



SASCO CONSTITUTION

**AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED BY THE 23RD
NATIONAL CONGRESS AT THE THOBI KULA
MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE, EASTERN CAPE - 2024**

Preamble:

Whereas we the students of South Africa, realizing that we are members of the community before we are students, and committing ourselves to a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society free of exploitation and national oppression in which harmony amongst people will prevail, find it necessary to articulate the aspirations of the oppressed, progressive and democratic minded and historically oppressed in a united manner and therefore determined:

1. *To organize students to work towards the transformation of education*
2. *to organize students to play a meaningful role in the transformation of South African Society, the Southern African Region, the African Continent and the International Community.*

1. Section One: Name

The Name of the organization shall be the **South African Students Congress** herein referred to as **SASCO**.

2. Section Two: Colors and Symbols

2.1. The **Colors** of the Organization Shall be **Red, Green, Black** and **Gold**.

2.2. The **Emblem** of the Organization shall be a **Red Circle, a Green African Continent, a Book and a Black hand holding a pen**, in that sequence. The Emblem shall be round shaped and ringed with red colors with the gold color on the continent, a book and a black hand holding a pen.

3. Section Three: Status

3.1. The South African Students Congress shall be a legal persona with perpetual succession and power, apart from its individual members, to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements, and do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives and defend its members, its property and reputation.

3.2. The organizational control and programs of SASCO shall rest in the SASCO membership and structures in accordance with its constitution.

3.3. The organization shall operate at National, Provincial, Regional and Branch level.

4. Section Four: Principles

4.1. The following shall be the principles of SASCO and shall always guide its deliberations

including its policies, campaigns and operations and processes.

- a. *Democracy*
- b. *Non Racialism*
- c. *Non Sexism*
- d. *African Leadership*
- e. *Working Class Leadership*
- f. *Academic excellence*

5. Section Five

5.1. Aims and Objectives

- a. Strive to rally students of our country to support and unite behind SASCO and actively participate in the struggle and programs to create a non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous society;
- b. Promote unity, patriotism and the spirit of internationalism amongst students;
- c. Champion the General interests and Rights of Students in the socio economic and political life of the country and nation;
- d. Strive to work for the educational, moral and cultural upliftment of students, without any intention of making profit.
- e. To unite all South Africans and to forge an understanding and practice of non-racism, non-sexism, and democracy in this process;
- f. To take up the demands of students of South Africa be they social, political, economic or educational;
- g. To forge links with all relevant organizations concerned with the liberation of the oppressed and exploited people of South Africa, in the continent and World;
- h. To strive for a democratic, unitary and non-sexist education system that will prepare all South Africans to partake to the fullest in the building of a democratic society;
- i. To strive for the liberation of South African Women and to struggle against the oppression and exploitation of women and build women leadership.

6. Section Six: Membership

- 6.1. Membership shall be open to all registered students at institutions of higher learning and further education and training, public and private as decided by Congress, regardless of nationality, race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, on condition that such shall adhere to the

principles, discipline and mode of operation of the organization;

- 6.2. Membership shall be confirmed annually in accordance with the academic term;
- 6.3. All members shall be issued with membership cards on payment of an affiliation fee, such affiliation fee shall be payable annually;
- 6.4. The members shall be expected to pay the subscription fee as determined by National Congress;
- 6.5. All members shall upon being accepted into the ranks of the organization solemnly declare their readiness and willingness to serve the organization;
- 6.6. Dual or multiple memberships by individuals shall be welcomed provided the policies and programs of the said organization, to which a member belongs to or may wish to belong to are not hostile to those of the organization;
- 6.7. No person shall occupy any executive position or represent the organization on any structure unless s/he is a registered student in a public or private higher education or further education and training institution.

7. Section Seven: Rights and Obligations

7.1. Every member of the Organization has the right to:

- a. Take part in the discussion and formulation of SASCO policy,
- b. Be elected to any committee, commission or delegation of the organization,
- c. Submit proposals or statements to the branch on any matter that affects the organization, students and society in general,
- d. Engage in constructive criticism and self-criticism,
- e. Protection against any harassment, victimization, and or discrimination based on race ethnicity, regionalism, sex or creed,
- f. Actively participate in the designated activities of the organization

7.2. All members shall be obliged to:

- a. Pledge their unswerving loyalty to the organization and place them under its overall discipline,
- b. Carry out decisions, duties and directives with diligence,
- c. Organize, participate and contribute positively to all SASCO activities and/or programs and to contribute to the strengthening of its organic unity,
- d. Rally all students to support and unite behind SASCO and actively participate in the

- creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa,
- e. Combat all forms of tribalism, regionalism and nepotism and any other forms of discrimination based on sex and race and as well as combating factionalism and malicious gossip within our ranks.

8. Section Eight: Subscriptions

- 8.1. Every person on becoming a member of the organization shall pay the subscription fee, as determined by the National Congress.
- 8.2. Every member should renew his/her membership every academic year and pay the membership fee
- 8.3. No person shall occupy any executive position on any structure of the organization unless she/he paid his or her membership fee,
- 8.4. No person shall be able to represent the organization or vote on any of its policies unless he/she has paid the subscription fee.

