant projects and suggestions of the Committee work to the USG Parliament and vice versa.
- §2 The chairs shall preside over the meetings of their Committee.
- §3 At the beginning of each year, the chair must present a project list for the respective task and how to accomplish them. The chair shall write Committee reports if required by the USG.
- §4 Establishment of the Committee. Upon assignment of the committee the chair shall nominate committee members.
- §5 It is at the discretion of the chair to invite additional members to attend their respective official meetings. If unable to attend, the chair is responsible for finding substitutes.
- §6 The chair shall provide general advice concerning the Committee's work for the succeeding committee chair, specifying the activities which were pursued and completed, stating any pending activities, and including suggestions for improved performance in the committee in the next academic year. The chair shall ensure that all relevant documents and materials are handed over to the succeeding committee chair.
- §7 At any time during the semester the chair of a Committee, may be recalled by an absolute 2/3 majority of members. In this case, a new chair must be elected immediately.

<sup>S:</sup>  
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SECTION 37. MODERATOR OF A COMMITTEE

The chair may yield their moderation right to another Committee member, either for a specific meeting or for the entire semester. The moderator may yield the moderation right to a different committee member at any time during a meeting for:

- i. the discussion of an agenda point,
- ii. the introduction of a proposal,
- iii. the remaining meeting.

<sup>S:</sup>

SECTION 38. GENERAL WORKINGS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES

Subcommittees can be created within the Committee in order to foster the work with the diverse range of issues the Committee is interested in. <sup>N:</sup> ~~[Deleted the suggested phrase: The current tasks and responsibilities are:]~~ <sup>S:</sup> -

§1 Membership of any of these subcommittees is fluid and can be freely changed.

§2 A Committee member can freely decide to be in any number of such subcommittees.

§3 The subcommittee is free to accept any non-committee member <sup>S:</sup> ~~into its membership~~ as members.

§4 The heads of the subcommittees are <sup>S:</sup> ~~decided internally by the interested members~~ selected within the subcommittee

<sup>RS:</sup>

SECTION 39. IMPEACHMENT

In case of a failure of any Committee member (including the chair) to live up to his/her responsibilities with regards to the com-

mittee, the USG Parliament shall take appropriate actions, ranging from a reprimand to impeachment and/or a re-delegation of tasks.  
~~P: After a successful impeachment of a Committee member, an additional member shall be elected or appointed as soon as possible to fill the open position.~~  
~~P:~~

#### SECTION 40. CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Any changes related to responsibilities, tasks and duties of the Committee as well as procedures and guidelines within the committee that are of a permanent nature must be approved by the USG Parliament by a simple majority, and those of temporary nature are at the discretion of the chair.  
~~P:~~

### Article IX Parliament By-Laws

#### SECTION 41. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The individual members of the USG Parliament shall:

- i. ~~P:~~ attend the weekly USG meetings,
- ii. proactively strive for the betterment of student representation within the University,
- iii. be familiar with the workings of the USG and Jacobs University,
- iv. participate in voting and decision-making, <sup>S:</sup> aware of consequences for different constituencies<sup>P:</sup> \_
- v. participate in at least of the USG Executive Committees. <sup>S:</sup> or supporting structures

~~S:~~

#### SECTION 42. CHAIR OF THE PARLIAMENT

The chair of the Parliament presides over Parliament meetings.

§1 By default the USG President is the chair and moderator of the USG Parliament.

§2 With approval of the previous chair, the USG Parliament may elect a new chair amongst its members at any time during the semester

§3 The chair may be recalled at any time with an absolute 2/3 majority of the Members of Parliament. In this case a new chair must be elected.

§4 The chair can yield the moderation right to another present USG member at any time during a meeting for

- i. the discussion of an agenda point
- ii. the introduction of a proposal
- iii. the remaining meeting

### Article X President's Office

#### SECTION 43. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The President's Office and its Support Structures shall convene and preside weekly meetings of the USG Parliament. The President's Office shall oversee the workings of the Committees of the USG, taking the information and their opinions into account when making decisions.

#### SECTION 44. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The President shall act as the primary representative of the USG to the USB, and the primary representative of the USB to the University Administration. The President shall ensure the proper functioning and efficiency of the Committees of the USG.

#### SECTION 45. DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall aid the President in any matters pertaining to the duties of the President to the best interest of the USG. The Vice President shall further:

- i. be the Acting Head of the USG whenever the President is absent and/or not legitimized, <sup>S:</sup>

- ii. oversee the matters of the Disciplinary Council and attend the hearings when they occur,<sup>Colin:</sup> [The DC USD should IMO be selected by the CAC.]
- iii. be the foremost contact for further developing and advancing the disciplinary procedures at Jacobs University together with its administration.

#### SECTION 46. EVENT OF UNTIMELY TERMINATION

In the event that the President/Vice-President steps down from his/her role before the proper conclusion of the term, a new President shall be elected from the existing members of the **USG Parliament** in the earliest possible convenience.

