## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

## Article I - Name

The name of this organization is International Students Union (ISU), herein called the "Union".

## Article II - Purpose

To represent and advocate international student causes, to be a resource for international students on the Cornell campus, and to promote internationalism, which would be defined as including, but not limited to, the cross-cultural understanding of international life on campus and in Ithaca and the cooperation between trans-national groups and individuals on campus.

Article III - Membership to International Student Union
Any registered, resident student of the Cornell community who is interested in the purpose of the Union can be a member subject to the application process in Article V.

Article IV - Responsibilities
In light of the Union's purpose as stated in Article II, its responsibilities include, but are not restricted to:
A. To promote and fund international activities proposed by any undergraduate or graduate student group on campus.
B. To represent, advocate, and tiaison liaise with the Cornell University administration for any issues concerning International students, both undergraduate and graduate, at a campus wide level.
C. To lead initiatives that improve and uplift international student life on campus.
D. To organize and plan events to promote and encourage diversity and cross-cultural dialogue in a trans-national context.
E. To maintain and prepare the annual budget and administer funds available to the Union to various organizations on campus.
F. To maintain liaisons with Faculty Committees, International Students and Scholars Office, Students Assembly, the University, and local community.
G. To foster cross cultural exchange through: the Union's General Body Membership and meetings, events hosted by the Union, and events sponsored or co-sponsored by the Union.

## Article V - Structure

The Union membership will be open to all Cornell students subject to an application process. General Body Meetings are open to all Cornell students. Members are expected to participate in different functions that include funding, public relations publicity, internal operations, planning, and advocacy and will be placed in the corresponding team at the time of their acceptance by the current Union members. The Executive Board consists of 8 members: the President, 5 Vice Presidents, a Director, and the Student Assembly International Students Representative as an ex-officio member. There could be 7 members if the Student Assembly International Representative holds a different Executive Board position. Each Vice President will be responsible for one of ISU's main functions: funding, public relations publicity, internal operations, planning, and advocacy. Besides hosting functional team meetings on a weekly basis and actively leading their respective functional teams, Executive Board members are expected to attend Executive Board Meetings, General- Body meetings, and functional team meetings if needed. Executive Board members are also required to prepare the By-Line Report for the Union every year. Application to the Executive Board is selective based on Article VI.
A. The Union consists of 5 functional teams. Functional teams are teams of students within the Union that work towards a specific function of the Union. Functional teams will meet at least once a week under discretion of the Vice President. The responsibilities of each functional teams are:
i. Funding Team:
a. Appropriate the Union funds to intercultural events on campus based on applications received throughout the academic calendar.
b. Further responsibilities of the team shall be determined by its Chair.
ii. Internal Operations Team:
a. Plan a smooth recruiting process for the Union every year. This includes executing all necessary steps following the creation of applications.
b. Ensure smooth functioning of General Body Meetings on a periodic basis.
c. Maintain membership development through internal events.
d. Plan a smooth election process for the Union when necessary. Including all necessary steps from Article VI.
e. Further responsibilities of the team shall be determined by its Chair/Co Chairs.
iii. Planning Team:
a. Plan and coordinate internal Union events for each academic
year
a. Plan and coordinate Union events for each academic year open to the entire Cornell Community.
b. Further responsibilities of the team shall be determined by its Chair.
iv. Public Relations-Publicity Team:
a. Organize and plan the publicity for Union recruitment each year so as to ensure a strong and large pool of applications.
b. Provide publicity support to all functional teams, and promotion of the Union.
c. Further responsibilities of the team shall be determined by its Chair.
v. Advocacy Team:
a. Plan and coordinate advocacy campaigns that impact international students on campus.
b. Effectively liaison liaise with the Cornell University administration to support international students on campus.
c. Further responsibilities of the team shall be determined by its Chair.
vi. Advisors:
a. Senior ISU members may apply for advisor positions to their functional teams through the Internal Operations team after one full year of ISU membership.
b. Advisorship positions are granted at the discretion of the Internal Operations team and the VP of the member's functional team.
c. Positions are granted based on the member's significant contributions to the Union.
d. Advisors are expected to attend all G-Body meetings, and one functional team meeting per month.
B. The job descriptions of the Executive Board members are:
i. The President:
a. Casts a vote in case of a tie in an Executive Board meeting and election.
b. Oversees the Union and presides over meetings.
c. Represents and serves as a spokesperson for the Union.
d. Represents the Union in the Student Assembly, Graduate Professional Student Assembly, and with other administrators of Cornell.
e. Sets the Union and Executive Board size as needed with respect to article VI-D.
f. Establishes the direction and growth of the Union.
g. Chairs weekly Executive Board meetings.
ii. The Vice President of Internal Operations:
a. Maintains records of all meetings and dealings of the

