

UNION OF CAMPUS JOURNALISTS, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

CONSTITUTION

2016 AMENDMENT

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION OF CAMPUS JOURNALISTS UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN [2016 AMENDMENT]

PREAMBLE

WE THE MEMBERS of the Union of Campus Journalists (UCJ), University Of Ibadan

Having, firmly and solemnly resolved:

TO PROVIDE a constitution for the purpose of promoting the good administration and welfare of all member press clubs, organisations on the principles of freedom, equality and fairness thus consolidating the unity and understanding in the Union:

DO HEREBY MAKE, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES the following constitutional provisions:

Section 1: Name

The organisation shall be known by the name; Union of Campus Journalists (UCJ), University of Ibadan; hereinafter referred to as the Union.

Section 2: Motto and Insignia

- (1) The motto of the Union shall be "Freedom Championed by the Pen."
- (2) The insignia of the union shall be a pen piercing through chained hands.

Section 3: Aims

The aim of the Union shall be to promote the essence of campus journalism, provide an umbrella body for all journalists for the protection of the interests of members and those of the public.

Section 4: Objectives

The objectives of the Union shall be:

- (1) To ensure harmony among press organisations on campus.
- (2) To encourage and promote press publications on campus.
- (3) To provide a forum for resolving problems affecting member press clubs/organisations and generating, promoting and pursuing common interests.
- (4) To react to campus, national and international issues through press releases.
- (5) To discourage all forms of press censorship on campus.
- (6) To recommend standards of publications for member press clubs/organisations

Section 5: Supremacy of the Constitution

- (1) This constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all members of the union.
- (2) If any other law, resolution, or directive of any member press club/organisation is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail and such law, resolution or directive shall to the extent of the inconsistency, be null and void.

Section 6: Secularity

- (1) The union shall uphold secularity at all times and shall not appear to favour any religion, lifestyle or ideology above other.
- (2) No religious prayer shall be recited at any function of the union.

Section 6: Website

- (1) The union shall have a website at all times.

- (2) The website shall be for publication of write-ups and the dissemination of such other information as may be considered necessary.
- (3) The website shall be maintained by a webmaster to be appointed by the Editor-in-Chief and ratified by the Senate.

Section 7: Organs of the Union

The organs of the union shall be:

- a) The Executive Council
- b) The Editorial Board
- c) The Senate
- d) The Guild of Editors

Section 8: The Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be composed of:

- a) President
- b) Vice President Administration
- c) Vice President Editorial
- d) General Secretary
- e) Assistant General Secretary
- f) Public Relations Officer
- g) Assistant Public Relations Officer
- h) Financial secretary
- i) Ex Officio member(s)

Section 9: The Editorial Board

The Editorial Board shall be composed of:

- a) Editor-in-Chief
- b) Deputy Editor-in-Chief
- c) Managing Editor
- d) News Editor
- e) Features Editor
- f) Political Editor
- g) Graphics Editor
- h) Sports Editor
- i) Entertainment Editor
- j) Arts Editor
- k) Correspondent(s)
- l) Advert Manager
- m) Webmaster

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARIAT.

Section 10: The President

The President shall:

- (1) Supervise and coordinate all aspects of the union's activities.
- (2) Be a member of the Press Council of the university.

- (3) Decide the time and venue of the union's Senate sittings in conjunction with the General Secretary, and preside over such meetings.
- (4) Be a co-signatory to the account(s) of the union.
- (5) Present to the senate, reports on the activities of the union and other related activities.
- (6) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the senate or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.
- (7) He may delegate duties to other members of the secretariat when necessary.

Section 11: The Vice President Administration

The Vice President Administration shall:

- (1) Deputise for the President in his absence or when necessary.
- (2) Advise and assist the president in the performance of his/her duties.
- (3) Be the Chairman of the Social Committee.
- (4) Preside over the Senate in the event that the President is unavailable, incapacitated or unable to do so for any other reason.
- (5) Perform other duties assigned to him/her by the president, the senate or the Congress, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 12: The Vice President Editorial

The Vice President Editorial shall:

- (1) Be the Editor-in-Chief and the Chairman of the union's Editorial Board.
- (2) Be the Chairman of the Guild of Editors.
- (3) Summon and preside over the meetings of the Guild of Editors.
- (4) Appoint members of the Editorial Board subject to the ratification of the Senate.
- (5) In conjunction with the Editorial Board, oversee all publications of the union.
- (6) Be a member of the press council of the university.
- (7) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 13: The General Secretary

