

CONSTITUTION
OF
NIGERIAN STUDENTS SOCIETY (NSS)
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY TRNC



Table of Content

PREAMBLE

ARTICLES

1. Name
2. Aims and Objectives
3. Basis of operations
4. Patrons and Legal Adviser
5. Organs of NSS
6. Functions of the Congress
7. NSS Senate
8. Functions of the Senate
9. Officers of the Senate
10. General Functions of the Principal Officers of the Senate
11. Appointment and Elections into the Senate
12. NSS Executive Council
13. General functions of the Executive Council
14. Vacancy
15. Quorum and Meeting
16. Eligibility into the Executive Post
17. Election
18. NSS Office
19. Committees into the Senate
20. Functions of Each Executive office
21. Relationship with other bodies
22. Interpretation
23. Finance
24. Oath of Office

25. Code of Conduct

26. Standing Order

27. Amendment

28. Commencement

SCHEDULE

1. Standing Order
2. Election rules
3. Logo Usage
4. Code of Conduct
5. Oath of Office
6. Reference

PREAMBLE

We, the Nigerian Students of Eastern Mediterranean University Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, hereby firmly and solemnly resolved to provide for a constitution:

RECOGNISING the need to consolidate ourselves into a truly autonomous National, active, progressive and democratic Association in order to assert the rights of students and discharge our responsibilities as informed members of the society;

REALISING the need to support by all means possible the fundamental freedoms of thought and expression, association and movements

ACKNOWLEDGING the problems of Nigerian Students and the role we must play in the maintenance of a democratic, open and progressive NSS

COMMITTED to harnessing the enthusiasm of students for dynamic development in the political economic, technological and social spheres

DETERMINED to engage our members in the scheme of social progress aimed at the total mobilization of the Nigerian people towards realizing ideals and to oppose at all times and in all places any form of exploitation, discrimination and oppression amongst the people of the world and to work for the realization of world peace and total disarmament

HEREBY MAKE ENACT AND GIVE to ourselves the following Constitution:

Article 1

NAME

The Association shall be known as the Nigerian Student Society, herein referred to as “NSS”

Article 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of NSS shall be:-

- a) To preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Eastern Mediterranean University and National Association of Nigerian Students.
- b) To represent the interest of Nigerian Students in TRNC
- c) To harmonize and co-operate the activities of Member-unions
- d) To defend the Interest of Nigerian Students Consistently
 - i. The freedom of thought, religion, expression, action, association and movement and the right to life and means of livelihood of Nigerian students.
 - ii. The legitimate interests of students in the social security, national construction and cultural activities
 - iii. National integration shall be actively encouraged in the Association, while discrimination on grounds of origin, sex, religion, ethnic or linguistic association shall be prohibited.

- iv. To maintain friendly relationships with all unions of students that are democratically elected and are fully representatives of aspirations of the students of other countries
- v. To encourage Nigerian students in specialized disciplines and stimulate an academic interchange of ideas at seminars, conferences and symposia
- vi. To encourage Nigerian students in sporting, social and cultural activities providing adequate platforms on these basis.

Article 3

BASIS OF OPERATION

NSS members shall enjoy equal rights and privileges to perform their duties, and fulfill their obligations under the constitution by;-

- i. Observing the resolutions and all decisions regularly adopted by the organs of NSS.
- ii. Participating effectively in the activities of NSS.

Article 4

PATRONS AND LEGAL ADVISERS

The Legal Adviser must be a Lawyer; the Executive council shall recommend the patron and the legal adviser to the senate for appointment

Article 5

ORGANS OF NSS

- a) NSS Executive Council
- b) NSS Senate
- c) The congress of NSS
- d) NSS office
- e) Senate Committees

The Congress of NSS shall consists of :-

- i. NSS Executive Council
- ii. NSS Senate
- iii. All Nigerian Students

Article 6

FUNCTIONS OF THE CONGRESS

- a) The Congress shall be the supreme organ of NSS
- b) It shall be responsible for laying down principles and policies
- c) NSS Congress shall be responsible for affirming the solidarity and unity of NSS. It shall encourage an effective intercourse of ideas.
- d) The Congress shall elect the members of the NSS Executive Council and dissolve the outgoing Executive council, senate and committees