Executive Board and the Union General Body, and provides them to the members of the Union either at meetings or upon request.
a. Coordinates with the President in the process of change of functional teams or removal of a Union member.
b. In the absence of President, oversees the Executive Board and presides over the meeting.
c. Coordinates and leads recruitment for the Executive Board and the Union.
d. Responsible, with the President, for planning and executing the General Body meetings.
e. Actively seeks to improve membership development and engagement, and maintain cohesion between the various functional teams.
f. Responsible, with the President, for organizing the election process.
iii. The Vice President of Funding:
a. Keeps a permanent record of financial transactions and reimbursements in consultation with the Union's assigned advisor.
b. Allocates funds upon approval of the Funding Team.
c. Informs the Executive Board of its financial affairs regularly during Executive Board meetings.
d. Serves as the contact person for all campus organizations seeking funding.
e. Meets regularly with advisor to discuss and evaluate the financial condition of the organization.
f. With the President and the Student Assembly International

Representative, represents the Union before the Student
Assembly.
f. Coordinates meetings with Student Assembly Appropriation Committee.
iv. The Vice President of Planning:
a. Leads planning effort to organize external events for the greater Cornell community.
b. Coordinates the execution of ISU events that foster international awareness and cultural exchange.
c. Chairs the Planning functional team.
v. The Vice President of Public Relations Publicity:
a. Leads ISU Public Relations.
b. Maintains contact with all student organizations on campus.
a. Is responsible for branding and marketing the Union during recruitment and for ISU organized events.
b. Chairs the Public Relations Publicity functional team group.
vi. The Vice President of Advocacy
a. Forms ties with various International Clubs around campus.
a. Forms ties with Cornell University's Administration.
e. Initiates conversations with International Students.
b. Identifies challenges concerning International students' experiences at Cornell.
c. Hosts events, forums, and campaigns to help bring awareness to said challenges.
f. Writes and submits Diversity Inclusion Plan to the $S A$ in consultation with the Student Assembly International Students representative.
d. Chairs the Advocacy functional team.
vii. Ex--Officio Member:
a. Selected from the Student Assembly's International-at Large Representative position(s).
b. Acts as a liaison between the Union and the Student Assembly.
c. Works in close conjunction with the Union's President and the VP of Advocacy as a member of the Advocacy team.
viii. Executive Board Members:
a. Responsible for voting and deciding on execution of Union events.
b. Responsible for voting on all Executive Board decisions such as elections and constitutional changes.
c. Prepares the By-Line Report for the Union every year.
d. Executive Board members reserve the right to share responsibilities of another member in special circumstances.
e. If an Executive Board member fails to execute her/his duties, the Executive Board has the right to dissolve that member with
$75 \%$ or more of votes from eligible members. The Executive Board member in question shall not vote.
f. Executive Board members may assign the title of "Officer" to union members under the discretion of the Executive Board. Those members maintain their rights and duties as Union members.
ix. Director:
a. Acts as a resource for the Executive Board for internal and external administrative tasks.
b. Works closely with the President and the VP of Operations to lead special projects not specific to a functional team, acts in an advisory capacity for strategic and long term decisions for the Union and acts as a liaison between the old and new Executive Board after elections.
c. Serves as interim President until the selection of a new president (described in Article VI) upon vacancy of the President position.
The Program Coordinator of the International Students and Scholars Office shall be the Advisor of the Executive Board. Article VI - Election of Executive Board Members
A. Election of Executive Board members and Executive Committee members will be held every year for the following year and will typically take place towards the end of the Spring semester. The election procedure is duly described in Section F of this article.
B. The election must be duly publicized to the entire Union all functional team members membership. The publicity may take the following forms: Notification in the ISSO newsletter, fliers, and advertisements in the media.
C. All Union members who have been active for at least one semester are eligible to be on the Executive Board.
D. Union members are permitted to run for a maximum of 3 positions.
E. The election procedures of the Executive Board are as follows
i. Prospective members will send applications prior to the election to the incumbent President of the Union.
ii. A screening interview with members of the current Executive Board will take place.
iii. New members to the Executive Board will be selected as per the current needs of the organization with the election process described in Section F of this article.
F. The mechanics of election of VPs within the Executive Board are as follows
i. All members who are running for positions, contested or not, shall go through the election process stated in F .
ii. Contested Executive Committee positions, and names of those nominated to the positions, will be noted.
iii. There will be a Selection Committee for elections which will elect the new Executive Board members, in conjunction with a General Body vote during the Public Forum. The mechanisms of this will be as discussed in section $G$.
iv. If there is no candidate for the position, the members of the Selection-Committee newly elected Executive Board will vote amongst themselves to designate a functional team member persen for the position. Process runs through until the position is filled.
v. If a candidate runs uncontested, the Selection Committee will still vote after interviewing the candidate to determine whether they are qualified for the position. If not, refer to F-iv.

