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

Draft, translated from the Chinese version adopted by IFCSS 2nd Annual Convention
July 7, 1990, Columbus, Ohio

Article I. General Program

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

Section 2. The IFCSS represents the wishes of and protects the rights and interest of the Chinese students and scholars in the United States. It dedicates itself to the advancement of liberty, democracy, human rights and government by law, and promotes the development of science, culture and economy in China.

Section 3. The IFCSS is a non-profit organization.

Article II. Membership

Section 4. The IFCSS only accepts group members. Organizations or professional associations of Chinese students and scholars that are registered in universities, colleges, scientific and academic research institutes, and other professional and government institutions in the United States, who honor this Constitution, have applied for membership to the IFCSS and whose membership is registered by the IFCSS, and regularly pay membership dues are official members of the IFCSS.

Section 5. The IFCSS membership is comprised of the organizations and associations in Section 4. Each member is entitled to equal representation (equivalent to one vote) and equal opportunity to be elected.

Section 6. Member institutions retain autonomy.

Article III. Organizational Structure

Section 7. The organizational structure and the governing body of IFCSS consist of the IFCSS Convention, the President along with the Headquarters and working committees under the direction of the President, the Council and the Supervisory Committee.

Section 8. The posts of the IFCSS President, Vice President, Council members and Supervisory Committee members may not be held concurrently.

Section 9. Member institutions of the IFCSS are apportioned into eight electoral regions, namely, Northeast, East, Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest, Northwest, Southwest, and the Pacific.

Article IV. Convention

Section 10. The IFCSS Convention is assembled by one or two delegates sent by each member institution.

Section 11. The IFCSS Convention assembles once a year. An extraordinary Convention may be held if at least one third of IFCSS members request so.

Section 12. The functions of the Convention are to elect the President, the Vice President, the members of the Council and the Supervisory Committee; to establish and dissolve working committees; to approve the appointment of working committee chairpersons; to review and vote on proposals, resolutions and amendments; and to decide upon the amount of membership dues.

Article V. Council

Section 13. The Council is the standing legislature of the Independent Federation of the Chinese Students and Scholars in the United States.

Section 14. The Council is composed of members elected internally within each of the eight electoral regions. Each electoral region is represented by two elected members at the Council.

Section 15. The Council is composed of individual Councilors. The Councilors represent the member organizations of the electoral region from which the Councilors are elected.

Section 16. The Council reviews and votes on resolutions when Convention is adjourned.

Section 17. The Council is charged with the responsibility to prepare for and organize the IFCSS Convention.

Section 18. The Council meets at least once every three months to review the work of the IFCSS. The meeting should occur in the first week of each quarter. A special meeting may be held at the request of one-third of the Councillors.

Section 19. Council meetings and votings are valid when participated by a quorum of two-thirds of the Councilors. Council resolutions are passed by an affirmative vote of at least half of the Councilors.

Section 20. The first session of the Council appoints one Councilor to be the Council Coordinator. The Coordinator calls and presides over Council meetings.

Section 21. The Council shall inform all IFCSS members about the agenda of any forthcoming Council meeting and the resolutions the meeting will review. This shall be done two weeks before the meeting. The Council shall provide all IFCSS members with the minutes of the meeting. This shall be done within one week after the meeting is adjourned. A record of roll-call votings on all the resolutions of the Council shall be published.

Article VI. President and Vice President

Section 22. The IFCSS Convention shall have a President and a Vice President elected at each Convention.

Section 23. The functions of the President include:

1. To represents the IFCSS in its external affairs;
2. To implement the decisions and resolutions of the Convention and the Council;
3. To manage routine business of the IFCSS;
4. To submit the annual budget proposal and the annual financial report to the Convention;
5. To direct and coordinate the business of all working committees;
6. To organize and coordinate IFCSS business that is outside the jurisdiction of the working committees;
7. To sign and validate official documents of the IFCSS;
8. The President has the power to veto the Council decisions or resolutions that are not passed by a two-third vote of the Councilors.

