

Inter Statutes

Chapter 1: The Association

Article 1: General Provisions

1. The association carries the name Inter. Inter is referred to as “the association” in the remainder of these statutes.
2. The association is located in Amsterdam.
3. The association was founded on 14th March 2017. The association will exist for an unset time period.
4. The association is a political student party at the University of Amsterdam.
5. The association’s official language of conduct and publication is English;
 - a. The Dutch language may be used when circumstances require it.
6. The association does not aim to make profit.

Article 2: Association Year

1. The association year spans from 1st September until 31st August;
 - a. The period from 1st July until 31st August is considered a transition period, during which old Board Members, Transparency & Democracy Officers, and Representatives (whose roles are explained in Chapter 3) transfer their duties and knowledge onto their successors. During this period, the old members still hold their official functions.
2. The financial year of the association spans from September 1st until August 31st.

Article 3: Termination

1. The association shall be terminated when all members unanimously decide that it is no longer serving its statutory goals.
2. On termination as per Article 3.1, any surplus funds may be returned to the original source or divided amongst members. The course of action shall be determined by unanimity of Board Members.

Chapter 2: Goals

Article 4: Goals

The association’s objective is to improve students’ well-being at the University of Amsterdam, by the:

1. Representation of the general interest of the student body;
2. Encouragement of student involvement in university politics;
3. Establishment of a platform for all students to voice their opinion concerning the University of Amsterdam;
4. Promotion of an international outlook;
5. Commitment to sustainability and environmentalism;
6. Enhancement of transparency in decision-making;
7. Election of the association’s representatives in the Faculty Student Council(s) and the Central Student Council.

Article 5: Means

The association wants to achieve its goals through:

1. A transparent and democratic structure;
2. Consultation of the student body on the association's policies;
3. Regular meetings (see Chapter 4);
4. The election of the association's representatives in the Faculty Student Council(s) and the Central Student Council.

Chapter 3: Members

Article 6: Types of Members

1. All members of the association shall be students of the University of Amsterdam.
2. The association comprises of the following types of members:
 - a. Board Members;
 - b. Transparency & Democracy Officers;
 - c. Representatives;
 - d. Honorary Members;
 - e. General Members;
 - f. Media & Marketing Assistant(s);
 - g. Confidant.
3. Categories of membership are not mutually exclusive.
4. The association also recognises:
 - a. Alumni;
 - b. Honorary Alumni;
 - c. Sponsors;
 - d. Constituents.

Article 7: Election of Members

1. Board Members are natural persons who:
 - a. Are elected by the association's members into their roles (see Article 8);
 - i. Individual elections take place through a secret ballot in the final General Assembly (GA) of the association year.
 - ii. The candidate who reaches a simple majority in the first round of voting is elected to the Board in their respective position.
 - iii. In the case of a tie, there is a second round of voting (run-off ballot) between the candidates with the most votes from the first round.
 - iv. In the case of a tie in the second round of voting, a new list of candidates shall be proposed by the old Board within seven days. A special election GA shall convene to fill the vacant position as soon as possible.
 - v. Impeachment of an individual Board Member may only occur by the initiative of any Member and by a vote of no confidence through an absolute majority in a GA.
 - b. Assume their roles during the transition period for a term of one association year;
 - i. The term otherwise ends in the case of impeachment.

