

## CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT UNION

### PREAMBLE

The American Student Union (ASU) is a mass student organization with an anti-imperialist and working-class political orientation. We seek to build a new America—of the people, by the people, for the people, and not for the big capitalists and imperialists. With the decline of American unipolarity and the devastating economic crisis, it is clear that the youth of America needs solutions. American youth find themselves caring for their parents, brothers, and children. They find themselves working multiple jobs for little pay while in school. They find themselves in severe debt and with few prospects. Facing these titanic struggles, the American youth are now more than ever ready for socialism. ASU seeks to unite the youth and students of America through peace, jobs, and democracy.

### SECTION I - POINTS OF UNITY

The Points of Unity (POU) are meant to keep the ASU as a strong working-class youth organization with a clear ideology and mission:

- I. We are a working-class and anti-imperialist youth group.
- II. We seek to build among poor and working-class communities that make up most of America.
- III. We reject and oppose tongue, pen, and action: fascism, capitalism, and imperialism.
- IV. We seek to defend the democratic and unalienable rights of the American working class.
- V. We are a unifying organization willing to work with all political groups that oppose imperialism.
- VI. We accept all members for who they are regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, ability, or status. If you live, work, and struggle in this land, you are an American.

- VII. We seek to build a new America based upon people's democracy, international friendship, and our road to socialism.
- VIII. We assert that the two-party system is ineffectual in achieving social progress.
- IX. Oppressed nationalities within the US and its territories have the right to build their communities in whatever way they choose.
- X. We are a broad organization. Members may hold any political view within the guidelines of the constitution and the POU.

## **SECTION II - ADMISSION OF MEMBERS AND BRANCH CHAIRS**

The admission of new members and branch chairs will be carried out as follows:

- I. A document detailing onboarding procedures shall be given to district organizers and branch chairs. This will include the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) pledge.
- II. All new members are required to agree to the POU and recite the WFDY pledge.
- III. An interview must occur between a district organizer and the prospective branch leader in which a location, strategy, and screening must follow. This will determine the viability of a branch and the leadership of that member.

## **SECTION III - EXECUTIVE THREE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

ASU will have three central executive officers within the Executive Committee (EC) and the National Committee (NC). These officers must be voted in by a majority vote of the NC. ASU membership for at least one year is needed to run to be an executive officer, and one must be a dues-paying member. The current president is always eligible to run for office unless a majority votes out the president within the NC. The officers will serve a one-year term. Any member of the NC can introduce a motion of no confidence to remove another member based upon violations of the code of conduct and the constitution. Elections will be held every year, and the electees will take office directly following the conclusion of the vote count. All three executive officers will have

positions on a board of trustees with the treasurer. No one person will have access to the collective financial assets of ASU. The three central executive officers' responsibilities are described in the following sections of this article.

#### **SECTION IV - THE PRESIDENT**

The president has five primary responsibilities, which are as follows:

- I. To chair all meetings of the NC and EC.
- II. To oversee and approve all decisions of the executive officers. Presidential vetoes may be overridden with a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the NC.
- III. The president is the primary spokesperson to any concerned parties on behalf of this organization.
- IV. The president is responsible for setting the date and time for all national and executive meetings, with the approval of the NC. The president is to make sure that all of the executive officers meet every week.
- V. To appoint voting members to all committees, as the committee's form with the approval of the NC.

#### **SECTION V - THE VICE PRESIDENT**

The vice president has five primary responsibilities, which are as follows:

- I. Attend meetings of the NC and EC.
- II. Take up the president's duties if the president is not present or has a vacancy.
- III. Set the agenda of the NC and EC meetings.
- IV. Introduce motions and regulate the procedure of meetings.
- V. To be a tiebreaker, vote in any motions.

## **SECTION VI - THE NATIONAL SECRETARY**

The general secretary has five primary responsibilities, which are as follows:

- I. Oversee the other officers to ensure that they are conducting their work correctly.
- II. Be responsible for all letters and correspondence of the NC and EC to the public and other organizations.
- III. Periodically inspect and confirm reports of the NC and EC.
- IV. Accept requests for support, e.g., financial, literature, and organizational, and direct these requests to other officers.
- V. Control the primary email for the organization and refer new members to their proper district organizer.

