

**ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (ANSSU)
CONSTITUTION**

PREAMBLE:

We, the Nigerian students at the University of Stellenbosch desirous of promoting inter-cultural friendship, solidarity and social harmony within a multicultural academic community, do hereby make and give ourselves the following Constitution.

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

- (1) This Constitution shall be supreme and have binding force on all members of the following Association.
- (2) There shall be hereby established the Association of Nigerian Students, Stellenbosch University (hereinafter referred to as ANSSU).
- (3) ANSSU shall be a socio-cultural, academic, non-political and non-profit making Association, operating within the University of Stellenbosch and its entire sister campuses in Tygerberg, Bellville and Saldanha.
- (4) The logo of ANSSU shall consist of the Nigerian and South African Flags which represent symbols of Unity, Solidarity, Growth and Fulfillment that cuts across Nigerian and South African culture, class and creed.



- (5) The motto of ANSSU shall be Hardwork, Discipline and Progress.

Section 2: MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission statement of ANSSU shall be:

- (1) To unite Nigerian students at the University of Stellenbosch.
- (2) To enhance and promote the common interests and welfare of Nigerian students at Stellenbosch University.
- (3) To promote and encourage intercultural and social activities amongst Nigerian students and other students at Stellenbosch University.
- (4) To promote the welfare of Nigerian students at the University of Stellenbosch.
- (5) To foster social harmony between ANSSU and other student groups at the University of Stellenbosch.
- (6) To organise social gatherings for Nigerian students.
- (7) To organise induction ceremonies to welcome newly arriving Nigerian students.
- (8) To encourage ethical and moral rectitude among Nigerian students.

Section 3: MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Membership of ANSSU shall be open to:
 - (a) Nigerian citizens who are currently studying at Stellenbosch University.
 - (b) Nigerian citizens other than students at the Stellenbosch University as associate members only.
 - (c) Students of Stellenbosch University who are non-Nigerian citizens but interested in the Nigerian culture may upon formal application to the President of ANSSU be granted honorary membership.
- (2) Membership of ANSSU in 3(1) (a) above shall be automatic upon registration at Stellenbosch University subject to the completion and submission of ANSSU membership forms and payment of the prescribed annual membership fee.

Section 4: MEMBERS' RIGHTS

- (1) All members of ANSSU are equal.
- (2) Every member in 3(1) (a) has the right to vote and be voted for subject to complying with the Electoral Guidelines as stipulated in this Constitution.
- (3) Every member shall be entitled to a membership card subject to section 3.
- (4) Every member shall receive notice of ANSSU meetings.
- (5) Every member has the right to voluntarily terminate their membership of ANSSU.
- (6) In respect of subsection 4 above, executive members must give a month notice.

Section 5: MEMBERS' DUTIES

- (1) Every member shall:
 - (a) comply with the rules and regulations laid down in this Constitution.
 - (b) be punctual in all ANSSU General and Special Meetings.
 - (c) attend all ANSSU meetings and are encouraged to participate in all social functions organized by ANSSU unless a written excuse is given prior to the function.
 - (d) pay their annual Membership fee.
- (2) In the case of 3(1) (b) and (c), members shall have observer status only but are encouraged to participate in all ANSSU activities.

Section 6: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(1) Any member may voluntarily withdraw his/her membership of ANSSU by means of a notice in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the ANSSU, stating the reasons for such withdrawal.

(2) Membership may also be lost by:

- (i) constant failure and/or neglect to comply with this Constitution.
- (ii) conduct unbecoming of a member of ANSSU.

Section 7: THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(1) The executive council shall constitute the following offices:

- a) The president;
- b) The vice president;
- c) The general secretary;
- d) The assistant general secretary;
- e) The treasurer;
- f) The director of social;
- g) The director of welfare; and
- h) The public relations officer.
- i) The Tygerberg Coordinators (Vice president and PRO)

(2) Each member of the executive council shall hold office for a period of one calendar year.

Section 8: THE PRESIDENT

- (1) The President shall be a Postgraduate student or a final year undergraduate student at the University of Stellenbosch.
- (2) The President shall be in charge of running the affairs of the association.
- (3) The President shall preside over all the association's meetings.
- (4) The President shall represent the association at any gathering.
- (5) The President shall act as the liaison between the association and all other bodies including the Stellenbosch University Authorities.
- (6) The President shall preside over all the Executive Council Meetings.
- (7) The President shall in consultation with the Secretary-General summon all the association's meetings.
- (8) The President shall co-ordinate the activities and affairs of the association.
- (9) The President shall be a signatory to the association's bank accounts.

Section 9: THE VICE- PRESIDENT

- (1) The office of the Vice President shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The Vice-President shall assist the President in running the affairs of the association.
- (3) The Vice-President shall carry out any duties which the President may delegate to him/her.
- (4) The Vice-President shall act as President in the absence of the President and in the event of the President becoming unavailable.

- (5) The Vice-President shall assume the Presidency if the office of the president becomes vacant for whatever reason including impeachment by the General Assembly.

