

THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION
(SUSK)

AS ADOPTED BY THE 11TH CONGRESS OF UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS

IN THUNDER BAY, AUGUST 1971,

AND AS AMENDED BY THE 18th CONGRESS OF UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS

IN VANCOUVER, AUGUST 1977

CONSTITUTION
OF THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION
(SUSK)

1. NAME

1.01 Name and Abbreviation: this organization shall be called the "Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union". In short form an abbreviation SUSK will be used. It represents the first letters of the Ukrainian name "Soyuz Ukrainskoho Studentstva Kanady (SUSK).

2. LOCATION:

2.01 Location of Head Office: The Executive Offices of SUSK shall be in the locality of the President's residence or any other convenient place, determined by the Executive of SUSK.

3. AIMS:

3.01 General Aims of SUSK shall be:

- a) To stimulate cooperation among the existing Ukrainian students' organizations and foster the development of a Ukrainian student movement.
- b) To encourage the Ukrainian students to emphasize particularly those factors which unite them and which contribute to greater mutual understanding and harmonious activity.

3.02 The Specific Aims of SUSK shall be:

- a) To represent the Ukrainian students of Canada.
- b) To unite and coordinate the activities of the Ukrainian student organizations in Canada.
- c) To provide its members with organizational, cultural, moral and financial aid.
- d) To establish and support the institutions which promote the welfare and interest of Ukrainian students.
- e) To support and cooperate with the co-ordinating organisations of Ukrainian students outside of Ukraine, particularly with the World Conference of Ukrainian Students, which is the international representative of Ukrainian students outside of Ukraine.
- f) To support and cooperate with the co-ordinating institutions of Ukrainian Canadian public life, particularly with the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, which is the representative of Ukrainian Canadians.

- g) To support and cooperate with Ukrainian Canadian and non-Ukrainian Canadian organisations, in matters connected with the realisation of the aims and objectives of SUSK.
- h) To support and cooperate with all organisations, both Ukrainian Canadian and non-Ukrainian Canadian, in matters connected with the realisation of a progressive multicultural and multilingual Canadian society.
- i) To support the study of Ukrainian Canadian and of Ukrainian culture at Canadian and other universities.
- j) To organise, encourage and sponsor conferences, congresses, tours, student exchanges, study groups, exhibits, which further the activities of SUSK.
- k) To support and cooperate with those organisations, both Ukrainian Canadian and non-Ukrainian Canadian, in matters concerning the abrogation of human, civil, political, cultural and religious rights.
- l) To support and cooperate with the co-ordinating institutions of Ukrainian public life outside of Ukraine, particularly with the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, which is the international representative of Ukrainians outside of Ukraine.

4. MEMBERSHIP:

- 4.01 Qualifications: Membership of SUSK shall consist of Ukrainian clubs, associations, federations, etc. (whose members are students of a Canadian university or other school of higher learning) which are represented by an Executive and who have been accepted into the membership.
- 4.02 Application for Membership: An application for membership must be in writing and submitted to the SUSK Executive by the governing body of the applicant club, association, federation, etc.

Each application must be accompanied by the following:
 - a) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws
 - b) A list of the members of the Executive
 - c) A list of its membership providing the name, the course, the year of studies and the address for each and every member.
- 4.03 Acceptance of New Members: The Executive of SUSK is authorized to accept new members conditionally provided that the applicant meet all of the qualifications and requirements stipulated by the constitution and the by-laws thereto. Such acceptance must be ratified by the congress of SUSK next ensuing.

5. WITHDRAWAL, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

5.01 Withdrawal of Membership:

- a) A member may withdraw from SUSK by filing a Declaration of Withdrawal with the Executive of SUSK or of delivering a written notice of such a Declaration to the Congress.
- b) The dissolution of a club and association or federation will be deemed as its automatic withdrawal from the membership of SUSK.