- ii. The term of Board Members who are elected during the already-convened association year shall last until the end of that association year.
 - c. Must, in all cases:
 - i. Be a Member of the association;
 - ii. Be a student at the University of Amsterdam during their potential term as a Board Member;
 - d. May run for an unlimited number of terms, given compliance with the requirements of Article 7.1.c.
2. Transparency & Democracy (T&D) Officers are natural persons who are elected by the association's members into their roles (see Article 8);
 - a. Individual elections take place through open voting during any meeting of the association year.
 - b. The number of T&D positions shall be determined by the governing Board.
 - c. The Board may at any time decide to change the number of T&D officers if deemed necessary and call another election.
3. Representatives are natural persons who are elected by the University of Amsterdam student body to represent the association in a Student Council at the Faculty or Central level.
4. Honorary Members are natural persons who are deemed by the Board to have contributed exceptionally to the work of the association;
 - a. Potential Honorary Members are proposed by the Board.
 - b. Proposed Honorary Members are officially confirmed by a simple majority of Members in a secret ballot at a meeting.
5. General Members are natural persons who apply to become a General Member and are approved by the Board or current Members at an association meeting, subject to the conditions laid down in Article 12.2, 12.3 and 19.
6. Alumni are natural persons who have been a Member of the association, and have graduated from or no longer attend the University of Amsterdam.
7. Honorary Alumni are natural persons who have graduated from or no longer attend the University of Amsterdam, and:
 - a. Have been an Honorary Member of the association, or;
 - b. Are deemed by the Board to have contributed exceptionally to the work of the association in their final year at the University of Amsterdam, and;
8. Media & Marketing Assistants are natural persons who are elected by the association's members into their roles (see Article 8);
 - a. Individual elections take place through secret ballot during any meeting of the association year.
 - b. The number of Media & Marketing Assistants shall be determined by the governing Board.
 - c. The Board may at any time decide to change the number of Media & Marketing Assistants if deemed necessary and call another election.
9. The Confidant is a natural person who is elected by the association's members into their role (see Article 8);
 - a. Individual elections take place through open voting during any meeting of the association year.

- b. Cannot be a board member.

Article 8: Roles of the Members

1. Board Members are comprised of:

a. **The Chair**, who:

- i. Leads the regular meetings and General Assemblies (GA);
- ii. Prepares the agenda for regular meetings and GAs;
- iii. May appoint someone else to lead a regular meeting or GA if they are unable to attend or lead it;
- iv. Coordinates and facilitates the activities of other Members;
- v. Is responsible for the administration of personal information records, as specified in Article 18;
- vi. Is finally responsible for the association.

b. **The Secretary**, who:

- i. Handles organisational aspects of the association, for instance:
 - 1. Taking the minutes at the weekly meetings and the GA;
 - 2. Organising the association's Google Drive;
 - 3. Arranging the room where the regular meetings and GAs take place.
- ii. Helps other Members wherever necessary;
- iii. Inherits the powers of the Chair when they are indisposed and have not appointed somebody else as per Article 8.1.a.iii.

c. **The Treasurer**, who:

- i. Sets and apportions the budget for the association year;
- ii. Is responsible for the association's finances and keeping records of the association's transactions;
- iii. May present the budget of the association at a GA.

d. **The Ambassador**, who:

- i. Represents the association in external relations;
- ii. Coordinates the work of the Transparency & Democracy Officers;
- iii. Interacts with other organs at the University of Amsterdam;
- iv. Helps set the association's direction externally.

e. **The Media & Marketing Officer**, who:

- i. Manages the association's social media presence and website;
- ii. Is responsible for producing communication and promotion campaigns, with respect to:
 - 1. Content;
 - 2. Design;
- iii. Delegates tasks to Media & Marketing Assistants.

f. **The Head of Policy**, who:

- i. Works together with the councilmembers, the board and the Transparency & Democracy officers in identifying issues that need to be addressed in the Central Student Council and the Faculty councils of the University of Amsterdam;
- ii. Cooperates with councilmembers and the board in creating a unified policy objective of the association;

