

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

Provisional Constitution - as drawn up by Colin Benjamin and Harry van Moorst.

NAME : The name of the association shall be "Students for a Democratic Society"(Vic)

OBJECT : The object of the association shall be to seek and promote a more democratic society. By a "democratic society" we mean one in which there is :

- (a) Social justice, economic security, and full citizen participation;
- (b) Freedom of conscience, education, expression, assembly, organisation and religion;
- (c) The right of the development of the human personality protected from arbitrary invasion from the State;
- (d) Free election under universal, adult and secret franchise, with government by the majority and recognition of the rights of minorities;
- (e) A system of law which gives equitable recognition and support to the rights and obligations of all individuals;
- (f) Utilisation of the economic interests of the State to encourage a fair and equitable distribution of the economic assets of the community.

METHODS : The association is an independent student body and may not affiliate with any political party or group with views at variance with the stated objectives of S.D.S.

In pursuance of the abovementioned objectives the methods of the association shall include:

- (a) The use of appropriate means to build a better informed and more critical public opinion in the interests of economic, social and political democracy.
- (b) Support of approved ad hoc activities, designed to promote our objectives.
- (c) Utilisation of press, radio and television to enlighten student and public opinion.
- (d) Publication of literature (journals, leaflets, posters, and a weekly newsletter).
- (e) Close liaison with local and interstate student organisations with coincidental aims.
- (f) Approved fund raising and business projects to assist in financing the association.
- (g) To publicise, conduct and facilitate mass student meetings, enabling students to express their views on vital social issues as they arise.

MEMBERSHIP :

- (a) Membership of S.D.S. shall be open to all members of educational institutions in Victoria, who accept the objects and aims of S.D.S.
- (b) Membership shall be free, those members wishing to receive monthly notices of S.D.S. activities shall pay an annual subscription sufficient to cover costs involved.
- (c) Membership shall be by registration in the association's membership book.
- (d) The committee may reject any application for membership, or terminate the membership of any person. Any such decision shall be reported to the next general meeting of members and shall cease to be effective unless it is then ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting at the meeting.

MEETINGS :

- (a) The General Meeting (G.M.) of members shall be the governing body of the association and it shall have the power to make and alter policy.
- (b) General Meetings shall be held monthly. At least seven (7) days notice of any General Meeting shall be prominently advertised by posters on selected notice boards.
- (c) A quorum at any General Meeting shall be fifteen (15) members.
- (d) At all General Meetings, votes may be taken on the voices, but if any two members ask for a show of hands, or if any ten (10) members ask for a ballot, then the vote shall be so taken. A simple majority shall prevail.

- (e) A Special General Meeting of the association may be called for at any time by a signed petition of twenty (20) members or by the committee.
- (f) The Annual General Meeting of the association shall be its first General Meeting during the second term of the academic year excluding orientation week.
- (g) The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be :
 - (i) To receive from the Vice Chairman a financial statement in respect of the affairs of the association for the then preceding twelve (12) months;
 - (ii) To receive a report from the committee of the general activities and affairs of the assoc'n for the then preceding twelve (12) months;
 - (iii) To elect the committee for the ensuing year.
- (h) All decisions of policy at the Annual General Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those members present.

EXECUTIVE :

- (a) Subject to the decisions of a General Meeting the management of the association shall be vested in the committee (12 members).
- (b) The executive of S.D.S. shall consist of the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, a Secretary and Assistant Secretary; Treasury duties shall be assigned to the Vice-Chairman.
- (c) The committee shall consist of the executive office holders and such other members as are currently convening action on behalf of the Association.
- (d) The committee shall meet at regular intervals. The secretary shall be bound to call a meeting of the committee at the written request of four committee members.
- (e) A quorum shall consist of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the office holders. All members of the committee are to be informed of the meeting.
- (f) Decisions of the committee shall be by simple majority, with the Chairman to have a casting vote in addition to his primary vote in the event of a tie.
- (g) Replacements for any of the executive shall be made at a duly convened General Meeting, held as soon as possible after the need for such replacement is known.
- (h) In an emergency the executive may make decisions affecting the association within the limits elsewhere imposed in the constitution. Any decisions or public statements made by the executive or committee must be ratified at the following General Meeting.
- (i) The committee can decide on all matters not mentioned in the constitution or at a General Meeting.
- (j) The committee is bound to follow the motions of the General Meeting.
- (k) The signatures of any two of the executive shall suffice to operate the association's accounts.
- (l) The election of the committee and a returning officer for the following Annual G.M. shall be by secret ballot at the Annual G.M.
- (m) Candidates must be nominated in writing by two members of the association.
- (n) Membership books will be closed one week prior to the election.
- (o) The executive may call a General Meeting of S.D.S. whenever it feels necessary, provided it complies with the conditions for calling a G.M.
- (p) Any member of the committee may be removed from his position by a majority at a General Meeting, provided that a motion to this effect is tabled at the previous monthly General Meeting.
- (q) The Chairman shall normally preside over all meetings of the executive committee and all General Meetings and shall have a vote, and in the case of an equality of votes, a casting vote.
- (r) If the Chairman is absent or unable to act, then the meeting shall appoint a Chairman who shall have the rights and powers of the Chairman at that meeting.

FINANCE :

- (a) All receipts issued by the association shall be on the official receipts of the association.
- (b) All disbursements of the association other than payments from petty cash, shall be in the form of cheques.
- (c) The financial year shall commence on January 1st.
- (d) As soon as possible in each year, but not later than April 30th, the committee shall prepare a financial statement for the previous year's activities.