5.02 Suspension of Members:

- a) The Executive of SUSK may suspend membership of any member by two-thirds vote of all members of the Executive for the infringement of the constitution and by-laws of SUSK or for unjustifiable negligence of responsibility. Notice of intention to suspend a member shall be given all members of SUSK. Such notice shall set out the reasons for such suspension and the intended duration thereof, and ensuing congress may expel a suspended member on the recommendation of the Executive of SUSK.
- b) If a member neglects activities without justification the Executive of SUSK may declare the said member inactive by giving notice of the Declaration to the entire membership and announcing the same at the following congress. Members who have been so suspended may appeal to the Executive for reinstatement by providing definite proof of a rehabilitation of activity.
- c) If ~~a~~ a member of the Executive neglects its activities without justification, or infringes the constitution or by-laws of SUSK, the National Executive and the Controlling Committee of SUSK may suspend the membership by a majority vote of the National Executive and the agreement of the Controlling Committee. This may be proposed only with the written approval of one-half of the paid membership of the given club, association or federation.

In the above case, the dissenting membership of the given club, association or federation must be prepared to announce a special meeting of such, in order to suspend its own executive and to appoint a new executive, within one month of a notice of suspension.

6.08 Voting:

- a) Only the official delegate or the alternate delegate shall have the right to vote.
- b) Members of the Executive or the Controlling Committee shall have the same right to vote as a delegate or an alternate delegate.
- c) As official delegates and alternate delegates, the Congress will consider the representatives of members of SUSK (1) who are in good standing in the payment of dues and have fulfilled their other obligations to SUSK; and (2) whose membership shall be rectified by the Congress.
- d) Delegates, alternate delegates, members of the Executive, members of the Controlling Committee who are participating in the Congress may in case of need, delegate their mandate to another delegate, alternate delegate, member of the Executive or member of the Controlling Committee.
- e) Any one delegate may have a maximum of three votes, but the said delegate need not exclude other members of the same organisation whom he does not represent.
- f) All matters other than constitutional shall be decided by a majority vote at the sessions of the Congress.
- g) Amendments to the constitution will require two-thirds majority vote.
- h) New member clubs shall have the same rights as members under section 6.08, sub-section 'c'.
- i) The Editorial Board of Student shall have three votes.

6.09 Congress Committees:

- a) The Congress shall elect a nominations committee and a verifications committee, and may elect certain committees to perform tasks specified by the Congress.
- b) The nominations committee shall prepare lists of candidates for presentation to the Congress for the election of a new Executive, Controlling Committee and Editorial Board of "STUDENT".
- c) The verification committee shall study the list of registered delegates at the Congress, and will approve these upon verification of presented membership lists of clubs, associations and federations.

6.10 Date, Location, Frequency and Notification about the Congress:

- a) The Executive of SUSK shall decide the time and the place for the Congress.
- b) The Executive of SUSK may call a Congress at a time which they deem appropriate within a one year period.

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- c) A special Congress of SUSK may be called by the Executive or the Supervisory Committee on the request of one-third of the membership of SUSK.
- d) All members shall be notified in writing as to the time and the place of the Congress by the Executive of SUSK no less than thirty days prior to the Congress.

6.11 Quorum:

- a) A fifty per cent attendance of delegates and/or alternative delegates shall constitute a quorum.
- b) If at a Congress properly called, a quorum does not appear at the specified time, then there shall be a waiting period of one hour and at the expiration of one hour, the present delegates or alternate delegates shall constitute a quorum and the Congress shall commence at the previously designated location with the same agenda.

7. THE BODIES OF SUSK

7.01 The Executive of SUSK:

President
Executive Vice-President
Vice-President (Human Rights)
Vice-President (Community Development)
Vice-President (Cultural Affairs)
Secretary
Secretary-Treasurer
Ukrainian Canadian Committee Representative
Conference Chairperson
Executive Co-ordinator
Immediate Past President

7.02 Standing Committees:

- a) In order to assist the Executive, the Congress may elect a Standing Committee or Standing Committees.
 - Finance Committee
 - Student Affairs Committee
 - Human Rights Committee
 - Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Multicultural Committee
 - Community Development Committee
 - Publications Committee

- b) A number of Committees may be appointed by the Executive for explicit purposes.