9. Section Nine: National Congress

9.1. The NC shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Shall be the highest decision-making body of the South African Students Congress,
- b. Shall receives and consider reports of the National Executive Committee, which shall be presented by the President (**Political report**), Secretary General (**Organizational report**) and Treasurer General (**Audited Financial report**), deliberate on the policies and programs of the organization,
- c. Shall have the power to elect or appoint any commission or committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission, committee or individual(s) as the case may be,
- d. Shall have the power to confer honors, associate membership, decorations and awards on members, organizations or individuals in appreciation or recognition of their role in the work of the South African Students in particular and society in general.
- e. It shall ratify the decisions taken by NPC and NGC on policy issues

10. Section Ten: National General Council (NGC)

10.1. The NGC shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. It shall be convened post- National Policy Conference In between National Congresses
- b. It shall assess the state of the organization and any matter that desires the attention of the organization,
- c. It shall receive the following reports:
 - i. A political report presented by the President.
 - ii. An organizational report and NPC resolutions presented by the Secretary General.
 - iii. A financial report presented by the Treasurer General.
- d. It shall assess and develop the implementation methods of the adopted NPC resolutions.
- e. The NGC shall sit when convened by the NEC or when demanded by at least by two thirds majority of SASCO Provinces, in writing to the office of the Secretary General.

11. Section Eleven: National Policy Conference (NPC)

11.1. The NPC shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. It shall be convened in between National Congresses.
- b. It shall have the powers to deliberate, develop and amend the organizational policies.
- c. It shall receive the three following reports.
 - i. A political report presented by the President.
 - ii. A consolidated report from Provincial Policy Conferences (PPCs) presented by the Secretary General.
 - iii. A financial report presented by the Treasurer General
- d. It shall sit when convened by the NEC or when demanded by at least two thirds majority of provinces in writing to the office of the Secretary General.

12. Section Twelve: National Executive Committee (NEC)

- 12.1. The National Executive committee shall be comprised of the following portfolios that would be filled through direct elections during the National Congress.
- a. President
 - b. Deputy President
 - c. Secretary General
 - d. 1st Deputy Secretary General

- e. 2nd Deputy Secretary General
 - f. Treasurer General
 - g. Twelve (12) additional members
- 12.2. The NC or NEC may annually determine whether any of the portfolios shall be designated full-time officials, incumbent and personnel of the organization,
- 12.3. Provincial Chairpersons and Provincial Secretaries shall be ex officio members of the NEC and shall perform any task as mandated by the NEC or NWC, where a need arises.
- 12.4. The NEC in its first meeting shall allocate portfolios to additional members, such portfolios would be at the discretion of the NEC but must include Communication and Publicity, Political Education and Training, International Relations, Gender, and Campaigns

13. Section Thirteen: Duties and powers of the National Executive Committee:

- 13.1. The NEC shall be the highest decision taking organ of SASCO in between the NC and NGC. It has also the authority to lead the organization, in line with the instructions of this Constitution.
- 13.2. Shall implement the decisions and instructions of the NC and NGC.
- 13.3. Shall ensure that the Provincial, Regional and Branch structures of the organization function democratically and effectively.
- 13.4. The NEC may by absolute majority of its members present and voting in a meeting, suspend or dissolve a PEC, where the PEC fail to comply with the Constitution.
- 13.5. Shall manage and control all the assets of the organization.
- 13.6. Shall receive reports from Provinces and generally supervise the work of the organization and delegate such function to the NWC, as it considers necessary.
- 13.7. Where a need arises the NEC may decide on other NEC Officials, outside the Secretary General, that should be full time in the organization.
- 13.8. The NEC shall decide on which branches of the organization qualify, to be declared special branches. Such special branches shall be required to have at least 25 members in order to constitute a branch.

14. Section Fourteen: National Working Committee (NWC)

- 14.1. ***Composition:***

- a. The President, Deputy President, Secretary General, 1st Deputy Secretary General, 2nd Deputy Secretary General Treasurer General and other four members of NEC elected in the first meeting of the NEC shall form the NWC.

14.2. *The NWC shall have the following powers and duties:*

- a. Carry out decisions and instructions of the NEC,
- b. Ensure communication between provinces and the NEC,
- c. Submit reports at each NEC meeting,
- d. Coordinate and execute the day-to-day administrative tasks of the organization,
- e. Head Office Staff on invitation by Secretary General shall also sit in the NWC meetings.
- f. The NWC may in consultation with the NEC establish working groups or committees to assist them with their tasks.

15. Section Fifteen: Meetings of NEC and NWC

15.1. *The NEC meeting shall sit when;*

- a. Convened by the Secretary General in consultation with the President. or
- b. Requested by the NWC. or
- c. Requested by at least two thirds majority of NEC members in writing to the Secretary General. or
- d. The President in consultation with NWC members shall convene a special NEC meeting on seventy- two-hour notice.

15.2. *The NWC meeting shall sit when:*

- a. Convened by the Secretary General in consultation with the President or
- b. Requested by at least two thirds majority of NWC members in writing to the Secretary General or
- c. The NWC shall sit at least once in every month.
- d. Convened by the President in consultation with NEC Officials.

16. Section Sixteen: Duties and functions of the Officials

16.1. President:

- a. Shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Organization,

- b. Shall issue statements on behalf of the organization and represent it whenever necessary,
- c. Shall preside at meetings of the NEC and NWC.
- d. Shall be a full member of all standing committees of the NEC.
- e. Shall be the signatory to financial transactions of the Organization
- f. Shall have the final say in the organization, the summary of the president, in line with the discussions of that meeting, shall be the final resolution.