## G. Election Process

i. The Selection Committee will consist of current Executive Board members as well as 5 non-Executive-Board members from the Union. The incumbent President of the Union will chair this committee-and will only vote in the case of a tie breaker.
ii. The 5 non-Executive-Board members must be from the Advocacy (1), Operations (1), Planning (1), Public Relations Publicity (1), and Funding (1) functional teams.
iii. Each non-Executive-Board member must be a member of the Union for at least one complete semester prior. iv. The non-Executive-Board members of the selection committee will be elected by each functional team. Each member must attain the pluralist vote by all members of the team. Each member will be expected to make a short speech highlighting their impartiality and their commitment to the club. Non-Executive-Board members are responsible for reflecting the opinions of their electorate.
v. The election process for Executive Board members

Phase 1: Public Forum - A Public Forum will be held to give all Union functional team members the opportunity to question and evaluate candidates. Through the public forum, Union members can share their opinions and thoughts with the non-Executive-Board Selection Committee members. Candidates will be expected to make a 2-minute speech highlighting their impartiality and their qualities to be in a decision-making position for the organization.
Phase 2: Interviews - Interviews will be conducted by the Selection Committee to give the Selection Committee the opportunity to ask candidates questions about the position they
are running for. Upon interviewing candidates, the Selection Committee must vote on candidates for each position. A candidate is elected with majority vote of the Selection Committee.
Voting Procedure: Non-Selection Committee functional team members have the opportunity to vote for one candidate per position during the Public Forum. This vote will be weighted $30 \%$. Selection Committee member votes will be weighted $70 \%$ (refer to G-vi. for further details). The candidate with the highest number of votes combined will be elected.
vi. Regulations of election process
a. Candidates must submit their applications by the designated deadline. The deadline shall be set by the Executive Board, but it will typically be two days before the Public Forum. b. Selection Committee members shall not be revealed until 24 hours before the interviews. Candidates shall not communicate with non-Executive-Board members of the Selection Committee about any subject relating to elections once names are released.
c. Deliberations are strictly confidential, no information should leak outside the room.
d. Selection Committee members must be present for the entirety of the election process in order to cast a vote.
e. Non-Selection Committee Union members shall not attend any elections interviews.
f. A member of the Selection Committee shall be designated as a moderator to remind everyone of the rules and ensure that discussions run smoothly.
g. Majority vote will be determined as simple majority. If there is a tie, the president will be the tie-breaker.
vii. Once the Selection Committee has deliberated, ballot sheets will be handed out. For each contested position, each Selection Committee member will vote for one person only, and write the person's name on the ballot. Ballot sheets will be collected and counted. These votes will be combined with the Public Forum votes, and the candidate with the highest number of combined votes will be elected. The names of the new Executive Committee members will be announced.
H. Specific for the Director position
i. The new Executive Board, in consultation with the old Executive Board, will select the Director position.
ii. The Director should be a member who has shown extensive contribution to the Union, either generally as a past Executive Board member. If there are no past Executive Board members running for the position, the Director can be a member that has had or reflected through their sustained contributions to the betterment of the Union iii. After consulting with the old Executive Board's recommendations, the Director will be selected by a minimum thirds simple majority vote of the new Executive Board.
Article VII - Membership application to Union Functional Teams
A. Prospective members should fill out a form at a recruiting event or email the VP of Operations.
A. Applicants will go through a recruitment process which includes a resume drop, an online application, and interviews with current Union functional team members. Applicants will be judged on the basis of their diversity, potential contributions to the progress of the union, and cultural and functional fit with the current needs of the organization.
B. Applicants will be decided upon by all current Union functional team members present who are participating in recruitment at a deliberations meeting held by the VP of Internal Operations and the President. Members must attend at least 3 General Body meetings and participate in at least 1 functional team event to be considered part of the ISU[2].

