

## **Statute of Ethiopian Students' Union in Oslo, Norway**

### **Preamble**

We, Ethiopian Students in Oslo, Norway;

**Understanding** that the existence of an association is very essential to foster our relationship and exert a concerted effort to solve our common problems;

**Convinced** that the formation of an association creates the opportunity to exchange our academic experiences and to deliberate upon the national development of our home land;

**Recalling** our general meeting on November 12, 2006, where we agreed on the formation of the Ethiopian Students' Union in Oslo;

**Herby** agree on the following:

#### **1. Name of the Association**

The Association shall be known as Ethiopian Students' Union in Oslo.

#### **2. Address of the Association**

The address of the Association shall be Oslo, Norway.

#### **3. Definitions of Terms**

3.1. 'ESUO' shall mean the Ethiopian Students' Union of Oslo.

3.2. 'Statute' shall mean the Statute of the Ethiopian Students' Union.

3.3. 'Alumni' shall mean former graduates of the University of Oslo and other universities and colleges in and around Oslo.

3.4. 'Members' shall mean students at the University of Oslo and other Universities and colleges in and around Oslo unless specified otherwise.

3.5. 'Students' shall mean all Ethiopians enrolled at the university of Oslo and other Universities and colleges in and around Oslo including short term researchers.

- 3.6. 'Union' shall mean the ESUO.
- 3.7. 'Year' shall be read according to the Gregorian calendar

#### **4. Mission Statement**

ESUO, a non-profit and non-partisan association, shall have the following specific purposes:

- 4.1. Build up the cultural ties among Ethiopian students via:
  - 4.1.1 Assisting newly admitted Ethiopian students in the process of adapting to the new environment and organizing farewells for graduating students.
  - 4.1.2 Promoting the development of the various Ethiopian cultures.
  - 4.1.3 Celebrating the Ethiopian public holidays together.
  - 4.1.4 Facilitating excursions.
- 4.2. Contribute in the academic process via:
  - 4.2.1 Organizing forum for academic discussion and debate.
  - 4.2.2 Inviting guest speakers on various academic subjects.
  - 4.2.3 Exchanging academic materials and experience among the members.
- 4.3. Exchanging news and views among members via various information exchange mechanisms; such as website, bulletin, etc.
- 4.4. Deal with third parties in the name and behalf of its members in order to secure benefits and privileges in Norway and Ethiopia, whenever necessary.
- 4.5. Contribute to the national development endeavours in the home land.

#### **5. Structure of the ESUO**

ESUO comprises a General Assembly, Executive committee, an Auditor and the members of the Union.

**6. The General Assembly**

- 6.1. The General Assembly is the highest decision making organ of the Union.
- 6.2. The General Assembly shall consist of all members of the Union.
- 6.3. All officials of the Union are accountable to the General Assembly.
- 6.4. The General Assembly can impeach any official of the Union

**7. The Executive Committee**

- 7.1. The Executive Committee shall prepare annual action plan and present it in the beginning of the year to the general assembly for approval.
- 7.2. The Executive Committee shall execute the approved action plan and present biannual report to the General Assembly.
- 7.3. The Executive Committee shall assign various sub-committees to carry on different tasks in the fulfilment of the mission of the Union.
- 7.4. Members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of seven members, namely the president, the vice president, the secretary, the public relations officer, the treasurer, the accountant and a member all of whom shall serve the Union on a pro bono basis.

*7.4.1 The President*

- 7.4.1.1 Shall act as the representative of the Union.
- 7.4.1.2 Shall open the meeting of the General Assembly.
- 7.4.1.3 Shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.
- 7.4.1.4 Shall submit a periodic report to the General Assembly on the work accomplished and plans as well as proposals of the executive committee.
- 7.4.1.5 Shall sign off all invoices covering expenditures of the Union together with the Accountant.

7.4.2 *The Vice-President*

7.4.2.1 Shall supervise all sub-committees established by the Executive Committee

7.4.2.2 Shall perform the duties of the president in his absence.

7.4.2.3 Shall act as a representative of the Union at the request of the President.

7.4.3 *The Secretary*

7.4.3.1 Shall record the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee as well as the General Assembly.

7.4.3.2 Shall send the approved minutes to the public relations officer.

7.4.3.3 Shall keep files, records and all documents of the Union in their good order.

7.4.4 *The Treasurer*

7.4.4.1 Shall collect a monthly membership payment from members.

7.4.4.2 Shall keep the treasury of the association in order with the utmost good faith and honesty.

7.4.4.3 Shall pay all invoices covering expenditures of the Union upon approval of the Executive Committee and sign off by the President and Accountant.

7.4.5 *The Accountant*

7.4.5.1 Shall submit a regular financial report to the Executive Committee twice in a year with 6 months interval.

7.4.5.2 Shall sign off all invoices covering expenditures of the Union together with the President.

7.4.5.3 Shall prepare and maintain proper accounting system of the Union

7.4.6 *The Public Relations Officer*

7.4.6.1 Shall facilitate the communication between members and the Executive Committee.

7.4.6.2 Shall run the communication outlets of the Union such as its website.

7.4.6.3 Shall establish and maintain good relation between the Union and other institutions.

7.4.6.4 Shall publicise the minutes of the Assembly and Executive Committee meetings to the members of the Union.

7.4.6.5 Shall sensitise and popularise the Union

**8. *Members***

8.1. The ESUO shall be open to three classes of membership. The primary membership of the ESUO consists of Ethiopian students at the University of Oslo and other universities and colleges in and around Oslo. Family members of members residing in and around Oslo and alumni can become associate members. The General Assembly of the ESUO may confer honorary membership to those who support the activities of the Union.

