

## SECTION 11.0 ELECTIONS INTO THE GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

### 11.1 Procedure of Elections

- i. The Central Electoral Committee shall be an independent Committee free from any external control and influence, shall not accept directions relating to the performance of its task from any person and shall conduct free, fair, transparent, and credible elections according to the highest standards of propriety.
- ii. The Central Electoral Committee shall have and manage its own website which it shall use for the conduct of all its activities. The website of the Committee shall be linked to the website of the Association.
- iii. The Central Electoral Committee shall when necessary engage its own personnel and work with them in the discharge of its duties.
- iv. The Central Electoral Committee shall, not later than forty-five (45) days to the Annual Global Convention, publish the guidelines which will govern the elections, such published guidelines shall include the commencement date for sale of Nomination Forms, the closing date for submission of duly completed Nomination Forms, the cost of the Nomination Form for the respective offices, the date for publication of cleared candidates, the procedure of the voting process and all other relevant information which shall be in accordance to the provisions of this Constitution.
- v. The Central Electoral Committee shall open a dedicated email address on its website to which candidates shall forward completed Nomination Forms in respect of the election into the Global Executive Council.
- vi. The Central Electoral Committee shall at the close of the nomination period, process the Nomination Forms it received, conduct a screening of the candidates, and determine the candidates qualified for election and publish the list of the qualified candidates on its website not later than thirty (30) clear days before the date of the Annual Global Convention.
- vii. The Central Electoral Committee shall disqualify candidates who fail to properly complete their Nomination Forms or do not comply with any of the requirements for nomination or who do not meet the specific eligibility criteria for election into the indicated offices.

viii. The Central Electoral Committee shall ensure that no action or activity is taken in support of any candidate or group of candidates, and shall ensure that every candidate, voter and other participants in the electoral process are treated fairly and impartially in the conduct of the election.

ix. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 11.1(viii) above, the Central Electoral Committee shall, at any time during the electoral process, have the power to disqualify any candidate who contravenes the guidelines of the elections and specifically:

a. Indulgence in/use of vulgar, abusive or derogatory language or engagement in intimidation and/or coercion of voters by candidates or their supporters is hereby prohibited. Any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election;

b. Publication, printing or distribution of any campaign materials, souvenirs, gifts whatsoever by a candidate or his/her supporter(s) other than posters, handbills, profiles/curriculum vitae of candidates, is hereby prohibited. Any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election;

c. Vote buying by any candidate seeking election into Global Executive Council or his/her supporters is hereby prohibited, and any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election.

d. No Branch shall nominate more than one candidate for the same office.

e. No Branch shall nominate candidates for more than two offices.

x. The Central Electoral Committee shall display openness and transparency in all its activities and in its relationship with all members of the Association, particularly the candidates for the election, and shall ensure the following:

a. Consultation with candidates in the electoral process on a regular basis, and in relation to specific decisions, if it is appropriate to do so in the circumstances.

b. Provide an explanation, in response to reasonable requests, for any decision it has made as part of the electoral process, or any decision made as part of the general conduct of the election.

- c. Establish a system that allows interested parties to access, in a timely manner, all critical information, documents, and databases used in the election process, or used in the administration of the election.
- d. Fully disclose any deficiency or hitch in the administration of the election immediately such deficiency comes to its attention and explain in detail, steps that would be taken to remedy the deficiency or correct the hitch.
- e. Make freely available and in a timely manner, the information which g u i d e d each decision.
- f. Arrange effective and reasonable access to relevant documents and information within the framework of the electoral guidlines and Constitution of the Association.
- xi. The Central Electoral Committee shall perform every task on the basis of the highest level of accuracy of information and objectivity of analysis.

