THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

AS APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, 19 NOVEMBER 2010
RESOLUTION: C/10 1469/051
List of Acronyms

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<td>Faculty Representative</td>
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<td>GSA</td>
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PREAMBLE

Whereas recognizing the need to promote the spirit of togetherness and power sharing among all the students of all the campuses of the University of Namibia;

Whereas the said spirit of togetherness and power sharing is effectively protected and maintained by the amalgamation and systematisation of all student structures as one body across the campuses of the University of Namibia;

Whereas determined to promote and provide for equal opportunities for all students at the University of Namibia regardless of nationality, ethnic origin, gender, political affiliation, disability status, social and economic status;

We the students of the University of Namibia:

• Determined to these ends and for the sake of present and future generations, to establish a Student Representative Council which caters for all campuses;
• Committed to the principle of academic freedom and the autonomy of institutions of higher learning.
• Pursuing the fulfillment of economic, social, cultural and political interest of the academic community;
• Committed to promoting a conducive climate for intellectual exchange, research, self-development and academic excellence;
• Realizing and emphasizing social accountability and the responsibility of the academic community to enhance a vibrant society;
• Resolving to guarantee lasting respect for the Namibian Constitution and the enforcement of the rule of law among students and all campuses alike;

Therefore, through our liberally elected representatives and in terms of Section 15 of the University of Namibia Act, 1992 (Act 18 of 1992), hereby constitute the Student Representative Council of the University of Namibia and accept this Constitution as the basic fundamental law governing the conduct of affairs of the Student Representative Council at the University of Namibia.

DEFINITIONS

In this constitution, the following definitions shall apply unless stipulated or the context indicates otherwise.

“Congress” means the SRC Congress established in terms of Chapter 2 of this constitution.

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the Student Representative Council.

“Council” means the Council of the University of Namibia.

“Full-time Student” means a person registered either as a full-time, part time or distance student at the University of Namibia.

“Parliament” means the University of Namibia Student Parliament and shall be deemed to include any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof.
“Quorum” means the minimum number of persons who may validly attend a meeting sanctioned by this Constitution or the by-laws thereto.

“Student Representative Council” means the Student Representative Council of the University of Namibia established in terms of this constitution pursuant to the provisions of section 15 of the University of Namibia Act, 1992 (Act 18 of 1992).

“University of Namibia” means the University of Namibia constituted in terms of the University of Namibia Act, 1992 (Act 18 of 1992) which includes all campuses and colleges established there under.

CHAPTER 1

THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

ARTICLE 1 NAME

There shall be a Student Representative Council (SRC), which shall be the representative of the UNAM student body.

ARTICLE 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

(1) The SRC shall:

(a) Represent students both individually and collectively.
(b) Create opportunities for the advancement of academic, social, cultural, political, religious and sports activities among its members.
(c) Foster links of solidarity, cooperation and communication with other student bodies having similar principles to those of the University of Namibia’s student body, both nationally and internationally.
(d) Organize and unify students as one entity across campuses of the University of Namibia.
(e) Campaign and provide for equal opportunities for all University of Namibia students regardless of nationality, gender, disability or economic status.
(f) Embrace the vision, mission and strategic plan of the University of Namibia through, amongst other things, the development of plans and the achievement of goals.
(g) Promote the understanding, respect and protection of the UNAM rules, regulations and applicable laws amongst the student body.

ARTICLE 3 THE COMPOSITION OF THE SRC

(1) The SRC shall comprise of the following portfolios:

1.1 Executive portfolios:

(a) The President (only at main campus)
(b) Deputy President(s)
(c) The Secretary-General
(d) The Secretary for Finance

1.2 SRC Non-Executive portfolio(s)

(a) The Secretary for Internal Affairs
(b) The Secretary for External Affairs
(c) The Secretary for Information and Publicity
ARTICLE 4  POWERS AND DUTIES OF SRC

(1) The SRC Shall:
(a) Be the executive organ of the entire student body.
(b) Represent the student body on structures or fora such as:
   (i) The University Council
   (ii) National and international student bodies / fora
   (iii) General public fora
   (iv) Any structure of the University that makes provision for student representation

(c) In consultation with the ODS, initiate and formulate administrative policies for the student body, including:
   (i) Criteria for the registration of clubs and societies
   (ii) Submission of year plans to the Student Parliament (SP), General Student Assembly (GSA) and/or SRC Congress and ODS for noting and approval.