16.2. Deputy President:

- a. Shall deputize the President and carry out whatever functions or duties entrusted to him/her by the NC, NGC, President, NEC or NWC
- b. Shall head, co-ordinate and lobby for SASCO policy within government and at all levels
- c. Shall be responsible for disciplinary matters and the implementation of the disciplinary code of SASCO.
- d. Shall in the event of permanent unavailability or permanent incapacity of the President assume all the functions and duties of the President until the NC or NGC elect new President.
- e. In the event of permanent unavailability or permanent incapacity of the President and Deputy President, the NEC shall appoint an Acting President amongst NEC members in its next meeting, until the NC or NGC elect new President. The Secretary General shall assume all functions and duties of the President until the next meeting.

16.3. Secretary General:

- a. Shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization on a full-time basis,
- b. Shall keep a register of all members, branches and associate members,
- c. Shall conduct leadership and membership audit annually'
- d. Shall establish the rules and head the monitoring and evaluation committee.
- e. Shall be responsible for correspondence to and from the organization
- f. Shall keep minutes of all NC, NPC's, NGC's, NEC's, NWC's and any other special meetings,
- g. Shall liaise with other bodies for the purpose of establishing and improving relations,
- h. Shall constitute standing Committees and delegate specific functions whenever necessary and draw up standing rules for standing committees,
- i. Shall co-ordinate all NEC Meetings.

- j. Shall be a signatory to financial transactions of the Organization.
- k. The Secretary General shall be a full member of all standing committees
- l. Shall in the event whereby the President and Deputy President are not available to carry out their duties, assume the duties of the President and the Deputy President.

16.4. 1st Deputy Secretary General

- a. Shall deputize the Secretary General and carry out duties and functions given to him/her by the NC, NGC, NEC, NWC or Secretary General
- b. Shall be responsible for the monitoring, assessment and evaluation of performance of all structures of SASCO.
- c. Shall report to the Secretary General on a monthly basis

16.5. 2nd Deputy Secretary General

- a. Shall be responsible for monitoring, assessment and evaluation of the performance of all employees to governance structures.
- b. Shall report to the Secretary General on a monthly basis

16.6. Treasurer General:

- a. Shall liaise with the NEC and all PEC treasurers to ensure the financial coordination of the organization,
- b. Shall open and operate banking accounts, in consultation with the President and Secretary General
- c. Shall be the Head of the Finance Committee of the Organization, which shall also be composed of the President, Secretary General and any other member of the NEC who is not a member of the NWC.
- d. Shall disburse and issue out monies for organizational projects and for any purpose approved by the NEC or NWC and receive any money as may be due to the organization,
- e. Shall keep records of all such applications and whenever necessary produce an income and expenditure statement at an interval period of every three months,
- f. Shall summon, if necessary a meeting of all Provincial Treasurers of the organization to discuss any financial aspect,
- g. Shall draw up an annual budget of the organization to be presented to the NEC for

approval

- h. Shall draw and prepare a financial statement of the organization and such be audited before presentation to the NC.
- i. Shall be responsible for all the income and expenditure of the Organization
- j. Shall be a signatory to all financial transactions of the Organization.

17. Section Seventeen: Co-options to the NEC

- 17.1. The NEC during its term of office may by absolute majority of its members present and voting in the meeting co-opt not more than three additional members, at any time in order to provide a balanced representation that will reflect the character of the South African students.
- 17.2. Should a vacancy occur in the NEC for whatever reason, the NEC shall by absolute majority of its members present and voting in the meeting fill the vacancy by appointing a replacement. Such appointments must not exceed four.

18. Section Eighteen: Term of Office of the NEC

- 18.1. The NEC shall be elected once in every three (3) years at the NC

19. Section Nineteen: Provinces

- 19.1. The demarcation of Provinces shall be conformed in line with the provincial demarcation as provided in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

20. Section Twenty: Provincial Congress.

- 20.1. ***The PC shall have the following powers and duties:***
 - a. Shall be the highest decision taking organ in the Province, but subjected to the National Congress and complete guidance of the NEC.
 - b. Shall receive and consider reports of the PEC, which shall be presented by the Provincial Chairperson (Political report), Secretary (Organizational report) and Treasurer (Financial report).

- c. Shall deliberate on proposed policies and make a recommendation to the NC.
- d. Shall have the powers to elect the PEC.
- e. May appoint any commission or committee or individual(s) with specific guidelines.
- f. The PC shall be attended by the branches, REC and PEC.
- g. Shall promote and implement the decisions and policies of the National Congress, NEC or NWC.

21. Section Twenty-One: Provincial General Council

- 21.1. The PGC shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. The PGC shall be comprised of representatives from branches, REC's and PEC.
 - b. The PGC shall be convened post- Provincial Policy Conference in between Provincial Congresses.
 - c. The PGC shall develop and review a program of action emanating from Provincial Policy Conference and make recommendations to the NGC or NC.
 - d. It has powers to fill any vacant portfolios and elect a new PEC where necessary.
 - e. It shall consider the three following reports:
 - f. A political report presented by Provincial Chairperson.
 - g. An organizational update and PPC resolutions presented by Provincial Secretary.
 - h. A financial report presented by Provincial Treasurer.
 - i. The PGC may discuss and decide on any issue it deems necessary, including any other matter brought before it by the PEC and may decide on any issue falling within its jurisdictions, subjected always to the policies and directives of the National Congress, NGC, Provincial Congress or NEC.
 - j. The PGC shall sit when convened by the PEC or upon demand by two thirds majority of branches in the province, in writing to the Provincial Secretary.

