CHARTER
of
The Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars in the United States

A draft represented to the 2nd Congress of IFCSS for revision, June 21, 1990

CHAPTER I.
General Programme

Article 1. The Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars in the United States (IFCSS) is an organization coordinating the activities of all Chinese students and scholars in the United States.

Article 2. The Federation represents the wishes and works for the benefit of Chinese students and scholars in the United States. It is dedicated to the advancement of liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law in China.

Article 3. The Federation is a non-profit organization.

CHAPTER II.
The Membership

*__Article 4.__[†] The Federation consists of group members only. All the organizations of Chinese students and scholars which have registered in colleges, universities, research institutes or professional organizations in the U.S., approve the Charter, apply for membership, and pay dues are official members of the Federation.

Article 5. The Federation's membership are based on the colleges, universities, and research institutes in the United States.

Article 6. Each member institution reserves it's autonomous right and all the Federation members have equal representation(1 vote) and equal right of election.

CHAPTER III.
General Rule for Organization and Power Structure

*__Article 7.__ The organizational structure and authority of IFCSS consist of Federation Congress; All Members Vote Net; the President with Headquarters and working committees under his/her leadership; the Council and Supervisory Committee.

*__Article 8.__ IFCSS President, Vice-president, Council members and SVC members positions may not be hold concurrently.

*__Article 9.__ ALL IFCSS members are divided into 8 electoral regions. The 8 electoral regions are: East, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest, Northwest, Southwest, and Pacific (see Appendix).[1]

[†]Articles with revisions are marked with asterisk *.

CHAPTER IV.
Congress

*__Article 11.__ The IFCSS Congress is the highest power organ of IFCSS.

*__Article 12(A).__ The IFCSS Congress are formed by the representative group from each electoral region. Each representative group consists of 5 representatives elected directly by IFCSS members in the region. Each representative has 1 vote and the right to be elected.[2, 4]

*__Article 11(B).__ The IFCSS Congress are formed by the representatives sent from local independent organization of Chinese students and scholars in regional scale. Each electoral region send 5 representatives elected representing their region. Each representative has 1 vote and the right to be elected.[2, 4]

*__Article 12.__ The Congress ordinarily assemble once a year. If over a third of the Federation's membership so votes, an extraordinary Congress may be held.

Article 13. The purpose of the Congress is to hold elections for the President, Vice-president, Council, and Supervisory Committee; to establish and disband working committees; to approve the appointment of working committee chairpersons; and to debate and decide upon resolutions.

CHAPTER V.
All-Member-Vote-Net

*__Article 14.__ If one fifth of IFCSS members so move, A vote by all IFCSS members directly should be conducted. Each member shall cast their vote through postmail or fax to IFCSS HQ.

*__Article 15.__ The direct vote will be handed by a group consisting of the President, one Council member and one SVC member. The motion to be voted and the deadline should be announced by the HQ within 10 days after they received the valid motion. The vote result shall be published to all IFCSS members within two weeks after the voting deadline.

*__Article 16.__ The direct voting result will be effective and equivalent to the resolution from the Congress if more than half members participated the vote.

*__Article 17.__ A resolution is made if more than half valid votes support.

*__Article 18.__ Within three months after the publication of the direct vote, IFCSS will not conduct a direct vote in terms of the same topic.

CHAPTER VI.
Regional Organization [3]

*__Article 19.__ The regional IFCSS is an independent organizations which has its own bylaw and operation rule and coordinating its work in each electoral region.

*__Article 20.__ The regional IFCSS's recognize IFCSS Charter, cooperate with IFCSS, collect suggestions to IFCSS from local members and send representatives to IFCSS Congress.

*__Article 21.__ At least one major leader in the regional IFCSS should be a member of IFCSS Council or SVC.

CHAPTER VII.
President and Vice-President

Article 22. The Federation will elect a President and a Vice-President at each Congress.

Article 23. The duties and powders of the President are:

1. To act as the Federation's official representative;
2. To execute the decisions of the Congress and the Council;
3. To manage the normal business of the Federation;
4. To make the annual financial report and submit an annual budget to the Congress;
5. To convene and preside over the coordination conferences involving the various working committee chairpersons;
6. To organize and oversee all affairs beyond the domain of the working committees;
7. To sign and validate all official documents of the Federation;
8. To veto any decision of the Council not passed by a two-thirds majority.

Article 24. Candidates for President and Vice-President must be nominated by at least five Congress members before being placed in balloting. Candidates for the two positions must be voting representatives who do not represent the same electoral region.[2]

Article 25. The President and Vice-President elected must receive the votes of at least one-half of the members. If no candidates does so, the two pairs of candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall participate in a runoff election and the pair with a simple majority will be elected as the President and Vice-President.

Article 26. The President serves for one year, and may not serve more than two terms in succession.

Article 27. The Vice-President assists the President, and may act as President if the President is unable to fulfill the duties of the office. A Vice-President who has served as Acting President for six months or more is considered as presidential term.

*__Article 28(A).__ IFCSS Headquarters is the executive organ of the President, its personnel arrangement should be approved by the Council.[4]

*__Article 28(B).__ IFCSS Headquarters is the executive organ of the President, its personnel consists of Secretary, Treasurer and IFCSS Newsletter Editor.[4]

CHAPTER VIII.
Working Committee

*__Article 29.__ The Working Committees are established by the Congress or the Council as task forces of the Federation, their powers and duties are defined by the corresponding resolution.

*__Article 30.__ The Working committees are responsible to the President and may act for the Federation in the matters related their powers and duties.

*__Article 31.__ The chairperson of each working committee is nominated by the President and approved by either the Congress or the Council. The other personnel are determined within the committee and should be reported to the President for record.

Article 32. Within the period of time specified by the Council, the working committees must work out their regulations and report to the Council for approvement.

