

**The Constitution of the
International Students' Union (ISU - UiO)
at the University of Oslo**

Preamble

We strive for a pleasant study environment for the entire student community. We will always stand for the students' rights. The aim of our organization is to be helpful, reliable, and visible to the international students at the University of Oslo.

Article 1

The International Students' Union

- 1.1. The International Students' Union is an independent, democratic, non-religious, non-racial, non-discriminatory (on the bases of gender, disability etc), non-profit student organisation committed to the interests of all international students at the University of Oslo.
- 1.2. The official acronym is ISU UiO.
- 1.3. The official language of ISU UiO is English.

Article 2

Objectives

- 2.1 Protection, advocacy, and representation of the interests of all international students at the University of Oslo.
- 2.2 Active participation in mediation of any problems concerning international students and other organisations.
- 2.3 Organization of social and cultural activities for reinforcement of unity amongst all the students.
- 2.4 Support of the development of curricular as well as extra-curricular activities.
- 2.5 Support of universal development and the youth mobility.
- 2.6 Cooperation with organisations with similar objectives.

Article 3

Membership

- 3.1 A member of ISU UiO can be a student with a student ID number and a valid semester card studying at the University of Oslo.
- 3.2 Any student who has submitted an application form to ISU UiO.
- 3.3 All non-Norwegian students studying at the University of Oslo are automatically members of ISU UiO.
- 3.4. Rights of the members:
 - a) to be involved in all activities of the organisation;
 - b) to vote and to be elected for a position in all organs of the organisation;
 - c) to participate in all meetings of the organisation, apart from the Board meetings unless invited by a member of the Board;
 - d) to be informed about all activities and decisions of the organisation.
- 3.5. Responsibility of the members:
 - a) to respect this constitution;
 - b) to protect the good name of the organisation and its property;
 - c) to perform their tasks responsibly and reliably.

Article 4

Organs of the Organisation

- 4.1. ISU UiO General Assembly (GA), whose comprisal and responsibilities will be detailed below.
- 4.2. Executive Board (Board), whose comprisal and responsibilities will be detailed below.

Article 5

ISU UiO General Assembly (GA)

- 5.1. The General Assembly is the primary decision-making body of ISU UiO consisting of members of ISU UiO.
- 5.2. There shall be at least one General Assembly per academic year as soon as this is considered convenient by the newly-elected Board members.
- 5.3 The President or Board member appointed by the President shall call the GA. At least two weeks' notice must be given for a General Assembly.
- 5.4. Ten percent of all the ISU UiO members represent the minimum quorum.
- 5.5. The primary task of the GA is to elect the Executive Board.
- 5.6. The GA shall be opened by the President or President-appointed Board member. The chairperson of the GA shall be appointed by the GA.
- 5.7. All participants in the GA shall have the right to speak. The Agenda of the GA will be followed.
- 5.8. Additional meetings of the GA may be called by the Executive Board or any member who obtains 10% of the members' signatures for support.
- 5.9. The decision procedure shall be as follows:
 - a) A vote shall be taken for the preferred option. Any option that receives more than 50% of the votes (excluding abstentions) shall be considered adopted.
 - b) If there are more than 2 alternatives and none of the options receives more than 50% of the votes, there shall be consecutive ballots in which the alternative receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated.
 - c) Secret ballots shall be taken on request by any 3 members of the GA. In all other cases voting shall be conducted by a show of hands. Secret ballots shall take place on ballot paper which is handed over to every member upon presentation of a University identity card.
 - d) The voting committee is responsible for counting of the votes and supervision of the elections. The voting committee is appointed by the GA. It consists of three members of ISU UiO, excluding candidates for any position.