The General Secretary shall:

- (1) On the directive of the president, summon the executive meetings and sittings of the Senate.
- (2) Write and keep minutes of Executive Council meetings.
- (3) Write and keep attendance of Executive Council meetings and sittings of the Senate.
- (4) Keep the records of registered Press Organisations on campus.
- (5) Take an inventory of the union's properties.
- (6) Carry out all secretarial duties of the union.
- (7) Hand over a comprehensive administrative report to the succeeding president at most two weeks after handover.
- (8) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 14: The Assistant General Secretary

The Assistant General Secretary shall:

- (1) Be the Clerk of the Senate.
- (2) Assist the General Secretary in the performance of his/her duties.
- (3) Be directly responsible to the General Secretary.

- (4) Shall make copies of the union's constitution available during Senate sittings.
- (5) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 15: The Public Relations Officer

The Public Relations Officer shall:

- (1) Be the Chairman of the Publicity/Mobilisation Committee.
- (2) Be the head of the information unit and the image maker of the union.
- (3) On the directive of the president, issue and circulate bulletins and press releases of the Union.
- (4) Be responsible for internal and external publicity of the Union.
- (5) Be responsible for the distribution of notices of meetings. Make public statements on behalf of the union as may be directed by the executive, the senate or the congress.
- (6) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 16: The Assistant Public Relations Officer

The Assistant Public Relations Officer shall:

- (1) Serve as an intermediary between the union and external persons and bodies.
- (2) Assist the Public Relations Officer in the performance of his/her duties, while paying particular attention to the social media.
- (3) Shall work with the webmaster in updating and maintaining the union's website
- (4) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 17: The Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall:

- (1) Receive and keep all records of the Union's funds.
- (2) Read or state before the senate, the budget of the union's Executive Council.
- (3) Be a co-signatory to the Union's account.
- (4) Keep records of income and expenditure of the Union.
- (5) Keep the Union's financial record of registered press organisations.
- (6) Be the chairman of the finance Committee.
- (7) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

Section 18: The Ex Officio Member

- (1) The executive council may appoint a maximum of two ex officio members subject to the ratification of the Senate.
- (2) The ex officio members must have been members of the council for at least a session and must be shown to have served meritoriously.
- (3) The ex officio members shall:
 - a) Advise the council on affairs related to the administration of the union
 - b) Perform all other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president, the senate, or allocated to him/her under other sections of this constitution.

(10) POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OTHER ORGANS.

Section 19: The Senate

The Senate shall:

- (1) Be the highest decision-making body of the union.
- (2) Be headed by the President.
- (3) Be composed of the Executive Council, Editorial Board, all Editors-in-Chief and two (2) editors each from all member press organisations.
- (4) Decide the activities of the union as proposed by the secretariat.
- (5) Have the power to impeach any officer found guilty of (1) General acts of misconduct capable of bringing disrepute to the union, and (2) Other offences bearing on financial misconduct or dereliction of constitutional duty.
- (6) Have the power to approve or reject the budget of the Secretariat and the Editorial Board.
- (7) Guide the management, functions, and activities of the union,
- (8) Have powers to order bye-elections 'into the offices of impeached' officers within two weeks after impeachment.

Section 20: The Guild of Editors

The Guild of Editors shall:

- (1) Be summoned by the Vice President Editorial and be headed by same.
- (2) Consist of all Editors-in-Chief of member press organisations.
- (3) Be sub-divided into units, such as the Board Monitoring team and Press Release team, for ease of management.
- (4) Convene at least twice in a semester.
- (5) Appoint a secretary from within the body.
- (6) Intervene whenever necessary if it observes that a local press organisation is dysfunctional.
- (7) Monitor the publications of various associated press organisations/clubs with a view to maintaining a high standard in line with the ethics of journalism.
- (8) Award outstanding campus journalists with an elevation to the rank of 'Veteran Journalists of University of Ibadan.'
- (9) Shall determine the requirements for such elevation and shall receive applications thereon every second semester.

Section 21: Meetings

- a) At every meeting of the union, the number that forms a quorum shall be 1/3 of members of the relevant organ(s) as at the time.
- b) At all meetings of the respective organs, members are expected to maintain a high level of decorum.
- c) Any member who indulges in any act that may be frowned at by the Union shall be liable to disciplinary actions.

Section 22: Press Prayer

There shall be a press prayer for the union which may be read at any of her gatherings or functions.

