

# NUCAUT Constitution

## Article 1 - Name

1.1 This Union shall be known as the National Union of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, hereinafter known as the "National Union".

## Article 2 - Headquarters

2.1 The headquarters of the National Union shall be in Ottawa.

## Article 3 - Official Languages

3.1 The official languages of the National Union shall be English and French.

## Article 4 - Objectives

4.1 The National Union's objectives are to promote within the Canadian Labour Congress:

- the interests of academic staff; to seek to improve the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education in Canada;
- to oppose harassment and discrimination of any sort and on any basis, and to strive for equality of treatment; and
- to build and unify the labour movement by working with labour councils, provincial federations and other national unions as an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress.

## Article 5 - Definitions

5.1 In this Constitution,

(a) "Association" means the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

(b) "Faculty Association" means an association of academic staff which is a member of the Association and which exists within a degree-granting institution of post-secondary education in Canada, or within a college federated or affiliated with a degree-granting institution of post-secondary education in Canada.

(c) "Federated Association" means an association or union of academic staff representing:

(1) at least one degree-granting institution of post-secondary education or one college federated or affiliated with a degree-granting institution of post-secondary education; and

(2) at least one non degree-granting institution of post-secondary education.

(d) "Organizational Members" means Faculty Associations and Federated Associations which are members of the Association and belong to the National Union.

(e) "Convention" means the general meeting of the National Union as set out in Article 9.

(f) "National Executive Board" means the governing body of the National Union as set out in Article 10.

## **Article 6 - Membership**

6.1 Membership in the National Union shall be limited to local associations and federated associations which are affiliates of the Canadian Association of University Teachers ("CAUT") and whose applications for membership have received the approval of the National Executive Board of the National Union.

## **Article 7 - Withdrawal, Re-admission, Suspension and Termination of Membership**

7.1 A Member Organization may withdraw from the National Union subject to twelve (12) months written notice being given to the National Union, supported by a certified copy of the resolution of the member Faculty Association or Federated Association to that effect.

7.2 A Member Organization that has withdrawn from the National Union in the manner described above may make written application for re-admission to the National Union through the National Executive Board.

7.3 The National Union may, by a two-thirds majority vote, suspend or terminate the membership of an Organizational Member under the following circumstances:

(a) non-payment of fees and assessments; or

(b) adoption of a constitution or of local practices or actions which, in the judgment of the National Union, are contrary to those of the National Union.

## **Article 8 - Revenue and Financial Control**

8.1 The revenue of the National Union shall be membership dues as determined at Convention or by Special Convention. Such dues shall be based on the dues structure of the Canadian Labour Congress and payable by Member Organizations on the dues paying membership of each Member Organization.

8.2 Each Member Organization shall forward to the National Union before the last day of each month the membership dues payable for that month.

8.3 Any Member Organization which does not pay its membership dues as specified in this article shall be notified of that fact by the Treasurer of the National Union. Any Member Organization three (3) months in arrears in payment of membership dues may become suspended from membership in the National Union and can be reinstated only after all arrears are paid in full.

8.4 The fiscal year of the National Union shall be July 1 to June 30.

## **Article 9 - Convention**

9.1 The Convention of the National Union shall be held every three (3) years.

9.2 The Convention shall be the supreme governing body of the National Union. The time and place of Convention shall be determined by the National Executive Board.

9.3 Notice of the time and place of Convention shall be circulated to all Member Organizations of the National Union one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the commencement of Convention.

9.4 A Special Convention of the National Union shall be called upon the written petition of Organizational Members representing at least ten percent of the Organizational members support the call and that those Organizational Members represent at least fifty percent of the individual membership of the National Union. Support for the holding of a Special Convention shall be determined by a mail or email ballot. Such ballot shall include the date proposed for the meeting.

9.5 Member Organizations of the National Union shall be entitled to representation at Convention by voting delegates selected by their respective Organizations.

9.6 All voting delegates to Convention must be members of the Organizations they represent.

9.7 Each Member Organization Faculty Association and Federated Association shall have one voting delegate for the first five hundred (500) or less members and one additional voting delegate for each additional five hundred (500) members or major fraction thereof.

9.8 The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Members-at-Large of the National Union shall have full status as voting delegates at Convention by virtue of Office and shall each hold one (1) vote.

9.9 Member Organizations shall bear the Convention expenses of their own delegates.

9.10 The Convention expenses of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Members-at-Large of the National Union shall be borne by the National Union.