- c) Chairpersons of committees have the right to attend meetings of the executive with the right to vote.
Members of such Committees have the right to attend meetings of the Executive without the right to vote.

7.03 Controlling Committee: The Controlling Committee shall be composed of (a) Chairperson and (b) 2 members.

7.04 Editorial Board of "STUDENT":

The Editorial Board of "STUDENT" shall be composed of 3 editors elected by the Congress. The Congress will designate 1 member of the editorial board as editor-in-chief. The editorial Board of "STUDENT" shall call upon other members of SUSK to perform explicit duties.

7.05 Term of Responsibilities: Members of the body of SUSK shall assume their responsibilities at the conclusion of the Congress at which they were elected or appointed and shall hold such responsibilities until the conclusion of the next Congress or such time as they may resign or be replaced.

7.06 Function of Executive Members:

a) President:

1. Shall be the chief governing Executive.
2. Shall represent the Executive.
3. Shall chair the Executive meetings and other SUSK activities.
4. Shall be a member of all standing committees.
5. Shall, along with the co-ordinator, delegate responsibilities, co-ordinate them among individual members of the Executive, and shall be knowledgeable in all areas of SUSK activity.
6. Shall be responsible for the functions of the Executive.
7. Shall be responsible for developing and maintaining contacts with SUSK members and aiding in their development.

b) Executive Vice-President:

1. Shall fulfill those responsibilities as delegated by the President.
2. Shall represent the Executive when the President is unable.
3. Shall be a member of all standing committees.
4. Shall be knowledgeable in all areas of SUSK activities.
5. Shall be responsible for developing SUSK activities in the area of multiculturalism.

c) Vice-President (Human Rights):

1. Shall be chairperson of the SUSK Human Rights Committee and shall develop SUSK activity in this area.
2. Shall represent the Executive when so delegated by the Executive.

d) Vice-President (Community Development)

1. Shall be chairperson of the SUSK Community Development Committee and shall develop SUSK activity in this area.
2. Shall represent the Executive when so delegated by the Executive.

e) Vice-President (Cultural Affairs)

1. Shall be chairperson of the SUSK Cultural Affairs Committee and shall develop SUSK activity in this area.
2. Shall represent the Executive when so delegated by the Executive.

f) Secretary:

1. Shall be responsible for taking the SUSK Executive minutes.
2. Shall be responsible for all external correspondence outside of SUSK Executive.
3. Shall be responsible for all external correspondence outside of SUSK.
4. Shall be responsible for the maintenance of the SUSK office.
5. Shall be responsible for the maintenance of the SUSK archives.

g) Secretary-Treasurer:

1. Shall be the chairperson of the SUSK Finances Committee.
2. Shall be responsible for the realization of the budget.
3. Shall be responsible for the safe-keeping of documents, record books, and the property of SUSK.
4. Shall manage all SUSK funds and keep precise records of incomes and expenses.
5. Shall report the financial transactions and inform the Executive of the financial position.

h) Vice-President of External Liason

- 1) shall maintain contacts between SUSK and all national student Unions, along with other non-Ukrainian organisations.
- 2) promote articles on the question of human rights and multi-culturalism in the non-Ukrainian press.
- 3) attend conferences, symposia with other student bodies.
- 4) maintain correspondance with the above-mentioned bodies.

i) Conference Chairperson:

1. Shall organise and chair all conferences, congresses and symposia of SUSK.
2. Shall fulfill any other obligations which may, time to time, be imposed by the Executive.

j) Executive Co-ordinator:

1. Shall along with the President, delegate the responsibilities and co-ordinate these among individual members of the Executive.
2. Shall be knowledgeable in all areas of SUSK activity, and shall provide necessary materials to SUSK Committees to ensure the success of their activities.
3. Shall be a member of all SUSK Committees.
4. Along with the President, shall be responsible for the SUSK educational process.
5. Shall co-ordinate the activities of the SUSK Vice-Presidents and Committees, and make the positions of SUSK on these issues known to the society at large.