Article 7

NSS SENATE

1. There shall be a senate for the Association; it will deliberate in a democratic and honest manner issues that will bring credence to the Association and matters that will foster better relationships and unity. The senate shall be inaugurated within 10 days of the assumption of office of the Executives. It shall be composed of 27 members
 - i. Representatives from the churches
 - ii. Representatives from the mosques
 - iii. Two (2) representatives from the New students
 - iv. The president has two(2) names slot
 - v. The vice president has two(2) names slot
 - vi. All other Twelve cabinet members have one (1) name slot
2. **CONVENING AUTHORITY OF THE NSS SENATE**
 - i. The president of the senate shall be the convening authority of the senate meetings
 - ii. There shall be observers at the Senate meeting
 - iii. The senate shall meet at least twice a month. Senate may be deemed fit and taking cognizance of Article 10.

Article 8

FUNCTIONS OF THE SENATE

1. **FUNCTIONS;** shall be responsible for passing bills and amendments/commencement of the constitution.
 - i. The senate shall operate as the link between the congress and the Executives of NSS
 - ii. It shall approve the proposed budgets of NSS functionaries
 - iii. The senate shall have the power to SUSPEND or IMPEACH any official of NSS found guilty of negligence of duty, embezzlements or any forms of Misappropriation of funds or abuse of office. The accused official shall be free to appeal to the International office.
 - iv. The senate shall from time to time review and audit the programs of activities and use of funds with the aim of ensuring Transparency in the administration
2. **VOTING**

Decisions at senate meetings shall be deemed to have been arrived at by a simple majority of senators present at the plenary session and such decision shall be communicated to all autonomous senators after the session.

Article 9

OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

The senate shall be made up of the following officers:-

- i. The president of the senate
- ii. The vice president of the senate
- iii. The clerk of the senate
- iv. The deputy clerk of the senate
- v. The chief whip

Article 10

FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICERS IN THE SENATE

(1) PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

- a) The president shall preside over and direct the proceedings of the senate without fear or favor
- b) He shall have no voting rights in the senate meetings except in the event of a tie.
- c) He shall on behalf of the congress ensure that all committees formed submits their reports on or before the stipulated time

(2) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

- a) Shall assist and advise the president in all duties and perform all other duties as may be assigned or deemed incidental to the office
- b) Shall have the full right and power to act in the absence of the president

(3) THE CLERK OF THE SENATE

- a) The clerk shall summon meetings of the senates
- b) Shall record the proceedings of the senate
- c) Shall handle all the correspondence of the senate
- d) Shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the president of the senate

(4) DEPUTY CLERK OF THE SENATE

- a) Shall assist the clerk in all duties
- b) Shall have the full right and power to act in the absence of the clerk

(5) CHIEF WHIP

- a) Shall maintain law and order during senate meetings
- b) Shall collect written bills during deliberations and forward them to the clerk
- c)

Article 11

ELECTIONS INTO THE SENATE

- a) All officers shall be elected from within the senate
- b) The president and the vice should not be of the same gender
- c) The clerk and the deputy clerk should not be of the same gender.

TENURE OF THE SENATE

- a) A member of the senate will vacate his /her seat if he/she ceases to be a student of the institution
- b) Without any just cause he/she is absent for senate plenary session, for a period amounting to three (3) sittings shall cease to be a senator
- c) Convicted of any criminal or disciplinary act
- d) At the dissolution of the senate at the end of the tenure.

RULES GOVERNING THE SENATE

- a) All senators are expected to be on time for all sittings
- b) Attendance is to be taken before deliberations of the day begins
- c) There should be order in all ramifications and absolute decorum is expected, there is a CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION or An observation or a point to be raised, in such cases, one hand should be raised and you will be called upon to speak by the Senate president.
- d) Only one senator has the floor of the house when speaking and all address to the house should be done standing
- e) A motion when raised must be seconded by another senator, before a counter motion of objection raised and this must also be seconded. If there isn't any to second either the motion or counter motion it loses its validity, in any case where they are both valid a contest through election is immediately called by the Senate president.
- f) When voting to decide most matters; members shout "yes" or "no", and the senate president announces the result. If the result of the voice vote is unclear, or if the matter is controversial, a recorded vote usually ensues. The senate uses roll call votes; the clerk calls out the names of the senators, each senator stating "yes" or "no" when his or her name is mentioned.
- g) A standing ovation is a gesture given to outstanding personalities or circumstances; it comes highly recommended for good works.