(d) Convene the GSA and SRC Congress.
(e) Control, maintain and administer properties entrusted to the student body.
(f) In consultation with the ODS, approve the registration of student societies and clubs, in accordance with applicable UNAM rules and regulations.
(g) Facilitate implementation of decisions of the Congress, GSA or SP.
(h) Keep proper records of SRC funds.
(i) Ensure a positive image of the University, by carrying out its business bone fide.
(j) Respect and uphold the rules and regulations of the University and applicable laws.
(k) Conduct its affairs in an exemplary manner.

ARTICLE 5  TENURE AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE SRC

(1) The term of office for SRC members shall be ONE year, subject to paragraph (2) below

(2) An SRC member shall cease to hold office if:
(a) He/she ceases to be a member of the UNAM student body.
(b) A vote of no confidence is taken against him/her for violating any part/section of this constitution.
(c) He/she tenders his/her resignation in writing.
(d) He/she is found guilty of gross misconduct, fraudulent and/or criminal activities as stipulated in the UNAM student code of conduct, this constitution or any other applicable laws.
(e) He/she fails to attend three meetings of the SRC, whether consecutive or not, without prior written notice and/or acceptable reason(s).

(3) Any person(s) expelled from the SRC by way of a vote of no confidence or due to a violation of sub Article (d) above, shall not be eligible to be elected to the SRC, SRC Sub-committee or any...
other student leadership position(s) thereafter.

ARTICLE 6 RULES AND LOCAL PROCEDURES

The SRC may enact or repeal specific procedures necessary to govern its operations, provided that the procedures do not contravene this Constitution.

CHAPTER 2

THE SRC CONGRESS

ARTICLE 7 NAME

There shall be an SRC Congress to serve as the highest decision-making organ of the SRC and as the link between all the UNAM student bodies.

ARTICLE 8 FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SRC CONGRESS

(1) The SRC Congress shall be the highest decision making body of the SRC and shall have the right to:
   (a) Receive budgets and financial reports or statements from the SRC Executive.
   (b) Request from the SRC Executive, reports of activities and plans of action from all campuses and other bodies established by this Constitution.
   (c) Formulate long-term student policies, in consultation with the ODS, and recommend them for approval by UNAM management or Council.
   (d) Demand access to the minutes of all SRC, GSA and Parliament meetings.
   (e) Draft its procedural rules in line with the Constitution.
   (f) Consider and endorse, where acceptable, proposed amendments to the Constitution.
   (g) May appoint any three person(s) to SRC Congress in an advisory capacity only and if necessary.

ARTICLE 9 MEMBERSHIP/COMPOSITION OF THE SRC CONGRESS

(1) The SRC President who shall by virtue of his/her office is the Convener.
(2) All SRC members that hold Executive portfolios.
(3) Representative for Academic Affairs from each campus.
(4) Speaker of Student Parliament from each campus.
(5) Anybody appointed in terms of Article 8 (g), who shall have no voting right.

ARTICLE 10 EXECUTIVE OF THE SRC CONGRESS

1. The following members of the SRC Congress shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Congress
   a) The President
   b) One Deputy President
   c) One Secretary General
   d) One Secretary for Finance
   e) One Representative for Academic affairs
   f) One Speaker of the Student Parliament

2. The executives of the SRC Congress shall be elected at the first congress meeting.
CHAPTER 3

THE GENERAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY (GSA)

ARTICLE 11 NAME
There shall be a General Student Assembly (GSA) at each campus, which shall serve as the highest decision organ at each UNAM Campus.

