

Constitution
The International Students' Union of Norway
Constitution Committee Proposal 2006

§ 1. Objectives

The International Students' Union of Norway (ISU) is an independent, democratic, non-profit, non-partisan student-run organization that is committed to the interests of all international students studying in Norway at institutions of higher education. ISU embraces diversity and welcomes all students to its activities and proceedings. ISU does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, political or sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, language fluency, nationality or country of origin.

§ 2. Membership

A member of the ISU- Norway is an organization at tertiary institution that represents the interests of international students and has been accepted by the NA. Each member organization is represented by two delegates at the NA.

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Replace: A member of the International Students' Union of Norway is an organization at tertiary institution that represents the interests of all the international students at that organization and has been accepted by two –thirds majority of the National Assembly. Member Organizations may be called an ISU Local Branches. ISU local branches must represent all the international students at its tertiary institution. It must be possible for any international student to run for a position on the board of an ISU local branch.

*Remove: "Each member organization is represented by two delegates at the NA."
Why: Already in §3.1.1*

§ 3. Organization

- a. National Assembly
 - b. National Administration
 - c. Local Branches
 - d. Committees
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Constitution Committee - Eton

Remove: the above bullet points

Why: Already listed below. Unnecessary.

§ 3.1 National Assembly

National Assembly is the highest organ of ISU and carries out its working plans, realises the budget, elects the President and Vice President.

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Replace with: The National Assembly is the highest deciding organ of ISU. It approves the Financial Report, and elects the ISU National Administration.

Why: The fact that it is the highest deciding organ will naturally include the creation of "working plans" for ISU. "Financial Reports" include audited budget and a preliminary budget. See § 4.

Add: The National Assembly will be chaired by a person with no active stake in ISU.

Reason: To ensure a fair meeting.

§ 3.1.1 The National Assembly consists of:

- a) Delegates with speech, proposal and voting rights: Two representatives from each local branch. The President has the right to vote in case of a tie.
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Replace with: "Delegates with speech, proposal and voting rights: Two representatives from each local branch and the National President.

Add: "Voting representatives from each branch can be changed before and during the NA with written notification."

- b) Observers with speech and proposal rights:
 - One from each committee
 - ISU National Secretary
 - ISU Vice President
 - One from NSU
 - One from StL
-

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Replace with:

Observers with speech and proposal rights:

Committee members

ISU Vice President

ISU Alternate Vice President

ISU National Secretary

Candidates for election to the National Administration

One representative from NSU

One representative from StL

With a simple majority, speech and proposal rights can be given and removed from additional non-delegates.

Reason: "Candidates for election to the National Administration" - those NA where a new National Administration will elect.

"With a simple majority, speech and proposal rights can be given and removed from additional non-delegates" - We may want to allow our guests the right to add useful information to a case.

§ 3.1.2 National Assembly meetings are open. The National Assembly can decide which meetings are exclusive by passing a resolution by a simple majority vote.

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Replace: "The National Assembly can decide which meetings are closed with an absolute majority vote."

§ 3.1.3 National Assembly has the necessary quorum when 80% of the delegates are present. Simple majority decides National Assembly's resolution.

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Add: "The number of voters in the room must be counted before the start of each round of voting. No voting delegates are allowed to enter or leave the room until the voting round is completed."

Add:

The following procedures require a simple majority of the National Assembly:

Appointment of a Chairperson to the National Assembly

Acceptance of the meeting schedule and agenda

Reopening a closed meeting schedule or agenda

Accepting changes made to the reopened meeting schedule or agenda

Why: This items have already been voted on and accepted as order of business for the

ISU NA. In October 2005.

§ 3.1.4 National Assembly can, with a two-thirds majority vote, deny delegates their rights given to them in §3.1.1 if their branch has violated §§ 3.3.6. They will then get a status as “not elected” and are not included in the 80% quorum-demand in.

3.1.5. Simple Majority decides the National Assembly’s resolution.

Add: “The number of voters in the room must be counted before the start of each round of voting. No voting delegates are allowed to enter or leave the room until the voting round is completed.”

Add. All extraordinary proposals that require a vote must be given in writing.

Why:

§ 3.1.6 The President calls National Assembly, usually once each semester. An extraordinary National Assembly must be called if:

- a) The President demands it
- b) Three fourths of the Local Branches demand it

§ 3.2 National Administration

National administration consists of the President, Vice-President and a National Secretary. In cases where the President is not available for important events of periods, the Vice-President shall serve as his/her representative and shall be granted the authorities of President on an interim basis. In cases where the Vice-President is not available for important events of periods, the alternate Vice-President acts on his/her behalf.