7.07 Duties of Standing Committees:

- a) Financial Committee:
 1. Shall draw up the SUSK budget.
 2. Shall realise the budget.
 3. Shall present budget of past fiscal yr. to members of Congress.
- b) Student Affairs Committee:
 1. Shall initiate social action programmes.
 2. Shall develop joint programmes with other student organisations.
 3. Shall develop and realise the educational process of SUSK.
- c) Human Rights Committee:
 1. Shall initiate programmes in defense of human, civil, political and cultural rights.
 2. Shall develop and realise an educational programme for SUSK in this area.
- d) Cultural Affairs Committee:
 1. Shall draw up a programme of cultural activities of SUSK.
 2. Shall compile and prepare for publication information with respect to studies of Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian culture, and Ukrainian Canadian student activities.

- e) Multicultural Committee:
 - 1. Shall draw up the SUSK position on multiculturalism, and shall propagate this position in the society at large.
 - 2. Shall be cognisant of developments of the policy on the federal, provincial and local levels in Canada.
- f) Community Development Committee:
 - 1. Shall initiate social action programmes for students for the summer periods.
 - 2. Shall maintain contacts with responsible government agencies to make SUSK's position known on the development of social action programmes in the society at large.
 - 3. Shall develop and maintain contacts with social actions organisations both within the Ukrainian Canadian community and without, and co-operate with them.
- g) Publications Committee:
 - 1. Shall co-ordinate all publishing within SUSK and shall be responsible for their effective distribution.
 - 2. Shall prepare news releases regarding SUSK activities.
 - 3. Shall develop the public relation programme.

7.08 Duties of the Controlling Committee:

- a)
 - 1. The Controlling Committee before each Congress or at any other time upon seven (7) days' notice, shall audit all financial and other records and statements in order to ascertain the financial position of SUSK.
 - 2. Shall report to the Congress its audit findings and give its recommendations for the possible improvement of the management of SUSK funds.
 - 3. To recommend to the Congress whether or not the past executive should be granted a vote of confidence.
 - 4. Shall make other recommendations to the Congress in respect to SUSK activities.
 - 5. Shall fulfill any other obligations which have been delegated upon it by the past Congress.
 - 6. May, of its own accord or upon the request of the Editorial Board of "STUDENT" withhold the publication of an ~~article~~ that does not meet with the objectives and aims of SUSK.
- b) The chairman and the members of the Controlling Committee shall have the privilege of participating in the meetings of the Executive but will not have the right to vote.

7.09 Duties of the Editorial Board of "STUDENT":

- a) Shall be the editorial committee for the publication of "STUDENT".
- b) Shall draw up a budget for "STUDENT".
- c) Shall make all efforts to realise the budget.
- d) Shall set the editorial policy of "STUDENT".
- e) Shall be responsible to the Congress for the publication,

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and shall follow the policy guidelines set by the Congress.

- f) "STUDENT" is an open, non-secular, progressive student publication of Ukrainian Canadian students, will reflect their interests as such: commenting on issues of interest to the Ukrainian Canadian student movement, the Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian communities, and to the Canadian society as a whole.
- g) Shall be responsible for its publication in an ongoing manner during the year to the Controlling Committee, which may of its own accord or on the request of the Executive, direct the Editorial Board to publish a statement of retraction concerning an Editorial which is in contradiction to the stated aims and objectives of SUSK.

7.10: The Presidents' Conference:

- a) Shall be the advisors body to the Executive between Congresses.
- b) Shall make recommendations to the Executive on the activities of SUSK.
- c) Shall accept interim reports from members of the Executive.
- d) Shall be held at least twice per year, once within three months of the election of the Executive, and once at least three months before the Congress.
- e) Shall be composed of one representative of each member organisation of SUSK and of members of the Executive Controlling Committee, and the Editorial Board of "STUDENT".
- f) A fifty per cent attendance of representatives of clubs, three members of the Executive, one member of the Controlling Committee and one member of the Editorial Board of "STUDENT" shall constitute a quorum.
- g) If at a Presidents' Conference, properly called, a quorum does not appear at the specified time, then there shall be a waiting period of one hour and at the expiration of one hour the present delegates shall constitute a quorum and the Presidents' Conference shall commence at the previously designated location with the same agenda.
- h) All member organisations shall be notified in writing as to the time and place of the Conference by the Executive no less than fifteen days prior to the Conference.