- iii. Helps formulate a campaign agenda for the association;
 - iv. Supports councilmembers in the creation and drafting of policy-proposals.
2. **Transparency & Democracy Officers:**
 - a. Represent the association and its goals;
 - b. Gather information on specific issues in the constituency at the request of the Board;
 - c. Communicate the association's activities to the constituency.
 3. **Representatives:**
 - a. Represent the association's goals and policies;
 - b. Update the association on current Student Council affairs and activities.
 4. **Honorary Members:**
 - a. May attend weekly meetings and GAs;
 - b. May undertake representative tasks related to the association;
 - c. May advise Board Members, Transparency & Democracy Officers, and/or Representatives to help them achieve their goals;
 - d. Are additionally responsible for the mediation of internal conflicts and the provision of advice for a resolution of such conflicts.
 5. **General Members:**
 - a. May attend regular meetings and GAs;
 - b. May undertake extra tasks related to the association;
 - c. May work with Board Members, Transparency & Democracy Officers, and/or representatives to help them achieve their goals;
 6. **Media & Marketing Assistant(s):**
 - a. Assist the Media & Marketing officer in managing the associations social media presence and website;
 - b. Assist the Media & Marketing officer in producing communication and promotion campaigns, with respect to:
 - i. Content;
 - ii. Design.
 7. **Alumni and Honorary Alumni:**
 - a. May participate in association meetings, but may not vote unless explicitly granted such a right by the Board;
 - b. May consult current members on any matter related to the association.
 8. **Sponsors:**
 - a. Are natural or legal persons who have contributed to the association and are recognised by the Board as such;
 - b. May observe association meetings, but may not vote;
 - c. May be granted speaking rights by the Chair or the person leading the meeting.
 9. **Constituents:**
 - a. Are natural persons who are currently enrolled at the University of Amsterdam;
 - b. May observe association meetings, but may not vote;
 - c. May be granted speaking rights by the Chair or the person leading the meeting.
 10. **Confidant**

- a. Are the first-point of contact for association members (claimant) when grievances with other association members or board members (accused) arise.
- b. Are the contact person if a claimant believes another association member violated the statutes.
- c. Any information divulged by the claimant is subject to a confidentiality agreement between the Confidant and the claimant. This confidentiality agreement holds until the claimant gives permission to release relevant information to the involved parties and board members, or to all members of the association. Any release of information is subject to approval by the claimant.
- d. Shall inform the associations chair, ambassador, or secretary about the behaviour of the accused member pursuant to Article 8.10.c if this behaviour warrants suspension or termination of membership pursuant to Article 9 and 10.
- e. May call a General Meeting to discuss the suspension or termination of a membership pursuant to Article 9.2 if the board does not respond adequately within two weeks of being informed about the members behaviour.

Article 9: Suspension of Membership

1. The following is a non-exhaustive list of reasons for which membership may be suspended:
 - a. Violent or considerably aggressive conduct directed towards another Member with the purpose of intimidation or harm;
 - b. Purposeful actions deemed harmful to the association or its reputation.
2. Suspension occurs by a final decision of the Board, which may be made on the advice of Honorary Members, or by the Confidant pursuant to Article 8.10.c;
 - a. The Board shall make the decision on suspension within two weeks of the incident in question.
 - b. If the Board reaches a deadlock in its decision, a vote amongst all Members, excluding the Member in question, of the association shall take place within two weeks of this deadlock;
 - i. A majority must be in favour of suspension for it to occur.
 - c. The Member in question shall not be able to advise or vote on the matter.
3. The Member in question must be given notice in (electronic) writing, outlining the reason for suspension, at least a week before the vote for suspension takes place, and they must be given the opportunity to defend themselves immediately before the vote occurs.
4. Suspension of membership shall have immediate effect.
5. A suspended Member may not attend meetings or General Assemblies, claim to represent the association, or engage in the activities of the association.
6. The time period of suspension shall be limited to eight weeks at a time, after which membership shall be automatically reinstated.

