

CONSTITUTION

NMMU: GEORGE CAMPUS STUDENT COUNCIL

AUGUST 2007

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CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: PREAMBLE

- 1. The students of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, George Campus, are:
- 1.1 Aware of the genuine historical background of students' need for proper representation.
- 1.2 Consciously aware of the differences in demographics and political persuasions in the student community.
- 1.3 Acknowledging the independence and the non-partisan stance of the SC within the regulatory framework of the institution.
- 1.4 Acknowledging the importance of our role in the transformation of this institution.

The SC is committed to:

- Build a strong, dedicated SC and SRC leadership,
- Unite all Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University students of the George Campus under the SC banner and thereby under the banner of the central SRC.
- Maintain the SC's special position and status in managing student life on the George Campus.

SECTION 2: THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL: GEORGE CAMPUS

- 2.1 The Student Council of the NMMU: George Campus is constituted in terms of Section 21 of the constitution of the SRC of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
- 2.2 The above implies that the constitution of the Student Council is subservient to the SRC constitution and that the Student Council functions as a sub committee of the NMMU SRC.

SECTION 3: THE NAME AND STATUS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

- The name of the structure shall be the Student Council of the NMMU: George Campus.
- 3.2 The SC shall be the executive structure of the Student Body on the George Campus and acts as a sub committee of the central SRC

SECTION 4: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SC

- 4.1 To represent and act in the interest of all registered students, particularly those on the George campus.
- 4.2 To preserve and promote the honour and interests of the University and of the students.
- 4.3 To encourage unity and peace within the student body.
- 4.4 To uphold justice and order in the student body.
- To encourage good co-operation between the student body, its affiliates and the University authorities.
- 4.6 To be a catalyst in the transformation process of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
- 4.7 To encourage all parties involved in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to create a climate conducive to research, learning and teaching.
- 4.8 To promote, protect and advance the interests of all students regardless of race, class, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age, political affiliation, disability or ideology.

SECTION 5: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Democracy
- Unity
- Non discrimination
- Equality
- Accountability
- Effective governance
- Academic Excellence

SECTION 6: DEFINITIONS:

- 'Affiliates': means societies, forums, clubs and student political organisations, having registered students as members and affiliated to the SC. The constitution of the affiliate will guide the specific structure.
- 'Class representative': Means a member of a particular class group elected from that class to represent the interests of the class to both the academic staff and the programme representative.
- 'Council': means the Council of the University.
- 'Droop quota system': total valid poll divided by the number of seats as determined by the SC constitution.
- 'Programme Representative': means a student elected from all the class representatives of a particular academic programme to represent that programme at the Academic Council.
- 'Proportional representation system (PR)': representation of all parties

in proportion to their popular vote.

- 'Recognised Constituency': means clubs societies, student political organisations affiliated to the SC or a registered student standing as an individual, with forty (40) signatures from NMMU: George Campus students supporting the nomination of this student.
- 'Satellite Campus': means a campus situated outside the seat of the institution.
- 'Seat': means the physical location of the institution set out in the notice contemplated in section 23(1) of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act 101 of 1997), as amended.
- 'Seats': total number of seats to be filled in the election as determined by the SC constitution.
- 'Site': means a location or the seat of the university where programmes of the university are offered.
- 'SRC': means the Student Representative Council.
- 'Student Academic representative': means a student elected from each School to represent such students at Academic Board meetings.
- 'Student body': means the total population of registered students.
- 'Student Council' (SC): means the Student Council of the George Campus.
- 'Student Parliament': a body in which all student structures including the SC will be represented.
- 'Student Political Organization': means local, provincial and national organizations formed by the students of the University focusing on education.
- 'Student': means a person registered for one or more courses at the University for the purpose of obtaining an approved degree, diploma or certificate on a full or part-time basis.
- 'University': means the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
- 'Valid poll': total number of valid (excludes spoilt/invalid) votes cast in an election.

CHAPTER 2: STUDENT COUNCIL

SECTION 7: COMPOSITION OF THE SC

7.1	The SC shall be elected from the members' voters roll by secret
	ballot in the manner provided for in section 18 of this constitution
	and shall consist of the following portfolios:

7.1.1	Chairperson
7.1.2	Deputy Chairperson
7.1.3	Secretary
7.1.4	Finance Officer
7.1.5	Academic Officer
7.1.6	Transformation Officer, Gender and Special Needs
	Officer and Community Development and Outreach
	Officer
7.1.7	Sport Officer – elected by the Sport's Council
7.1.8	Accommodation and Catering Officer - The
	Primarius/Primari of the House Committee of the
	residence.