§1 In accordance with Article X, Section 45, Point i, the Vice President shall become the Interim President of the USG until the proper introduction of the new President into his/her office.

§2 There shall be no role of interim Vice President until the conclusion of the said election.

### Article XI

#### Academic Affairs Committee By-Laws

#### SECTION 47. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the Undergraduate Student Government (**USG**) shall gather undergraduate student opinions on current academic issues and represent and mediate the students' opinions towards faculty and staff.

§1 The Committee shall strive for the best solution for the **USB** as a whole. It is the objective of the committee to enhance overall teaching quality.

§2 The Committee shall be the contact institution for students who have problems with or suggestions about academic policies and regulations. The committee shall maintain an open mind and look for solutions and new ideas within the academic realm at Jacobs University.

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#### SECTION 48. COMPOSITION AND ROLES

The AAC shall be represented by students of all focus areas, and all majors. Each focus area shall elect its representative, who is a member of the Parliament as well. Students may become members of the AAC representing their majors. Special roles within the AAC are, but not limited to:

- i. <sup>P:</sup> AAC Chair<sup>S:</sup>
- ii. Focus area representatives<sup>P:</sup>
- iii. Undergraduate Student Representative<sup>S:</sup> (and substitute)<sup>P:</sup> in the Academic Senate<sup>S:</sup>
- iv. Undergraduate Student Representatives (and substitutes) in the University Committee on Education
- v. Undergraduate Student Representative (and substitute) in the University Committee on Quality Management
- vi. Undergraduate Student Representatives (and substitutes) in the University Committee on Academic Integrity<sup>P:</sup>
- vii. Hiring Committees Ombudsperson
- viii. AAC Secretary
- ix. USR for Awards Committees, such as the Teacher of the Year and Lecture Hall Awards.

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#### SECTION 49. MAJOR REPRESENTATIVES

In order to better represent the interest of students of all major's on campus, the AAC selects major representatives among the Undergraduate Student Body for undergraduate study programs. Ideally, there should be one to two major representatives for each major, especially if there are no AAC members of that major. Major representatives don't need to be AAC members. Major representatives shall:

- i. serve as a point of contact for students of their major,
- ii. address major specific issues autonomously, wherever possible,
- iii. advise the AAC on matters related to their major,



- iv. collect feedback and complaints from students of their major and either address them themselves or present them to and collaborate with the AAC in order to address them.

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#### SECTION 50. FOCUS AREA REPRESENTATIVES

The elected Focus area representatives shall become AAC members. The Focus area representatives shall:

- i. serve as a point of contact for students and major-representatives of their focus area,
- ii. work on issues specific to their focus area,
- iii. represent the interest of their Focus area in AAC internal discussions, thus ensuring the needs of all Focus areas are taken into account,
- iv. stay in contact with and support the work of the major representatives of their focus area, serving as a link between the major representatives and the AAC.

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#### SECTION 51. TASKS

The Committee shall work on relevant suggestions and requests from individual students or other institutions. The fixed and recurrent tasks of the committee shall pertain to:

- i. <sup>P:</sup> give feedback about academic matters to faculty, administration and the respective <sup>S:</sup>university<sup>P:</sup> Committees (<sup>S:</sup>primarily the <sup>S:</sup>Quality Management, University Committee on Quality Management and <sup>S:</sup>University Education Committee/Education Advisory Panel University Committee on Education),<sup>P:</sup>
- ii. regularly update the USB and the Parliament about its workings as well as the meetings with the university leadership and the Academic University Committees,
- iii. be responsible for meeting with the University Leadership of Academic Operations at least once per semester, to discuss academic developments,
- iv. <sup>S:</sup>represent the USB's concerns and opinions in any relevant internal discussions, represent the USB's interest in the University Committees,<sup>P:</sup>
- v. structure changes and their implications, evaluate academic policies, major evaluations.

RS:

#### SECTION 52. DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

The AAC chair shall become the undergraduate student representative and a member to the UEC for the respective academic year. The chair shall attend all UEC meetings. It is at the discretion of the chair to invite additional members of the AAC to attend UEC meetings.

### Article XII

#### Campus Affairs Committee By-Laws

#### SECTION 53. DUTIES OF THE CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

§1 The primary purpose of the Campus Affairs Committee (CAC) is to facilitate and improve life on campus for students. The CAC shall consider and discuss with the appropriate university authorities any relevant issue for which there is a proven student interest, as long as the area of interest does not infringe upon the areas supervised by other Committees, determined by either of:

- i. the Committee and/or the Parliament's discretion,
- ii. any student petition that has more than 50 signatures.

§2 Any student shall have the right to approach the CAC for initiation of the proceedings described above upon consideration of the **USB Parliament**. The CAC shall have the right to file an official complaint to Campus Life against any employee on campus provided that there exists evidence beyond reasonable doubt on the issue, and with an absolute majority vote of the Parliament.