22. Section Twenty-Two Provincial Policy Conference

- 22.1. The PPC shall have the following powers:
 - a. It shall convene in between Provincial Congresses.
 - b. It shall have the powers to deliberate and develop organizational polices that align to Provincial political matters in, particular and National political matters in general; and

make recommendations to National Policy Conference.

- c. It shall receive the three following reports.
 - i. A political report presented by the Provincial Chairperson
 - ii. A consolidated report from Regional Policy Conferences (RPCs) by the Provincial Secretary.
 - iii. A financial report presented by Provincial Treasurer
- d. It shall sit when convened by the PEC or demanded by at least two thirds majority of branches in the Province, in writing to the Provincial Secretary.

23. Section Twenty-Three Provincial Executive Committee.

23.1. It shall consist of the following members:

- a. Chairperson
- b. Deputy Chairperson
- c. Provincial Secretary
- d. Deputy Provincial secretary
- e. Provincial Treasurer
- f. Nine (9) additional members

23.2. Regional Chairpersons and Regional Secretaries shall be ex officio members of the PEC.

23.3. PWC Composed of the Provincial Chairperson, Deputy Provincial Chairperson, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Deputy Secretary, Provincial Treasurer and three (3) PEC members elected in the first PEC meeting.

23.4. The PEC may by absolute majority of its members present and voting in a meeting, suspend or dissolve a REC and/or BEC, where the REC and/or BEC fail to comply with the Constitution.

24. Section Twenty-Four: Meetings of PEC and PWC

24.1. **The PEC meeting shall sit when;**

- a. Convened by the Provincial Secretary in consultation with the Provincial Chairperson. Or
- b. Requested by at least two third majority of PEC members in writing to the Provincial Secretary. Or

- c. Requested by PWC meeting.

24.2. The PWC meeting shall sit when;

- a. Convened by the Provincial Secretary in consultation with the Provincial Chairperson. Or
- b. Requested by at least two thirds majority of PWC members in writing to the Provincial Secretary. Or
- c. The PWC shall sit at least once in every month.

25. Section Twenty-Five: Co-options at the PEC

Should a vacancy occur on the PEC for whatever reason, the PEC shall have the powers to fill the vacancy by appointing a replacement. Such appointments must not exceed five.

26. Section Twenty-Six: Term of Office

The PEC shall be elected once in every year (1) years at the PC

27. Section Twenty-Seven: Regions: Regional Executive Committee

27.1. The Regional Executive Committee shall be constituted by:

- a. Chairperson
- b. Deputy Chairperson
- c. Regional Secretary
- d. Deputy Regional Secretary
- e. Treasurer
- f. Five (5) additional members.

27.2. In order for a region to exist it must be comprised of at least 10 branches.

27.3. Provincial Executive Committees must apply to the NEC for confirmation of Regions.

27.4. The NEC shall confirm the establishment regions, based in applications from the PEC.

27.5. The REC shall be an Executive and administrative body amongst branches that constitute it.

27.6. It shall be accountable to the PEC for its functioning and perform duties delegated to it

by the PEC. It shall carry out the policies and programs of the organization in the region and do all the things necessary to further the interest, aims and objectives of the organization.

- 27.7. Ensure launching of branches and establishment of a database on membership within its jurisdiction. Shall also request and receive reports from the branches.
- 27.8. It shall convene the Regional General Council at least once in between Regional Congress.
- 27.9. Carry out the decisions and instructions of the Provincial Congress, PGC, Regional Congress, RGC and PEC. Shall also submit reports to the PEC, Regional Congress or RGC as required on the state of the region and such matter as may be specified.
- 27.10. Branch chairpersons shall be ex officio members of the Regional Executive Committee.
- 27.11. The REC shall be elected once in every year at the Regional Congress

28. Section Twenty- Eight: Regional Policy Conference

The RPC shall have the following powers:

- 28.1. It shall convene in between Regional Congresses.
- 28.2. It shall have the powers to deliberate and develop organizational polices that align to Regional and Provincial political matters in, as well as National political matters in general; and make recommendations to National Policy Conference.
- 28.3. It shall receive the three following reports:
 - a. A political report presented by the Regional Chairperson.
 - b. A consolidated report from branch political schools (BPSs) by Regional Secretary.
 - c. A financial report presented by Provincial Treasurer
- 28.4. It shall be convened by the REC or by at least a simple majority of branches in writing to the Regional Secretary.

29. Section Twenty-Nine: Branches

- 29.1. A branch shall consist of at least 50 members or any such number as the NC may decide
- 29.2. There shall be a Branch Executive Committee (BEC) at each institution were a branch exists,
- 29.3. Each branch shall supervise all aspects of the activities of the organization within the area of its jurisdiction, subject to decisions of upper structures, policy positions and

resolutions of Congresses.