ARTICLE 12 MEMBERSHIP

(1) There shall be three types of membership:
   (a) Full membership
   (b) Extended membership
   (c) Honorary membership

ARTICLE 13 POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE GSA

(1) The GSA may exercise the following powers, functions and duties:
   (a) Reviewing and/or approval and/or adoption of plans of action or recommendations presented to it by the Student Parliament and SRC.
   (b) To move a motion for the removal of an SRC member from office and upon acceptance of such motion by 2/3 majority make a recommendation to the ODS for requisite action.
   (c) Request the SRC to convene GSA where necessary.
   (d) Submit agenda points for the GSA
   (e) Deliberate on any matter that affects the welfare of all registered students

ARTICLE 14 QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

(1) Full membership shall be granted to all registered students of the University of Namibia.

(2) Extended Membership may be open to following categories after the completion of a form.
   (a) Namibian students at other institution of higher learning both inside and outside the country.
   (b) Former students of the University of Namibia, and the members of Alumni.
   (b) Staff members of the University of Namibia.

(3) Honorary Membership shall be awarded to:
   (a) Any former full/extended member whose activities promoted the aims of the council.
   (b) Any person(s) that the campus student representative council in consultation with the Student Parliament identify and find him or her fit to provide quality to the campus leadership.
ARTICLE 15 RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF THE GSA

(1) Every full member:
   (a) Shall have the right to participate in the activities of the GSA;
   (b) Shall honor and uphold the SRC Constitution;
   (c) Shall carry out tasks assigned to him/her by GSA or any structure of the SRC;
   (d) Shall endeavour to uphold the policies and programmes of the GSA;
   (e) Shall have the rights to propose, second or vote for motions at General Student’s Assembly.

(2) Subject to the by-laws, full members shall have the right to:
   (a) Nominate, vote and be voted for in the general SRC, SRC sub-committees and Parliamentary Standing Committees’ elections

(3) Extended and Honorary members shall:
   (a) Be accorded the privilege of attending GSA meetings in an advisory and/or observatory capacities.
   (b) Have the right to receive publications of the SRC and/or GSA.

CHAPTER 4
THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT

ARTICLE 16 NAME

(1) There shall be a Student Parliament (SP) at each campus which shall serve as a highest decision making organ of the SRC in the absence of GSA.

(2) The composition and specific powers of Parliament shall be governed by the by-laws made hereunder.

ARTICLE 17 OFFICE BEARERS OF STUDENT PARLIAMENT (SP)

(1) The Student Parliament shall be administered by an Executive elected in Parliament and such Executive shall consist of:
   (a) The Speaker
   (b) Executive Secretary

ARTICLE 18 POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT

(1) The Student Parliament may exercise the following powers, functions and duties:
   (a) Presenting to the GSA a motion of vote of no confidence in a particular member of the SRC.
   (b) To suspend and/or expel any member subject to the Student Parliament by-laws.
   (c) To request all minutes of all meetings of the campus GSA, SRC and/or SRC Congress when necessary.
(d) To appoint sub-committees of the Student Parliament.

CHAPTER 5

ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 19 THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

(1) The electoral commission shall comprise of:
   (a) The Chief Electoral Commissioner
   (b) The Deputy Chief Electoral Commissioners;
   (c) Five members of each campus GSA elected by the GSA.

ARTICLE 20 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

(1) The electoral commission shall:
   (a) Conduct and supervise all the elections of the student body structures such as SRC, SP, HC, and Faculty Representatives (FR) elections as well as attend to all other electoral matters of the student body for every academic year.
   (b) Be responsible for polling results.
   (c) Submit reports on the conduct and results of all student body elections.
   (d) The Office of the Dean (ODS) shall appoint the Chief and Deputy Chief Electoral Commissioners.
   (e) The GSA shall nominate the Student Electoral Commission members for approval by the ODS.

ARTICLE 21 TYPES OF ELECTIONS

(1) There shall be five types of elections:
   (a) Presidential Elections
   (b) General Elections for:
      (i) SRC Sub-Committees
      (ii) Representatives on SRC elected from SRC Sub-Committees
      (iii) By-elections

   (2) The procedure and manner of voting shall be governed by the by-laws passed under this Constitution.