SECTION 8: POWERS AND DUTIES OF INDIVIDUAL SC MEMBERS

8.1 Chairperson

- 8.1.1 Shall be the chief spokesperson and representative of the SC internally and externally.
 8.1.2 Shall protect and promote the good image of the SC at all times
- 8.1.3 Shall preside over SC meetings.
- 8.1.4 Shall monitor SC activities and delegate duties where necessary
- 8.1.5 Shall, in consultation with the Secretary, convene SC, Executive Committee and Student Parliament meetings.
- 8.1.6 Shall facilitate two way communication between the SC and the Students
- 8.1.7 Shall provide leadership to the student body.
- 8.1.8 Shall be the George Campus Representative on the Central SRC.
- 8.1.9 Shall promote the image of the SC locally, nationally and internationally

8.2 Deputy Chairperson

- 8.2.1 Shall assume the duties of the chairperson in his/her absence.
- 8.2.2 Shall assist the chairperson in the performance of his/her duties.
- 8.2.3 Shall perform such duties as delegated to him/her by the chairperson.
- 8.2.4 Shall monitor the performance of clubs and societies.
- 8.2.5 Shall monitor the progress and activities of affiliates

8.2.6 Shall periodically convene meetings of all chairpersons of societies. 8.2.7 Shall provide the SC with a report of affiliates Shall be in constant liaison with the Department of Student 8.2.8 Governance and Development 8.2.9 Shall liaise with all cultural groupings on behalf of the SC 8.2.10 Shall promote cultural diversity and multiculturalism through programmes and campaigns. Shall interact with the outside bodies that deal with cultural 8.2.11 issues. 8.2.12 Shall promote student cultural activities on campus. 8.2.13 Shall with the chairperson be the ambassador of the SC inside and outside the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. 8.2.14 Shall prepare and disseminate SC publications. 8.2.15 Shall gather useful information and disseminate it within the SC. 8.2.16 Shall build and promote very good relations with all the departments of the George Campus as well as other University structures. Shall maintain the website of the SC. 8.2.18 8.3 Secretary Shall be the chief administrative officer of the SC. 8.3.1 8.3.2 Shall keep the records of the SC and see that archives are maintained. 8.3.3 Shall keep students abreast of developments within the SC. 8.3.4 Shall maintain regular correspondence with all the SC affiliates. 8.3.5 Shall, in consultation with the chairperson, draft notices and agendas of SC, Executive Committee and Student Parliament meetings. 8.3.6 Shall keep proper minutes of all SC meetings. 8.3.7 Shall keep proper minutes of all Student Parliament meetings. 8.3.8 Shall be responsible for SC inventory and office orders 8.3.9 Ensure that copies of agendas and minutes are forwarded to the representative of Student Governance and Development on the George Campus. 8.3.10 Shall prepare the annual report for submission to the AGM 8.4 Finance Officer 8.4.1 Shall be responsible for all SC funds and affiliates' budgets. 8.4.2 Shall ensure that all funds received for the SC are deposited directly or paid into their cost centre accounts at an official cashier at any campus of the NMMU within 24 hours of receipt. 8.4.3 Shall formulate and co-ordinate all fundraising programmes of the SC 8.4.4 Proper books of accounts for the SC will be kept within the University's accounting structure. Payments into and withdrawals from these accounts need to be in line with the University's policy.

8.4.5 Shall prepare and present financial updates to an SC meeting quarterly. 8.4.6 Shall submit annual financial statements to the University's external auditors for audit purposes. 8.4.7 Shall prepare the financial report with the assistance of the Finance Department. 8.5 Transformation officer, Gender and Special Needs Officer and Community Development and Outreach Officer 8.5.1 Shall together with the chairperson represent the SC in transformational debates and forums taking place on the George Campus and in the University. 8.5.2 Shall be instrumental and actively involved in the education and enlightenment of students on various aspects of transformation. 8.5.3 Shall liaise with outside organisations with respect to matters of interest on the George Campus and within the University. 8.5.4 Shall facilitate the development of the SRC policy document on transformation and the implementation of this policy on the George Campus. 8.5.5 Shall communicate and create good relations with all stakeholders on the George Campus and in the University transformation process. Shall enhance broader participation of female students and 8.5.6 students with disabilities in SC activities. 8.5.7 Shall co-ordinate a women's development programme. Shall intervene and give guidance in gender related issues. 8.5.8 Shall represent the SC on all structures dealing with gender 8.5.9 issues. 8.5.10 Shall actively participate in all efforts aimed at highlighting health security and other special interest issues. 8.5.11 Shall be responsible for community development projects. Shall promote and facilitate strategic relations with community-8.5.12 based organisations, NGOs and other organisations that will add value to the University. 8.5.13 Shall monitor the involvement of the George Campus structures and departments in community development and report periodically to the SC / Student Parliament **Academic Officer** 8.6 8.6.1 Shall chair meetings of the Academic Council. Shall address problems encountered by students in the various 8.6.2 programmes on offer. 8.6.3 Shall convene meetings of programme representatives and coordinate the activities of the programme representatives. 8.6.4 Shall assist all programme and academic representatives with preparations for Academic Board meetings. 8.6.5 Shall build and promote good relations with all Programme Leaders, Directors and the Campus Principal.