## **SECTION VII - TREASURER**

The treasurer has the following responsibilities:

- I. To control and keep a ledger of financial statements within the ASU.
- II. A monthly report shall be given to the EC on the financial status of the ASU.
- III. Coordinate with legal counsel on ASU members' donations, contributions, and dues.
- IV. The EC must decide upon major financial decisions above the branch level involving USD 50.00 or more.

## **SECTION VIII - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY**

The international secretary has the following responsibilities:

- I. To build and maintain contacts with other fraternal student and youth organizations.
- II. To immediately apply to join the World Federation of Democratic Youth.
- III. To manage, send, and receive greetings, messages, and notices to fraternal organizations worldwide.

### **SECTION IX - DISTRICT ORGANIZERS**

District organizers shall have the following responsibilities:

- I. To represent the wills of the organization at large and the interests of the ASU branches within their districts to the NC.
- II. To report developments within their district branches (actions, struggles, mergers, attitudes, and such) to the NC.
- III. To actively participate within the ASU and maintain their respective district branches ideologically and logistically.
- IV. Request necessary aid and support from the NC in whatever form, depending on local conditions.
- V. To be the link between the NC and local branches, to foster trust in the representation of the NC from all members.
- VI. District meetings of ASU shall consist of leaders of local ASU branches (elected by local members of such units) leading their respective local ASU branches.
- VII. District organizers have the right to remove local branch officers if branch officers fail to fulfill their responsibilities.
- VIII. District organizers shall organize regular meetings of the respective branches of ASU within their district.

- IX. One can run to be a district organizer after fulfilling the following requirements:
- a) Six months of membership in ASU
  - b) Dues-paying member
  - c) Club/branch organizer

## **SECTION X - BRANCH/CLUB OFFICERS**

The ASU seeks to connect with the youth on local issues. To achieve this, local branch members will select local branch officers by a simple majority vote for each position.

The positions shall include the following:

- I. Branch chairs shall have the right and responsibility to:
  - a) Oversee and chair all meetings within their respective branch.
  - b) Be a local spokesperson for their department.
  - c) Propose motions within their department.
  - d) Correspond with their district organizer.
  - e) Regulate local meetings.
  - f) If located in a high school, college, or university, become an official club on campus.
  
- II. Secretary, which shall have the right and responsibility to:
  - a) Request support from the national general secretary for any local activities.
  - b) Collect dues from dues-paying members.
  - c) Manage local finances and records and report them to the treasurer.
  
- III. One can run for the local branch office after fulfilling the following requirements.
  - a) Three months of membership in the ASU
  - b) Dues-paying member

## **SECTION XI - BALANCE OF POWERS**

Balance of power and general guidelines for the conduct of the NC is critical to ensuring the success of the NC.

- I. Any member of the NC (including the EC) can be expelled for misconduct from the NC with a two-thirds majority vote from members of the EC and the NC.
- II. If a political position in the NC is vacant, the power provisionally shall go to the general secretary.
- III. Meetings of the NC must also vote upon significant decisions by the EC.
- IV. District organizers can remove local branch chairs for misconduct based on violations of the code of conduct and constitution.
- V. Local chairs removed by a district organizer can appeal their removal, and the EC has the right to reinstate the regional branch chairs removed by a simple majority.
- VI. District organizers can be removed by a majority of either the EC or most branch leaders within their district. This would be based on violations of the code of conduct or the constitution.
- VII. Major organization upheavals, such as potential mergers and dissolution, would occur with a broad referendum of all dues-paying members.

## **SECTION XII - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING LEVELS**

This section goes over membership and voting rights.

- I. Dues-paying members (USD 25.00 per year) will have the right to run for local office within their first three months of membership in ASU. The ability of dues-paying members to vote at the district, national, and executive levels is outlined in the respective sections of those positions within the ASU.
- II. Non-dues-paying members will have the right to vote in local elections for their branch/club representatives. They shall not, however, have the right to run social media, finances, or run for an officer position.