Article 10: Termination of Membership

1. The following is a non-exhaustive list of reasons for which membership may be terminated:
 - a. The natural person dies;
 - b. The legal person stops existing;

- c. The Member decides to cease membership or withdraw their core personal information (see Article 19), and communicates this to the Board in (electronic) writing;
 - d. The Member joins another political party at the University of Amsterdam;
 - e. The Member becomes a member of another organisation which is deemed to be in conflict with the values of the association;
 - f. The Member fails to comply with the terms of their suspension as per Article 9.5;
 - g. The Member is suspended three times as per Article 9;
 - h. The Member is removed by the unanimous decision of the Board;
 - i. If removal concerns a Board Member, they shall not be able to advise or vote on the matter.
 - i. The Member does not pay their yearly membership fee.
2. Termination of membership shall have immediate effect.
 3. The Board must notify the Member in question of their termination in (electronic) writing as soon as possible, stating the reason for termination of membership.
 4. The Member in question has the right to appeal the decision of the Board to an *ad hoc* Appeals Commission;
 - a. Board Members, Honorary Members, and Representatives may volunteer for the Commission.
 - b. The Commission shall ultimately be made up of an equal number of Board Members and either Honorary Members or Representatives.
 - c. The number of Commissioners shall be limited to six, and volunteers as per Article 10.4.a. shall decide the ultimate composition amongst themselves in accordance with Article 10.4.b. within four weeks of the incident in question.
 - d. Members of the Appeals Commission may recuse themselves for reasons pertaining to a conflict of interest, and this person shall be replaced in accordance with Article 10.4.a, 4.b., and 4.c..
 - e. The final decision on termination:
 - i. Must be made within two weeks of the Commission's ultimate formation;
 - ii. Must be unanimous;
 - iii. Shall be binding;
 - iv. Shall have immediate effect;
 - v. Shall not be subject to further appeal.
 5. Failure of the Appeals Commission to follow procedural requirements as per Article 10.4 shall lead to voidance of termination proceedings, and the entire process as per Article 10.4 shall be started over within two weeks. Failure of the Appeals Commission to follow procedural requirements as per Article 10.4 for a second time shall lead to voidance of termination proceedings and immediate reinstatement of membership and the incident in question shall no longer cause the Member be subject to a penalty of suspension or termination of membership;
 - a. Reinstatement of a membership shall not preclude the Member in question from being subject to a penalty of suspension or termination of membership for another incident.

Chapter 4: Meetings

Article 11: Regular Meetings

1. The association has regular meetings during the association year.

2. The regular meetings are led by the Chair.
3. During the regular meetings, the Secretary takes the minutes.
4. The minutes of the regular meetings are publicly available.
5. During the regular meetings, the Representative(s) inform(s) the association about current Student Council affairs.
6. During the regular meetings, the Transparency & Democracy Officers inform the association about current student issues and report back on their activities.

Article 12: Voting System

1. Voting at a regular meeting may only take place when at least a quarter of members are present.
2. When the Board makes a decision regarding:
 - a. Approving new members, as per Article 7.5, they shall make this decision by a simple majority of all board members;
 - i. The Board is required to inform the association members about the planned approval of new members
 - ii. The board must give the association members at least three (3) days in which they may object to the approval of any member, at which point the approval of this member is voted on at the next regular meeting
 - b. Changing the number of Transparency & Democracy Officers, as per Article 7.2.c. it shall make this decision by a simple majority of all Board Members;
 - c. Proposing Honorary Members, as per Article 7.4.a, it shall make this decision by a simple majority of all Board Members;
 - d. Proposing Honorary Alumni, as per Article 7.7.b, it shall make this decision by a simple majority of all Board Members;
 - e. Granting Alumni voting rights in a meeting, as per Article 8.6.a, it shall make this decision by a simple majority of all Board Members;
 - f. Suspending association membership, as per Article 9.2, it shall make this decision by an absolute majority of all Board Members;
 - g. Terminating association membership Article 10.1.h, it shall make this decision by a unanimous decision of Board Members;
3. Subject to Article 12.1, when the association members vote on:
 - a. Terminating the association, as per Article 3.1, they shall make this decision by unanimity of present members;
 - b. Confirming Honorary Members, as per Article 7.4, they shall make this decision by a simple majority of present members;
 - c. Approving new members, as per Article 7.5, they shall make this decision by a simple majority of present members if an association member has objected to the approval of a member by the board according to Article 12.2;
 - d. Approving statutory amendments, as per Article 16, they shall make this decision by an absolute majority of present members;
4. Anyone has the right to abstain from voting.