8.6.6 Shall facilitate two-way communication between the SC and students.
8.6.7 Shall represent the SC at all Academic Board meetings.

8.7 Sport Officer

- 8.7.1 Shall be elected by the Sport Council on the George Campus.
- 8.7.2 Shall, in conjunction with the Sports' Department, initiate and encourage formal and social sports clubs and organisations inside and outside the University.
- 8.7.3 Shall liaise with the Sport Department and sport clubs and organisations inside and outside the University.
- 8.7.4 Shall build strong relations between the SC and sports clubs on the George Campus and within the University.
- 8.7.5 Shall help promote sport on the George Campus.
- 8.7.6 Shall represent the SC on the Student Sport Centre Committee on the George Campus.

8.8 Accommodation and Catering Officer

- 8.8.1 Shall be elected by the George Campus House Committee.
- 8.8.2 Shall address any problems encountered by students in the residences, student houses and off campus accommodation.
- 8.8.3 Shall constantly liaise with the representatives of the Director: Support Services in matters relating to accommodation and catering services, and the representative of the Executive Director: Students Affairs on the George Campus to highlight problems at hand.
- 8.8.4 Shall facilitate communication between the SC and students residing in official residences as well as in private accommodation with regard to accommodation and catering needs.
- 8.8.5 Shall convene meetings between the SC and house committee of the George Campus residences when necessary.
- 8.8.6 Shall be aware of the governance issues and elections in residences.

SECTION 9: COLLECTIVE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SC

- 9.1 Shall monitor the interests of students at all times.
- 9.2 Shall carry out all duties and responsibilities as stipulated in the SC and SRC constitutions and agreed upon in SC and SRC meetings.
- 9.3 Shall respect and uphold the SC Constitution and Code of Conduct at all times.
- 9.4 Shall protect and promote the good image of the SC at all times.
- 9.5 Shall promote unity and co-operation among the students.

9.6 Shall affiliate to any external, non-partisan structure whose operations are there in the interest of students and NMMU education in general. 9.7 Shall manage society life on campus and render any assistance necessary. 9.8 Shall convene all student general meetings on the George Campus of the NMMU. 9.9 Shall co-opt any student it deems fit for any vacancies created after the by-election period as stated in the SC Constitution. 9.10 Shall govern the funds of the SC strictly in accordance with the financial policies of the institution. 9.11 Shall apportion funds of the SC to affiliates after consultation Student Parliament and the representative of the Department of Student Governance and Development on the George Campus.

SECTION 10: SC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

10.1 The Structure:

- 10.1.1 Chairperson
- 10.1.2 Deputy Chairperson
- 10.1.3 Secretary
- 10.1.4 Financial Officer

10.2 Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee

- 10.2.1 Shall be responsible for the general day to day administration of the SC.
- 10.2.2 Shall monitor the execution of the day-to-day business of the SC
- 10.2.3 Shall make recommendations regarding those matters referred to it by the SC.
- 10.2.4 May deal with matters on behalf of the SC in terms of its delegated authority if so determined by the SC
- 10.2.5 Shall report to the SC on all relevant issues.

SECTION 11: MEETINGS

- 11.1 The SC shall meet at least once a week. Should there be no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned for 24 hours and the members that attend the second meeting shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.
- The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Chairperson shall convene all SC meetings
- 11.3 The Secretary shall issue notices of meetings at least three days before the meetings.
- 11.4 The Secretary shall distribute minutes of the previous meeting at least five days before the next meeting.

11.5 Two-thirds of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 12: GENERAL MEETINGS

- The SC and the student body shall meet at least once per academic quarter. Should there be no quorum, as contemplated in 12.3, the meeting shall adjourn for seven days after which the students attending shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.
- 12.2 The SC shall convene and plan for all general meetings
- 12.3 Fifty (50) registered students shall constitute a guorum.