Section 10: THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (1) The office of the Secretary general shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The Secretary General shall be the administrative officer of the association.
- (3) The Secretary General shall take the minutes of all the meetings of the association.
- (4) The Secretary- General shall keep the minutes books and all other records of the association.
- (5) The Secretary General shall read the minutes of previous meetings at all meetings of the association.
- (6) The Secretary General shall in consultation with the President of the association issue notice of the association's meetings.
- (7) If the Secretary General is absent at any meeting of the association, the Assistant Secretary General shall act on his/her behalf.

Section 11: THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

- (1) The office of the assistant secretary general shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The assistant secretary general shall assist the secretary general in carrying out his/her functions.
- (3) The assistant general secretary shall carry out the function of the secretary general in his/her absence.
- (4) The assistant general secretary shall carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him/her by the president and the secretary general.

Section 12: THE TREASURER

- (1) The office of the treasurer shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the association.
- (3) The Treasurer shall be in charge of the association's funds.
- (4) The Treasurer shall be a signatory to the association's bank accounts.
- (5) The Treasurer shall hold the association's account statements.
- (6) The Treasurer shall present the association's bank statement to the General assembly at least twice annually.
- (7) The Treasurer shall carry out out any other duty as may be assigned to him/her by the President.

Section 13: THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL

- (1) The office of the Director of Social shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The Director of Social shall organise social gatherings for the Association.
- (3) The Director of Social shall be in charge of all the social activities of the association.
- (4) The Director of Social shall carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him/her by the President.

Section 14: THE DIRECTOR OF WELFARE

- (1) The office of the Director of Welfare shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The Director of Welfare shall be responsible for the welfare of all members of the association including their wellbeing.

- (3) The Director of Welfare shall liaise with the international office on any matters relating to welfare of members of the association.
- (4) The Director of Welfare shall work with the director of Social and Public Relations Officer in organising activities of the association.
- (5) The Director of Welfare shall carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him/her by the President.

Section 15: PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- (1) The office of the Public Relations Officer shall be open to all members of the association.
- (2) The Public Relations Officer shall be the mouthpiece of the association.
- (3) The Public Relations Officer shall work with the Secretary General in creating awareness for meetings of the association.
- (4) The Public Relations Officer shall keep track of all members of the association.
- (5) The Public Relations Officer shall promote the image of the association.
- (6) The Public Relations Officer shall work with the Director of Social and Director of Welfare in organising activities.
- (7) The Public Relations Officer shall be the association's link with other associations on campus.
- (8) The Public Relations Officer shall carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him/her by the President.

Section 16: TYGERBERG COORDINATOR

- (1) The office of the Tygerberg Coordinator shall be open to only members of the association that are at the Tygerberg Campus of the Stellenbosch University.
- (2) The Tygerberg Coordinator shall be the contact person and the mouthpiece of the association in Tygerberg.
- (3) The Tygerberg Coordinator shall work with the Secretary General in creating awareness for meetings of the association.
- (4) The Tygerberg Coordinator shall keep track of all members of the association at Tygerberg.
- (5) The Tygerberg Coordinator shall promote the image of the association in Tygerberg.
- (6) The Tygerberg Coordinator shall work with the Director of Social and Director of Welfare in making sure that the Tygerberg members are carried along in all organised activities.

Section 17: ELECTIONS

- (1) Elections into the offices stipulated in this constitution shall be conducted on a yearly basis under the auspices of an Electoral Committee.
- (2) The Electoral Committee shall be made up of at least three members to be nominated by the members of the General Assembly at least three weeks prior to the date set aside for the elections.
- (3) Members of the association shall be notified of the date fixed for elections at least three weeks before the date of the elections.

- (4) The notice of the date fixed for the elections shall be given to all members via e-mail and shall state that elections shall be held on that date.
- (5) Any member of the association who is interested in any elective position shall indicate his/her interest to the Electoral Committee in writing not later than one week before the date fixed for the elections.
- (6) The electoral committee shall inform the nominated members and a request for acceptance or rejection shall be sent to them, to which they must respond not later than one week before the date fixed for the elections.
- (7) The quorum required for a valid election shall be agreed upon by members of the association present on the date of the election.
- (8) Voting during elections may be by a show of hands, secret balloting or electronically. Provided that the electoral committee shall decide on the most convenient mode to adopt.
- (9) A member of the association who is a candidate in an election shall be duly declared the winner of the election if he/she obtains a simple majority of the votes cast at the election.

Section 18: THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (1) ANSSU shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the presentation of the annual financial accounts of the association.
- (2) Notice of the AGM shall be disseminated to all the members of the Association at least one week before the date of the meeting.
- (3) Notice of the AGM shall contain the date and the venue of the meeting and may be given via e-mail and/or personal information.
- (4) The members of the Executive Council shall give account of their stewardship at the AGM.
- (5) Decisions taken at the AGM shall be by voting.
- (6) Voting at the AGM may be by means of show of hands or secret balloting.
- (7) The Quorum required to hold an AGM and to take a binding decision at the AGM shall be by majority votes of the duly registered members of the Association present in person at the meeting.