Article VIII - Removal of Executive Board/Union Members
A. Concerning Executive Board Members
i. A petition signed by $75 \%$ of functional team will be necessary for the Executive Board to consider the removal of a VP of the corresponding functional team.
ii. If any member fails to meet the requirements of her/his office, $75 \%$ majority vote of the Executive Board can remove her/him from the Executive Board. The president's removal shall also be decided by a $75 \%$ vote of the Executive Board members.
iii. Arriving ten minutes late unexcused at an Executive Board meeting constitutes a half- absence, while arriving one hour or more after the beginning of the meeting under similar conditions is counted as a full absence.
iv. Three unexcused absences (and two for the first semester of new members) will be allowed per semester. If someone exceeds that allowance, each case will be assessed individually. The President will speak with the member, and the Executive Board will discuss the case in light of the member's contributions and other factors.
B. Concerning Union Members
i. A Union member can be removed from the Union under discretion of the Executive Board.
Article IX - Mechanics of Meetings
A. Functional Team Meetings
i. Meetings will take place weekly during the academic calendar, except during school holidays, and will be presided upon by the team's VP.
ii. In the event that members of the Union feel that Executive Board members should clarify their actions, the President is required to call a meeting of the Executive Board within two weeks of receiving a petition to that effect, signed by at least one--third of the Union members.
iii. Three unexcused absences for general Union members (and two for the first semester for new members) will be allowed per semester. If someone exceeds that allowance, each case will be assessed individually. The President will speak with the member, and the Executive Board will discuss the case in light of the member's contributions and other factors.
iv. Excuses must be up to the discretion of the VP of the Functional Team and excuses are encouraged to be a minimum of 24 hours prior. B. Specific for the Funding Team i. Quorum will be one-half of the Funding Team, of whom one must be the VP of Funding, unless they are excused. ii. The VP of Funding will not vote during a decision-making process, unless there is a tie. In case of a tie, the VP may cast a vote, or call for a revote, at their discretion.
iii. Voting on decisions must be blind in order to remove any biases.
C. Executive Board Meetings
i. The Executive Board will meet weekly to discuss Functional Team updates and determine the short and long-term goals for the organization.
ii. The meetings will be presided upon by the President and in their absence, by the VP of Internal Operations.
D. General Body Meetings
i. Meetings will take place every alternate week during the academic calendar, except during school holidays or on an ad-hoc basis determined by the President in consultation with the Executive Board. ii. The VP of Internal Operations, in collaboration with the Executive Board and the Internal Operations Team, will plan and preside over the General Body meetings. Attendance is mandatory for all Union members.
iii. More than 3 unexcused absences in a semester is grounds for a hearing with the Executive Board, which will then decide on the membership status of the members in question.
iv. The purpose of the meetings is to improve synergy and cohesion among various functional teams, provide general updates for each team, and provide membership development and team building for all Union members.