Article 6

The Executive Board (Board)

- 6.1. The Board shall have at least 5 members and at most 7 members. The positions of President, Vice President, and General Secretary are required. Standard positions which can be amended are: Political and Academic Affairs Minister, Travel Coordinator, Social Affairs Coordinator and Web-Master.
- 6.2. The Board is elected at the General Assembly.
- 6.3. The Board manages the daily affairs of ISU UiO and shall meet at least on a monthly basis.
- 6.4. The term of office of the Board members is one academic year. In the case of the resignation of more than half of the Board members or the President, new elections for free positions are required. In case of the resignation of less than one half of Board members during the term of office, the continuing Board members and the President can decide by unanimous vote to co-opt members of ISU UiO for the free positions for the remainder of the academic year instead of organizing new elections.

6.5. If a Board position becomes vacant after the elections, after the removal or resignation of a Board member (apart from the President, in which case new elections must take place for the President position; until that time the Vice-President shall assume representation), the Board may co-opt a member of ISU UiO for this position by unanimous majority.

6.6. Guidelines for elections of the Board:

- a) All members of ISU UiO are entitled to vote.
- b) The elections take place within the first month of each new academic year.
- c) Any member, indicating his willingness to take the post, can be nominated for a Board position. Nominated candidates must either be present or have indicated their willingness to work in the Board in written form to the General Assembly.
- d) If the GA does not decide differently by two-thirds majority, all elections for executive members shall be by secret ballot, in which case presentation of a University card is not required.
- e) The election procedure can be changed by the election committee if considered appropriate. Changes are subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

6.7. Board members can be removed from their position by a two-thirds majority of the Board members during a Board meeting in case of:

- a) financial frauds (which must further be reported to the police);
- b) actions contrary to the interests of ISU UiO;
- c) failing to attend Board meetings on a regular basis;
- d) such removal is otherwise deemed necessary by said majority of the Board.

6.8 In order to make decisions in the Board meetings, at least half of the Board members including either the President or Vice President must be present. Simple majority is required for the Board's decision-making if not stated otherwise in this Constitution.

Article 7

General Obligations of the Board Members

7.1. Specific obligations and responsibilities of the Board members will be distributed during the first Board meeting.

7.2. The obligations of the Board members include but are not limited to:

- a) Following the objectives of ISU UiO.
- b) Keeping and maintaining the ISU UiO office in a tidy manner.
- c) Keeping and informing members of regular ISU UiO office hours.
- d) Attending Board meetings. In cases of absence, the absent member must inform the President. If the President is not informed, the absence is considered unexcused.

7.3 The obligations of the President include but are not limited to:

- a) representation of ISU UiO in the Student Board of the University of Oslo;
- b) representation of ISU UiO to local authorities and to be the primary ISU UiO spokesperson;
- c) representation of ISU UiO at ISU executive meetings and General Assemblies;
- d) delegation of responsibilities.

7.4 The obligations of the Vice-President include but are not limited to:

- a) rendering assistance to the president in all listed duties as delegated by the President;
- b) representation of the President in case of his/her absence, in which case the

Vice-President will receive all rights and duties of the President;

c) providing new students with information about ISU UiO activities as soon as possible.

7.5 The obligations of the Secretary General include but are not limited to:

a) organizing ISU UiO meetings and keeping general ISU UiO correspondence;

b) writing the minutes of all meetings and distributing them to all Board members;

c) maintaining an updated list of all ISU UiO members;

d) maintaining and controlling the finances of ISU UiO;

e) working on fund raising activities.

Article 8

Finance

8.1 The Board shall source for funding for the activities of the union.

8.2 The President shall be the signatory to the account.

8.3 Any transaction by the President shall be subject to the approval of the Board. However in emergencies, the President shall undertake transactions in good faith and report to the board after the transaction has taken place.

8.4 The Board shall file all financial documents at the ISU UiO Office.

8.5 The Board shall present a statement of accounts to General Assembly at the end of each tenure.

Article 9

Status of the Constitution

9.1 The Constitution is binding on all the members of ISU UiO.

9.2 Proposals to amend or review this constitution shall be subject to approval by at least two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board. These changes will be presented to General Assembly for approval or otherwise and adoption.

9.3 At least 50 members of ISU UiO shall vote in favor of, before the approval or otherwise of the amended or reviewed constitution can be carried.