

CONSTITUTION

OF

West European
Student
Information Bureau

WESIB

A. MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 1

The name of the organisation shall be the West European Student Information Bureau (hereinafter referred to as "WESIB") and shall consist of national unions of students in Western Europe.

ARTICLE 2.

Applications for membership from democratic, representative, and independent national student organisations will be considered by the Board of the WESIB (hereinafter referred to as "the Board").

"West Europe" is defined as those countries whose governments are members of the Cultural Commission of the Council of Europe.

ARTICLE 3

Where there exist more than one organisation eligible for and requesting membership the organisations concerned must agree on common representation in the Bureau for full membership status. Each country shall have one vote in the WESIB Board. Should an application for membership be received and accepted from an organisation from a country with an existing full member organisation(s) all the organisations from that country will revert to associate member status unless they can agree on common representation at the Board. Associate members have full rights save that of voting and providing the chair. Organisations eligible for full membership may also apply for associate membership. If two or more full member organisations from a country cannot agree on a common vote, they have to abstain.

ARTICLE 4

Admission to membership shall only be granted by a minimum three-quarters majority of the member organisations. Member organisations from the same country as an applying organisation shall not participate in the vote on membership application.

B. INSTITUTIONS

ARTICLE 5

The institutions of the WESIB shall be:

- The Board
- The Secretariat

a) The Board

ARTICLE 6

The Board shall be composed of member organisations.

ARTICLE 7

The Board shall meet at least twice a year. It shall be convened and organised by the Secretariat. Extraordinary Board meetings shall be convened at the request of at least half of the full member organisations.

ARTICLE 8

The Board shall examine at least once a year the situation in each member country and the prospects for the future as well as the WESIB programme. The Secretariat shall submit an activity report on the basis of which the Board shall express its opinion on past activities and decide on its future programme.

ARTICLE 9

To prepare its work, the Board can establish committees. The Board shall specify the tasks and mode of operation of such committees.

ARTICLE 10

The vote at all Board meetings shall be valid if cast by more than two-thirds of the full members of the Board.

The Board shall endeavour to reach the widest possible measure of agreement. If a vote is necessary decisions shall be taken by a majority of at least three-quarters of the votes cast.

Voting as a rule shall be by show of hands, but upon request, a roll-call vote shall be taken.

Abstentions are considered as non-participation in the vote. The majority is decided by a count of the votes for and against the motion.

ARTICLE 11

The Board shall arrange for the selection of a Director whose contract shall be of two years duration. The additional staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed in conjunction with the Director.

ARTICLE 12

The Board shall elect one full member organisation to provide a Chairperson for one calendar year. One organisation shall only be permitted to provide a Chairperson for up to a maximum period of three consecutive years. The nationality of the Director and the Chair organisation shall not be the same.

ARTICLE 13

Public statements in the name of the Bureau can only be issued with the consensus of the Board.

b.) The Secretariat

ARTICLE 14

The Secretariat shall consist of the Director and assistant staff, the number of whom shall be determined by the Board.

The Director shall be responsible for the internal organisation of the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 15

The Secretariat shall:

- collect, summarise and distribute information in the field of education to the member organisations
- carry out tasks entrusted to it by the Board
- submit proposals to the Board
- provide the liaison between member organisations and other bodies in the field of education.
- represent the member organisations, when agreed by the Board.
- administer the finances of the WESIB.

ARTICLE 16

The Director may, in agreement with the Board, submit proposals to the member organisations for the co-ordination of important West European student organisation and education policies.

ARTICLE 17

The official working language of the WESIB and its Secretariat shall be English.

C. FINANCES

ARTICLE 18

The Secretariat of WESIB and its activities shall be financed by:

- a) Membership fees
- b) Grants from outside sources, provided that acceptance of such revenue does not conflict with the aims of the WESIB.

Full accounts shall be submitted to the Board once per fiscal year, and a report of the current financial position should be made to each Board meeting.

ARTICLE 19

Annual membership fees and acceptance of grants from outside sources shall be determined by the Board on the proposal of the Director.

ARTICLE 20

The fiscal year for WESIB will run in accordance with the National Law of the country of its location.

ARTICLE 21

The Secretariat will arrange with the elected auditors for a professional annual audit to be prepared and presented to the Board at the end of each fiscal year.

D. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 22

The Constitution may be amended by the Board by a three-quarters majority of the full member organisations, provided that notice of the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing to the Secretariat not less than sixty days in advance, and the Secretariat has notified all member organisations of the WESIB of such amendments not less than thirty days in advance of the Board meeting.

20 April 1986