Article X - Internal Administrative Spending
Internal administrative spending is defined as any expenditures incurred on activities only limited to the internal membership of the Executive Board for any administrative purposes. The Union shall not spend more than $5 \%$ of its total Student Activity Fee allocation on administrative spending.
Article XI - Guidelines for Co-Sponsorship:
The following guidelines may be followed for funding a co-sponsored event:
A. Consider the cost--benefit ratio for the event.
B. Consider the anticipated size and profile (diversity) of the crowd attending the event. Reasonable effort must have been made to reach out to
participants beyond the organization's membership, and a clear rationale must be given for the event's projected attendance.
C. Consider the percentage of the total budget requested from the Funding Team and that the organization has explored other possible funding resources.
D. Consider whether the event is epen accessible to the international community and to the entire Cornell community and promotes internationalism and/or multiculturalism. If the event does not fall under any of the aforementioned categories, the Funding Team can only fund publicity materials. All other events will be considered on a case-by-case basis. E. Prioritize funding for small and new organizations, but not at the expense of the former points (Article IX A--D).
F. All student organizations, to be considered for co-sponsorship, must have registered their organization with the Student Activities Office under the Dean of Students. If not possible, the co-sponsorship applicants must be recognized by some element of the university, either through professors, departments, or student organizations. ISU will also co-sponsor events organized by Program Houses and Study Programs (provided they meet the criteria outlined in Article IX A-D). G. The Union may co-sponsor events up to $\$ 5$ per event participant/attendee. H. To avoid double funding of a particular item using Student Activity Fee (SAF) money, each group seeking co-sponsorship will be required to detail what SAFC/GPSAFC funding is to be used for. ISU co-sponsorship can be used for items not covered by SAFC/GPSAFC funding (e.g. Food) as well as to supplement SAFC/GPSAFC funding where this is not adequate to cover a particular item. ISU can also explicitly state what portions of a particular budget it will not fund.
I. Co-sponsorship is not permitted for events where a portion of ISU funds would go to charity. Only operating expenses would be covered. However, a donation box is permitted.
J. Student organizations are required to submit ene copy of the completed budget proposal per member of the Funding Team an online budget proposal, prepared according to the Team's recommended outline (which will be made available to all students organizations), to the Funding Team preferably at least two weeks prior to the proposed event. This procedure will give the Funding Team sufficient time to review the proposal and address any issues that may arise. Budgets can be submitted up to two weeks after the event but are not guaranteed an equal review and/or funding disbursement. Late applications may be subject to a penalty. K. Union members who are applying on behalf of their other affiliated organizations may not be present for the discussion of their funding request or participate in the voting process.
L. If a Funding Team member holds an officer position in another organization that applies for funding, they will be prohibited to vote on any decision relating to that organization.
M. The financial advisory committee Vice President of Funding will review the budget before submitting it to the Funding Team for hearing. If not properly prepared, the financial advisory committee may ask an organization to revise the budget. Once the budget is submitted to the Funding Team for hearing, decisions may be based on the available information, rather than sending back the budget for additional information.