§3 <sup>N:</sup> [more text]

P:

#### SECTION 54. TASKS



The Committee shall work on relevant suggestions and requests from individual students or other institutions. <sup>S:</sup>The fixed and recurrent tasks of the committee shall pertain to:<sup>P:</sup> -

- i. delegating an USB (usually the CAC Chair) to attend the weekly meetings with CampusLife,
- ii. maintaining the weekly CAC meeting as mutually agreed by the entire CAC,
- iii. evaluate campus life policies give feedback about non-academic matters to CampusLife,
- iv. be responsible for meeting university leadership at least once a semester to discuss non-academic developments,
- v. regularly update the USB and the Parliament about its workings as well as about meetings,
- vi. oversee and foster the student clubs and events, as well as doing campaign about social welfare.

<sup>S:</sup>

## SECTION 55. SUB-COMMITTEES

Current Sub-committees are, but not restricted to:

- i. Food and Environmental Sub-committee
  - (a) ursuing students' interest in all things related to University-provided food,
  - (b) Striving to restore and maintain the environmental integrity of the campus,
  - (c) Creating various projects and workgroups to pursue the above interests.
- ii. Equality and Diversity Sub-committee:
  - (a) Headed by a current Undergraduate Student Representative of the Equality and Diversity Committee (EQC),
  - (b) Working closely with the EQC and assisting it with its current projects wherever possible,
  - (c) Working with other clubs and communities on campus that aim for a similar goal,
  - (d) Creating various projects and workgroups to purse the above interests.
- iii. Event Sub-committee
  - (a) Assisting student organizers in planning for various events and parties,
  - (b) Organising the end-of-the-year party.

## SECTION 56. STUDENT CLUBS

Any student shall have the right to ask the **USG Parliament** to check the respective club's inner workings. *Only for clubs that receive USG funding*, any club member shall have the right to ask the USG to impeach the respective club's president and hold club elections.

§1 Should an impeachment proceeding occur, the decision shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the USG Parliamentarians.

§2 Should a member of the **USG** be involved in the impeachment procedure (accused or member of the club), he/she shall not have the right to vote on the impeachment for the sake of impartiality.

<sup>P:</sup>

## SECTION 57. COMPOSITION AND ROLES

The CAC shall be represented by students of all residences and student clubs. Each College shall elect its representative, who is a member of the Parliament as well. Students may become members of the CAC representing their own communities and/or student clubs.

Special roles within the CAC are, but not limited to:

- i. CAC Chair
- ii. Two Undergraduate Student Representatives in the Equality and Diversity Committee
- iii. Campus Life Ombudsperson
- iv. CAC Secretary

<sup>S:</sup>

## SECTION 58. COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

The elected College representatives shall become CAC members. The College area representatives shall:

- i. serve as a point of contact for students of their college,
- ii. work on issues specific to their college,

- iii. represent the interest of their College in CAC internal discussions, thus ensuring the needs of all colleges are taken into account,
- iv. stay in contact with and support the work of the college office and organizers of college specific events in their college, serving as a link between the College offices and event organizers and the CAC.

### Article XIII Financial Affairs Committee By-Laws

#### SECTION 59. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Financial Affairs Committee (FAC) of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) shall manage the USG Budget. The USG and FAC shall, with their available funds, endeavor to financially support public, non-profit events, initiatives and the like of students, which are to the potential benefit of the student body as a whole. These include events on campus, competitions attended by a delegation of the student body, student-led projects and student-led excursions. These are only examples; general rules are that the initiative shall:

- i. not be exclusive but potentially open to any student to attend or be a part of,
- ii. be carried out to the advancement of the student body and the benefit in improving student life in academic, socio-cultural or other aspects,
- iii. not be harmful to Jacobs University's image or reputation.

The Chair of the FAC shall have direct contact with the Campus Life Department regarding the undergraduate students' funds and the USG Budget.

#### SECTION 60. TASKS

The fixed and recurring tasks of the FAC shall be:

- i. to convene weekly in meetings chaired by the Treasurer,
- ii. the evaluation of Funding Applications or Addenda,
- iii. the approval or rejection of a Funding Application or an Addendum
- iv. the writing of confidential, USG-internal reports on why respective Funding Applications or Addenda were approved or rejected, containing specific recommendations for the USG Parliament,
- v. the submission of approved Funding Applications and Addenda as well as the corresponding reports to the USG Parliament,
- vi. the checking and approval of receipts and invoices and their submission of such receipts and invoices to the Campus Life Department,
- vii. the accounting of the USG Budget and notification of the USG Parliament about the situation of the USG Budget,
- viii. communication to the respective staff within the administrative body of Jacobs University.