- 29.4. The Branch Executive Committee shall create a platform whereby members exercise their basic democratic rights to discuss and make recommendations on policy matters to the higher structures.
- 29.5. Each branch may submit to the REC, PEC PGC, PC, NEC, NGC or NC for consideration any recommendation concerning the organization,
- 29.6. The Branch Executive Committee shall be elected in the Branch Annual General Meeting and shall be comprised as follows:
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Deputy Chairperson
 - c. Branch Secretary
 - d. Branch Deputy Secretary
 - e. Branch Treasurer
 - f. Media and Publicity Secretary
 - g. Education and Transformation Officer
 - h. Projects and Campaigns Officer
 - i. Gender Officer
 - j. Political Education Officer
- 29.7. The BEC shall within seventy-two hours after its election meet and allocate tasks and functions among its members to enable it to carry out the day-to-day activities of the Branch.
- 29.8. The BEC shall meet at least once in every week.

30. Section Thirty: Branch General Meeting

- 30.1. The BGM shall be the highest decision taking body in between AGM's.
- 30.2. The BEC shall convene the BGM at least once in every month. Shall also submit an update on the state of the Branch to the Branch General meeting.
- 30.3. The BEC or any person assigned by the BEC shall give a political input in every BGM.
- 30.4. Shall ratify any co-option made by the BEC.

31. Section Thirty-One Branch Political School

- 31.1. The BPS shall have the following powers and duties
 - a. It shall be convened by the Branch Political Education officer in consultation with BEC

- b. It shall be convened pre- Regional Policy Conferences.
- c. It shall have the powers to generate, develop and consolidate a policy proposal to be ratified by Regional Policy conference.

32. Section Thirty-Two: Co-options to the BEC.

The BEC shall co-opt not more than four members to fill any vacancy. Such co-option shall be ratified by the BGM.

33. Section Thirty-Three: Discipline.

Discipline and conduct of members shall be regulated and governed herein by the Code of Conduct as adopted by the National Congress.

34. Section Thirty-Four: Quorum.

- 34.1. The quorum of the NGC and the NC shall be a two third majority. If within two hours of the appointed meeting time a quorum is not formed, the meeting shall be adjourned for not more than twenty -four hours. If at the lapse of the said time the quorum is not met, the NGC or NC shall continue provided at least five provinces are present at the meeting.
- 34.2. The quorum for all other structures shall be a simple majority. If a meeting does not quorate, it shall be adjourned for not more than four hours. If at the lapse of the said time the quorum is not reached, such a meeting shall continue provided one third majority of members is present at such a meeting.

35. Section Thirty-Five: Removal from office

- 35.1. An office bearer shall cease to hold office if or when:
 - a. He/she ceases to be a student in terms of section 6 (1)
 - b. He/she fails to comply with section 6 (2)
 - c. He/she resigns in writing to the office of Secretary/ General
 - d. If he/she is prosecuted and imprisoned for more than twelve months, without an option of fine.
 - e. NEC, PEC or BEC meeting may by absolute majority of its members present in a meeting suspend or demote from office any member or representative appointed by it upon the recommendation(s) of the disciplinary hearing. With regard to the BEC such a decision shall be ratified by the BGM.
 - f. He/she fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Organization without valid

reasons. Without a simple majority of members present and voting for such reasons to be valid.

36. Section Thirty-Six: Quota

There shall be a minimum of 50/50 gender representation in the NEC, PEC, REC and BEC

37. Section Thirty-Seven Elections.

37.1. NEC members shall be elected at the NC,

37.2. PEC members shall be elected at the PC

37.3. REC members shall be elected at the RC,

37.4. BEC members shall be elected at the Branch AGM.

38. Section Thirty-Eight Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)

38.1. The Functions of the IEC shall be:

- a. To oversee and administer the entire elections process,
- b. To ensure that the elections are free and fair,
- c. Have a final word in case of any allegations of fraud or any other behaviour that may jeopardize free and fair elections,
- d. Ensure that only branch delegates, REC's PEC's and NEC shall be the only eligible voters through established credentials at the beginning of Congress,
- e. Handle all Protests,
- f. Count and Confirm Elections Results.
- g. The IEC shall have the Chief Electoral Officer.
- h. For the NEC elections the Chief Electoral Officer shall submit the report of the elections at the first meeting of the NEC after the NC

38.2. Nominations to the NEC

- a. Nomination shall be by Provinces,
- b. In order for the nomination to be in the final list, it must be supported by at least four Provinces or,
- c. A name shall be on the final list if raised from the floor and supported by at least one third of delegates.

38.3. Nomination to the PEC

- a. Nomination shall be by Branches
- b. In order for the nomination to be on the final list, it must be supported by at least one third majority of the branches present at the PC or,
- c. A name shall be on the final list if raised from the floor and supported by at least one third majority of delegates.

38.4. Nomination to the REC

- a. Nomination shall be by Branches
- b. In order for the nomination to be on the final list, it must be supported by at least one third majority of delegates present at the RC
- c.

38.5. Nomination to the BEC

- a. Nomination shall be by members of the Branch
- b. In order for the nomination to stand it must be supported by at least one third majority of members present at the AGM

38.6. Balloting for the NEC

- a. There shall be two ballot papers
- b. The first ballot shall be for the President, Deputy President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Treasurer General,
- c. The second ballot shall be for the other additional members provided for in the constitution,
- d. Only members of the IEC and Provincial Secretaries shall be allowed at the voting and counting station/s, with the latter as observers
- e. After counting the Chief Electoral Officer shall announce the results during Congress.