SECTION 13: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- A special general meeting shall be arranged by the SC on receipt of a petition signed by at least 50 registered students of the George Campus requesting such a meeting for such purposes as indicated in the petition.
- Such a request must reach the SC at least a week before the suggested date of the special meeting.
- 13.3 The Secretary and the Public Relations Officer shall issue a notice and agenda of such a meeting.
- 13.4 Fifty (50) registered students shall constitute a quorum.
- 13.5 The provisions of section 12.1 apply with the necessary changes to special meetings

SECTION 14: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- An Annual General Meeting shall be convened for all students and shall meet annually to approve the minutes of the previous AGM; to adopt constitutional amendments; to approve the progress and the financial report compiled by the SC and to discuss any other relevant matters.
- This meeting shall take place at least a week before the AGM of the SRC and all reports approved here shall be submitted to the SRC to serve at their AGM for notification. The George Campus representative reports to the AGM of the SRC on behalf of the George Campus.
- 14.3 The SC shall convene and plan for all the activities of the AGM
- 14.4 The Secretary and Public Relations Officer shall issue a notice and agenda of the meeting at least five days before such a meeting
- 14.5 The Secretary shall prepare an annual report and distribute it to societies and place copies in the Student Centres for perusal fourteen days before the meeting
- 14.6 The Finance Officer shall be assisted by the Finance Department to draft a financial report and shall distribute it to societies as well as place copies thereof in the Student Centres for perusal fourteen days before the meeting.
- 14.7 50 registered students shall constitute a quorum. Should there be no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned for seven days

after which the students attending shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.

SECTION 15: SC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 15.1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a week before the SC meetings.
- The Chairperson or, in her/his absence, the Deputy Chairperson shall convene all Executive Committee meetings.
- The Secretary shall issue notices of such meetings together with the minutes of the previous meeting at least three days before the meeting.
- 15.4 The quorum shall be 50 percent +1 of members.

SECTION 16: PROGRAMME REPRESENTATIVES

The students in each academic programme shall elect class representatives for each class group in the programme and the class representatives from each programme shall elect a programme representative at the start of the Academic Year.

16.1 Powers and Duties of the Programme Representative

- 16.1.1 Each programme representative shall ensure that the class representatives activities in that programme are coordinated.
- The programmes representatives shall represent and address the problems encountered by students in their respective programmes and liaise closely with formal school structures and other University structures in this regard.
- 16.1.3 The activities of the programme representatives shall be coordinated by the Academic Officer who shall be a member of the SC and shall have the powers and duties as stipulated in Section 8.6 of this Constitution.
- 16.1.4 Shall perform duties as delegated by the Academic Officer.
- 16.1.5 Shall build and promote good relations between directors, programme leaders and students in their respective programmes.

16.2 Academic Council

16.2.1 Composition

The Academic Council shall consist of an Academic Officer who is the chairperson, and one (1) representative per academic programme and shall meet at least once per term.

16.2.2 Constituting

- At the start of the Academic Year the Academic Officer of the SC shall summons the Programme Representatives to a meeting where the SC Chairperson shall declare the Academic Council duly constituted in terms of the provisions of this constitution.
- 16.2.2.2 The Academic Officer, in cooperation with the academic representatives, shall ensure that class representatives are elected by the students concerned in each programme within two weeks of the start of the academic year.
- At the final Academic Council meeting of the second semester the Academic Council shall appoint the student academic representatives elected from each school by the students concerned to serve in the following academic year.

16.2.3 Term of Office

- 16.2.3.1 The term of office of the Academic Council shall normally be a calendar year beginning in January and ending in December.
- The Academic Officer of the incoming Academic Council shall, during the course of the fourth quarter and prior to the final Academic Council meeting, meet with the presiding chairperson to arrange the process by which the handing over of the Academic Council administration shall take place.

16.2.4 Functions and Powers

The Academic Council is charged with the effective and equitable administration of faculty affairs and is therefore competent to:

- 16.2.4.1 Perform the duties and functions allocated to the Academic Council by the SC.
- 16.2.4.2 Discuss specific and general faculty issues;
- 16.2.4.3 In consultation with the SC, submit recommendations to the Academic Board and/or any other relevant university body for consideration.

16.2.5 Obligations of members

Members shall individually and collectively serve the academic interests of the student body.

16.2.6 Meetings

- 16.2.6.1 Ordinary meetings of the Academic Council shall be held at least once per term. All members are expected to attend such meetings.
- 16.2.6.2 The Chairperson shall give at least five (5) days notice of the date, time and venue of such a meeting with accompanying provisional agenda.
- Members shall be granted a reasonable opportunity to put matters on the agenda of the meeting for a period of not less than three (3) days, but closing no later than two (2) days before the said meeting.
- 16.2.6.4 The Academic Officer shall act as chairperson of Academic Council meetings and shall have an ordinary and a casting vote.
- 16.2.6.5 The generally accepted rules pertaining to meetings of the SC shall apply at all Academic Council meetings.
- 16.2.6.6 A Special meeting shall be held if:
 - (i) the Chairperson calls such a meeting or
 - (ii) at least four (4) members submit a written request to the Chairperson for such a meeting accompanied by a written motivation for consideration at the meeting.
- 16.2.6.7 Notice of the date, time and venue of a special meeting with disclosure of the agenda shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours before such a meeting.
- 16.2.6.8 A quorum shall be fifty percent (50%) of the of the Academic Council membership plus one (1) member.
- In the event of a quorum not being formed, the meeting shall be postponed by the chairperson to a day within the next five (5) days and the members then present shall deemed to be a quorum.
- 16.2.6.10 In the event of such a postponement notice of at least twenty-four (24) hours shall be given to all members of the date, time and venue of the next meeting.
- 16.2.6.11 The Academic Officer shall ensure that a designated person shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each Academic Council meeting.
- 16.2.6.12 The minutes of an Academic Council meeting shall be submitted to the following ordinary Academic Council meeting for approval and thereafter signed by the chairperson.
- 16.2.6.13 The minutes thus approved and signed shall be the only official account of the proceedings of the meeting and shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party within (5) days after the approval of the minutes. Minutes of all Academic Council meetings shall be submitted for notification to the following meeting of the SC.
- 16.2.6.14 A document register shall be kept of all documents considered by the Academic Council and this register including the documents shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party.