Article 13: Nomination of Council Candidates

1. In order to be eligible to run for a Council position as a Representative of the association, the potential candidate must:
 - a. Be a Member of the association;
 - b. Be a student at the University of Amsterdam during their potential term as a Representative;
 - c. Not have been subject to suspension of membership in the current association year.
2. Eligible members who wish to run for a Council position must notify the Chair in (electronic) writing before the meeting in which pitches for positions on the candidate list take place.
3. During a regular meeting in the run-up to elections, eligible members who wish to run for a Council position shall be given the opportunity to pitch their candidacy in front of association members.
4. After all eligible members who wish to run have pitched, a vote shall take place to determine the order of the association's candidate list;
 - a. The votes shall be cast anonymously.
 - b. The vote may follow a ranked voting system.
 - c. All members may vote on the order of the candidate list;
 - i. If a member is running for a Council position, they are not eligible to vote on the candidate list.
 - ii. If a member is not present at the relevant meeting, they may appoint another member who is present to vote on their behalf or they may submit their vote in (electronic) writing to any Board Member, who shall ensure that it is counted.
 - d. In the case of a tie between two or more candidates, the Board Members shall decide the order of the relevant candidates by consensus.

Chapter 5: General Assembly

Article 14: General Provisions

1. There shall be a minimum of one General Assembly (GA) per association year.
2. The Chair shall lead the GA(s).
3. A simple majority of Board Members may call a GA with a minimum of one week's notice;
 - a. This minimum time period does apply to special election GAs as provided for in Article 7.1.a.iv.
4. All Members are invited to attend the GA; at least half of the Members must be present or represented by proxy at the GA to give binding effect to the decisions made.
 - a. Representation by proxy requires the signature of the Member to be represented.

Article 15: Appointment of the New Board

1. The GA to elect the new Board Members, in accordance with Article 7.1.a.i-iii, shall take place towards the end of the association year.
 - a. An extraordinary GA shall be held within the association year to fill vacant board positions if necessary
2. When electing Board Members, as per Article 7.1, Members shall make this decision by simple majority.

Chapter 6: Amendment of Statutory Rules

Article 16: General Provisions

1. Statutory amendments shall be written by the Board.
2. The proposed amendment(s) shall be voted on by Members during a General Assembly.
3. If the amendment as proposed is approved, the Board shall be responsible for executing the amendment.
4. If the amendment as proposed is rejected, the Board may rephrase it on the spot and another vote may take place immediately; a second rejection shall preclude a similar amendment from being proposed again within six months.

Chapter 7: Finances

Article 17: General Provisions

1. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Set and apportion the budget for the association year;
 - b. Be responsible for the association's finances and keeping clear and extensive records of the association's finances and transactions;
 - i. Any member may request a copy of such records from the Treasurer at any time during the association year.
2. The Treasurer must present a financial overview of the association at a General Assembly in the first 4 months and at the end of the association year.
3. For any consequential financial decisions, the Treasurer shall consult the rest of the Board, who must approve it by a simple majority.
4. It is recognised that the association may receive financial contributions
 - a. These financial contributions may come from its members,
 - i. No member shall be required to make contributions, nor shall any member be told a specific amount they should contribute,
 - ii. There shall be no compulsion with regard to such contributions;
 - b. The association may accept financial contributions from its council members,
 - i. Contribution to the association by the councilmembers is not required,
 - ii. The associations recommendation is not binding, and representatives may contribute any desired amount,
 - iii. The individual financial contributions by the councilmembers must be kept anonymous and only be processed and accessed by the treasurer of the association.
 - c. The association may accept non-monetary donations from individuals and outside organisations, including private businesses,
 - i. These donations may only be accepted with prior approval through a super-majority by the association members during a regular meeting,
 1. It must be announced one week prior to the general meeting that the association is planning to vote on the approval of such a donation,

