



## **Constitution of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna Student Initiative**

We, the students of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, guided by our common need for a student organization to articulate, voice and defend student interests in the academy in an open and democratic atmosphere, as well as to uphold the identity, aims and working philosophy stated in the Charter for the Initiative for Diplomatic Academy Student Initiative (DASI), do hereby jointly establish the Diplomatic Academy Student Initiative and pronounce for it this Constitution:

### **Article 1:**

The name of the organization shall remain as stated in the Charter for the Initiative: Diplomatic Academy Student Initiative (DASI).

### **Article 2:**

a. DASI shall be full-functioning student government; a body with a primary responsibility to guarantee the protection of student rights and as well as to promote the following values:

- Establishment and advancement of a community founded on solidarity, tolerance and the extensive use of international dialogue;
- freedom of expression as a constitutive principle of limitless application, as regards to which there can be no derogation;
- Spreading of awareness of issues pressing or dormant, current or potential;
- Commitment to include a charitable dimension in its activities.

b. In doing so it will identify voice and defend legitimate student concerns and interests in front of other authorities of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and its partner universities as well as promote an institutional framework for the benefit of the students.

### **Article 3:**

The structure of DASI shall incorporate the following institutional structure:

- Student Assembly;
- Student Council;
- Presidency;
- Standing Committees.

Each body is an integral part of DASI.



#### **Article 4:**

- a. Student Assembly is the highest consultative body of DASI. The aim of it is to provide the Student Council and Presidency with strategic guide. Any full-time student at the Diplomatic Academy is eligible to participate in a meeting of the Assembly;
- b. The Assembly shall meet once a month on a date and time decided by the Presidency.
- c. If the Assembly is compromised of at least 30% + 1 of the total student body, than the Assembly following the regular decision-making procedures can recommend to the Student Council on issues regarding the budget and changes in guidelines of rules. Exception to this are changes to this Constitution. Whenever the Assembly issues a recommendation, the Student Council is obliged to translate the recommendation into decision, unless with 2/3 majority decides the opposite.

#### **Article 5:**

- a. The Student Council shall be the legislative body of DASI. It shall be responsible for all decisions pertaining to policies of DASI;
- b. The Student Council shall be the only body to approve spending pertaining to the DASI budget within the limits stipulated by the Student Assembly;
- c. The Student Council shall comprise of 12 members of the council:
  - o Class-representatives/course speakers, elected during regular and separate elections shall automatically be members of the Student Council.
  - o The Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be voting members of the Council as well.

Each of the Council members shall have one vote.

- d. The Council shall meet on a weekly basis during the academic year and attended by a quorum of at least 7 voting Council members.
- e. An extraordinary meeting of the Student Council can be convened under special circumstances at the discretion of the Chair of the Senate, or following a petition from at least 4 members of the council. Any extraordinary meeting shall be announced 24 hours in advance.
- f. Unless otherwise specified, a simple majority of the present Members of the Council is needed for the Student Council to pass any decision.



## **Article 6:**

### **Chair of the Council:**

- a. The Chair of the Council shall preside over the meetings of the Student Council.
- b. The Chair shall be responsible for setting and distributing the agenda of every meeting.
- c. The Chair will inform the student body for the time, place and agenda on each Council meeting.
- d. The Chair shall work in cooperation with the President and will represent the Student Council whenever necessary.

## **Article 7: President of the Diplomatic Academy Student Initiative**

- a. The President of the Student Government shall hold the executive power of DASI.
- b. The President shall represent DASI in its dealings with bodies.
- c. The President shall address all student concerns and grievances in the spirit of the present Constitution and shall have at his/her disposal all the powers that are proper and necessary to this end.
- d. The President shall take actions to implement all decisions of the Student Council.
- e. The President shall report to the Student Council on his/her activity in office and on the current state of the Government on a regular basis.
- f. The President shall have the power to veto all acts of the Student Council except for those pertaining to the appointment of committee chairs and representatives. In order for a veto to be overruled, a so called student unanimity vote of the Student Council is required. Student unanimity vote is considered when at least all class representatives present voted against the Presidential veto (all council members votes are considered, except those of the Vice-President and the Treasurer).
- g. The President shall be an ex-officio member of the Student Council.

## **Article 7: Vice President of the Student Government.**

- a. The Vice President of DASI shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties and shall assume those duties when the President is temporarily prevented from doing so.
- b. The Vice President of DASI shall monitor the activity of the standing DASI committees and shall report regularly to the Council about their activities.
- e. The Vice President shall submit evaluations of committee chairs and student representatives to various university and faculty committees to the appropriate bodies upon request.
- f. The Vice President of DASI shall be a member of the Student Council.