- 16.2.6.15 Resolutions may only be adopted in respect of matters disclosed by the agenda, provided that other matters may be added to the agenda if there are no objections thereto by any member present.
- 16.2.6.16 A resolution shall be adopted by an ordinary majority of votes of the members present.
- 16.2.6.17 A resolution adopted at an Academic Council meeting shall, in consultation with the SC, be submitted to the SC for consideration for implementation.
- 16.2.6.18 Members of the student body shall be entitled to apply in writing to the Academic Council for permission to attend and to speak at a Academic Council meeting on a particular matter disclosed on the agenda. Such requests may reasonably be granted or refused.
- 16.2.6.19 A non-member of the student body may, on invitation attend the Academic Council meeting.
- 16.2.6.20 In the event of the Academic Council dealing with personnel matters and it deciding to conduct its business *in camera*, non-Academic Council members shall be required to leave the meeting.
- 16.2.6.21 All SC members are ex-officio members of the Academic Council.

16.2.7 Termination of membership

- 16.2.7.1 A person shall cease to be a member of the Academic Council if:
 - (i) a person is absent, without a valid excuse, from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Academic Council.
 - (ii) a person's Academic Council membership is terminated as a result of disciplinary action taken by a disciplinary organ of the university.
- In the event that the Academic Officer's membership being terminated, the vacancy shall be filled as prescribed by the SC constitution.

SECTION 17: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SC

- 17.1 Members of the SC are expected to attend all SC meetings.
- 17.2 A written apology must be submitted to the Secretary in advance in the event of being unable to attend a SC meeting.
- 17.3 Members who are absent from two consecutive meetings, without written apology, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the SC, in accordance with the disciplinary rules and procedures contemplated in section 18.
- 17.4 No members shall use offensive or hate language during a SC meeting or any other meeting.

17.5 All members present in a meeting shall address the chairperson to avoid being personal. In matters that concern the chairperson the SC Deputy Chairperson shall chair that part of the meeting. No member shall bring the SC into disrepute through his/her 17.6 public conduct. 17.7 No member shall act in any way that creates disunity and division in the SC. 17.8 No member shall distort SC policy positions and misrepresent the SC for his/her personal gain. 17.9 No member shall involve him/herself in confrontation that will diminish the integrity and reputation of the SC. 17.10 No member shall use the SC name for personal gain and abuse SC property for his/her benefit. 17.11 No member shall divulge information deemed as private and confidential by the SC. No member shall be involved in excessive drinking of alcohol or 17.12 in taking or selling of illegal drugs. 17.13 No member shall under any circumstances, harass other members, fellow students and staff members sexually or otherwise. 17.14 No member shall disrespect and offend the dignity of a fellow student, member of staff or member of the public in any way. 17.15 No member shall neglect the performance of duties, which are assigned to him/her by the provisions of the SC Constitution. 17.16 No member shall vandalise any University property. 17.17 This code of conduct is applicable, with necessary adjustments, to all student structures affiliated to the SC.

SECTION 18: COMPOSITION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

18.1 Composition

- The Chairperson;
- The Deputy Chairperson; and
- One other member of the SC, appointed by the Chairperson giving due consideration to demographics

18.2 Disciplinary measures

- 18.2.1 A disciplinary committee responsible for the discipline of any members of the SC and members of the student structures affiliated to it is hereby established in terms of Section 42(1) of the Standard Institutional Statute.
- In the event that the Chairperson and/or the Deputy Chairperson is the accused member, the SC shall appoint an alternative member of the SC in his/her/their place.
- 18.2.3 Contravention of any of the provisions of the Code of Conduct in this Constitution (section 16) shall be deemed to be an act of misconduct and the following procedure shall be followed:
 - 18.2.3.1 Normally within a week of receipt of a written complaint against an accused member of the SC or affiliated

structure, a disciplinary hearing shall be convened by the Chairperson.