N . If a student organization feels that it was not treated fairly, it has the right to appeal to the Funding Team to reconsider the funding decision. The appeal must be made within a week after the funding decision.
O. The Funding Team must review all budget proposals. A full quorum (one-half) of the Funding Team is required to allocate funds. In the case that an organization is unable to have its budget reviewed at a regular meeting before the event (for some acceptable reason), the Funding Team may call an emergency meeting to review the budget a late hearing will be arranged, provided the budget request form was submitted before the event, and the rationale for the late submission is reasonable.
P. ISU reserves the right to ask for copies of receipts from groups and examine the group's budget after an event has taken place.
Q. Co-sponsorship handling \& budget hearing procedures
i. The Funding Team member collecting the budget should review it for completeness. If items are missing or the budget is incorrect, the group should be contacted and requested to bring the necessary information / budget corrections with them to the funding hearing ii. At the budget hearing the group will be asked to present itself, its mission and outline the budget to be considered for co-sponsorship. The Funding Team members are then free to ask questions to the group representative with due regard to the former points (Article IX A-F)
iii. During closed session: The VP of Funding will allow 5 minutes of open forum to discuss event. Then a call for dollar amounts will be made. A second from another Funding Team member is required for each figure suggested. The person suggesting must give reasons for their figure. When all suggested amounts have been presented, voting will take place by hands starting with the lowest suggested sum. If there is a tie, the VP of Funding will cast their vote.
iv. Groups will be contacted at the latest by the following Tuesday evening with the decision of the Funding Team. The e-mail will
explain in detail the reason for any deductions made by the Funding Team and include any suggestions made during the group's presentation, as well as indicate the amount funded. The e-mail must also specifically request that all publicity acknowledges ISU cosponsorship. If the event has an entrance fee a request will be made at this time for two complimentary tickets to permit members to attend according to the guidelines (outlined in Article IX M).
v. Groups that are late or failed to appear at a previous hearing are not guaranteed an equal review and/or funding disbursement. They may be subject to a penalty.
vi. Groups that fail to include ISU's logo as a sponsor on their publicity material (online and printed) may be penalized.
Article XII - Subcommittees
A. The Executive Board may form ad hoc subcommittees from time to time for any special function, as it finds necessary.
B. The Executive Board may select members from the subcommittees from within the Executive Board and/or outside the Executive Board.
C. Subcommittees will report to the respective members of the Executive Board.
D. All decisions of the subcommittees will be subject to the approval of respective Executive Board members, unless otherwise authorized by the Executive Board.

Article XIII - Amendments
A. Any member of the Union may propose an amendment to this constitution.
B. An amendment shall be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Instructions to groups seeking co-spensorship from ISU. The following information is available on the ISU website (www istrornell.com), as well as the OrgSync page (https://orgsync.com/72626/chapter)

- Your group must be recognized by the university. The group is
encouraged to be registered with the Students Assemblies Office. Contact Roxanne Edsall for more information.
- We can fund events by Program Houses and Study Programs.
- Events must be open to the entire Cornell Commenity.
- Groups, on oceasion, may request funding for overseas events and trips, contingent upon the event/trip following ISU's usual funding criteria. Following the trip, groups who receive funding for such events are required to present their experiences/trip in an ISU-sponsored event. Such funding grants may be competitive.
- We cannot sponsor events where a portion of ISU co-sponsorship funds would go to charity. Only operating expenses would be covered. However, a donation box is permitted.
- We can fund events up to two weeks after they have taken place, provided that the co-sponsorship form was submitted before the event in question.
- Groups can be funded up to thrice per semester.

Funding Procedure:
Follow SAFC guidelines, with the exception of food.

- Indicate on the form the date submitted and e mail the ISU VP of Funding to inform them of the co-spensorship request.
- Provide 1 copy of the budget proposal per Funding Team member, and an equal number of copies of any additional information you wish to include.
- We fund on an event by event basis and can provide a maximum of $\$ 1000$ (see below) for events with less than 250 attendees. Events that are likely to have over 250 attendees or involve the organization of several groups may receive a greater maximum funding disbursement.
- 10 minute hearings will take place during regular Funding hearings. - You will be contacted by e mail of the Funding Team's decision within 2 days of the hearing.
- If the budget proposal is incomplete in any way, the Funding Team can ask the group to return the following week to present a revised budget.
- If your event obtains funding from ISU, all publicity (tickets, flyers, posters) for the event must contain the following: the ISU logo, as well as "Co sponsored by ISU."
- ISU reserves the right to ask for copies of receipts from groups and examine the group's budget after an event has taken place.
Appendix 1: Non-discrimination Clause
- As an organization, ISU will not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any combination of these factors when determining its membership and when determining the equal rights of all general Union members and Executive Board members, respectively, which shall include, but are not limited to, voting for, seeking, and holding positions within the organization.