#### SECTION 61. DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

The FAC shall be led by an USG Parliamentarian who has been directly elected in the position of "Treasurer" by the student body. The Treasurer takes the responsibility for:

- i. all work of and within the Financial Affairs Committee,
- ii. attendance of all USG Parliament meetings and presentation of current FAC matters,
- iii. communication with the USG such as recommendations or reports on Funding Applications,
- iv. the submission of an annual budget report at the end of each academic year to the USG Parliament,
- v. passing on all relevant information to the succeeding Treasurer,
- vi. the establishment of the FAC as defined in Article XIII, Section 54.

#### SECTION 62. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAC

§1 The Treasurer shall conduct a formal application procedure in conjunction with a second USG Parliamentarian for students wishing to join the FAC.

§2 The size of the FAC for effective and efficient functioning shall be decided by the Treasurer.

§3 Committee members of the FAC shall hereafter be referred to as "Financial Experts".

SECTION 63. STUDENT'S RIGHT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

All students of Jacobs University shall have the right to apply for funding of the USG for their initiatives and/or club activities, as long as the criteria specified in these By-Laws are met.

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SECTION 64. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

All Applications have to go through the FAC first, and the FAC has the right to decline any incoming application.

The FAC has the authority to fund Applications or Addenda that amount up to €500 and the obligation to emit a formal notification about such funding to the USG Parliament. This shall be valid only if the FAC consists of more than seven (7) members.

Any amount exceeding €500 will require an additional approval by the President's office, and any amount exceeding €1000 will require vote of approval by a simple majority in the USG Parliament.

SECTION 65. PROFIT-GENERATING EVENTS

The FAC shall only fund profit-generating events, initiatives, and the like as long as they meet one of the following criteria:

- i. profits are reinvested in the continuity of the club or event,
- ii. profits are donated to a cause deemed appropriate by the Parliamentary Finance Committee if the Funding Application is €250 or less, and by the Undergraduate Student Government if the application exceeds €500,
- iii. profits are returned to the USG Budget.

SECTION 66. MISCELLANEOUS FUNDING REGULATION

§1 The FAC has the authority to approve or reject Addenda for redistribution of funds, as long as they remain in the limit of the initial budget. Addenda intent on raising the initial budget stipulated in the initial Funding Applications can only be approved by the FAC if they request up to €200, as otherwise they have to be approved by the USG Parliament.

§2 The FAC has the authority to waive the requirement according to which the organizers are obliged to portray the USG logo in certain events or clubs.

§3 The FAC has the authority to lend out USG property with reasonable assurance of return. The Chair is responsible for the management of property loans. If the Chair shall be indisposed for an extended period of time, the USG Parliament can opt for ceding this power to the USG President for the duration of the Chair's absence if the Chair has provided a signed temporary removal of power.

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**Article XIV**  
**International Affairs Committee By-Laws**

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SECTION 67. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Primary purpose of the international Affairs Committee is to create ties with the student government of other universities around the globe, by creating exchange of informations/opportunities in between the USG and the student government of partner universities.

SECTION 68. TASKS

The IAC shall:

- i. act as a mediator of information from Jacobs University, to other universities and vice versa,
- ii. raise international presence and prestige of Jacobs University,
- iii. serve to give students more opportunities for small-scale exchange programs and projects on a local and international level,

- iv. serve as a communication channel in order to make students from partner universities participate in Jacobs University Events,
- v. develop projects where universities close by (e.g. Hamburg, Bremen), World Track Universities and other universities by strengthening the interaction of our university and other universities,
- vi. serve as a bridge of communication in order to improve collaboration with Clubs/ Societies of Jacobs University and partner universities,
- vii. embrace collaboration between different majors of the partner universities,
- viii. embrace collaboration with Universities in countries of Jacobs University Students,
- ix. serve as a point of contact for students and students' requests and complains,
- x. determine students' preference for partnering universities and base their activities on this. These universities need to follow the targeting universities criteria.

#### SECTION 69. PROCEDURE AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

The IAC will have weekly meetings where they discuss relevant projects and opportunities for the student body.

§1 The International Affairs Committee tries to establish links to other universities based on the targeting universities criteria from the International Office.

§2 Get in contact with the target university and generate the link

§3 Exchange Information about the universities and its events

#### SECTION 70. STRUCTURE AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The IAC structure shall work with constant interaction of its three main sub-Committees:

§1 The Development Projects subcommittee: This subcommittee organizes events to improve the interaction with other universities and their students

§2 The IAC World: The IAC World is in charge of expanding the IAC alliances, based on the targeting university criteria. The IAC World should be composed of representatives by mother tongue, that are in charge of expanding the alliances of the IAC, in the regions where the language is spoken. IAC-World is in charge of serving as a bridge of communication between event organizers and university societies at Jacobs and allied universities and their student governments in order to boost recruitment, communication and collaboration.

§3 The IAC News: The IAC News researches and informs the Jacobs student body about opportunities, both locally and worldwide, for instance career fairs, jobs fairs and conferences. This communication takes place via E-mail and social media.

