

CONSTITUTION

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' ORGANISATION.

PREAMBLE

We, the student leaders of non-white Universities, University Colleges, Seminaries and other institutions of higher learning, while believing

- (i) that it is ideal that any country should have ONE national student organisation,
- (ii) that such organisation should cater for the interests of all the students in the country;

Nevertheless recognise that owing to circumstances beyond their control, students at some non-white centres are unable to participate in the national student organisation of this country.

And since we believe that contact amongst non-white students so affected is of paramount importance,

We adopt the following Constitution : -

SECTION 1

NAME

The organisation shall be known as the SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' ORGANISATION, hereinafter referred to as SASO.

SECTION 2

OBJECTS

- (a) To promote contact and practical co-operation among students studying at the affiliated centres;
- (b) To represent the non-white students nationally;
- (c) To bring about contact among the South African Students generally.

SECTION 3

COMPOSITION

- (a) Membership shall be open to all non-white students studying at institutions of higher learning and or as provided for in Section 9(a)(ii) of this Constitution.
- (b) Methods of affiliation shall be by
 - (i) an S.R.C. affiliating on behalf of its student body;
 - (ii) a majority student body decision to affiliate;
 - (iii) individuals affiliating directly through the Executive. 10 or more individuals in a non-affiliated centre may constitute a branch.
- (c) Mode of Representation.
 1. The governing body of SASO shall be the General Student Council which shall meet at least once a year.
 2. The GSC shall comprise:
 - (i) elected members of the Executive;

(ii)/

(ii) representatives of constituent centres.

3. No voting Executive member shall be at the same time a centre representative on the GSC.

SECTION 4

MEETINGS

- (a) There shall be at least ONE GSC meeting a year on a date and venue decided upon by the Executive.
- (b) Meeting procedures shall be laid down in the Standing Rules of conduct of meetings.
- (c) The Executive shall meet at least twice a year and notice of meetings shall be given in writing to all Executive members.
- (d) All members of the Executive shall present reports to the annual meeting of SASO.
- (e) The President of SASO shall convene Standing Committee meetings as the need arises.

SECTION 5

AFFILIATION FEES

- (a) Constituent centres shall pay an affiliation fee of 20c per student enrolled at each centre not later than 30th April of each year.
- (b) Any center failing to pay its affiliation fees prior to the commencement of a GSC sitting shall be deprived of its voting rights in the Council, unless the centre concerned gives the GSC a satisfactory reason.
- (c) In the event of a centre being granted its voting rights without having paid its fees in terms of Section 5(b), the Executive shall fix a date by which the centre should pay the fees depending on the merits of the reasons put forward.
- (d) Each centre shall be entitled to 20% of its affiliation fees - provided that such 20% shall not exceed Fifty Rand(R50.00) - for Petty Cash each year.

SECTION 6

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) Any student who is a member of SASO may stand for the Executive.
- (b) The Executive shall be elected by popular vote at a quorate GSC sitting.
- (c) The Executive shall consist of the following: -
 - (i) President;
 - (ii) Vice President;
 - (iii) Secretary;
 - (iv) Treasurer;
 - (v) Regional Representatives for Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Natal, The Transvaal and the Orange Free State.
- (d) The Executive shall hold office until the next annual GSC session.
- (e) Resignations shall be in writing, and shall be sent to the Secretary for consideration by the Executive.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee shall consist of

- (i) The Executive of SASO;
- (ii) S.R.C. Presidents of constituent centres and bona fide representatives of centres without S.R.C.s.

SECTION 7DUTIES AND POWERS

- (a) The President - The President shall : -
 - (i) be the Chief Executive Officer to whom the Executive members shall be responsible;
 - (ii) administer the general business of SASO;
 - (iii) represent SASO where necessary;
 - (iv) in conjunction with the Treasurer, be responsible for financial transactions on behalf of SASO;
 - (v) issue statements on behalf of SASO.
- (b) Vice President - The Vice President shall :-
 - (i) be the assistant of the President;
 - (ii) assume the duties of the President should the President be unable to do so.
- (c) The Secretary - The Secretary shall in conjunction with the President be responsible for all correspondence and the maintenance of the books and records of SASO in good order.
- (d) The Treasurer - The Treasurer shall :-
 - (i) be responsible for maintaining finances of SASO in proper order;
 - (ii) in conjunction with the President be responsible for all financial transactions on behalf of SASO;
 - (iii) be responsible for raising funds on behalf of SASO;
 - (iv) in conjunction with the President, be empowered to look into the SASO financial records of any centre and report his findings to the GSC.