Article 12

NSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NSS Executive arm shall compose of the following officers;

- a) The Executive President
- b) The Vice President
- c) The Secretary General
- d) The Assistant Secretary General
- e) The Public Relations Officer (PRO)
- f) The Financial Secretary
- g) The Treasurer
- h) The Director of Socials (DOS)
- i) The Director of Sports
- j) The Director of Welfare
- k) The Special Duties Officer
- l) The Director of Education
- m) The Director of IT
- n) The Auditor

Article 13

GENERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- i. Shall be responsible for upholding and defending the constitutional aims and objectives of NSS
- ii. Shall appoint adhoc committees as would necessary other than those set up by the Senate
- iii. Shall take care of the NSS's properties
- iv. Shall be responsible for the execution of the views and policies of the congress and senate, also the day to day administration of NSS
- v. Shall represent NSS views to the school or any authority within and outside TRNC
- vi. Shall associate themselves with the decision reached and all shall be collectively responsible for the activities of the Executive council

Article 14

VACANCY

- i. EXECUTIVES
Any office rendered vacant by resignation, graduation or impeachment. The executives shall submit a name to the senate for screening and appointment.
- ii. SENATE
Any officer rendered vacant by resignation, graduation or impeachment. The office will be filled through a bye election within the senate.

Article 15

QUORUM AND MEETING

- i. Quorum at any cabinet meeting shall be the presence of the fourteen (14) members at the sitting
- ii. The executives shall meet at least four times in a session and at any other times as deemed fit.

Article 16

ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD EXECUTIVE POST

- a) **PRESIDENT**
 - i. Must have a CGPA of at least 3.00 and above
 - ii. Must satisfy the school electoral laws established by the international office
 - iii. Must be fully registered student of EMU
 - iv. Must be a Nigerian
 - v. Must not have committed an offence or found guilty by the University 's disciplinary committee

- b) **Other Executives**
 - i. Must have a CGPA of at least 2.50 and above
 - ii. Must be fully registered student of EMU
 - iii. Must be a Nigerian
 - iv. Must not have committed an offence or found guilty by the University 's disciplinary committee

Article 17

ELECTION

The Election shall be conducted by the International office of the University

Article 18

NSS OFFICE

NSS Office shall be occupied by the President.

Article 19

FUNCTION OF THE NSS OFFICE

- i. To carry out the decisions of and realize the programs of activities adopted by the appropriate organs of NSS
- ii. To harmonize the activities of NSS

Articles 20

SENATES COMMITTEES

- i. The senate shall establish committees (standing adhoc), it shall appoint senators to such committees
- ii. There shall be the following committees:-
 - Committee on Education: Education director shall be answerable to them
 - Committee on Audit:-Auditor shall be answerable to them
 - Committee on Socials: Social director shall be answerable to them
 - Committee on Sports: Sport director shall be answerable to them
 - Committee on Publicity: Public Relations Officer shall be answerable to them
 - Committee on Welfare: Welfare director shall be answerable to them
- iii. Members of each standing committee shall be three (3) in number

Article 21

FUNCTIONS OF EACH EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NSS Executive council members shall carry out their respective duties assigned by the following:-

- a) **PRESIDENT** shall
 - (i) Be the Chief Executive, representative and spokesman of NSS
 - (ii) Co-ordinate and harmonize effectively the activities of NSS and participate when necessary in the activities of other student societies and other international societies
 - (iii) Through the secretary general summon meetings of the office and executive council
 - (iv) Preside over all meetings and shall only have a casting vote when there is a tie
 - (v) Be the overall custodian of NSS properties
 - (vi) Be a co-signatory to all accounts of NSS
 - (vii) Have the power to approve or reject vouchers raised by any NSS officials where in the latter case, the voucher is deemed questionable or unnecessary.
 - (viii) Delegate members of the executive council or any NSS official some functions and he shall ultimately be held responsible and accountable for the discharge of such delegated functions
- b) **VICE PRESIDENT** shall:-
 - (i) Assist the president in all his/her duties and deputize for him/her in his/her absence
 - (ii) Co-ordinate the activities of the local committees of NSS Independence Celebration
 - (iii) Protect and defend students right in the institution
 - (iv) Struggle for workable solutions to the problems of students fees (provisional registrations) with the aid of the president
 - (v) Be vigilant for NSS on the defense of the fundamental Human Rights in the school and TRNC