- III. Terms:
  - a) Executive officers: one year
  - b) District organizers: six months
  - c) Branch/club chairs: six months

### **SECTION XIII - QUORUM AND AMENDMENT PROCESS**

- I. To propose a constitutional amendment, a motion must be made by a member of the NC or EC member. This motion must be passed to introduce an amendment, discuss, and vote on such an amendment.
- II. The quorum for constitutional decisions or impeachment for the EC has three members, of which two must be either the president, vice president, or general secretary. The quorum for constitutional decisions or impeachment for the NC is seven members, three of which must be members of the EC.
- III. The general secretary can edit documents for grammatical errors, wording, and clarification. This will not require an amendment process.
- IV. The process of the amendments is as follows:
  - a) A proposal for an amendment to the constitution or any other documents can be made during a meeting of the NC of the ASU.
  - b) The proposal to pass requires a majority vote.
  - c) If passed, amendments can be proposed and then debated.
  - d) After the debate is concluded, a vote will follow. An amendment to the constitution and other documents will require an absolute majority or three-fourths of the NC to pass.



## CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT AND YOUTH UNION

### SECTION I - RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

**All members, regardless of office or status, have the right to:**

- Request documents such as the constitution and code of conduct.
- Participate in ASU elections based on membership status (dues or non-dues).
- Contact their local officer/chair and the district organizer.
- Appeal suspension and warnings through the NC.
- Appeal any rules created by local branches to the NC.
- Join the ASU group chat for their district over Signal.
- Leave ASU at any time, regardless of the reason.
- Run for election for national or local officer positions after being a member for six months or longer.
- Propose internal improvements to the ASU.
- Report any abuses or grievances, specifically of the constitution or code of conduct, to local or national officers.

### SECTION II - INDIVIDUAL CONDUCT

As a member of the ASU, members are required to:

- Follow any posted rules.
- Adhere to local, state, or federal laws when protesting, organizing, fundraising or petitioning.
- Act respectfully toward fellow members of the ASU, allied organizations, and their community – regardless of gender, ethnicity, or religion.
- Follow the POU set by the NC of the ASU held within the ASU.
- Advocate and promote the organization positively.
- Work cooperatively with fellow members to accomplish goals, tasks, etc.
- Avoid forming romantic or sexual relationships with fellow ASU members. If these relationships do arise, they cannot interfere with ASU organizing.
- Respect the privacy of all fellow members of the ASU.
- Dress appropriately for all ASU events.

As a member of the ASU, members shall not:

- Harass fellow members of the ASU, allied organizations, or people of their communities. Any form of mental, physical, or sexual harassment is grounds for immediate expulsion upon investigation from the ASU.
- Be under the influence of alcohol or recreational/illicit drugs, or engage in the consumption of these substances, while organizing with the ASU.
- Engage in or advocate for violence. On an individual basis, members are allowed to follow any state, local, or federal laws that pertain to self-defense.
- Leak any internal documents that include but are not limited to group chats, budget reports, member lists, interior proposals, or organizing papers. Leaking documents is grounds for immediate termination from the ASU.
- Delete any ASU-related social media profile for any reason, or re-purpose any social media account for non-ASU use. Former members of ASU are required to “return the keys,” i.e., give all passwords to the executive.
- Join or work with anti-social organizations, e.g., criminal gangs, anarchist groups, or other wreckers.
- Damage property, whether personal or public. Property damage includes graffiti and vandalism.
- Use derogatory language in public and official settings, e.g., protests, social media, meetings, and fundraising, or towards fellow members of the ASU and the community. This includes, but is not limited to, cursing and name-calling.
- Engage in petty disputes or disagreements in public or official settings, e.g., personal drama, non-ideological conflicts, or internet drama.
- Brandish a firearm or weapon in public or official settings while representing the ASU.