#### SECTION 71. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRS

The IAC chairs:

- i. organize at least monthly meetings with the International Office to support the development of the internationalization process,
- ii. coordinate the work of the IAC subcommittees,
- iii. ensure chairing of the weekly meetings of the IAC subcommittees,
- iv. communicate the requests and initiatives of the student body to the IO and the subcommittees,
- v. ensure communication of the subcommittees with the student body,
- vi. recruit members for the IAC Committee from the student body.

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#### SECTION 72. COMPOSITION AND ROLES

The IAC shall be comprised of students of all majors.

Special roles within the IAC include, but are not limited to:

- i. IAC Chair(s)
- ii. Head(s) of the IAC World
- iii. Head of the IAC News
- iv. IAC Secretary

S:

## Article XV Student Court by-laws

### SECTION 73. POWER AND DUTIES

The Student Court shall:

- i. at all points of time uphold this constitution in the interests of the USB,
- ii. interpret this constitution, by-laws, amendments and all subsequent legislation in the spirit of community standards,
- iii. mediate between two (2) or more parties of the USB or USB, at the request of any of the members involved,
- iv. determine in a trial, as specified in the by-laws on Student Court procedure, the guilt or innocence of any object of its jurisdiction who is accused of violations of this constitution and its by-laws, and assess penalties for such violations according to the by-laws on Student Court procedure,
- v. be permitted to defer a case to the next higher instance as specified in the by-laws on Student Court procedure, if the case is decided to be beyond its competence to judge,
- vi. review the decisions made and actions taken by the <sup>S: Student Parliament</sup> executive or legislative unit of the USB and ensure that they are made under the provisions of this constitution and its by-laws,
- vii. issue an evaluation of the Student Parliament's budget allocation, efficiency and progress on agenda points with recommendations for improvement, whenever asked to do so
- viii. recommend, at its discretion, changes in or additions to this constitution, its by-laws, or subsequent legislation,
- ix. be present at official Student Parliament meetings if requested by the Student Parliament or Government.

### SECTION 74. STUDENT COURT FORMATION

The Student Court shall consist of five (5) judges directly elected.

§1 In case the USB Parliament is accused of wrong doings, then the USB Executive Unit takes the task of forming the Student Court. Three (3) Judges shall be members of the USB Executive Unit<sup>S: without the Parliament</sup>, and two (2) judges shall be elected from the USB.

§2 In case the USB Executive Unit is accused of wrong doings, then the USB Parliament takes the task of forming the Student Court. Three (3) Judges shall be members of the USB Parliament, and two (2) judges shall be elected from the USB.

§3 In case both the USB Parliament and Executive Unit are accused of wrong doings, then the initiators of the petition against the two bodies takes the task of forming the Student Court. In this case, all five (5) judges shall be elected from the USB.

### SECTION 75. STUDENT COURT PROCEDURE

The Student Court shall form within a week of the accusation and shall take the responsibility to reach a decision within two weeks after its formation.

§1 A quorum for the meetings shall consist of three (3) Student Court judges and decisions shall be made by simple majority vote.

§2 Each judge shall have one vote.

### SECTION 76. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Student Court judges must declare all possible conflicts of interest to <sup>S: the</sup> Student Court prior to any hearing. In the interest of impartiality, any judge that has a conflict of interest and <sup>S: also in particular</sup> if a judge is involved in a trial before <sup>S: the</sup> Student Court as the complainant or as the accused, the respective judge shall remove themselves from the case and be replaced.

**PART C  
PROVISIONS**

**Acronyms**

**Article XVI  
Definitions**

**SECTION 77. CONSTITUTION**

Unless stated otherwise, the term "constitution" refers to the text of the present constitution, as legislative document of the Undergraduate Student Body (USB).

**SECTION 78. STUDENTS AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY (USB)**

Unless stated otherwise, the term "students" refers to undergraduate students as defined in the university constitution, i.e. Bachelor and pre-degree students currently enrolled at Jacobs University. Unless stated otherwise, the term "student body" refers to the Undergraduate Student Assembly, as defined by Jacobs University constitution.

**SECTION 79. <sup>P:</sup>MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

<sup>S:</sup>~~The Members of the~~ <sup>P:</sup>USG Parliament, Members of Parliament or MP for short, are the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, College Representatives and Focus Area Representatives. <sup>P:</sup>The Members of the USG Parliament of MP for short, are <sup>S:</sup>USG committee members elected into the Parliament as described in section 29.

**SECTION 80. <sup>P:</sup>MEMBER OF THE USG**

<sup>P:</sup>All members of the USG Parliament, all members of the USG Executive Unit<sup>P:</sup>, all Secretaries or members of Support Structures <sup>S:</sup>and all major-representatives are Members of the USG.

**SECTION 81. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (USR)**

The Undergraduate Student Representative (USR) is the person physically participating at the University meeting, as stipulated by the Jacobs University Constitution.