SECTION 8ADVISORY BODIES

The GSC may elect honorary advisory persons or bodies from time to time.

SECTION 9LOCAL & REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- (a) (i) Each centre shall have a branch and /or local committee to put into effect recommendations, policy and practical projects of SASO.
- (ii) In the case of a centre having a local committee subsidiary to the SRC, policy and membership shall be determined by the SRC.

- (iii) In the case of a centre having a branch, the branch may determine policy.
- (b) (i) Regional Organisation: Each Regional representative shall within the first month of his election, call a meeting of the local committees and branches within his region to form a Regional Committee to co-ordinate the activities of the centres in his region.
- (ii) The organisation of the Local Committee, branch and Regional Committee shall depend on the circumstances prevailing at that centre and Region.

SECTION 10

ASSETS - FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE

- (a) (i) SASO shall be a body corporate capable of managing its own assets and liabilities.
- (ii) Books and/or records of SASO shall be audited annually before the annual GSC session.
- (b) General Assets -
 - (i) Bank accounts shall be opened in the name of the organisation.
 - (ii) All payments shall be made by cheque, except in the case of Petty Cash disbursements.
 - (iii) The President, the Treasurer and at least one other member of the Executive shall have their signatures registered with the bank for purposes of cheque payments.
 - (iv) Three signatures shall appear on each cheque.
 - (v) The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of the capital assets.
 - (vi) The Secretary and the Treasurer shall keep a register of all capital assets indicating their location and their actual custodians.

SECTION 11

VOTING

Voting shall be determined by the number of students enrolled at each constituent centre according to the following formula: -

- (i) For the first 100 or less each centre shall have three votes;
- (ii) For each additional three hundred(300), there shall be one vote;
- (iii) No centre shall have more than 10 votes;
- (iv) Each member of the Executive shall be entitled to one vote.

SECTION 12

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. Amendments to the Constitution shall be effected by at least a two thirds majority of voting members at a quorate GSC sitting.
2. Notice of a motion to amend the Constitution shall be sent to the Secretary of SASO for distribution to the respective centres at least one month before a GSC session.

SECTION 13SUSPENSION

1. The President shall have the power to suspend any part of the Constitution if the need arises.
2. Suspension of any part of this Constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of a quorate GSC sitting or two-thirds of quorate postal votes not later than two months after such suspension.

SECTION 14DISSOLUTION

1. The President, recognising the need for the dissolution of the organisation shall :
 - (a) Convene an emergency or extraordinary GSC meeting which will vote on the matter

OR

 - (b) Convene a Standing Committee meeting , and the members shall return to campuses and convey their decision to the President by postal votes.
2. Thereupon, the President shall issue a Press statement about the dissolution.

I N T E R P R E T A T I O N C L A U S E

1. Unless inconsistent with the context, words importing masculine gender shall also denote feminine gender.
2. Unless inconsistent with the context, GSC shall mean the General Student Council.
3. Unless inconsistent with the context, SRC shall mean Students' Representative Council.
4. Unless inconsistent with the context, institutions of higher learning will include Universities, University Colleges, Seminaries and post-matric training and technical colleges.
5. Unless inconsistent with the context, Executive shall mean the Executive Committee of SASO.
6. Unless inconsistent with the context, constituent centre shall mean an affiliated centre and shall also include branches.
7. Unless inconsistent with the context, region shall refer to a province, with the exception of the Cape, which has been divided into Eastern and Western Cape, each of which is regarded as a province.
8. In the event of any dispute arising as to the meaning or interpretation of any section or sections, sub-section or sub-sections, clause or clauses, word or words of this Constitution, the final arbiter shall be the GSC.