- c) SECRETARY GENERAL shall:-
 - (i) Conduct the correspondence of NSS in consultation with the President
 - (ii) Summon meetings at the instance of the president stating the agendas
 - (iii) Keep minutes of all meetings of the office, executive, congress and shall send to the appropriate persons
 - (iv) Compile with the assistance of other cabinets, an annual report of NSS activities for the approval of the Congress
 - (v) Shall manage the office
- d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL shall:-
 - (i) Assist the Secretary general in his/her duties and act for him/her in his/her absence
 - (ii) Be responsible for the implementation of NSS programs on anti-illiteracy
 - (iii) Hand over minutes of the congress meetings to the incoming Secretary General
- e) PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO) shall:-
 - (i) Be responsible for publishing NSS activities as determined by its appropriate organs
 - (ii) Serve as a link between NSS and the public
 - (iii) Be responsible for the production and internal distribution of the publications of NSS with the assistance of the office
- f) TREASURER
 - (i) Be the financial custodian of NSS
 - (ii) Collect all NSS funds and deposit with NSS Bankers within two(2) days
 - (iii) Keep the cash book
 - (iv) Write and sign all cheques of NSS
 - (v) Keep an impress of \$100
- g) FINANCIAL SECRETARY shall:-
 - (i) Keep record of all payments made to NSS
 - (ii) Issue all payment vouchers, such vouchers being counter-signed by the president and treasurer
 - (iii) Be a co-signatory to all NSS cheques
 - (iv) Advise the executive council on the control of expenditure
 - (v) Prepare and present financial reports to the senate audit committee on a monthly basis for auditing
 - (vi) Prepare and present financial reports to the congress for auditing once in a semester
 - (vii) All monies/funds collected by the financial secretary shall be transferred to the Treasurer within forty eight(48) hours
- h) DIRECTOR OF SOCIALS shall:-
 - (i) Be responsible for the social activities of NSS
 - (ii) Maintain contact between NSS and other national and international bodies involved in social activities
- i) DIRECTOR OF SPORTS shall:-
 - (i) Be responsible for the sporting activities of NSS
 - (ii) Maintain contact between NSS and other national and international bodies involved in sport activities

- j) DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION shall:-
 - (i) Be responsible for the educational activities of NSS as determined by its appropriate organs activities like tutorials, tutors selection, seminars, symposia, and public lectures
 - (ii) Be responsible for the book recycle program
- k) DIRECTOR OF WELFARES shall:-
 - (i) Be responsible for the Welfare activities of NSS like refreshment during congress or NSS programs
 - (ii) Be responsible for students welfare
- l) SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICER shall:-
 - (i) Establish and maintain effective relationship with students professional organization's existing amongst members of NSS
 - (ii) Perform other duties as might be delegated to him/her by the President
- m) DIRECTOR OF IT shall:-
 - (i) Take control of the NSS Instagram page and Website
 - (ii) Be responsible for taking photograph and videos during NSS functions and programs
 - (iii) Shall with the aid of the Public Relations Officer disseminate information
- n) AUDITOR shall:-
 - (i) Be responsible for auditing all accounting book, cash book and financial report on a monthly basis
 - (ii) Perform other duties as might be delegated to him/her by the President

Article 21

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BODIES

- (a) NSS shall strive to maintain at all times friendly relationships with all other student societies
- (b) NSS shall co-operate with other Nigerian students societies from GAU, LEU, CIU, YDU provided such co-operation shall not in any way be contrary to NSS and EMU policy as stated in the constitution regarding students' rights, academic freedom, fundamental human rights, world peace and peaceful co-existence

Article 22

INTERPRETATION

The officer presiding shall have powers to interpret matters on which the constitution is silent. Such interpretation shall be recorded in the minute's books and shall be published for the information of NSS. Such interpretations shall become effective till it is either amended or annulled by 2/3 majority of the congress.

Article 23

FINANCE

NSS shall raise funds as follows:-

- (i) Through the NSS Agency
- (ii) Use of NSS logo in any program that will not be done within the jurisdictions of the School
- (iii) Through NSS Parties

Article 24

OATH OF OFFICE

- (a) Each member of the Executive council and Senate before assuming office take an oath as prescribed in Schedule (4)
- (b) The oath shall be administered on the president by the Legal adviser; the president will in turn administer it on the other members of the Executive Council and Senators.