### **SECTION III - DISTRICT/EXECUTIVE OFFICER CONDUCT**

As officers of the ASU, officers must:

- Set an example for broader membership by adhering to the code of conduct, constitution, and POU.
- Conduct their duties as an officer respectfully and diligently.
- Help acts as an intermediary between disputes, within the ASU or outside the organization.
- Be punctual and on time for meetings, protests, and public activities.
- Keep a steady link between local and national leadership.
- Act as a role model for fellow members.

As officers of the ASU, officers must not:

- Create hostile relations between other organizations. ASU seeks to build coalitions and alliances, not destroy them.
- Interact inappropriately with allied or non-allied organizations, which would reflect poorly on ASU.
- Allow deviation from the POU to develop in the ideological orientation of a branch or its actions.
- Accept monetary incentives to enact specific policies in elections or to influence the ASU decisions on the national or local level. An office holder also must not give out financial incentives for similar things.
- Engage in theft, cheating, or lying.
- Edit official records unless the officer is a treasurer or secretary. Official records include budget reports, fundraising, or membership lists.

#### **SECTION IV - SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT ON ASU ACCOUNTS**

As official ASU social media accounts, ASU accounts should:

- Spread our POU as far across the web as possible.
- Gain as many followers as possible on platforms.
- Spread anti-imperialist content as far as possible.
- Expand ASU's reach on social media.

As official ASU social media accounts, ASU accounts should not:

- Treat ASU's social media accounts as their social media accounts.
- ASU social media accounts shall not engage in cursing or derogatory language.
- ASU social media accounts shall not create hostile environments on social media where none exist.
- ASU's social media accounts represent ASU. These accounts must refrain from endorsing candidates running for elected office in the United States of America because the ASU does not have the legal status to be involved in electoral politics.

#### **SECTION V - DRESS CODE FOR PUBLIC EVENTS**

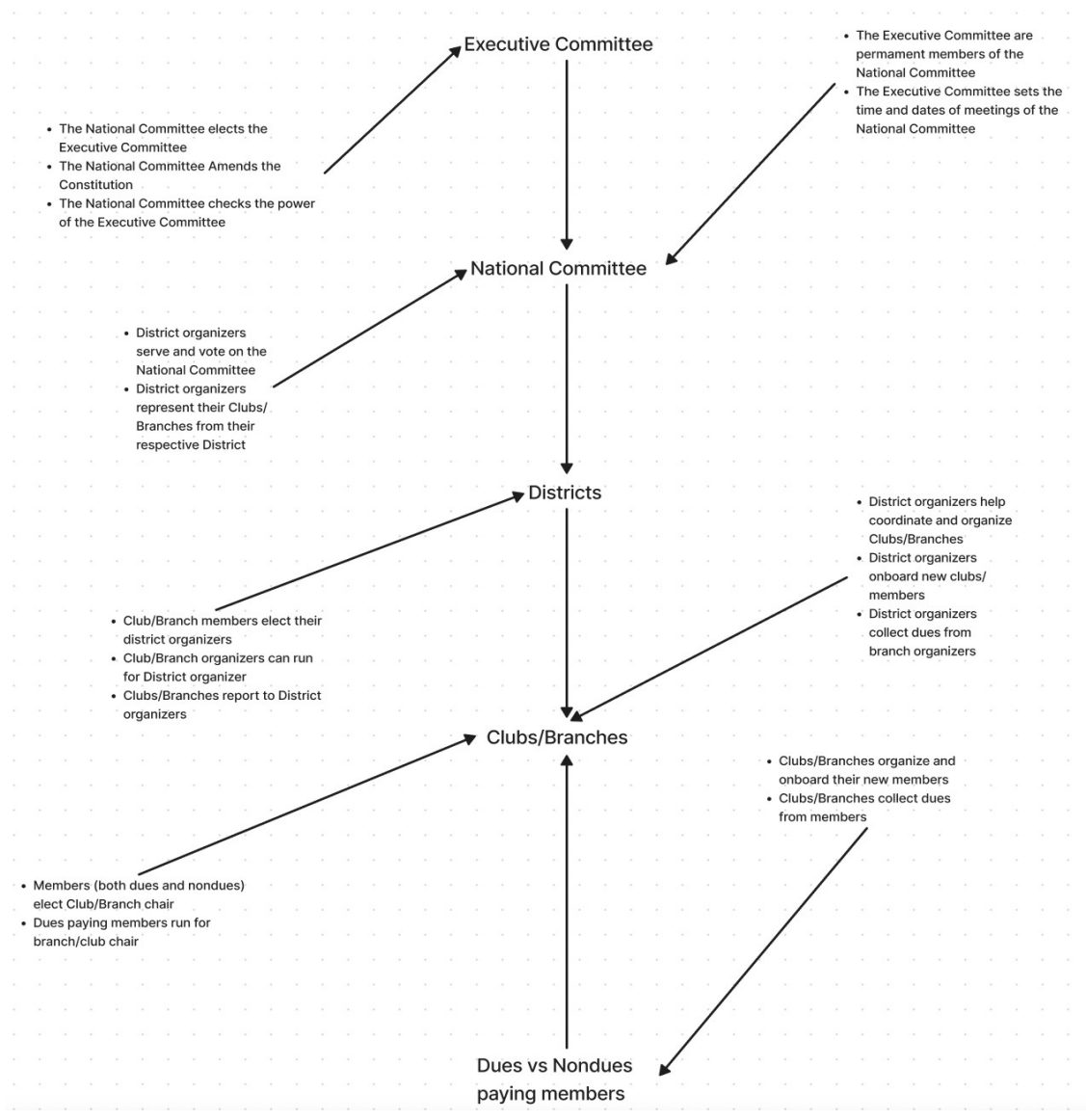
ASU is a mass socialist youth organization. We seek to dress professionally at all public events to convey this. The following dress code applies at all public events, such as protests, demonstrations, fundraising, or meetings with non-affiliated groups.