In particular, the Central Electoral Committee shall:

- a. Ensure that information which shall guide the electoral process is collected, compiled and published in a systematic, clear, and unambiguous manner.
- b. Do everything necessary, within the framework of the electoral guidelines and the Constitution of the Association to ensure that all the information that it compiles, uses, or publishes has sound factual and unimpeachable basis.
- xii. The Central Electoral Committee shall conduct the voting with an efficient electronic voting system/platform which shall guarantee the integrity of the voting process and confidentiality of every voter and the results of the elections shall be promptly announced on the floor of the Convention and contemporaneously published on its website.
- xiii. The Central Electoral Committee may, at its own discretion, decide to appoint an Electronic Voting Service Consultant who shall provide technical (electronic voting) support to the Committee throughout the electoral process and post-election activities. If it is so decided, the Committee shall be solely responsible for the selection, appointment and engagement of a competent Electronic Voting

Service Consultant for the said purpose.

xiv. The process of appointing the Electronic Voting Service Consultant shall involve competitive bidding which shall be initiated by the Central Electoral Committee through a public advertisement for submission of bids (technical and financial) by capable organisations/professionals.

xv. The Central Electoral Committee shall conduct rigorous due diligence of the bidders before shortlisting a minimum of three qualified, skilled and competent organisations/professionals with proven integrity and no conflict of interest, which shortlist shall be published on the website of the Committee for a period of three (3) days in order to afford members of the Association who may have valid objections against any of the shortlisted organisations/professionals to formally inform the Committee about the reason(s) for such objections.

xvi. On the fourth (4th) day after the publication of the shortlist of the bidders, the Central Electoral Committee shall begin to re-evaluate them while taking into consideration any objections against any of the shortlisted bidders, and within a period of three (3) days, take a decision to appoint one of them as the Electronic Voting Service Consultant for the election and announce same on its website.

If none of the shortlisted bidders is found appointable, the Committee shall decide whether to repeat the bidding process all over again or search for an appointable organisation/professional which/who/ did not submit a bid and invite such organisation/professional to take up the appointment as the Electronic Voting Consultant for the election.

The decision of the Central Electoral Committee in respect of the choice of the Electronic Voting Consultant shall be final.

xvii. The Central Electoral Committee shall evaluate the voting platform it has chosen and certify that such platform is inviolable and not vulnerable to any compromise whatsoever at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Global Convention.

xviii. The Electronic Voting Service Consultant shall be accountable only to the Central Electoral Committee to the exclusion of any officer of the Association or its Secretariat.

xix. The Central Electoral Committee or its appointed Electronic Voting Service Consultant shall:

a. review and validate the voters' register generated from the Current Standing Segment of the

Global Register of Statutory Members of the Association;

- b. provide and configure the voting portal for use, send notifications to voters via electronic media including emails, SMS and any other electronic medium as may become applicable;
- c. provide online real-time dashboard for monitoring the election; and well as provide a support help desk during the election;
- d. allow a minimum of twenty-one (21) days to test run the balloting system;
- e. receive, address and resolve complaints of non-receipt of trial ballots.

xx. Any appointed Electronic Voting Service Consultant shall submit a report of its activities to the Central Electoral Committee not later than three (3) days after the Annual Global Convention. Such report shall be included in the Final Report of the Central Electoral Committee which shall be submitted published on the website of the Association not later than seven (7) days after the Annual Global Convention.

#### 11.2 Eligibility criteria for election as an officer of the Global Executive Council

i. A candidate shall be eligible for election as an officer of the Global Executive Council if he/she:

- a. is a registered member of an existing Branch of the Association and such candidate must have a record of good behaviour and unflinching commitment to the affairs of the Association;
- b. has paid, his/her, Annual Dues, as and when due, for three (3) consecutive years inclusive of the year of the election;
- c. is a man/woman of proven integrity, organizational experience and demonstrable capacity to serve without expecting or having consideration for pecuniary rewards and/or remuneration;
- d. has served or is serving as an officer at his/her Branch or any of its organs or Committees;
- e. has attended/participated in at least three (3) of the preceding five (5) Annual Global Conventions.
- f. is nominated by his/her Branch as evidenced by the endorsement of his/her Nomination Form by his/her Branch Chairman and Branch Secretary.

ii. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 11.2(i) above, the nomination of a candidate for election to the office of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary shall be further endorsed by the Branch Chairmen and Secretaries of not less than one-third (1/3) of the functional Branches of the Association, each of

iii. The nomination of candidates for election to all other offices different from the ones mentioned in Section 11.2(ii) above shall be further endorsed by the Chairmen and Secretaries of two (2) functional Branches of the Association.

iv. Each candidate seeking election shall obtain, complete and submit a Nomination Form in accordance with the election guidelines that is released by the Central Electoral Committee, however, candidates who neglect or fail to complete a Nomination Form appropriately or submit the Form before the close of the nomination period shall be disqualified by the Central Electoral Committee.

v. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 11.2(iv) above and any other provision of this Constitution, members who statutorily qualify to occupy the offices of Ex- Officio 1 and Ex- Officio 2 shall not be required to obtain Nomination Forms or stand for election.