38.7. Balloting for the PEC

- a. There shall be two ballot papers.
- b. The first ballot shall be for the Provincial Chairperson, Provincial Deputy Chairperson, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Deputy Secretary and Provincial Treasurer.
- c. The second ballot shall be for other additional members provided for in the Constitution.
- d. The Chief Electoral Officer shall after counting announce the results during PC.

39. Section Thirty-Nine: Voting.

39.1. Eligibility to vote:

- a. Voting at the NC shall be by delegates and the NEC
- b. Congress shall be attended by delegates democratically elected from BGM,
- c. Voting at the PC shall be by Branch delegates, REC and PEC,
- d. Voting at the branches shall be by branch members,
- e. Voting at all meetings shall be by show of hands unless the meeting decides otherwise,
- f. The term of office for elected members shall be one year for BEC, REC and PEC, the NEC shall be two years.
- g. Voting at the NC and PC shall be by branches existed not less than two months before the National or Provincial Congress.
- h. Voting at the NC and PC shall be proportional, guided by the number of members a branch has.
- i. Voting at the AGM shall be by members joined not less than four weeks before the AGM.

39.2. Eligibility to be elected

39.3. A person shall be elected into the BEC provided he/she joined the Organization four weeks before the AGM

39.4. A person shall be elected in to NEC, PEC and REC

- a. Provided she/he joined the Organization one year before the NC, PC or RC.
- b. Provided she/he has led in a BEC for a full term of office.

40. Section Forty Protests

40.1. Any Protest regarding the elections must be handed in writing to the IEC within twenty - four hours of the announcement of the elections results,

40.2. Protests must have the support of at least one third of branches present at the NC or PC.

40.3. The Chief Electoral Officer shall have the final decision on any protest.

40.4. In case of a successful protest, new elections shall be held within twelve hours.

41. Section Forty-One: Headquarters.

The site for the National Headquarters of the organization shall be determined by the NEC and endorsed by the National Congress.

42. Section Forty-Two: Alumni and Convocation

There shall be Alumni and Convocation of the organization.

43. Section Forty-Three: Amendment to the Constitution

Any amendment to this constitution shall be submitted to National Congress for consideration and shall be passed by a two-thirds majority vote.

44. Section Forty-Four: Dissolution

- a. The National Congress of the South African Students Congress shall be entitled to decide on the dissolution of the organization. Such a decision shall be subjected to adoption or rejection at the National Congress by two-thirds vote.
- b. Upon dissolution or winding up, the assets of the organization, remaining after satisfaction of all its liabilities shall be entrusted in the hands of any person as decided by Congress for disposal.

45. Section Forty-Five: Structure of the South African Students Congress shall be as follows:

- 45.1. National Congress
- 45.2. National General Council
- 45.3. National Executive Committee
- 45.4. National Working Committee
- 45.5. Provincial Congress
- 45.6. Provincial General Council
- 45.7. Provincial Executive Committee
- 45.8. Provincial Working Committee
- 45.9. Regional Congress

- 45.10. Regional Executive Committee
- 45.11. Branch Annual General Meeting
- 45.12. Branch Executive Committee
- 45.13. Branch General Meeting

46. Section Forty-Six: Definition Clause

Explanation of the terms used in the Constitution.

- 46.1. SASCO shall mean the South African Students' Congress
- 46.2. NC shall mean the National Congress
- 46.3. NGC shall mean the National General Council
- 46.4. NPC shall mean National Policy Conference
- 46.5. NEC shall mean the National Executive Committee
- 46.6. NWC shall mean the National Working Committee
- 46.7. PC shall mean the Provincial Congress
- 46.8. PGC shall mean the Provincial General Council
- 46.9. PPC shall mean Provincial Policy Conference
- 46.10. PEC shall mean the Provincial Executive Committee
- 46.11. PWC shall mean the Provincial Working Committee
- 46.12. RC shall mean the Regional Congress
- 46.13. REC shall mean the Regional Executive Committee
- 46.14. RPC shall mean Regional Policy Conference
- 46.15. AGM shall mean Annual General Meeting
- 46.16. BEC shall mean the Branch Executive Committee
- 46.17. BGM shall mean the Branch General Meeting
- 46.18. BPS shall mean Branch Political School
- 46.19. Ex officio member shall mean a member without voting powers
- 46.20. Simple majority shall mean fifty plus one
- 46.21. One third majority shall mean 33%
- 46.22. Two thirds majority shall mean 66%
- 46.23. Absolute majority shall mean two third majorities

- 46.24. IEC shall mean the Independent Electoral Commission
- 46.25. SASCO member shall mean any registered student who has paid the subscription fee
- 46.26. Delegate shall mean any person who is having voting power

South African Students Congress

Code of Conduct

Annexure to the Constitution

1. Introduction

- SASCO is an independent student organisation of South Africa pursuing tertiary education and further education and training transformation, in order to meet its aims and objectives, all its members have voluntarily joined accepting its common discipline,
- The basic rights and duties of all members are therefore set out in the Constitution,
- This document must therefore be seen as complementing and reinforcing rather than replacing or modifying the fundamental principles of the organisation as stated in the Constitution,
- The Code of Conduct seeks to create our own standards based on the traditions of our struggle in line with our strategic objectives and convictions,
- This is a document which by its nature needs to be studied and understood by the whole membership, for in last resort, it is higher political consciousness and the voluntary assumption of rights and duties by the members, which lies at the heart of the discipline of our members and Cadres.