- 18.2.3.2 The Chairperson shall inform the accused of the complaint, the date, time and venue of the hearing at least three days before the date of the hearing. The complainant shall be timeously informed of the date, time and place of the hearing.
- 18.2.3.3 From the time of such written notification by the Chairperson, the accused shall be suspended from the SC and/or affiliated structure, and shall be so informed in writing, until a finding is made by the disciplinary committee.
- 18.2.3.4 The hearing shall adhere to the hearing procedures of the Student Disciplinary Code.
- 18.2.4 Should the accused be found guilty, the disciplinary committee may impose one or more of the following penalties:
 - Verbal reprimand and/or warning
 - Reprimand and/or warning in writing
 - Apology in writing to a particular person or body
 - Deprivation of all or some of the privileges for a determined or indefinite period; which may include -
 - (i) Participation as a member, organizer, or official of any student organization (including the SC) or participation in any student activities of any nature
 - (ii) Forfeiture of any of the privileges of members, including any stipends payable by the University
 - (iii) Forfeiture of the opportunity of obtaining or wearing the colours of the University in any form
 - iv) Forfeiture of a student's appointment of any kind whatsoever

An accused member shall have the right to appeal to the George Campus Disciplinary Committee, in terms of the relevant paragraph of the Student Disciplinary Code.

SECTION 19: SC ELECTIONS

19.1 Electoral Process

The following stipulations shall apply regarding the election of the SC and Student Housing Council

19.2 Electoral Commission

- 19.2.1 The ED: Student Affairs through the office of the SM: Student Development Services on the George Campus, in Consultation with the SC, shall appoint an Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to conduct the SC elections.
- 19.2.2 The Electoral Commission shall appoint a Chief Electoral Commissioner from amongst its ranks.

19.3 Duties and Functions of the Independent Electoral Commission

- 19.3.1 The IEC shall be an accredited body.
- 19.3.2 The IEC shall conduct the elections in accordance with the approved SC constitution.
- 19.3.3 The IEC shall have co-option powers.
- 19.3.4 The IEC shall conduct and supervise the entire voting process
- 19.3.5 The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall compile a voter's roll.
- 19.3.6 The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall make the voter's roll available for scrutiny at least 14 days prior to the holding of elections.
- 19.3.7 Any objections (see 19.10) must be lodged within 24 hours of the closure of the voters roll for consideration by the Chief Electoral Commissioner. His/her decision shall be final
- 19.3.8 The IEC shall be responsible for the counting of votes after each day of voting.
- 19.3.9 The IEC shall publish a complete and final set of election results after each days voting.

19.4 Nominations

- 19.4.1 The Chief Electoral commissioner shall invite nominations for SC elections by means of a public notice stating:
 - Date of elections
 - Election criteria
 - Venue of elections
 - Where nomination forms may be collected and returned to
 - Closing date for tendering of nominations
- 19.4.2 The nominations must be submitted to the appointed office at least two weeks prior to the date of the elections.
- 19.4.3 No nomination shall be valid unless it contains:

- The name, student number, faculty and postal address of the nominee.
- The name, student number, faculty and signature of the enfranchised chair and vice chairperson of the recognised, proposing constituency or
- The name, student numbers, faculty and signatures of the non-registered proposing constituency. This may be attached as an annexure to the nomination form.
- A written, signed declaration by the nominee that he/she is willing to seek election.
- 19.4.4 The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall consider all nominations and shall determine whether the nominations are valid. The decision of the Chief Electoral Commissioner shall be final.
- 19.4.5 Notice of acceptance as a candidate shall be given by the Chief Electoral Commissioner to the persons accepted as candidates for the election. This can be done by public notice.

19.5 Voter eligibility

- 19.5.1 All registered students of the George Campus of the NMMU are eligible to vote for the SC.
- 19.5.2 Any limitations on this right must be in accordance with the limitations set out in section 36 of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996.

19.6 Candidate eligibility

- 19.6.1 Any full-time, registered student who represents a recognised constituency or a registered affiliate of the SC NMMU is eligible to stand for elections.
- 19.6.2 Each nominating affiliate shall be required to submit a clear manifesto to the IEC stating:
 - Full name list of candidates, in descending order of preference indicating full names, programme/s registered for and student number
 - Constituency represented (signed by chair and vicechairperson if a registered society /club
 - Principles standing for
 - Copy of constituency logo
 - Promises made
 - Signature and date
 - Recent ID photos
 - Nomination list
- 19.6.3 In the case of an individual standing, a clear manifesto must be submitted to the IEC stating:
 - Name of constituency represented
 - Principles standing for
 - Copy of constituency logo (if any)
 - Promises made
 - Signature and date

- Recent ID photo of candidate
- A list of constituents including full names, student number and signature
- 19.6.4 Individuals wishing to contest the SC elections shall be required to submit a list of 40 students signatures which shall serve as a threshold for him/her to stand.
- 19.6.5 An individual who receives sufficient votes to serve on the SC will only receive one seat on the SC, irrespective of the number of votes received by the candidate.
- 19.6.6 Such manifesto shall be read by one of its registered (as a student at the university) members/individual at an open student meeting.
- 19.6.7 Failure to comply with the above shall mean automatic nullification as a candidate of such organisation or individual's participation in the SRC elections of that particular year.
- 19.6.8 A student found guilty and whose sentence prohibits him/her from holding any leadership position by the University disciplinary structure shall be deemed ineligible for election.