**SECTION 82. PROVISION**

A provision is a complementary law adopted by the Student Government according the constitution. They shall be referenced in the text of the constitution as soon as they are adopted. They are approved or amended by a simple majority vote of the **USG Parliament**.

**SECTION 83. <sup>P:</sup>RULES OF PROCEDURE**

<sup>P:</sup>Rules of Procedure are complementary provisions of a unit, a Committee or the election committee regarding their internal working procedures. Consequently, they don't violate nor affect the USG constitution and existent bylaws which are not themselves Rules of Procedure. They also don't affect any other constituency of the USG. <sup>S:</sup>~~Thus, t~~They shall be amended by a simple majority of members of the respective unit or committee and approved by a simple majority of the **USG Parliament**.

**SECTION 84. STUDENT CLUB**

A student club is a student-run organization focused on a social/academic/sport or leisure purpose. To be official, it has to be registered with Campus Life.

**SECTION 85. STUDENT BUDGET**

The student budget refers to the aggregate amount of money paid by students as the USG tax collected by the university.



SECTION 86. POPULAR ELECTIONS

All elections in the USB shall be general, direct, free, fair, secret and held accordingly to the Election Procedure By-Laws of Article XVII.

SECTION 87. REFERENDUM

A referendum is a legislative act of the USG decided upon by a popular vote of the USB. The outcome of a referendum shall be binding on the USG.

§1 The organization of a referendum requires a simple majority of all Members of the USG to pass it to a student vote.

§2 A referendum is considered to be successful if a simple majority votes in favour, with a threshold quorum of a fifth (20%) of all eligible voters.

§3 No decisions shall be implemented if a referendum is pending on an issue.

SECTION 88. STUDENT OPINION

The USG may consult the USB for future decisions via the Student Opinion on the voting platform. Its purpose is to give more information and leverage to the actions of the USG. However, the outcome of the Student Opinion shall be binding on the USG, unless the USB Parliament votes in absolute unanimity against it.

SECTION 89. POPULAR INITIATIVE

A popular initiative is an issue, not voted on by the USG, relating to the USB. It is put directly to a popular vote by the USB without prior consultation with the USG. The outcome of the popular initiative shall be binding on the USG. The organization of popular initiatives requires a petition signed by at least twenty (5%) of all students. The Members of the USG shall approve the initiative or add options to the ballot to ensure feasibility with an absolute majority vote. Ballot options included on the petition for the popular initiative may only be excluded by the Members of the USG for reasons of feasibility.

SECTION 90. <sup>P:</sup>GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE USB

<sup>S:</sup>A general assembly is an official meeting called for by the USG to which all undergraduate students are invited.

SECTION 91. ABSOLUTE AND SIMPLE MAJORITY

An absolute majority refers to a voting outcome in which more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of the respective constituency (present or not) votes in favor. A simple majority refers to a voting outcome in which there are more "in favor" votes than "against" votes among the physically present members<sup>S:</sup>  
abstentions are part of the pool.

SECTION 92. ~~<sup>S:</sup>ABSOLUTE AND~~ SIMPLE UNANIMITY

~~<sup>S:</sup>An absolute unanimity refers to a voting outcome in which all members of the respective constituency (present or not) votes in fa-~~  
~~vor.~~ A simple unanimity refers to a voting outcome in which all physically present members vote in favour.<sup>S:</sup>  
Additionally, a majority of members of the respective constituency needs to be present during the vote.

SECTION 93. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

The period from announcing a candidature and before the voting for it starts shall be known as the campaign period.

SECTION 94. IMPEACHMENT

The process of removing someone from their office.



## Article XVII Election Procedures

The provisions of this article shall only apply to elections for positions in the USG.

### SECTION 95. ELECTION COMMITTEE

The election Committee (EC) consists of the elected members of the USG who do not finish their term at the respective election time. If requested, they shall be supported by any remaining members. The election committee has to form itself at the president's initiative. The committee then elects a head of elections.

### SECTION 96. SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Any other elections (except the two specified by the constitution in 27) during the academic year shall be organized by the President of the USG who chairs the respective election Committee.

### SECTION 97. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Each Parliament and secretariat member shall have the duty to report any irregularities to [Student Court](#). No member of the student court, Parliament and secretariat who is supervising the election shall be a candidate in or initiator of the election in question.

### SECTION 98. RULES OF PROCEDURE

The election is carried out in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Constitution of the [USB](#) and these provisions.

### SECTION 99. CANDIDATES' APPLICATIONS

Students wishing to apply shall submit their application to the EC, which will collect the applications and prepare them for the election. Applications may consist of a letter of intent (one-pager), explaining the motivation for applying, past experience in student governments or university administration, an outline of an agenda they plan to pursue and proposed solutions, a strategy for engaging with the USG and other stakeholders.