8.2. Rights and duties of members

8.2.1 Every member has the right to elect or be elected for any office of the Executive Committee.

8.2.2 Ten percent or more members may propose an activity to the Executive Committee which will vote for the inclusion of the event in the ESUO action plan. Members proposing an activity shall take part in the proposed activity pursuant to their suggestion.

8.2.3 Each member shall pay a monthly payment and other contributions whose amount would be determined by the General Assembly.

8.2.4 Every member shall attend the General Assembly meetings of the Union up on the notification by the Executive Committee.

8.2.5 Every member shall carry out any piece of work assigned by the Executive Committee for the completion of an activity included in the action plan of the association.

8.2.6 Successive failures to implement the duties specified in this constitution may result in suspension of membership unless there is good cause.

### 8.3. Associate members

8.3.1 Family members of members of the ESUO and alumni can become associate members.

8.3.2 Associate members have the right to attend meetings of the General Assembly. However, they do not have the right to elect and be elected for any office of the ESUO.

8.3.3 Associate members have the right to participate in all events of the ESUO.

8.3.4 Associate members shall be bound to pay contributions other than membership fee.

### 8.4. Honorary Members

The Executive Committee can nominate any person to be an honorary member of the ESUO. The nomination shall be approved by two third majority vote of the General Assembly. Honorary members have the right to attend the General Assembly meeting of the Union. However they are not eligible to vote in the General Assembly, elect or be elected for any office of the Union. Honorary members shall not be bound to pay membership fee. They shall, however, pay contributions for the special events that they want to attend.

## **9. Auditor**

There shall be an auditor of the Union to inspect all activities of the Executive Committee every six months or any time at the request of the General Assembly. The Auditor shall report his/her findings to the General Assembly during ordinary sessions.

## **10. Election**

- 10.1. All members of the Executive Committee and the Auditor of the Union shall be elected by the first meeting of the General Assembly at the beginning of each year.
- 10.2. An election committee shall be established to run elections.
- 10.3. Election shall be by secret ballot of the majority vote of the members of the General Assembly.
- 10.4. Vacancies in elected offices may be filled for the remainder of the term by the President with approval from the Executive Committee
- 10.5. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected only from student members of the Union.
- 10.6. All Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of one year. An Executive Committee member can be elected for a maximum of two terms.

## **11. Meetings**

- 11.1. General Assembly Meetings
  - 11.1.1 The General Assembly shall hold its ordinary meetings twice each year in six months interval.
  - 11.1.2 The quorum for any session of the General Assembly shall be majority of its members eligible to vote.
  - 11.1.3 The provisional agenda of an ordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee. Voting members of the General Assembly can propose their own agenda items for the ordinary meeting.
  - 11.1.4 An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly can be called by the Executive Committee. In such cases the agenda shall be set by the Executive Committee. The request for an extraordinary meeting shall be notified to all members 7 days before the meeting.
  - 11.1.5 The General Assembly shall take its decisions by consensus or, failing which, by a two-thirds majority of the members present in a session.

11.2. Executive Committee

11.2.1 The Executive Committee shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

11.3. Venue

The venue of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

**12. Impeachment**

12.1. Any elected official of the Executive Committee is subject to removal from his/her official position if she/ he fails to observe the rules of this statute.

12.2. Failure to observe the norms and interests of the Union on the part of any official can be reported to the Executive Committee by any member of the Union.

12.3. The Executive Committee together with the Auditor shall make preliminary evaluation if there was transgression of the norms of the Union.

12.4. The Executive Committee and the Auditor shall present their findings to the General Assembly if they believe that there was transgression of the norms of the Union. Such decision shall include the Auditor and shall be made by vote of simple majority.

12.5. The General Assembly can make its own independent investigation based on the preliminary report from the Executive Committee and the Auditor. If it is proved that there was transgression of the norms of the Union, the General Assembly can remove the official with 2/3 majority vote.

**13. Withdrawal of Membership**

Any member of the Union can withdraw his/her membership upon written notification to the President or vice-president of the Union.

**14. Amendment**

This statute may be amended by a two-third majority vote of members of the General Assembly eligible to vote.

**15. Dissolution**

15.1. Dissolution of the Union shall be decided upon the approval of the two-third vote of members of the General Assembly eligible to vote.

15.2. In case of dissolution, the Executive Committee shall propose ways of distribution of the assets and carry out the distribution to members of the Union upon the approval of the General Assembly.

**16. Miscellaneous**

16.1. The Executive committee shall work with the authorities of the University of Oslo and other relevant institutions to get ESUO registered and acquire all benefits of available for student organizations.

16.2. 16.2 This Statute shall have an Amharic copy. The English copy shall be the authoritative text.

**17. Effective date**

This Statute of ESUO shall come into force as of April 23, 2007.