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Replace with

National administration consists of the President, Vice-President, Alternate Vice President and a National Secretary. The National Administration answers to the National Assembly.

In cases where the President is not available for important events or periods, the Vice-President shall serve as his/her representative and shall be granted the authorities of President on an interim basis. In cases where the Vice-President is not available for important events or periods, the Alternate Vice-President acts on his/her behalf. The Alternate Vice-President is a generally passive position.

The posts of President, Vice-President and alternate Vice-President are elected for a periods of 1 year, after which new elections are held.

The President and Vice-President may not hold their position for more than two consecutive years at a time. The outgoing President and Vice-President have an overlapping period of one month with the newly elected President and Vice-president.

Why: Belongs in the description of National Administration. Material moved from §3.2.1

§ 3.2.1 The National President

The posts of President, Vice-President and alternate Vice-President are elected for a periods of 1 year, after which new elections are held. The President and Vice-President may not hold their position for more than two consecutive years at a time. The Alternate Vice-President is a passive position. The outgoing President and Vice-President have an overlapping period of one month with the newly elected President and Vice-president. The President and Vice-President answer to the NA.

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Remove: the above text and send it to §3.2 National Administration

Duties of the President:

- Maintaining communication with the local branches
- Being the link between local branches and national ISU, NSU and StL
- Representing international students in NSU's and StL's national meetings
- Representing international students to the Norwegian Government and to external organizations
- Responsibilities for ISU's finances
- Leading the work of ISU in the establishment of new ISU branches in Norway

§ 3.2.2 The National Secretary

The National Secretary is appointed by a hiring board, which consists of the National President, a representative of NSU, a representative of StL, the outgoing National Secretary (if this person is available). The National President may also nominate one representative of the local branches to the board.

Constitution Committee - Eton

Replace with

The National Secretary is hired by a board which consists of the National President, a representative of NSU, a representative of StL, the outgoing National Secretary (if this person is available). The National President may also nominate one representative of the local branches to the board. The National President is responsible for the final decision of the board.

Why: The National Secretary is employed.

The duties of the National Secretary are described in a separate Job Description document.

Constitution Committee -

Add: §3.2.3 A Working Group may be formed by the National Administration in order to perform certain tasks.

§ 3.3 Local Branches

§ 3.3.1 ISU's local branches are the highest organizations for international students at the universities and university colleges in Norway. Every local branch has a president who is responsible for the operation of the respective branch.

Eton

Replace with: Every local branch has a president who is responsible for its operation.

Why: a person who will take main responsibility. Other information is moved to §2

§ 3.3.2 Local branches must present a written report on their activities to the National Assembly. Presidents of board members of local branches are responsible for handling the reports.

Constitution Committee - Eton

*Replace "handling the reports" with "delivering the reports to the National Assembly".
Why. More clear who has the responsibility to contact NA*

§ 3.3.3 Local branches are to work to create an environment at their respective educational institutions where international students can contribute and fulfill their educational and social potential. This includes representing international students to local student organizations, local school administration, the ISU National Assembly and ISU National Administration.

§ 3.3.4 Local branches are considered as autonomous divisions of ISU and shall reserve the power and authority to determine their own activities. Every local branch constitutes its own constituency.

Eton

Replace "constituency" with "constitution".

Why: "constituency" is unclear. Possibly unintended.

Replace: "Local branches are considered as autonomous divisions of ISU with the exception of §3.3.9 and §2"

Reason: § 3.3.9. refers to not holding the same elected position for more than two consecutive years §2 Refers to representing all international students and being open to all international students

§ 3.3.5 Local branches can promote their cases in ISU's National Assembly. Case papers should be sent three weeks before the NA.

§ 3.3.6 Local branches are to be run in a democratic manner, including, but in no way limited to, holding fair and open elections, and operating according to the explicit and implicit intent of the national constitution and the fundamental principles of the organization.

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Add "An ISU Branch can be removed from membership of ISU Norway by an full majority vote.