ARTICLE 22 REFERENDUMS

(1) The Electoral Commission may hold a referendum when necessary and/or upon the request of GSA or Student Parliament of the respectful campus.
(2) Procedure and manner of conducting the referendums shall be governed by the by-laws passed under this Constitution.
CHAPTER 6

THE BUDGET AND FINANCE

ARTICLE 23 SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE SRC

(1) The sources of income for the council shall be:
   (a) Allocations as per students’ contributions and/or all subsidies as may be appropriated to the SRC by the University’s Finance Committee.
   (b) Any other funds acquired by the SRC.
   (c) Income generated from entrepreneurial engagements by any SRC structure.

(2) The budget:
   (a) The expenditure of funds within the approved budgets allocated to SRC structures shall be administered as stipulated in the procedural manual by the University Administration in consultation with the ODS and SRC of the respective campus.

(3) A set of financial records relative to the SRC will be maintained using generally accepted accounting principles and such records shall be safely kept by the Secretary for Finance who should avail them for inspection upon request by the Office of the Dean of Students or University Management.

CHAPTER 7

REMNUNERATION OF THE STUDENT LEADERS

ARTICLE 24 REMISSION OF FEES FOR SRC MEMBERS AND OTHER STUDENT LEADERS

All student leaders may qualify for remission of tuition and/or hostel fees as determined by the University’s Finance Committee.

CHAPTER 8

THE CAMPUS SUB-COMMITTEES AND STANDING COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 25 SRC SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) There shall be:
   (a) The Student Academic Committee
   (b) The Housing Committee
   (c) The Sports Committee
   (d) The Societies/Cultural Committee
CHAPTER 9
BY-LAWS AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 26  CAMPUS BY-LAWS

The Student Parliament for each UNAM campus shall create by-laws to govern routine matters and any business incidental to the SRC matters of each campus.

ARTICLE 27 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION:

(1) The SRC Constitution may be amended by the submission of a proposal signed by not less than 10% of the registered students of each campus.

(2) Such proposal shall be submitted to each campus SRC for onward submission to the GSA of each Campus.

(3) Any proposed amendment shall be considered by the SRC Congress and if accepted by 2/3 majority of congress such proposal shall be submitted to the UNAM Council for approval.

CHAPTER 10
CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS FOR STUDENT LEADERS

ARTICLE 28  CONDUCT OF STUDENT LEADERS

All student leaders shall conduct themselves in an exemplary manner and shall uphold the SRC Constitution, relevant by-laws and the UNAM rules and regulations at all times. Violation of this Constitution, relevant by-laws and the UNAM rules and regulations shall be a punishable offence in terms of the UNAM rules and regulations governing students.

ARTICLE 29 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

Complaints or accusations against a student leader shall be lodged in writing, signed by the complainant and submitted to the ODS before formal charges are laid against the student leader.

ARTICLE 30 OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

(1) The ODS shall provide administrative assistance and support in the planning, coordination and implementation of approved SRC programmes.

(2) The ODS shall have the power to:
   (a) Approve or disapprove, in writing, projects proposed by student leaders.
   (b) Call for an extraordinary SRC Congress meeting where necessary
   (c) Receive complaints from students in terms of Article 29 above
   (d) Discipline Members of the SRC in terms of the University’s rules and regulations.
   (e) Make written recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor to declare any ‘unruly’ student leader as a “hostile” student leader.
   (f) Make written recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor for the dissolution of the SRC.
ARTICLE 31 OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

(1) Nothing in this Constitution shall prohibit the Vice Chancellor from exercising his/her powers under the University of Namibia Act 18 of 1992 or any UNAM statutes or regulations.

(2) Subject to the powers conferred on the Vice-Chancellor in terms of any laws of UNAM, the Vice Chancellor may exercise the following power:

(a) To call for an extraordinary SRC Congress meeting in terms of this constitution
(b) To task the SRC to look into important Student issues across all campuses
(c) To declare any ‘unruly’ student leader as a “hostile” student leader
(d) To suspend or expel a member of the SRC from the University in terms of the UNAM rules and regulations or any other applicable law.
(e) To dissolve the SRC on the recommendation, and approval, of Council.