



# **Constitution**

## **The International Students' Union of Norway**

### **April 2009 Edition**

#### **§ 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 at institutions of higher education in Norway. ISU embraces diversity and welcomes all students to its activities and proceedings. ISU does not discriminate nor promote 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 International Students' Union of Norway is an organization at a tertiary institution that represents the interests of all the international students at that institution and has been accepted by two-thirds majority of the National Assembly. A new member branch will automatically receive full voting rights immediately after being approved by the Assembly. Member organizations may be called 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.

#### **§ 3. Organization**

**§ 3.1:** The National Assembly (NA) is the highest decision making body of ISU. It approves the Financial Report, and elects the ISU National Board. The National Assembly will be chaired by a person with no active stake in ISU. If a neutral third party is unavailable to act as a chairperson for the NA, then the NA may elect a chairperson from among the delegates who is trusted to show no bias. Under such circumstances, that chairperson will lose his/her voting rights.

**§ 3.1.1:** The NA consists of:

a) Delegates with speech, proposal and voting rights: Two representatives from each ISU local branch and the National President. Voting representatives from each branch can be changed before and during the NA with written notification to the National Secretary.

b) Observers with speech and proposal rights:

- Committee members,
- ISU 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President,
- ISU 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,
- ISU National Secretary,
- Representatives from potential member branches,
- Candidates for election to the National Board,
- One representative from Norsk Studentunion (NSU) &
- One representative from Studentenes Landsforbund (StL).
- One representative from Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpfond (SAIH).
- One representative from Spire (Utviklingsfondets Ungdom)

With a simple majority, speech and proposal rights can be given and removed from one or more specific observers.

**§ 3.1.2:** The NA can decide when meetings or parts of meetings should be closed-door meeting (including delegates, the secretary, the chair and others when the situation demands) with an absolute majority vote.

**§ 3.1.3:** NA has the necessary quorum when 80% of the delegates are present. Simple majority decides NA's resolution. 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. If not in the room when discussions start, delegates will not have voting rights for that particular issue. The following procedures require a simple majority of the NA;

- Approval of NA's resolution or resolutions,
- Appointment of a Chairperson to the NA,
- Acceptance of the meeting schedule and agenda,
- Reopening a closed meeting schedule or agenda &
- Accepting changes made to the reopened meeting schedule or agenda.

**§ 3.1.4:** NA 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.

**§ 3.1.5:** A vote of 50% or more gives the decision of the National Assembly. All extraordinary proposals that require a vote must be given in writing to the National Secretary.

**§ 3.1.6:** The National President calls for a National Assembly once each academic year. An extraordinary National Assembly can be called by:

- The National President or
- Two-thirds of the ISU Local Branch Presidents.

**§ 3.1.7:** The National President calls for at least two or more Leaders' Meetings (LM) during each academic year where each ISU Local Branch sends one delegate to discuss issues and follow up on the Plan of Action. The LM have no decision making power

over the NA, but the LM has the authority to dictate a plan of action that would be binding until the next NA. The NA will always have the authority to overrule the decision of the LM concerning the plan of action.

### **§ 3.2: National Board:**

ISU National Board consists of a National President, a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. ISU National Board hires a National Secretary. ISU National Board receives a Plan of Action from the National Assembly. In cases where the National President is not available for important events or periods, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall serve as his/her representative and shall be granted the authorities of National President on an interim basis. In cases where the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President is not available for important events or periods, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President acts on his/her behalf. The posts of National President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President are elected for a period of 1 year, after which new elections are held. No post in ISU National Board may be held for more than two consecutive years at a time. There is an overlapping period of one month in ISU National Board, after which the incoming elected representative fully assumes the responsibilities of the position.

#### **§ 3.2.1: Duties of the National President:**

- Responsibilities for ISU's finances,
- Maintaining communication with the ISU Local Branches,
- Being the link between local branches and ISU National Board, 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 &
- Leading the work of ISU in the establishment of new ISU Local Branches in Norway.

#### **§ 3.2.2: Duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

- Responsibility for securing additional funding for ISU Norway,
- Responsibility for the establishment of new branches in ISU Norway &
- Additional Duties as delegated by the National President.

#### **§ 3.2.3: The National Secretary:**

The National Secretary is hired by a board which consists of the National President, a representative of NSU, a representative of StL and the outgoing National Secretary (if this person is available). The National President may also nominate one or more representative(s) of the ISU Local Branches and/or previous ISU branch members to the hiring board. The National President is responsible for the final decision of the board. The duties of the National Secretary are described in a separate Job Description document.

#### **§ 3.2.4: Working Groups:**

A Working Group may be formed by the National Board in order to perform certain tasks.

### **§ 3.3: ISU Local Branches:**

§ 3.3.1: Every ISU Local Branch has a president who is responsible for its operation.

§ 3.3.2: ISU Local Branches must present a written report on their activities to the NA. Presidents of ISU Local Branches are responsible for the reports to be delivered to the NA.

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

§ 3.3.4: ISU Local Branches are considered as autonomous divisions of ISU with the exception of §2.

§ 3.3.5: ISU Local Branches can promote their cases to the ISU NA. Case papers should be sent three weeks before the NA.

§ 3.3.6: ISU 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. An ISU Local Branch can be removed from membership in ISU Norway by a two-thirds majority vote.

**§ 3.3.7: ISU consists of the following branches:**

ISU UiO, ISU UiB, ISU TRONDHEIM, ISU UiT, ISU UMB, ISU HiO, ISU HiN, ISU UiS, ISU NHH, ISU HiB, ISU HiT, ISU BI and ISU AGDER.

§ 3.3.8: The NA can increase the number of ISU Local Branches in order to include international students studying at other tertiary institutions in Norway.

**§ 3.4: Committees:**

§ 3.4.1: The NA approves the establishment of an ISU Committee. ISU Committees are formed to perform specific tasks or projects. The NA gives the Committee instructions on how to approach the task at hand.

§ 3.4.2: Committees are allowed to promote their own cases to the NA.

**§ 3.5: Elections:**

A person is elected with a majority of 50% + 1 vote of the votes cast. If there are more than two candidates and none of them receive the necessary majority, the candidate that received the least number of votes is stricken and a new round of elections will be arranged. This will continue until one candidate is elected.

#### **§ 4: Finance:**

§ 4.1: The National Board will once a year prepare a Financial Report to the NA for presentation and approval. This Financial Report will contain the audited financial accounts of the previous year and a preliminary budget. In addition the National Board should inform the NA about any major changes in the financial situation that may occur during the financial year.

§ 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.

§ 4.3: ISU's financial year runs from 1st January and ends 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **§ 5 Impeachment Procedures:**

##### **§ 5.1: Impeachment of the National President, 1st Vice President and or 2nd Vice President:**

The President, 1st Vice President and or 2nd Vice President can be removed from their positions by a two –thirds majority of the NA in cases of financial fraud or any other behavior that goes against the constitution or principles of ISU.

##### **§ 5.2: Removal of National Secretary:**

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

#### **§ 6: Amendments to the Constitution:**

§ 6.1: Amendment proposals should be sent to the National Board at least 3 weeks before the NA.

§ 6.2: Amendment proposals require a two-thirds majority of the NA to become statute.

§ 6.3: Amendments to the constitution will come into effect at the close of the voting session.

#### **§ 7: Dissolution of ISU:**

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

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