- ii. Donations from private business and outside organisations may only be approved if their values and actions are in accordance with the values of the association as stated in Article 4,
 - iii. Donations by private business may preferably come from small businesses based in the Netherlands.
5. Members of the Association are required to pay a yearly membership fee of five (5) Euros within the first 30 days of each Association year
 - a. If a member joins within the association year they shall pay their membership fee for that association year after being approved by the board or members pursuant to Article 12.2.a.
 - b. If a member does not pay this membership fee their membership shall be terminated in accordance with Article 10.1.i.
 - i. Members may request the board for an extended time period to pay their membership fee which may be granted if the board deems this request to be reasonable.

Chapter 8: Privacy

Article 18: General Provisions

1. The Chair shall be responsible for correctly processing and administering the personal information of members and persons or entities recognised by the association.
 - a. The Board shall be granted access to the personal information, excluding donation data, of members and persons or entities recognised by the association, in order to:
 - i. Support the Chair's administrative activities;
 - ii. Be able to take over the Chair's administrative activities if they are indisposed;
 - iii. Ensure internal transparency.
2. Personal information records shall be primarily kept digitally; forms that require signatures shall be scanned.
3. The Chair shall be responsible for safeguarding physical copies of documents that contain personal information and destroying them on the request of the person or entity whose information they contain.

Article 19: Privacy for Members

1. When someone applies to become a Member of the association, the association shall request core personal information, consisting of:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Contact information.
2. This request must be in accordance with all of the following:
 - a. The person or entity whose information is being requested must be aware of the association's identity;
 - b. The request must be specific in terms of the type of information sought and the reasons for which it may be used;
 - c. The request may be denied at any time and there is no requirement to provide a justification;

- d. The person or entity whose information is being requested may only approve the request voluntarily;
 - e. The person or entity whose information is being requested must acknowledge that they are fully informed of the reasons for which their information may be used and that they are aware of the fact that they are giving the association permission to use their information for those reasons;
 - f. The person or entity who approves the request must provide a signed statement to that effect.
3. Upon rejection of providing this information, the association shall not recognise the applicant as a Member.
4. The association may also request additional information from Members for organisational and/or analytical purposes, but there is no obligation to provide this information.
5. A Member who has provided their core personal information to the association, as per Article 19.1, has the right to withdraw this information at any time and there is no requirement to provide a justification; if they do this, membership will be terminated.
6. A Member who has provided any additional information, as per Article 19.4, to the association has the right to withdraw this information at any time and there is no requirement to provide a justification.

Article 20: Privacy for Other Entities Recognised by the Association

1. The association may request contact information from those whom the association recognises, as per Article 6.4, in accordance with all of the following:
 - a. The person or entity whose information is being requested must be aware of the association's identity;
 - b. The request must be specific in terms of the type of information sought and the reasons for which it may be used;
 - c. The request may be denied at any time and there is no requirement to provide a justification;
 - d. The person or entity whose information is being requested may only approve the request voluntarily;
 - e. The person or entity whose information is being requested must acknowledge that they are fully informed of the reasons for which their information may be used and that they are aware of the fact that they are giving the association permission to use their information for those reasons;
 - f. The person or entity who approves the request must provide a signed statement to that effect.
2. The association shall remove all data and information concerning a person or entity on their request.
3. If a former member wishes to be recognised as an Alum, they must allow the association to keep their core personal information, as listed in Article 19.1, for contact purposes, provided the Alum is made aware of what their information shall be used for.

Chapter 9: Residual Rules

Article 21: General Provisions

1. When circumstances arise that are not provided for by these statutes, the Board shall decide how to handle the situation.
2. The language of these statutes shall primarily be interpreted in a literal sense;
 - a. If the language is ambiguous, the provision shall be interpreted in light of the goals of the association, particularly the goals of representing the general interest of the student body and enhancing transparency in decision-making at the University of Amsterdam.