Section 24. Candidates for the President and the Vice President must be the formal delegates coming from the different electoral region. A presidential candidate and vice presidential candidate should pair and campaign upon nomination of at least fifteen delegates.

Section 25. The President-elect and Vice President-elect should have received approving ballots of at least one half of the delegates of the Convention. Should no candidates receive half of the votes, Convention shall cast a second vote on the two pairs of presidential and vice presidential candidates receiving most votes in the first ballot and declare the pair as president-elect and vice president-elect by simple majority.

Section 26. The President and the Vice President serve a one-year term and may not serve more than two terms in succession.

Section 27. The Vice President assists the President, and may act as the President should the President be unable to fulfill the duties of the office. A Vice President who has served as Acting President for a cumulative period of over six months during a term is considered as the President for the term.

Section 28. IFCSS Headquarters is the executive office of the President. The Headquarters personnel is nominated by the President and approved by the Council.

Article VII. Working Committee

Section 29. Each Working Committee is established by a resolution of the Convention or the Council as a task force of the IFCSS. The jurisdiction of each committee is defined by the corresponding resolution. The dissolution of a working committee is initiated by the President and confirmed by the Council.

Section 30. Working committees report to the President and may act in the name of the IFCSS in matters within their jurisdiction.

Section 31. The chair of each working committee is nominated by the President and approved by either the Convention or the Council. The appointment and recall of supporting personnel is at the discretion of the chair of the committee and is reported to and registered with the President.

Section 32. Each working committees shall stipulate its working regulations and submit to the President for approval and to the Supervisory Committee for record.

Section 33. The chair of each working committee shall submit a written report to all member institutions in every six months, and a work report to the Council in every three months.

Article VIII. Supervisory Committee

Section 34. The Supervisory Committee is the standing judicial committee of the IFCSS.

Section 35. The Supervisory Committee is composed of five members elected by the Convention from eight candidates, one from each electoral region. The committee at its first session selects one of its members as the chief commissioner to call and coordinate Committee meetings.

Section 36. The Supervisory Committee interprets the IFCSS Constitution, arbitrates disputes involving the IFCSS Constitution and examines the work of the President, the Vice President, the Council and working committees against this Constitution.

Section 37. A Supervisory Committee resolution is valid upon three or more supporting votes of its members.

Article IX. Referendum

Section 38. The IFCSS may call a referendum by all members upon a motion by over one fourth of member organizations. The direct ballot may be conducted through mail or facsimile.

Section 39. The motion for a referendum should be submitted to the IFCSS Headquarters by the mover. Within ten working days after the reception of the motion for a referendum, the Headquarters shall form a subcommittee that is composed of members of the Headquarters, the Council and the Supervisory Committee to administer the referendum. The Headquarters should inform all member institutions of the issue in the motion and the deadline of the referendum. The result of the referendum shall be released to all IFCSS members by the subcommittee within ten working days after the close of the referendum.

Section 40. A voting or referendum through correspondence participated by two thirds of the IFCSS members is equivalent in legitimacy to that of an IFCSS Convention.

Section 41. Over one half of supporting votes among the total votes of the referendum shall validate a resolution voted on.

Section 42. IFCSS shall not vote on the same topic by referendum within three months.

Article X. Impeachment and Recall

Section 43. The motion to impeach the President or the Vice President of IFCSS can be initiated by over two thirds of the member of the Supervisory Committee, and passed by over two thirds of the Council members.

Section 44. A Councilor can be recalled by the electoral region from which the Councilor was elected.

Section 45. The Chair of a working committee of IFCSS can be recalled by a resolution of the Council.

Section 46. The aforementioned impeachment and recall procedures is described in detail by the separate document ”The Procedures of Impeachment of the President or the Vice President and Recall of a Councilor or a Working Committee Chair”.

Article XI. The Validation, Amendment and Interpretation of This Constitution

Section 47. This Constitution is validated when it is passed by a two-third vote of the participating delegates of the Convention.

Section 48. The amendment of this Constitution requires a two-third vote of the participating delegates of a Convention.

Section 49. The jurisdiction of interpreting this Constitution belongs to the Supervisory Committee.