#### **Article 8: Treasurer**

- a. The Treasurer shall be the chief executive officer for the financial matters of the Student Government.
- b. The Treasurer shall prepare the budget framework, present before the Council and regularly shall report on budget matters.
- c. Whenever appropriate the Treasurer shall act as a vice president of the DASI.
- d. The Treasurer shall be member of the Student Council.
- e. The Treasurer shall present proposals related to the budget, but the Council shall have the final decision with a simple majority vote.

#### **Article 9: Secretary of the DASI**

- a. The Secretary of the DASI shall assist the Presidency in conducting its daily activities.
- b. The Secretary shall observe the work of the Council and shall prepare the minutes from official meetings of the Council.
- c. The Secretary shall assist the Vice-President in motoring the work of various DASI committees;
- d. The Secretary shall be Vice-Chair of the Student Council, and shall chair all Council meetings when the Chair is absent.
- e. The Secretary shall aid in the maintenance and implementation of the agenda of the Student Council.

#### **Article 10: Academy Advisor of the DASI.**

- a. The Academy Advisor of the Student Government shall aid the DASI in its activity.
- b. The Advisor shall counsel DASI on issues pertaining to Student Government policies and University policies, rules and procedures.
- c. The Advisor shall be an ex-officio member of the Student Council.

#### **Article 11**

All members of the government shall perform their duties with an effort for close cooperation. They will interact in good will for the purpose of facilitating common action for the sake of expediency and efficiency in addressing student concerns.



## **Article 12 Elections of Officers:**

- a. All enrolled students in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna shall be eligible to run for an office. Each enrolled student at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna shall have the right to vote on elections.
- b. Election of class-representatives/course speakers shall be announced by the President of DASI no later than the second week of classes. Elections should be held no later than 10 days after the announcement. Distribution of class representatives is the following:
  - From Master of Advanced International Studies class two first year class representatives and two second year class representatives;
  - From Diploma Program two class representatives;
  - From Environmental Technology and International Affairs first year 2 class representatives.
  - From ETIA 2 will be elected 2 representatives, but none of them shall be a course speaker of ETIA 2 before the Academy, they shall only act as Council members.
- c. The candidates with most votes from each class shall be elected for class representatives.
- d. Elections of the Presidency shall be held toward the end of the year, no later than 2 weeks before the end of classes. The President in office shall call the elections.
- e. Each enrolled student in the Diplomatic Academy, with intention to be enrolled the following academic year is eligible to run for one of the following offices: President of the DASI, Vice-President or Treasurer. Each of these offices shall be elected with 50%+1 from total votes. If no one has 50%+1 vote, than the two candidates with most votes will participate in run-offs no later than three days after elections.
- f. One class representative shall be appointed as a Chair of the Student Council by simple majority by the Council.

## **Article 13 Recall of Officers and attendance policy**

- a. A recall of officer may file any student supported by 25% of the student body. The appeal for recall of officer is filed to the Chair of the Student Council. If a student supported by 10% of the student body files recall of an officer appeal, the Chair within 10 days shall put the appeal to a referendum vote.
- b. During any all-students meeting that has the quorum of at least 25% of the student body, anyone can move to recall any officer. The proposal needs at least 60% of votes of present students.
- c. The Chair is responsible for the attendance of officers during Student Council meetings. Any absentee is recorded by the Chair. Absence on reasonable grounds may be excused with the



discretion of the Chair. If any voting or ex-officio student council member has more than 3 unexcused absences within one term is automatically expelled from the Student Council and DASI. Any unexcused absence is count as 1 absence point; any excused is count 0.5 points. A member who is late for a meeting shall acquire 0.25 absence point. More than 3 points is regarded as more than 3 absences.

#### **Article 14 Fulfilling vacancies**

- a. Any vacancy in the Student Council (except vacancies in the Vice-President and Treasurer posts) shall be filled by the candidate with the greatest number of votes on the list. If there is no such candidate, the Chair of the Council shall call for election of officer within 10 days. If more than 1/3 of the class representatives resign, elections of class representatives shall be announced by the President.
- b. Any vacancy in the Presidency shall be fulfilled according to the election procedure in this constitution.

#### **Article 15 Bylaws**

Everything that is unsettled by this Constitution can be affixed in the form of a By-Law adopted with majority vote by the Student Council.

#### **Article 16 Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution can be adopted following the procedure described in this article. Any student can propose amendment to the Constitution. Adoption can occur only after one of the two procedures is followed. Upon proposal of a student, the Student Council with unanimity vote and consent of the President can adopt amendment. Or the any student supported by 20 students can put the amendment on referendum vote. A referendum is valid only after 60% of the total votes cast are in favor. At least of 20%of the students have to vote on the referendum so the results be considered as valid.