Section 23: Press Creed

There shall be a press creed for the union which may be read at any of her gatherings or functions.

Section 24: Committees

- (1) Membership of a committee shall be by the suggestion of the Executive Council subject to the approval/disapproval of the senate. In the disapproval of a suggested member of a committee, the senate shall replace him/her.
- (2) Each inducted member must be a member of at least one committee and at most two.
- (3) The Executive Council shall have the power to constitute any other ad-hoc committee(s) not herein mentioned as may be necessary from time to time. Such committee must however be ratified by the Senate before it starts its operations.
- (4) The standing committees shall include the Social Committee, the Finance Committee, the Publicity and Mobilisation Committee and Disciplinary Committee.

Section 25: Social Committee

The Social Committee shall:

- (1) Be headed by the Vice President Administration.
- (2) Be subdivided into sub-committees to organise the union's social activities.
- (3) Be responsible for the organisation of the union's annual press week.
- (4) Be responsible for the organisation of symposia, workshops, lectures, talks etc.

Section 26: Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall:

- (1) Be headed by the Financial Secretary.
- (2) Be responsible for raising funds for the union.
- (3) Be responsible for sourcing sponsorship for the union's programmes.
- (4) Be made up of a number to be determined by the Executive Council and approved by the senate.

Section 27: Publicity and Mobilisation Committee

The Publicity and Mobilisation Committee shall:

- (1) Be headed by the Public Relations Officer.
- (2) Be responsible for both internal and external publicity of the union's activities.
- (3) Be responsible for the mobilisation of members for the union's activities.
- (4) Be made up of a number to be determined by the secretariat and subject to the approval of the senate.

Section 28: Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee shall:

- (1) Be headed by a member of the Senate as recommended by the Executive Council.
- (2) Be made up of a number to be determined by the Senate.
- (3) See to any act(s) of indecorum, misdemeanour, or public misconduct committed by any member of the union.
- (4) Determine the degree of punishment based on the gravity of offence committed.
- (5) If it deems it fit, refer any case to the Student Affairs Division.
- (6) Refer its decisions to the senate for final ratification within two weeks of the commencement of investigations on each case.

Section 29: Electoral Committee:

The Electoral Committee shall:

- (1) Be responsible for the conduct of elections into the Executive Council.

- (2) Be made up of 5 members to be nominated by the Executive Council.
- (3) Receive complaints over an election and make recommendations known to the senate for ratification or rejection.
- (4) Conduct bye-elections as directed by the senate in the event of impeachment(s).

Section 30: Membership

- (1) Membership of UCJ shall be composed of all duly registered press organisations on the campus.
- (2) The press organisations shall be hall, faculty, departmental, religious and privately ran press organisations.
- (3) Membership shall not be open to individuals, but to press organisations.

Section 31: Elections

- (1) The term of office shall be one academic session, after which there shall be a fresh election.
- (2) Elections shall be held towards the end of the second semester of every session.
- (3) An incumbent executive shall remain in office through elections and only stand dissolved (by the electoral committee chairman) at the handover ceremony.
- (4) To qualify for election, an aspirant shall be a member of any press club/organisation that has fulfilled its financial and other obligations to the union.
- (5) Any member who is either facing a disciplinary case or serving a punitive measure either with the university or the union as at the time of any election shall not be eligible to contest for election, except such disciplinary case with the university is borne out of diligence at journalism.
- (6) There shall be a bye election when an office becomes vacant due to death, resignation, absconding or impeachment.
- (7) Honorary members shall not vote during deliberations/elections unless otherwise agreed by members.
- (8) An aspirant to the office of President, Vice President, Editor-in-Chief or General Secretary must have:
 - a) Been an inducted member of the uion for at least one full session
 - b) Been an editor in his/her local press organisation for at least one full session
- (9) Political office holders at hall, faculty or departmental levels shall not contest the union elections.
- (10) Only inducted members of the union shall be eligible to contest the Union elections
- (11) Election complaints shall be entertained not later than 24 hours after the election.
- (12) Names of delegates (voters) must be sent to the electoral committee at most 48hours before the election date and duly signed by the Editor-in-Chief.
- (13) Screening results must be released at least 72 hours before the Election Day.
- (14) There shall be a presidential debate for all presidential aspirants.
- (15) Any candidate who does not pass the aptitude test stands disqualified.
- (16) The electoral committee shall clearly state reasons for disqualifying a candidate.
- (17) Executives, Editorial Board members and other members of the union, whether inducted or otherwise, must not contest to any elective position in their departments, faculties or halls of residence except they resign.
- (18) All candidates must be duly acknowledged or recommended by their Editors-in-chief
- (19) Delegates (voters) shall be eligible to vote based on membership of only one press organisation.
- (20) The union's Identification Card shall be pre-requisite for voting or any other means recognised by the electoral committee.
- (21) Each press organisation shall be represented by three delegates (voters).
- (22) Members of the press shall only vie for elective positions in their departments, faculties and halls of residence when they have resigned from the press publicly and their letters of resignation published on the pressboards.
- (23) To be declared winner, a candidate shall have a simple majority of total votes cast.