- Members shall wear either long or short sleeve shirts with no rips or frays. Collared shirts, such as polos, dress shirts, flannels, or jackets, are preferred but not required.
- Members shall wear pants of appropriate length and have no rips or frays. Shorts are also allowed if not more than 4" above the knee.
- Members are allowed to wear skirts and dresses.

## **SECTION VII - CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO FOLLOW THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Minor insubordination with the code of conduct will result in warnings, suspension, and termination. Non-abiding members shall receive three notices before the first suspension. The suspension period is incremental. A suspension means the temporary removal of a role; the first suspension shall be one week, the second shall be two weeks, and the third shall be three weeks. Termination occurs after three suspensions. Members possess the right of appeal towards warnings and suspensions to the EC, but not terminations. Certain violations, including bribery, leaking documents, screenshotting chats, deleting social media accounts, breaking any local, state, or federal law, and engaging in delinquent behavior, are grounds for immediate termination.

If an accusation of harassment is brought to the attention of the EC, the defendant will temporarily be put on leave. A jury of three peers within the organization, who cannot be connected to the defendant in any way, will be randomly chosen and formed to examine the case and come to an appropriate verdict. This jury will consist of members from separate districts and branches to avoid a conflict of interest between the defendant and the accuser. A unanimous decision among the jury, which the EC or NC cannot override, must be reached for the expulsion of the offending member. An investigation of harassment shall not take more than three months to get a decisive conclusion. The defendant and accused may bring evidence to the jury during the study.



## SECTION VIII - WFDY OATH

- I. All new members shall be required to recite, out loud, the oath of the WFDY to their respective ASU officer who is onboarding them to ASU. The pledge is in the section below.

We pledge that we shall remember this unity forged in this month, November 1945

Not only today, not only this week, this year, but always Until we have built the world, we have dreamed of and fought for.

We pledge ourselves to build the unity of youth of the world All races, all colors, all nationalities, and all beliefs.

To eliminate all traces of fascism from the earth.

To build a deep and sincere international friendship among the peoples of the world.

To keep a just, lasting peace.

To eliminate want, frustration, and enforced idleness.

We have come to confirm the unity of all youth, salute our comrades who have died, and pledge our word that skillful hands, keen brains, and young enthusiasm shall never more be wasted in war.