Section 19: GENERAL MEETINGS

- (1) The Association shall hold General Meetings (GM) for discussions and deliberations on the general affairs of the association.
- (2) Notice of GM shall be given to all the members of the Association at least one week before the date of the meeting.
- (3) Notice of GM shall contain the date and the venue of the meeting and may be given via e-mail and/or personal information.
- (4) Decision taking at the General Meeting (GM) shall be by voting.
- (5) Voting at GM may be by means of show of hands or by secret balloting.
- (6) The quorum required to hold a GM and to make a decision shall be by majority votes of the duly registered members of ANSSU present in person at the meeting.

Section 20: SPECIAL MEETING.

- (1) A Special Meeting (SM) of ANSSU shall be held on the first day of October or on any other suitable day in October of each year to mark the Nigerian Independence Day.
- (2) Notice of SM shall be given to all the members of the association at least two weeks before the day of the meeting.
- (3) The General Assembly shall nominate persons to serve in the planning committee who shall be responsible to plan and/or organise a Social Event/Gathering to commemorate the Nigerian Independence Day.
- (4) The Committee shall be nominated at least one month before the day of the SM.

Section 21: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS.

- (1) Members of the Executive Council shall meet as often as the President deems necessary.
- (2) The Executive Council meetings shall be summoned by the Secretary General in consultation with the President of the association.
- (3) The members of the Executive Council shall be given reasonable notice prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 22: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS

- (1) The General Assembly shall be the body responsible for disciplining and/or sanctioning members that engage in acts of misconduct.
- (2) Where a member engages in acts of misconduct, the General Assembly may suspend him for a definite period of time or indefinitely depending on the nature of the person's misconduct.
- (3) Where a member engages in gross-misconduct, the General Assembly may expel him/her or terminate his/her membership of the association.
- (4) The General Assembly before sanctioning a member for any form of misconduct shall give such a member the right to a fair hearing.
- (5) Where a member is suspended indefinitely or expelled from the association, such member can appeal to the General Assembly to be re-admitted to the association after three (3) months from the day he/she was suspended or expelled from the association.
- (6) A member who is suspended or expelled from the association has the right to appeal to the student court.
- (7) In the case of an office holder, the President in consultation with the General Assembly shall also remove such office holder from office if his/her act or omission amounts to a gross misconduct.
- (8) The General Assembly shall also remove an office holder from office if a vote of no confidence is passed on such office holder by a two-thirds majority of votes of the members of the association present in person.
- (9) The office holder against whom a vote of no confidence has been passed has the right to appeal against it only on procedural grounds to the student court.
- (10) The executive and/or General Assembly shall decide what amounts to gross misconduct.

Section 23: APPOINTMENT OF A STAFF ADVISER (VOLUNTARY)

- (1) The advisor or co-advisors shall be appointed by the organization at the beginning of their term. This person must be a faculty or staff member of Stellenbosch University.

- (2) The faculty or staff advisor shall advise the organization as needed. The advisor shall not, however, speak for or represent in any way the voice of the organization without prior notice.
- (3) The organization shall invite a faculty or staff member to serve on a yearly basis, subject to the organization's renewed invitation. There shall be no limit on the number of times that a faculty or staff advisor may be re-appointed to serve the organization. The faculty or staff advisor may at any time ask to be replaced by another faculty or staff member. In this case, the new faculty or staff advisor is still subject to an invitation by the incoming organization's members.
- (4) The organization may change its advisor at any time with a simple majority vote of current membership.

Section 24: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- (1) The provisions of this Constitution shall only be amended by the agreement of two-thirds majority of the entire members of the association present at the meeting.
- (2) Any amendment of this Constitution shall only be effective if it is approved by two-thirds majority of the members of the Association present at a special meeting convened for the purpose of the amendment.
- (3) Notice of the meeting where it is sought to amend the Constitution shall be given to all the members of the Association at least two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting.
- (4) The notice of the meeting shall state the reason for the proposed amendment of the Constitution.
- (5) The notice of the meeting where it is sought to amend this Constitution shall contain the date, time and venue for the meeting.
- (6) Amendment of this Constitution shall take place at a reasonable time and place.

Section 25: DEFINITIONS

ANSSU means Association of Nigerian Students, Stellenbosch University.

General Assembly means a gathering or body made up of the entire members of the Association.

GM means a General Meeting of the entire members of the Association.

AGM refers to an Annual General Meeting of the Association.

A General Member refers to a duly registered Nigerian Student at the University of Stellenbosch.

An Associate member refers to any Nigerian other than a student at the University of Stellenbosch who is formally applied to be a member of ANSSU and is willing to uphold the objectives of ANSSU.

A Nigerian is any person as defined in chapter three of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

Quorum refers to the number of members of the association present at a meeting sufficient to make a decision at the meeting.

Honourary member is any person granted membership pursuant to section 3 (1) (c).

Tygerberg members are Nigerian students that are registered at the Tygerberg Campus of the University.

Constitution prepared by Constitution Drafting committee and adopted by the General Assembly on 19 August 2007 and amended version adopted on 9th August 2014. A second amended version was adopted on 11th June 2019.