8. ELECTION OF SUSK BODIES

8.01 Eligibility: The following individuals may qualify to hold offices in the bodies of SUSK:

- a) A member of SUSK clubs, associations and federations.
- b) Individuals who have received their last University degree not more than five years prior to their nomination.

8.02 Election Procedure:

- a) A Chairperson of the Congress shall accept individual nominations and/or slates from the floor.
- b) A nominee may decline at any time prior to the closing of nominations.
- c) Only a completed slate may be voted upon.
- d) The greatest number of votes will determine the election of a slate.
- e) In the event that an equal number of votes are cast, then a second ballot shall be taken.

9. Executive

9.01 Functions:

- a) The Executive shall guide all business of SUSK and shall enjoy all rights and privileges except those reserved specifically for the Congress, as set out in the Constitution.
- b) The Executive shall accept the recommendations of the Congress or Controlling Committee.
- c) The executive may engage professional staff.

9.02 Resignations and Appointments:

- a) In the event of a resignation of a member of a body of SUSK, the Executive may appoint a replacement.
- b) The Executive may, by two-thirds majority request that a member of the Executive resign from that position following 6 months continued failure to fulfill their responsibilities.

9.03 Meetings:

- a) The Executive shall convene at a time and place appointed by the President.
- b) A quorum required at a meeting will be the President and three members.

9.04 Voting:

- a) All business of the Executive shall be carried on by
1) A majority vote 11) in the event of an equal number of votes, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
- b) A duly executed Minute Book shall constitute valid proof of the passing of the Resolutions.

10. FINANCES

10.01 Dues:

Each member organisation shall pay a due in the amount of \$3.00 per year for each of its student members and a sum as allocated to each member organisation by the Congress.

10.02 Payment of Dues:

Such dues shall be paid in two installments: one by the end of the 2nd month following the Congress, and the second installment at least 3 months prior to the Congress or at the discretion of the National Executive and the Student Editorial Board.

10.03 Other Finances:

The Executive and the Finance Committee shall plan and realise other means of raising funds in order to satisfy the budget.

10.04 Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year shall extend from the date of closing of one Congress to the first day of the opening of the next Congress.

11. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

11.01 The Constitution may be amended only by:

- a) The Congress of SUSK.
- b) The Executive may pass by-laws, if necessary, to clarify particular sections of the Constitution, however, such by-laws cannot over-ride the Constitution.
- c) Matters of dispute not covered by the Constitution shall be resolved by the Executive in conjunction with the Controlling Committee.

11.02 Passing of Amendments:

Amendments may be passed only at the Congress by a two-third majority vote.

A quorum required at a meeting will be the President and three members.

9.04 Voting:

All business of the Executive shall be carried on by (1) A majority vote (2) In the event of an equal number of votes, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

A duly executed Minute Book shall constitute valid proof of the passing of the Resolutions.

10. FINANCES

10.01 Dues:

Each member organization shall pay a due in the amount of \$2.00 per year for each of its student members and a sum as allocated to each member organization by the Congress.

10.02 Payment of Dues:

Such dues shall be paid in two installments: one by the end of the 2nd month following the Congress, and the second installment at least 3 months prior to the Congress or at the discretion of the National Executive and the Student Editorial Board.

10.03 Other Finances:

The Executive and the Finance Committee shall plan and realize other means of raising funds in order to satisfy the budget.

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The fiscal year shall extend from the date of closing of one Congress to the first day of the opening of the next Congress.

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b) The Executive may pass by-laws, if necessary, to clarify particular sections of the Constitution, however, such by-laws cannot over-ride the Constitution.

c) Matters of dispute not covered by the Constitution shall be resolved by the Executive in conjunction with the Controlling Committee.