19.7 Voting

- 19.7.1 Elections will be conducted at a campus level, on the George Campus.
- 19.7.2 An electoral system of proportional representation shall be used.
- 19.7.3 This shall be based on the lists of candidates submitted to the IEC by organizations **or** individuals.
- 19.7.4 Calculation of election results shall be done in accordance with the Droop quota system.
- 19.7.5 Each voter must produce a student card or proof of identity
- 19.7.6 No voter may vote more than once.

19.8 Seat Allocation

- 19.8.1 A party that has obtained 66.6% of the total votes shall be vested with a prerogative to fill them in accordance with submitted candidate list.
- 19.8.2 In the event there being no majority in terms of above, seats will be divided proportionally among the parties and portfolios will be allocated by negotiation between the elected parties.

19.9 Constituting

- 19.9.1 After the election of the SC, the Chief Electoral Commissioner shall convene a meeting of all the elected members at a determined date, time and place and declare the SC as properly constituted and empowered to function in accordance with the provisions of the SC Constitution.
- 19.9.2 The new SC shall assume responsibilities with effect from the beginning of a new academic year.

19.9.3 The new SC shall be inducted at a public investiture convened by the Dept of Student Development and Governance as soon as possible.

19.10 Objections to Elections

- 19.10.1 Objections shall be lodged in writing to the IEC within 48 hours after the announcement of the results.
- 19.10.2 The decision of the IEC shall be final.

SECTION 20: RESIGNATION/VACANCIES

20.1 Resignation from the SC

- 20.1.1 Any member of the SC may tender his/her resignation from the SC in writing to the Chairperson at least three weeks before the date on which the resignation shall come into effect.
- 20.1.2 The full reasons for the resignation must be furnished.
- 20.1.3 The SC reserves the right to investigate the reasons for the resignation so as to protect its reputation and prevent disinformation by the resigning member.
- 20.1.4 A special meeting of the SC shall be called normally within fourteen days after the receipt of the letter of resignation where it will be discussed.
- 20.1.5 Should sufficient reason be given, the member's resignation may be with immediate effect at the discretion of the SC executive committee.

20.2 Vacancies

- 20.2.1 If a vacancy occurs in the SC through resignation or otherwise, the vacancy may be filled by the constituency whose member vacated the position provided that the member was elected as part of the PR system. A by election must be held to fill the vacancy, provided that the vacancy has occurred in the first semester of the year and where the elected member does not have constituency representation (e.g. an individual candidate).
- 20.2.2 The provisions in Section 19 for elections will apply to by elections as well.
- 20.2.3 If the vacancy occurs in the second semester the SC may fill the vacancy through a process of co-option should the PR system not be applicable.

CHAPTER 3: PARLIAMENT

SECTION 21: STUDENT PARLIAMENT

21.1 The Student parliament shall be composed as follows:

21.1.1 21.1.2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
21.1.3	,		
21.1.4 21.1.5 21.1.6 21.1.7 21.1.8	Two representatives from each affiliate Two representatives from the Sport Council Two representatives from the Residence Council Three representatives from the Academic Council.		
21.2 Powers and duties of the Student Parliament			
21.2.1 21.2.2	Shall approve and advise on the SC's programme of action as		
21.2.3	well as any other relevant matter, Shall receive reports and evaluate the progress of the SC and affiliates in general.		
21.2.4			
21.2.5			
21.3	Student Parliament Meetings		
21.3.1	The Student Parliament shall meet at least once per quarter. Should there be no quorum (fifty percent plus one), the meeting shall be adjourned for seven days and notice of a new meeting will be circulated to all members. The members who attend the second meeting shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.		
21.3.2			
21.3.3	•		
21.3.4			

meeting at least seven days prior to the meeting

contemplated in paragraphs 21.1.4 - 21.1.8.