### SECTION 100. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

All elections shall be announced no later than two (2) days prior to the election, naming the options or candidates and functions they are running for, place, date, and time of the election. Such announcements shall take place through a notification sent to all student email accounts and by other platforms set by the USG via the EC.

S:

### SECTION 101. CANDIDATES' ELIGIBILITY

The student shall be physically present in the respective semester of being in the office.

§1 Students in their third year of study may not run for an office in the USG in the May elections of their last year.

§2 Students in their second year of study who will spend the fifth semester abroad or will do an internship in their fifth semester may not run for an office in the USG in the May elections of their second year.

§3 Foundation Year students may only run for an office if they have been offered admission for undergraduate studies at Jacobs University and have accepted that offer.

§4 Only in exceptional cases, as decided by the [USG Parliament](#), one student is allowed to be the Undergraduate Student Representatives <sup>S</sup>(excluding substitutes) of more than one official Committees of Jacobs University with student representatives (USR).<sup>N</sup>: [

Maybe restrict chairs from being members of too many committees instead. Given the high number of USRs and substitutes, this might otherwise be too restrictive.]

### SECTION 102. ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDATES

The EC is responsible for officially announcing the candidates.

§1 Candidates in or initiators of an election shall be allowed to have an official public profile using an online forum set-up by the EC, in order to present their ideas and opinions relevant to the election.

§2 A General Assembly (GA) organized by the EC will take place during the campaigning period, i.e. after the candidates announcement and before the voting starts.

§3 The purpose of the GA is to (physically) present the candidates, and to have a debate forum where any member of the Jacobs Community shall have the opportunity to ask questions, especially towards the candidates.

#### SECTION 103. CAMPAIGNING

Candidates shall have the right to democratically campaign in an appropriate and honest way. The Election Committee shall have the responsibility to more explicitly define the above, if requested by any student. All candidates agree and accept that:

- i. campaigning is only allowed during the campaign period,
- ii. slander is strictly prohibited,
- iii. in the case that candidates by their own wish shall need financial resources for campaigning, no funding from USG or Campus Life shall be used.

#### SECTION 104. CANDIDATES' MISCONDUCT

The election Committee shall have the right to establish additional regulations regarding public campaigning if deemed appropriate and impose sanctions/disqualify candidates. These additional regulations must comply with the Constitution of the USB.

S:

#### SECTION 105. VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Every member of the USB who has not lost his or her right to vote shall be eligible to vote in any election by the USB.

#### SECTION 106. ONLINE BALLOTS

The IT Department has the task to set up an election platform for online voting. Ballots have to be approved by the election Committee prior to the election. To be considered fit for being used in voting, a ballot has to contain all options presented in an equal way without discriminating any of them.

#### SECTION 107. VIOLATIONS

Violations of the election rules and regulations set forth in these by-laws may result in:

- i. the violator losing his or her status as a candidate in the election <sup>S:</sup>
- ii. the violator losing his or her status as eligible voter for future elections<sup>Colin: [wtf?]</sup>
- iii. the election being invalid
- iv. new election results being issued.

Such cases shall be handled and decided upon by the EC.

#### SECTION 108. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Immediately after the vote-tallying is finished, the election Committee shall inform the secretariat about the results of the election. The secretariat shall then publish the results of the election, including the number of eligible voters, the number of votes cast, the number of valid votes, the number of invalid votes, the number of votes for each of the options or candidates, the number of votes for each of the options or candidates per college, and naming the winning option or candidate. This shall be done through a notification sent to all student email accounts and an announcement posted on the student forum.

#### SECTION 109. TAKING OFFICE

Once the newly-elected members of the USB Parliament are determined, the newly-elect members of the USB Parliament and the outgoing members take responsibility that the newly-elected members of the USB Parliament are trained in their respective tasks.

## Article XVIII

### S:Meeting Policies and Student Voice

S:The provisions in this article exclusively apply to ?.

#### SECTION 110. CHAIR AND QUORUM

The chair of the **USG Parliament** meetings is the President, and if missing, the Vice-President. A meeting consists of at least a quorum of <sup>P:</sup>five Members of Parliament which have to include the President or the Vice-President.

#### SECTION 111. REGULAR MEETINGS

Meetings have to take place regularly and are open to the general public of Jacobs University, unless <sup>P:</sup>the Parliament needs to discuss confidential agenda items.

§1 Attendance of **Members of Parliament** is mandatory.

§2 The meetings have to be made public at least two days prior to the meeting.

§3 <sup>P:</sup>Confidential agenda items are discussed with elected or appointed members only. The USG Parliament may choose to include any other student <sup>P:</sup>if allowed and considered appropriate by a simple majority.

#### SECTION 112. DECISION-MAKING

Each member of the USG shall have one (1) vote in all matters. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote with at least fifty percent (50%) of all members voting. Voting takes place publicly and the names of the "ayes", "nays", and "abstentions" shall be recorded in the minutes. With a simple majority vote the USG may declare a secret vote (ballot) in which case only the number of votes shall be recorded.