Section 32: Induction Ceremony

- (1) The union shall organise an induction ceremony for aspiring members every second semester.
- (2) No local press organisation shall organise an induction ceremony.
- (3) Local press organisations shall conduct recruitment exercises however they deem fit and shall refer admitted members to the union for induction after having paid a sum to be determined by the Executive Council.
- (4) Workshops and a test shall be organised before the induction ceremony to train and evaluate the candidates, and to determine those who qualify.
- (5) Candidates' performance in the induction test shall not affect their membership in their local press organisation.
- (6) Candidates who fail the induction test shall be entitled to re-apply the following year.

Section 33: Oaths

- (1) Members who are elected into the executive council shall be required to take the oath of office during the handover of power.
- (2) Inductees shall be required to sign an oath form before their membership is validated.

Section 34: Honorary Members

- (1) The Senate shall have the power to appoint dignitaries/personalities deemed fit for honorary membership.
- (2) Honorary members shall be distinguished journalists, other members of the press, legal practitioners and any person(s) as the Senate may deem fit.

Section 35: Registration

- (1) All press organisations referred to in with the Union at the beginning of every academic session.
- (2) The union shall on behalf of all member press clubs/organisations, register with the Students Affairs Division of the university.
- (3) Registration of press organisations elapses at the end of the first semester.

Section 36: Patrons, Advisers, and Corporate Sponsors

- (1) The secretariat shall appoint from time to time individuals, groups or organisations to serve as patrons, advisers or corporate sponsors of the union.
- (2) Such appointments are subject to the approval of the Senate.
- (3) Such patrons, groups or organisations to be so appointed must have demonstrated their interest in journalism or shown the potential to advance the cause of journalism.
- (4) Patrons can also be appointed from within and outside the university community.
- (5) Patrons and advisers are expected to attend all ceremonial functions of the Union.
- (6) The union shall have the power to withdraw the appointment of any patron or adviser if such a patron fails to live up to expectation.

Section 37: The Press Council

- (1) The President of the union and the Vice President Editorial shall be members of the Press Council.
- (2) The Union's representatives in the Press Council shall vehemently advance the cause of campus journalism and shall defend it as at when due.
- (3) The union shall withdraw its membership of the Press Council if the latter is found perpetuating any act(s) opposed to democracy, natural justice and equity.
- (4) As long as the Union remains part of the Press council, all decisions taken shall be binding on the union.

Section 38: Conduct at Meetings

- (1) There shall be no interruption while a member is speaking, except on a point of order, information or correction.
- (2) Members shall seek permission, by showing of hands, from the presiding officer and upon recognition, address the house standing.
- (3) Any person interrupted on the above sub-section (1) must hold on and listen to the speaker, and may continue later if he/she desires.
- (4) Any member who indulges in any act capable of tarnishing the image of the union shall be liable to penalties commensurate with the degree of the offence, as decided by the disciplinary committee and approved by the Senate.

Section 39: Finance

- (1) A minimum of 10% of the union's revenue shall be expended on capital projects.
- (2) The funding of the union shall be through:
 - a) Sessional dues paid by press organisations duly registered with the Union
 - b) Donations from well-meaning individuals
 - c) Money realised from events organised.
 - d) Money from the sales of the Union's annual magazine, tabloid and other products.