2. Objectives of the Code of Conduct

1. Promote and protect the principles of the Organisation
2. Promote and defend the rights of SASCO members
3. Ensure the creation of a just and fair procedure for members
4. Afford an opportunity for members to defend themselves
5. Ensure that every member of SASCO is presumed innocent until proven guilty

3. Classification of offences

3.1. Grave offences against the organisation

- a. Any offence aimed at destroying the integrity of the organisation, its personnel, property, or its fighting capacity, shall be considered a grave offence.
- b. A grave offence shall be committed by a person who inter alia:

3.2. With intent to destroy the integrity of the organisation, its personnel, property or its fighting capacity:

- a. Sabotages the activities of the organisation,
- b. Creates divisions within the ranks of the organisation,
- c. Impair its proper functioning,

- d. Attacks or threatens to attack or put in jeopardy its personnel, property, and programmes,
- e. Does anything or act in a calculated manner deemed to undermine its effectiveness as an organisation, f. Sexual Violence.

2.3 Infiltrate the organisation acting on behalf or in collaboration with:

- a. Other organisations, groups or person hostile to the policies and principles of SASCO,
- b. Any person or group who wishes to destroy the organisation or prevent it from fulfilling its set aims and objectives.

3. Serious Offences

1. Any violation of the principles of the organization and standards of behaviour expected of members, which seriously threatens the safety, property, good name of SASCO or which impedes its functions, or which relates or is calculated to create disunity and demoralization amongst its members, shall be considered a serious offence.

2. Such Offences shall include:

- 1. Acting in a manner that exposes members to serious harm or death,
- 2. Deliberately destroying the property of the organisation or recklessly exposing it to danger,
- 3. Behaving dishonestly in respect of the property of the organisation,
- 4. Carelessly passing information that may be of substantial use to the opponents of the organisation,
- 5. Espionage,
- 6. Accepting or seeking to accept any illicit reward for performing or not performing any task(s) on behalf of the organisation,
- 7. Abusing office by using one position to obtain material or sexual favours or other undue advantages from members or other persons,
- 8. Fighting or behaving in a grossly disorderly or unruly manner,
- 9. Dealing in and consuming drugs,
- 10. Persistently sowing racial, tribalism, regionalism and sexism in the organisation,
- 11. Behaving in such a way as to provide serious divisions and a break down of unity in the organisation,
- 12. Sexually assaulting or in any other way seriously offending the dignity of members,
- 13. Persistently and without cause undermining the respect for or impeding the functioning of the structures of the organisation,
- 14. Engaging in organized factional activity that goes outside the recognized norms of free debate in a manner that threatens the unity of the organisation

4. Violations of Discipline

1. Any person who acts in a uncomradely fashion or manner and breaches the standard of conduct normally expected of members, and whose behaviour is not so serious to constitute a grave offence, shall be guilty of violation of discipline,

2. In addition to all the forms of misconduct mentioned in this code of conduct and other official documents of the organisation, violation of discipline shall include:

- a. Rowdy and aggressive behaviour,
- b. Abusive and disrespectful behaviour to other comrades,
- c. Gossiping maliciously to set comrades against each other,
- d. Carelessness in relation to the property of the organisation,
- e. Interfering and disrupting the orderly functioning of the organisation
- f. Any negligent behaviour that harms or threatens to harm the organisation and or its members

5. General Guiding Principles for Classifying Offences and Violations of the Code of Conduct:

1. The difference between a grave offence and serious offence lie in the degree to which the offender(s) conduct is directed towards destroying, subverting, neutralizing the effectiveness of the organisation,
2. The difference between a serious offence and a violation of discipline lie in the degree of intent of the offender, the extent of the actual and or potential harm to the organisation, the extent of the repetition and what would normally be regarded as a breach of discipline.

6. Schedule of Penalties

1. Should one be found guilty of a grave or serious offence or violation of discipline, **the following shall be the sentences available;**

- a. Re deployment,
- b. Demotion,
- c. Deposition,
- d. Temporary forfeiture of membership rights,
- e. Suspension,
- f. Expulsion.

7. Disciplinary Procedure

1. Adjudicating Bodies

Branches:

- a. A complainant shall lay a charge in writing with the Secretary of the Branch, who shall bring such a complaint to the attention of the BEC.
- b. The BEC shall after reading such a complaint decide whether to refer the issue to the Branch Disciplinary Committee or not.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee, through the DC coordinator, shall in writing notify the respondent about the complaint raised against him/her.

- d. The Disciplinary Committee shall in writing, through the DC coordinator, notify all the parties involved about the date, venue and time of the hearing.
- e. After hearing all the parties involved and or interacting with whatever evidence, the Disciplinary Committee shall recommend to the BEC on the penalty to be delivered.
- f. The BEC shall by simple majority of its BEC members take or reject the Disciplinary Committee's recommendations. In case of a rejection the BEC through the Secretary of the branch, must in writing provide reasons for such a rejection to the Disciplinary Committee.
- g. In case the BEC takes or adopt such recommendations, the issue shall be referred to the Branch General Meeting for ratification. In case the recommendation involves expulsion, the issue shall be referred to the National Congress.
- h. The executive committee of a branch shall appoint a Disciplinary committee of five, which shall be chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of the Branch. Three of the five must be none BEC members. Â Â

Regions:

- a. A complainant shall lay a charge in writing with the Regional Secretary, who shall bring such a complaint to the attention of the REC.
- b. The REC shall after reading such a complaint decide whether to refer the issue to the Regional Disciplinary Committee or not.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee, through the DC coordinator, shall in writing notify the respondent about the complaint raised against him/her.
- d. The Disciplinary Committee shall in writing, through the DC coordinator, notify all the parties involved about the date, venue and time of the hearing.
- e. After hearing all the parties involved and or interacting with whatever evidence, the Disciplinary Committee shall recommend to the REC on the penalty to be delivered.
- f. The REC shall by simple majority of its REC members reject the Disciplinary Committee's (DC) recommendations – by absolute majority take the recommendations of the DC. In case of a rejection the REC through the Regional Secretary, must in writing provide reasons for such a rejection to the Disciplinary Committee.
- g. In case the REC takes or adopt such recommendations, the issue shall be referred to the Regional Congress for ratification. In case the recommendation involves expulsion, the issue shall be referred to the National Congress.
- h. The Regional Executive Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary committee of Five members, which shall be chaired by the Deputy Chairperson. Three of the five must be none REC members. Â Â
- i. The REC shall during the regional Congress, Council or Policy Conference constitute a Disciplinary Committee, which shall adjudicate matters arising during the meeting.

Provinces:

- a. A complainant shall lay a charge in writing with the Provincial Secretary, who shall bring such a complaint to the attention of the PEC.
- b. The PEC shall after reading such a complaint decide whether to refer the issue to the Provincial Disciplinary Committee or not.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee, through the DC coordinator, shall in writing notify the respondent about the complaint raised against him/her.
- d. The Disciplinary Committee shall in writing, through the DC coordinator, notify all the parties involved about the date, venue and time of the hearing.
- e. After hearing all the parties involved and or interacting with whatever evidence, the Disciplinary Committee shall recommend to the PEC on the penalty to be delivered.
- f. The PEC shall by simple majority of its PEC members reject the Disciplinary Committee's (DC) recommendations – by absolute majority take the recommendations of the DC. In case of a rejection the PEC through the Provincial Secretary, must in writing provide reasons for such a rejection to the Disciplinary Committee.
- g. In case the PEC takes or adopt such recommendations, the issue shall be referred to the Provincial Congress for ratification. In case the recommendation involves expulsion, the issue shall be referred to the National Congress.
- h. The Provincial Executive Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary committee of Five members, which shall be chaired by the Deputy Chairperson. Three of the five must be none PEC members. Â Â
- i. The PEC shall during the provincial Congress, Council or Policy Conference constitute a Disciplinary Committee, which shall adjudicate matters arising during the meeting.

National:

- a. A complainant shall lay a charge in writing with the Secretary General, who shall bring such a complaint to the attention of the NEC.
- b. The NEC shall after reading such a complaint decide whether to refer the issue to the National Disciplinary Committee or not.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee, through the DC coordinator, shall in writing notify the respondent about the complaint raised against him/her.
- d. The Disciplinary Committee shall in writing, through the DC coordinator, notify all the parties involved about the date, venue and time of the hearing.
- e. After hearing all the parties involved and or interacting with whatever evidence, the Disciplinary Committee shall recommend to the NEC on the penalty to be delivered.
- f. In case the NEC takes or adopt such recommendations, the issue shall be referred to the National Congress for ratification. In case the recommendation involves expulsion, the issue shall be referred to the National Congress.
- g. The NEC shall by simple majority of its NEC members reject the Disciplinary Committee's (DC) recommendations – by absolute majority take the recommendations of the DC. In case of a rejection the NEC through the Secretary General, must in writing provide reasons for such a rejection to the Disciplinary Committee.

- h. The National Executive Committee as per section 16 (3) (g) of the constitution, shall appoint a Disciplinary committee of six members, which shall be chaired by the Deputy President as per section 16 (2) (c). Three of the six must be non-NEC members. Â Â
- i. The NEC as per section 7 (1 of 4) (h) of the code of conduct, shall during the National Congress, Council or Policy Conference constitute a Disciplinary Committee, which shall adjudicate matters arising during the meeting.

2. Suspension

- a. When a member is suspended, the organ suspending him/her shall state the period, which shall not exceed one month and conditions of such suspension,
- b. In respect of serious offences, the period of suspension shall not exceed two months.

3. Reprimand

Reprimand shall be in public (in the presence of as many fellow members) here the organisations media apparatus shall be utilized if necessary or and appropriate. The objective of a reprimand shall not be to humiliate the person concern, but to remind him/her and the whole membership of the standards expected of members, and to reinforce a sense of unity and shared values in the organisation.

4. Demotion

A member who holds a position of responsibility in the organisation will be demoted if the continued holding of the position is indefensible owing to the conduct or failure to act or is in explicable or embarrassing because of a particular transgression.

5. Recommendations for Expulsion

A recommendation for expulsion for an offence classified as grave or serious lies within the power of the adjudicating body, but is to be ratified by National Congress

6. Right of Appeal

An accused or member who has been found guilty of a particular offence shall have a right of appeal to a senior organ. The National executive Committee shall be the Supreme Appeal Body in between Congresses. In case of the accused being an NEC member the Supreme Appellate Body in between Congresses shall be the National General Council.

7. The Branch Structure and its Powers over Violations of Discipline

The Branch Executive Committee shall be competent to deal with all categories of misconduct and impose appropriate penalties prescribed in this Code of Conduct with the exclusion of the penalties, which would amount to expulsion.