#### SECTION 113. STUDENT VOTE

The USG may ask the **USB** via a **Student Body Opinion** procedure regarding USG decisions and future actions. However, the Student Body Opinion may be overruled with a full unanimity of the **USG Parliament**.

S:-

#### SECTION 114. EXTERNAL OUTREACH POWER

The USG shall have the right to communicate with external parties, as stated by Academic Constitution of Jacobs University Bremen.

§1 The USG members, as any student, shall have the right to contact any external bodies, only if they do so as individuals and not representing the USG. <sup>S:</sup>

§2 The whole USG <sup>S:</sup>~~(Parliament and Executive Unit)~~ has to be informed of any intention for external communication. <sup>Colin:</sup> [This is bullshit.]

§3 A simple majority vote in the **USG Parliament**, among the USG members or a Student Opinion Decision may enact or prevent any external communication.

§4 In particular, the USG President is the main responsible for any external communication.

#### SECTION 115. COMMUNICATION RESPONSIBILITIES

One of the USG's core missions is to inform the **USB**.

§1 A regular task shall be a monthly newsletter of one page with USG past, current and future projects relevant to the respective time-frame.

§2 Failure to do so for two months consecutively constitutes a valid reason for impeachment.

#### SECTION 116. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest must be declared and the involved members must be omitted from voting. In case of a tie in the voting procedure, the final decision is made jointly by the President, Vice-President and the respective Committee Head.

1007 SECTION 117. RESIGNATION AND IMPEACHMENT

1008 In the event of an USG Member resigning, not being able, not being willing to continue their tasks as a Member, or being successfully  
1009 impeached, the USG Parliament will appoint an interim for the remaining period of the resigning member.

1010 §1 Any Member of the USG may resign provided that the USG is informed two (2) weeks before the intended date of resignation.

1011 §2 Any member of the USG shall be impeached by either of the two: Two thirds (2/3) of the (other) elected members or referen-  
1012 dum. Such a vote or referendum must clearly state the grounds for impeachment. Repeated <sup>S:</sup>unexcused absence <sup>P:</sup>of three (3)  
1013 <sup>RS:</sup>consecutive <sup>P:</sup>meetings or more and/or not accomplishing designated tasks automatically start the process of impeachment  
1014 of a member:

1015 i. The accused member and the impeacher (if any) have one (1) week time to argument and present their case.

1016 ii. At the next USG Parliament meeting, the impeachment is voted upon.

1017 §3 After resignation or impeachment, an officer may not run again for the same office within the term that the resignation <sup>P:</sup>or  
1018 impeachment took place.

1019 <sup>S:</sup> [Move to A. GENERAL]

1020 Article XIX

1021 Final provisions and policy changes

1022 SECTION 118. CONSTITUTION SCOPE

1023 The constitution of the USB at Jacobs University is of a general character. Any foregoing article of the  
1024 constitution may be complemented, according to this constitution, with provisions issued by the USG.

1025 §1 Part A of this document <sup>S:</sup>and the articles XV and XIX <sup>S:</sup>is form the <sup>S:</sup>explicit Constitution, <sup>S:</sup>that which has  
1026 to be amended according to Article XIX, Section 119.

1027 §2 <sup>S:</sup>Part B represents By-Laws and secondary provisions, <sup>S:</sup>that which can be changed internally by the  
1028 USG Parliament according to Article XIX, Section 67

1029 §3 <sup>S:</sup>Part C represents complementary provisions, definitions and guidelines.

1030 SECTION 119. AMENDMENTS AND REFERENDUM

1031 Amendments of this constitution or the ratification of a new constitution can only be passed in a success-  
1032 ful referendum by the USB. Before the organization of a referendum, any new constitution or amendments  
1033 to the old constitution must be introduced via a general assembly to the USB.

1034 SECTION 120. OVERRULING

1035 The provisions of this constitution shall not violate in any way general provisions of German, European,  
1036 or international law as far as applicable. If such provisions exist, they shall be immediately revoked and/or  
1037 amended.

1038 SECTION 121. INTERNAL CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

1039 §1 Existing by-laws and provisions can be amended or replaced and new ones can be introduced only  
1040 with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members voting in favour.

1041 §2 If the name of a document, Committee, unit, or office mentioned in this constitution changes without  
1042 the change of the respective entity violating this constitution, this document may be updated by  
1043 substitutions of the old name with the new name upon approval of the USG by a simple majority  
1044 vote.

1045 SECTION 122. ANNOUNCING CHANGES

1046 If additional provisions are issued in form of complementary by-laws, the publicly available text of this  
1047 constitution must clearly mention the names and articles of the relevant by-laws.

1048 SECTION 123. TERMINATION

1049 This constitution shall expire upon ratification of a new constitution by the USB.

Version <sup>S:</sup>1.2.0 of this constitution is proposed for amendment. This document has been last edited on November 5,  
2018.

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