

## **Constitution of the International Students for Social Equality, Cornell Chapter**

### **Preamble**

We, the members of the International Students for Social Equality, Cornell Chapter, hereby establish this constitution in order that the work of the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI), the World Party of Socialist Revolution, be carried out in the greater Ithaca, NY, USA area.

### **Article I: Name**

The name of the organization will be the International Students for Social Equality, Cornell Chapter henceforth referred to as the ISSECC.

### **Article II: Purpose**

The ISSECC is established for the expressed purpose of analyzing political events from the perspective of historical and dialectical materialism and to understand the history of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries from the same perspective. The work of the ISSECC coincides with that of the ICFI.

### **Article III: Membership**

Active membership will be open to all members of the greater Ithaca, NY, USA area.

Any person who accepts the International Students for Social Equality's *Statement of the ISSE* (<http://intsse.com/statement>), accepts the organization's discipline, and agrees to actively participate in the work of the organization is eligible for membership.

No individual shall be excluded membership or any position within the ISSECC on account of ethnicity, racial or national background, citizenship or immigration status, gender or sexual orientation.

Individuals wishing to join the ISSECC will have their applications forwarded to the officers of the ISSECC and will be approved or rejected for membership by majority vote. Applicants for membership will provide full disclosure of previous political affiliations. Failure to do so may be grounds for expulsion from the ISSECC.

The following requirements must be met in order to constitute active membership:

- Attendance of at least 75% of all meetings during a given semester.
- Active participation in all activities sponsored by the ISSECC unless the activity interferes with either scholastic or financial constraints.
- Any member who does not meet the above two requirements will be considered an inactive member until the officers of the ISSECC, by 2/3 majority vote, move to restore active membership to said member.

All members will work under the discipline of the ISSECC.

### **Article IV: Officers**

The ISSECC will be governed by the following means:

The ISSECC shall elect a Chairperson to preside over all meetings of the ISSECC. The Chairperson will maintain the power to appoint all committee chairpersons, shall present all motions to the body present and shall be present at 90% of all meetings of the ISSECC.

The ISSECC shall elect a Secretary. The Secretary's duties shall be to preside over all meetings and functions that the Chairperson can not attend. The Secretary will record attendance of members at meetings, and ensure that discipline is maintained during meetings and events.

The ISSECC shall elect a Treasurer, whose duties include the managing of the accounts of the ISSECC.

The ISSECC shall elect a Speaker. The Speaker's duties shall be to preside over all meetings and functions that the Chairperson and the Secretary can not attend. In addition, the Speaker shall be the Committee Chairperson of the Judicial Committee.

The role and duties of the faculty/staff adviser shall include attending meetings, providing counsel to the organization's officers, etc.

## **Article V: Operations**

### **Voting Eligibility:**

Those members meeting all requirements of active membership as set forth in Article III will be granted voting privileges.

### **Election Process:**

All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of eligible voting members of the ISSECC. All elections will be held on a biannual basis, once in February and once in September.

The Chairperson will take nominations of active members from the floor, the nomination process must be closed and the movement seconded. The nominated parties will be allowed to vote.

All voting shall be done by secret ballot to be collected and tabulated by the Treasurer and one person appointed by the outgoing Chairperson.

### **Removal:**

Any officer of the ISSECC in violation of the ISSECC's purpose or constitution may be removed from office by the following process:

- A written request by at least three members of the organization.
- Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.
- A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is necessary to remove the officer.

If the officer is removed, a new officer must be elected within two weeks, using the **Election Process** set above. Results will be tabulated by the Treasurer (or Speaker if the Treasurer has been removed) and one person appointed by the Chairperson (or Secretary if the Chairperson has been removed).

### **Resignation:**

Any officer of the ISSECC can resign his post at any time.

If an officer post is resigned, a new officer must be elected within two weeks, using the **Election Process** set above. Results will be tabulated by the Treasurer (or Speaker if the Treasurer resigned) and one person appointed by the Chairperson (or Secretary if the Chairperson resigned).

## **Meetings:**

### General Meetings:

General meetings will occur on a weekly basis at a time and place selected by the general membership of the ISSECC and will follow the procedure set below:

- Attendance
- Report by the Chairperson
- Committee Reports
- Vote on all committee motions and decisions
- Any other business put forward by other members of the ISSECC
- Dismissal by the Chairperson

The Chairperson shall distribute any material relevant to the weekly meetings at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Failure to do so on a periodic basis is grounds for removal.

The Chairperson may cancel a weekly meeting. Do to so, he/she must give at least 24 hours notice.

### Officer Meetings:

Officer meetings will occur on a weekly basis at a time and place selected by the officers of the ISSECC and will follow the procedure set below:

- Attendance
- Report by the Chairperson on any proposed Amendments
- Report by the Treasurer on Finances
- Report by the Speaker on matters pertaining to the Judicial Committee
- Any other business put forward by any officer
- Dismissal by the Chairperson

## **Article VI: Discipline**

The decisions reached by the governing bodies of the ISSECC are binding on all members.

Any member who violates a decision reached by a higher body or acts in a manner detrimental to the ISSECC or the working class will be subject to the disciplinary action of the Judicial Committee and the officers. All disciplinary actions must be approved by 2/3 of the Judicial Committee and officers, then ratified by the Chairperson.

Any disciplinary action against the Chairperson must be approved by two-thirds vote of the officers and Control Commission, and ratified by the Secretary.

A member subject to disciplinary action must be given written notice of the charges being made. A member has the right to be present to defend himself/herself against all allegations before a decision on disciplinary action is taken.

The officers of the ISSECC are empowered to protect the security of the ISSECC, ISSE, SEP and ICFI by conducting whatever investigations they deem necessary. In cases involving a violation of organizational security, the officers are authorized to suspend a member for up to 30 days pending the investigation of the alleged violation. After this, the affected member must be either formally charged or restored to active membership.

Any appeal must be written and made within 30 days of the charges. Appeals will be heard by the Appeal Committee. Decisions reached by the Appeal Committee are final.

### **Article VII: Finances**

The ISSECC will finance its operations in the following ways:

The ISSECC will seek funding through the Student Activities Office of Cornell University as is consistent with the current funding procedures.

The ISSECC will also seek funding through other means will be done upon consultation with and approval of the officers of the organization.

### **Article VIII: Amendments**

This constitution is binding to all members of the ISSECC. This constitution is not binding unto itself.

Amendments to the constitution may be proposed in writing by any active member of the ISSECC at which 2/3 of the active members are present.

These amendments will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the ISSECC.

Proposed amendments will become effective following approval of two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of active members. Voting will take place, at maximum, one month after the amendment is proposed.

### **Article IX: Registration**

The ISSECC will apply to the Student Activities Office for registration on a semester basis, a maximum of one month after the biannual officer elections.

### **By-Laws**

Judicial Committee:

- The Judicial Committee is charged with investigating internal matters of the ISSECC, including complaints of individual members.
- The Judicial Committee consists of the Speaker and two members of the general membership chosen by majority vote of the officers of the ISSECC.

Appeal Committee:

- The Appeal Committee is charged with hearing the appeals of any members undergoing disciplinary action.
- The Appeal Committee is formed for each appeal, consisting of one person appointed by the defendant, one person appointed by the officers by majority vote, and one person appointed by the general membership by majority vote.
  - Nominations must come from and be active members.
  - Voting is done by secret ballot, and tabulated by two people of the general membership appointed by the officers.