Such members shall be announced by the Central Electoral Committee as Ex- Officios 1 and 2 respectively when the results of the elections into the other offices of the Global Executive Council are announced.

vi. In all elections, any candidate who scores a simple majority of valid votes cast shall be declared elected.

### 11.3 Swearing-in of newly elected officers, handing over and assumption of office

i. Following the declaration of the election results, the newly elected officers of the Global Executive Council shall be sworn-in at the Global Secretariat on a date decided by the President-elect and communicated to the outgoing President and all newly elected officers which date shall not be earlier than seven (7) days and not later than fourteen (14) days after the Annual Global Convention by the administration of the Oath of Office for officers of the Global Executive Council (Schedule 8) on them by a Lawyer or Notary-Public. All elected officers shall be deemed to have assumed office immediately after being sworn in.

i. All vacating officers and Committee Secretaries of the Association shall handover all records, monies, documents and any other property of the Association in their possession to the outgoing President within seven (7) days after the Annual Global Convention and the outgoing President shall handover same along with detailed handing over notes to the newly elected President immediately after his/her swearin-in at the swearing-in ceremony.

iii. It shall amount to an act of gross misconduct for any member or former officer of the Association who

violates Section 11.3(ii) above and any such case shall be referred to the Central Working Committee.

## PART IV MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

### AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

#### SECTION 13.0 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

13.1 The Association, as a body corporate, is hereby prohibited from undertaking, participating in, intervening (including the publishing or distributing of statements) or influencing any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office in any jurisdiction across the world.

13.2 Except as it concerns legislation that has direct bearing on the operations and or development of the

University, the Association, as a body corporate, is hereby prohibited from lobbying, carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation in any jurisdiction across the world.

#### SECTION 14.0 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

i. The National Executive Committee elected at the 2023 Annual Convention of the Association shall serve

and function as the Global Executive Council during the intervening period between the ratification/adoption of this Constitution and the 2025 Annual Global Convention when de jure officers of the Global Executive Council shall be elected.

Each officer of the National Executive Committee shall therefore carry out the duties and responsibilities of the corresponding officer of the Global Executive Council.

ii. The National Working Committee as constituted at the date of ratification of this Constitution shall serve and function as the Central Working Committee during the intervening period between the ratification/adoption of this Constitution and the time when the de jure Central Working Committee shall be properly constituted.

iii. All former officers of previous National Executive Committees and National Working Committees which existed in accordance with provisions of the defunct Constitutions of the Association, shall enjoy

the rights and privileges which are conferred upon former officers of the Global Executive Council and the Central Working Committee of the Association by this Constitution.

iv. Attendance of previous Annual Conventions of the Association shall be counted and regarded and have the same value as attendance of preceding Annual Global Conventions for the purpose of determination of qualification to be appointed to serve on the Central Electoral Committee or eligibility to be elected as an officer of the Global Executive Council.

On this account, attendance/participation at the preceding Annual Global Conventions shall be counted beginning with the 2024 Annual convention.

In view of this, assessment of qualification to be appointed to serve on the Central Electoral Committee or eligibility to be elected as an officer of the Global Executive Council from the point of view of

Convention attendance shall:

a. in 2025, be based solely on attendance of the 2024 Annual Convention;

b. In 2027, based on attendance of the 2024 Annual Convention, 2025 Annual Global Convention and 2026 Annual Global Convention

v. The provisions of this Constitution in respect of the good financial standing of a member shall not be of retroactive effect but shall be reckoned with effect from the date of ratification of this Constitution.