RULES OF SENATE

- 40** At least 1/3 of the members of the senate shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the senate.
- 41** (1) Members of the senate must be decently dressed by all reasonable standards.
 - (2) The presiding officer may instruct any defaulting member to leave the senate sitting, and may impose any other sanction as deemed appropriate by the Senate.
- 42** (1) Each member of the senate is entitled to one vote
 - (2) Voting shall be by raising of hands and decisions shall be to the simple
- 43** (1) Any motion can be moved any time.
 - (2) Each motion must be duly supported otherwise it shall lapse.
 - (3) There shall be room for a counter motion to an original motion.
 - (4) Any motion countered shall be put to vote.
- 44** (1) A point of order when moved must be heard at all times except during voting.
 - (2) A point of order must relate to the conduct of the meeting
- 45** (1) Point of information on issues will be heard by the consent of the presiding officer
 - (2) The presiding officer shall have the right to overrule.
 - (3) Point of information shall be raised whenever there is an issue to be clarified.
- 46** (1) A member of the senate shall stand up when speaking, and shall address the president and members of the senate.
 - (2) Debates must be addressed to the immediate pressing issues.
 - (3) The presiding officer shall rule out on point of order of any speaker that fails to this order.
 - (4) The proponent of a motion shall have the express right to accept or reject any amendment to his/her motion.
 - (5) A member of the senate shall only speak when recognised by the presiding officer.
- 47** (1) Members shall address the senate thus: the President, Clerk of the senate and distinguished senators.
 - (2) The president/presiding officer shall address the senate thus: distinguished senators
 - (3) All members shall stand up when addressing the senate. Members shall introduce themselves and their press organisation before speaking on an issue.
- 48** The president/presiding officer shall
 - (1) Kangaroo any unresolved issue under debate

- (2) Defer any kangarooed issue at a subsequent senate meeting
- (3) Give priority to a kangarooed issue at a subsequent meeting

49 (1) Motion of adjournment shall be moved and seconded when the presiding officer is satisfied with the deliberations of the day.

Section 50: Affiliations

- (1) The UCJ is an affiliate of the Nigeria Union of Campus Journalists (NUCJ) and the National Association of Nigerian Campus Editors (NANCE).
- (2) The UCJ shall be an affiliate of any other body or union as may be deemed necessary from time to time by the senate.

Section 51: Amendment of the Constitution

- (1) No part of this constitution shall be amended except in accordance with the procedure hereinafter provided.
- (2) All proposals for amendment of any provision of this constitution shall be in writing to the Senate through the secretariat.
- (3) Upon receipt of such proposals, the secretariat shall refer the proposals to the senate.
- (4) If by majorities, the senate votes in favour of the proposals, the senate shall constitute a Constitution amendment/Review committee.
- (5) The recommendations of the Constitution Amendment/Review Committee shall thereafter be presented to secretariat, which shall in turn submit it to the senate.
- (6) If by two-third (2/3) majority vote of members present at the senate meeting such proposals are accepted, then the constitutional provision(s) in question shall be deemed amended.

APPENDIX A: OATH OF OFFICE

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office I have been elected to and I will to the best of my ability, uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of the Union of Campus Journalists.

APPENDIX B: OATH OF INDUCTION

I do solemnly pledge on this day to abide by the rules and regulations of the Union of Campus Journalists, and promise to stand by, and defend the ethical code of conduct for journalistic practice. In addition, i shall not contest for any elective position in any faculty/departmental/hall of residence association or the Students' Union, without first resigning and making public a notice of such resignation.
i also pledge to seek truth and public good, expose injustice, report with fairness and accuracy, defend the public's right to know, and respect human dignity. I pledge to avoid conflict of interest, refuse bribes, gifts, favours, fees, and shun political involvement, making campaign donations of any kind, public office and service in community organisations, if they compromise journalistic integrity. So help me god.

APPENDIX C: PRESS PRAYER

Almighty God,
Strengthen and direct, we pray,
the will of all whose work it is to write what many read,
and to speak where many listen.
May we be bold to confront evil and injustice:
understanding and compassionate of human weakness;

rejecting alike the half-truth which deceives,
and the slanted word which corrupts.
May the power which is ours, for good or ill,
always be used with honesty and courage,
with respect and integrity.
So that when all here has been written, said and done,
we may, unashamed, meet Thee face to face.
Amen.

APPENDIX D: PRESS CREED

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interest of readers; that the supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds best fears God and honours man; is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power, constructive, tolerant but never careless, is quickly indignant at injustice, is unswayed by the appeal of privilege or the clamour of the mob and seeks to give every man a chance.

Signed:

Adekunle F. Adebajo

Chairman, Constitution Review Committee, 2016

Members

Jeremiah T. Agbaakin
Amos Adejimi

Raji Fatima

Clerk of the Senate, 29th Administration (2015/2016)

Oredola Ibrahim

Senate President, 29th Administration (2015/2017)