9.11 Resolutions to the National Union may be submitted by any Member Organization. Resolutions must be submitted at the National Union Office at least ninety (90) days before the opening of Convention. Resolutions shall be circulated to all Member Organizations at least forty-five (45) days prior to the commencement of Convention.

9.12 Emergency Resolutions will be accepted at Convention up to the deadline established on the agenda.

9.13 Any Member Organization which is in arrears to the National Union for membership dues shall not be entitled to recognition or representation at Convention.

9.14 Any organization which has not applied for and obtained membership in the National Union at least one (1) month prior to Convention shall not be allowed representation.

9.15 Quorum is constituted by a majority of the Member Organizations and a majority of the votes.

9.16 Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, a majority of votes shall be sufficient to pass resolutions or make decisions at Convention.

9.17 Convention shall be conducted according to the general parliamentary rules as stated in the most recently published edition of Robert's Rules of Order. A copy of Robert's Rules of Order shall be available at Convention.

### **Article 10 - National Executive Board**

10.1 The National Executive Board shall be the governing body of the National Union when a Convention is not in session. The National Executive Board shall meet at least two (2) times a year. There shall be a meeting immediately before each Convention. Other meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the National Executive Board upon notice to all Member Organizations at least two weeks in advance. Additional meetings may be scheduled by the President on an emergency basis.

10.2 The National Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of the National Union and three members-at-large, to ensure regional representation. The Executive Director of the Association shall sit as a non-voting member on the National Executive Board. The Executive Director shall:

(a) be under the direction of the National Executive Board; and

(b) be responsible for the drafting and distribution of minutes, administration of the National Union Office and the daily affairs of the National Union; and shall assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the National Executive Board.

10.3 A quorum for the National Executive Board shall be a majority of the members, including at least two of the three officers. Each Member of the National Executive Board shall have one vote. The National Executive Board may, by agreement of seventy-five percent of its members, conduct its business by telephone conference call.

10.4 All matters before the National Executive Board shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast.

10.5 Any Organizational Member may make representations to the National Executive Board at any time respecting matters relating to the objects of the National Union. The National Executive Board may, at its discretion, receive such representations orally or in writing.

10.6 The National Executive Board shall be responsible for the appointment of National Union representatives to Canadian Labour Congress committees or to other bodies.

### **Article 11: Officers and National Executive Board Members of the National Union**

11.1 There shall be the following officers of the National Union:

(a) The President who shall be elected at Convention for a three-year term, which may be renewed by vote at Convention for no more than one further three-year term;

(b) The Vice-President who shall be elected at Convention for a three-year term, which may be renewed by vote at Convention for no more than one further three-year term;

(c) The Treasurer who shall be elected at Convention for a three-year term, which may be renewed by vote at Convention for no more than one further three-year term;

(d) The three Members-at-Large shall be elected at Convention for a three year term, which may be renewed by vote at Convention for no more than one further three year term. Members-at-Large shall represent different regions of the National Union.

11.2 The President shall:

- (a) be the head of the National Union, sign all official documents and preside at Convention and meetings of the National Executive Board;
- (b) be the official spokesperson for the National Union;
- (c) be the National Union representative to the CLC Executive Council; and
- (d) report on the administration and affairs of the National Union to Convention.

11.3 The Vice-President shall:

- (a) carry out the duties assigned by the President and act in lieu of the President in the President's absence; and
- (b) assist the President in the preparation and facilitation of activities of the National Executive Board.

11.4 The Treasurer shall:

- (a) be the chief financial officer of the National Union and shall cause to be kept the books, documents, files and effects of the National Union which shall, at all times, be subject to inspection by the National Board;
- (b) be responsible for the preparation of a financial report of the National Union for each meeting of the Board;
- (c) have the books of the National Union audited and an audited financial statement prepared June 30 each year and furnish such statements to the National Board and Convention; and
- (d) report on the administration of the Office of Treasurer to Convention.

11.5 Should any member of the National Executive Board resign or otherwise leave office before the conclusion of their term, the National Executive Board shall appoint another member of the National Union to that position until the next Convention.

**Article 12 - Amendments**

12.1 Articles 6 and 12 of the Constitution of the National Union may be amended at Convention by a unanimous vote. All other articles may be amended by two-thirds majority vote. Amendments to the Constitution can be submitted by the National Executive Board or by Member Organizations.

12.2 Amendments must be submitted to the National Union at least ninety (90) days prior to the opening day of Convention and must be circulated to all Member Organizations at least forty-five (45) days prior to the commencement of Convention.

**Amended June 2005**  
**Amended May 2008**  
**Amended May 2021**