§ 3.3.7 ISU consists of nine branches: ISU Oslo, ISU Bergen, ISU Trondheim, ISU Tromsø, ISU UmB, ISU HiO, ISU Narvik, ISU UiS and ISU NHH (MiB Council)

Constitution: Eton

Replace with: " ISU consists of the following branches: ISU Oslo, ISU Bergen, ISU Trondheim, ISU Tromsø, ISU UmB, ISU HiO, ISU Narvik, ISU UiS, ISU NHH (MiB Council) and ISU Bodø.

Reason: To elect Bodø International into ISU Norway

§ 3.3.8 National Assembly can increase the number of local branches in order to include international students studying at colleges of art and science in Norway.

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Replace "National Assembly can increase the number of local branches in order to include international students studying at other tertiary institutions in Norway"

§ 3.3.9 One is allowed to occupy the same position only for two consecutive years

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Replace with "No one is allowed to have the same position for more than two consecutive years at a time.

§ 3.4 Committees

§ 3.4.1 National Assembly approves the establishment of each committee. National Assembly also gives the committee instructions on how to approach the task at hand.

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Replace with: The National Assembly approves the establishment of an ISU Committee. ISU Committees are formed to perform specific tasks or projects. The National Assembly gives the Committee instructions on how to approach the task at hand.

§ 3.4.2 Committees are allowed to promote the cases to National Assembly, National Council or National Administration.

Constitution Committee

Replace with: Committees are allowed to promote their own cases to the National Assembly.

Reason: More clear. The intention must have been to allow the Committee to have a degree of independence.

§ 4 Economy

§ 4.1 National President, assisted by the National Secretary, prepares a preliminary budget for the National Assembly.

§ 4.2 ISU receives economic resources from:

- NSU according to the contract between NSU and ISU
- Ministry of Education and Research
- .Grants from other organizations and institutes
- Other sources

Constitution Committee

Replace with:

§ 4 Finance

§4.1 The National Administration will prepare a Financial Report to the National Assembly for presentation and approval. The Financial Report will contain the audited financial accounts of the previous year and a preliminary budget.

§ 4.2 ISU may receive funding and financial support from sources approved by the National Assembly

§ 4.3 ISU's financial year runs from 1st January and ends 31st December.

§ 4.4 National Assembly approves the final budget.

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Remove §4.4

Reason: It exists in §4.1

§ 4.5 National Administration has the right to examine the Local Branches balance sheet.

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Replace: National Administration has the right to examine the Local Branches Financial Records.

§ 5 Impeachment of Officers

§ 5.1 Officers can be removed from their positions by a vote of simple majority in the case of:

- a) Economic frauds (will report to the police in special cases)
 - b) Anti-union activities
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Constitution Committee

Replace: Officers can be removed from their positions by a vote of simple majority at the National Assembly in cases of financial fraud or any other behavior that goes against the constitution or principles of ISU.

§ 5.2 Impeachment of President

The National President can be removed from his/her position by 2/3 majority of the National Assembly. In this case the Vice National President will take the place of the National President until the next National Assembly.

The President can be removed from his/her position in case of

- a) Economic frauds (will report to the police in special cases)
- b) Anti-union activities

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§5.2 Impeachment of the President, Vice President or Alternate Vice President

The President, Vice President or Alternate Vice President can be removed from their positions by a two –thirds majority of the National Assembly in cases of in cases of financial fraud or any other behavior that goes against the constitution or principles of ISU.

Reason: All information on the filling in of positions is contained in §3.2 National administration

§ 5.3 Impeachment of National Secretary

National Secretary can be removed from his/her position by 2/3 majority of the National Assembly. In this case the National President is responsible for organising a hiring board and the final appointment of a new National Secretary.

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Replace with:

§5.3 Removal of National Secretary

The national Secretary can be dismissed from his/her position by a two-thirds majority of National Assembly.

Reason: The secretary is hired, and thus cannot be impeached.

§ 6 Amendments to the ISU`s constitution

§ 6.1 Amendment proposals should be sent to the National Administration at least 5 weeks before the National Assembly.

§ 6.2 To make amendment proposals a statute, they need to get 2/3 majority when voted on at the National Assembly.

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Replace with:

§6 Amendments to the Constitution

§6.1 Amendment proposals should be sent to the National Administration at least 3

weeks before the next National Assembly

§ 6.2 Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly to become statute.

§ 7 – Dissolution of ISU

Dissolution of ISU is possible if all delegates are present at National Assembly and unanimously decide to dissolve ISU. All property and resources will be returned to their origin.