Article 25

CODE OF CONDUCT

There shall be a code of conduct as spelt out in schedule two (2) of this constitution, it shall be binding on all officials of NSS

Article 26

STANDING ORDER

There shall be standing orders to guide the conduct of meetings of all organs of NSS as provided in schedule one (1)

Article 27

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment of this constitution shall be by 2/3 majority of the congress after one academic session if the need arises.

Article 28

COMMENCEMENT

All provisions of this constitution shall come into force on the 1st day of January, 2015.

SCHEDULES

(1) STANDING ORDER

(i) VOTING

- (a) Determination of any proposal other than those which procedures are specifically provided for in the constitution, shall be by a simple majority vote of members present
- (b) Voting shall be by secret ballot except otherwise agreed by the international office
- (c) During voting, each member shall be entitled to one vote

(ii) DEBATES AND AMMENDMENTS

During discussions of the proposition or amendments, the following motions are in order and can be accepted in the following order of procedures and precedence

- (a) Motion withdrawing a motion
- (b) Motion to recess
- (c) Suspension of the standing orders or a clause of the constitution by 2/3 of those present and voting
- (d) Motion to close debate
- (e) Motion that the question be now put aside
- (f) Motion of limit or extend time of debate
- (g) Motion to refer to committee
- (h) Motion to postpone consideration of a motion to a definite time
- (i) Motion to adjourn
- (j) A point of order must be heard at all times except during the act of voting
- (k) If information is desired, a person holding the floor may decide whether or not he wished to be interrupted at that time
- (l) Members should address the Senate officers and the house while speaking and should refrain from using foul or obscene language , making interruptions or doing anything that may likely disturb proceedings

(2) CODE OF CONDUCT

(a) An official of NSS shall;-

- (i) Not put himself/herself in a position where his/her personal interest conflicts with his/her duties and responsibilities
- (ii) Not be a member or, belong to, or take part in activities of any society or organization whose membership is incompatible with the functions or duties of his/her office
- (iii) Not ask for or accept any property or benefits of any kind for himself or any other person on account of anything done; or omitted to be done by him/her in the discharge of his duties
- (iv) Not do, or direct to be done in abuse of his office, any arbitrary act prejudicial to the rights of any other person knowing that such act is unlawful or contrary to the provisions of this constitution
- (v) Conduct himself/herself inside and outside Cyprus in such a way as to enhance the dignity of the Nation shall avoid any action that might bring dishonor or discredit to NSS

(b) An official means a person holding a specified office, a specified office means any office set out as follows;

- (i) Members of the Executive council
- (ii) Members of the Senate
- (iii) Chairman of the Congress

(3) ELECTION RULES

- (a) Any presidential aspirants found lobbying with the aid of money or material items (proves) should be disqualified
- (b) All campaign posters should not exceed A3 size paper. All posters must be signed by the appropriate school authorities and only placed in where the schools permits
- (c) No use of campaign Banners for election
- (d) No use of vulgar words or abusive words during campaign

(4) LOGO USAGE

Any activity that requires NSS logo, the individual or group must follow due procedures through the NSS Director of Socials, who shall in turn submit to the Senate for approval, and if approval is given 10% of the income generated will be given to the Society. Failure to do so, the society has the full rights to sue the individual or group for using the Logo without due process.

(5) OATH OF OFFICE

I..... Do solemnly swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to NSS, that as
..... I will discharge my duties to the best of my knowledge, ability faithfully and in accordance with the constitution of NSS that I will preserve, protect and defend the constitution. So help me God.

References

1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
2. The Constitution of Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus.
3. The Constitution of the National Association of Nigerian Students NANS.
4. Drafted Constitution of NSS

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Sen. Wadak Nenpominyi Lar ----- Chairman

Sen. Sauka Mantun Boyi ----- Secretary

Sen. Mohammad Suleiman----- Member

Sen. Lukman Maishanu----- Member

Sen. Faith Abdullah ----- Member

Sen. Olabanji A. John----- Member

Sen. Hope Dabby----- Member

Sen. Uyai Ikpe Etim----- Member

Made at the EMU this day 16th day of December, 2014.