Article 33. The chairperson of each working committee must submit written reports to all the member institutions every six months, and must report to the Council every season.

CHAPTER IX.
Federation Council

*__Article 34.__ The federation Council is the standing decision maker of the Federation Congress.

*__Article 35(A).__ Council members are elected by each of the eight electoral regions. Each electoral region shall elect two Council members

*__Article 35(B).__ Council members are formed by 13 council members elected by the Congress and the electoral region jointly. The procedure are:

1. Each electoral region elect one council member and one council member candidate.
2. 5 council members are elected from the 8 candidates by the Congress and the rest 3 become alternate council members.

*__Article 36(A).__ Each electoral region shall elect one alternate council member. An alternate member will become formal member when a council member in his/her electoral region leave the council position.[4]

*__Article 36(B).__ An alternate member will become formal member when a council member leave the council position in the sequence of vote number.[4]

*__Article 37.__ Council members represent their electoral region.

Article 38. The Council debates and decides on resolutions when Congress is not in session.

Article 39. Federation dues are determined by the Council.

Article 40. The Council holds meeting once every season(4 times a year) in the first week of each three-month period, to discuss the work of the Federation. If over one-third of the Council members so request, an extraordinary meeting may be convened.

Article 41. The Council has a quorum of two-thirds (11/16) of its members. Resolutions of the Council pass by a vote of at least one-half of the members.

***Article 42(A).** The Vice President shall coordinate the Council meeting. The VP may not vote unless the votes "for" and "against" are equal.[4]

***Article 42(B).** Each session of the Council appoints one member to coordinate the Council meeting.[4]

***Article 43.** The Council shall publish the motions and the meeting procedure three days before the meeting, and publish the meeting report and vote results within one week after the meeting.

CHAPTER X.
Supervisory Committee

Article 44. The Supervisory Committee is charged with the permanent responsibility of overseeing the work of the Federation.

Article 45. The Supervisory Committee is composed of five members elected by the Congress from a field of eight candidates, one from each electoral region. The committee selects one of its members as chief commissioner to convene the Committee meeting.

***Article 46.** The Supervisory Committee, when Congress is not in session, explains the IFCSS Charter, adjudicate disputes involving the IFCSS Charter and oversees the work of the President, Vice-President, the Council and working committee based on the IFCSS Charter.

***Article 47.** The Supervisory Committee meeting is effective provided that three or more SVC members participate the meeting. The SVC make its decision by 3 or more supporting votes.

CHAPTER XI.
Impeachment and Dismission

***Article 48.** The procedure for dismissing the President and VP:

1. The validity of impeachment motion: A motion to impeach the President or VP can be raised by SVC resolution, Council resolution or a cosignatoray from one third of formal Congress representatives. The above motion or cosignatoray should be submitted to the Council in written form.

2. The Council (coordinator) should submit the impeachment motion (unsigned) to the person concerned within one week after receiving it. The person concerned shall submit a written defense to the Council within one week.

3. The Council should coordinate a extraordinary Congress to exam the motion. The impeachment become effective if more than half Congress member approve it.

4. If the Council (coordinator) shall not execute the above motion in procedure, the SVC (chief commissioner) has the right to take the duty.

5. The position of the person concerned is taken as a vacancy after the impeachment motion passed the Congress.

6. If the person concerned chooses to resign after the impeachment motion was raised, the procedure ends.

*__Article 49.__ Dismission of the council member:

1. The SVC and the Council can pass a resolution requesting the electoral region to dismiss a council member.

2. The region concerned should exam the dismission motion within two weeks after receiving the motion. A new council member should be selected if the motion passes.

*__Article 50.__ Dismission of working committee chair's

1. A working committee chair can be dismissed by a request from the President and approved by the Council, or by a resolution of the Council or SVC.

2. If the WC chair is dismissed, the President should nominate a candidate and submit to the Council to approve.

*__Article 51.__ If the impeachment or dismission motion fails to pass, no impeachment or dismission motion against the same person may be raised unless new major evidence is found.

*__Article 52.__ The position of the concerned person shall not be divested during the impeachment or dismission procedure.

CHAPTER XII.
Revisions, Amendments, and Ratification

Article 53. Any revision or amendment to the Charter requires the approval of at least two-thirds of the member institutions, and takes effect upon that approval.

Article 54. This Charter takes effect upon the approval of at least two-thirds of the member institutions attending this Congress.

References

[1] Appendix. Electoral Regions

East: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT

Northeast: NY, NJ, DE, PA

Mid-Atlantic: MD, DC, WV, VA, NC

South: FL, GA, SC, MS, TN, AL, PR

Southwest: TX, OK, AR, NM, LA

Northwest: UT, MT, WA, OR, ID, WY, ND, SD, NB, AK, CO

Pacific: CA, NV, HW, AZ

Midwest: OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, MO, KS, IA, KT, MN

[2] The corresponding article in the charter passed at the 1st Congress should be referred to in this Congress.

[3] New article or chapter in this draft, the structure of this draft will not be destructed whether the Congress will accept it.

[4] (A) and (B) are alternative articles. The same letter option should be chosen within a chapter to avoid confusion.

A Note:

This document is drafted by the constitution revision group of IFCSS, authorized by the Supervisory Committee (SVC) of IFCSS. The members of the group are:

Chen, Ying: SVC member, Cornell University.

He, Baoping: SVC member, Virginia Tech.

Hu, Jie: Northwestern University.

Hu, Sen: Princeton University.

Jia, Hao: George Washington University.

Luo, Ning: SUNY Buffalo.

Wang, Jianan: Virginia Tech.

Xu, Xiaonian: UC Davis.

Yang, Lixin: Columbia University.

The draft was edited and translated by He, Baoping.