21.3.5

Voting, if necessary, will be per affiliate and structure as

CHAPTER 4: AFFILIATION

SECTION 22: AFFILIATION TO SC

22.1	All student clubs, societies and student political organisations on the George Campus are required to affiliate to the SC.
22.2	All applications for affiliation shall be considered by the SC: Deputy Chairperson after consultation with the Department of Student Governance and Development and the Student Parliament.
22.3	Probational affiliation shall be granted to societies that are new and have membership of 15 members and above. This probational affiliation entitles a society to observer status at Student Parliament meetings.
22.4	All applications for affiliation shall be made as per the provisions of this Constitution.
22.5	Acceptance of affiliation entitles societies to official status as affiliates of the SC and to rights inherent therein.
22.6	Representatives of affiliates should attend all Student Parliament meetings and failure to attend three consecutive meetings shall result in an affiliate losing its recognition as an affiliate and it will have to apply again for the following year.
22.7	The society must have such numbers of paid up registered members, as may be determined from time to time by the SC after consultation with the Student Parliament and the Department of Student Development and Governance.
22.8	Affiliates are expected to present audited financial statements and reports at the Annual General Meeting. Failure to adhere to this stipulation could result in affiliates losing their status.
22.9	All applications for affiliation must be submitted before the end of the first semester for budget purposes for the following year.

CHAPTER 5: SPORT

SECTION 23: SPORTS COUNCIL

23.1 Composition and Election

- 23.1.1 The Sports Council shall be elected at the meeting of the Sports Chairperson's Forum, (which consists of the chairpersons and their deputies of all affiliated sports codes on campus) presided by the Chairperson of the SC at the first meeting in the second semester.
- 23.1.2 The Sports Council shall be elected from the members voters' roll by secret ballot and shall consist of six (6) persons being
 - (i) a Chairperson and
 - (ii) a Deputy Chairperson
 - (iii) The <u>four (4)</u> candidates with the highest number of votes for the other seats shall be the successful candidates.

The candidates with the highest and second highest number of votes for the seat of the Chairperson shall be the successful candidates as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively.

- 23.1.3 The chairperson of the Sport Council shall be the SC sport officer
- In the event of a tie of votes in any contested seat, the successful candidate shall be determined by lot.
- 23.1.5 The elections for all the seats shall be held concurrently.
- 23.1.6 The election of the Sport Council shall normally take place in the third (3rd) term of each year as set out in the rules for the elections of Student Governance officials.

23.2 Qualifications for Elections

- A student is eligible to serve as a member of the Sports Council if he /she:
 - (i) is entitled to vote
 - (ii) has been a member of a sports club for at least one (1) semester.
 - (iii) has been nominated by his/her sport club to attend the Sports Chairperson's Forum.

23.3 Constituting

23.3.1 Within two (2) days after the Sports Council election, the elected members shall be summoned by the Chairperson of the SC to a place and at a time that has been predetermined.

- 23.3.2 The Chairperson of the SC shall declare the Sports Council duly elected and constituted in terms of the provisions of this constitution.
- Any member of the Student body who is entitled to vote may contest the validity and fairness of the elections within two (2) days after the Sports Council has been constituted. Such complaint shall be lodged with the Chief Electoral Officer who shall decide on the issue.

23.4 Term of Office

- 23.4.1 The term of office of the Sports Council shall, normally, be a calendar year beginning in January and ending in December.
- The Chairperson Elect of the incoming Sports Council shall, within two (2) days of the constituting of the newly elected Sports Council meet with the Chairperson to arrange the process by which the handing over of the Sports Council administration shall take place.

23.5 Functions and Powers

- 23.5.1 The Sports Council acts as the executive committee of the Sports Chairperson's Forum and is charged with the effective and equitable administration of sport affairs and is therefore competent to:
 - resolve sport issues
 - determine their own portfolios with regard to the seats
 - make recommendations to the Sport Committee

23.6 Obligation of Members

- 23.6.1 Members shall:
 - individually and collectively serve the sports interests of the Student Body.
 - perform the duties and functions allocated to them by the Sports Council.

23.7 Meetings

Ordinary Meetings

- 23.7.1 Ordinary meetings of the Sports Council and Sports Chairperson's Forum shall be held at least once per term. All members shall attend such meetings.
- 23.7.2 The Chairperson shall normally give at least five (5) days notice of the date, time and venue of such a meeting with disclosure of a provisional agenda.
- 23.7.3 Members shall be granted a reasonable opportunity to put matters on the agenda of a meeting for a period of not less than

- three (3) days, but closing not later than two (2) days before the said meeting.
- 23.7.4 The Sport Officer shall act as chairperson of the meeting of the Sports Council and Sport Chairperson's Forum meetings.
- 23.7.5 The generally accepted rules pertaining to meetings of the SC shall apply at all Sports Council meetings.
- 23.7.6 The Sports Council shall set dates for additional regular meetings in order to undertake their delegated business.

Special Meetings

- 23.7.7 A special meeting shall be held if:
 - (i) the Chairperson calls such a meeting; or
 - (ii) at least two (2) members submit a written request to the Chairperson for such a meeting, accompanied by a written motivation for consideration at the meeting.
- 23.7.8 Notice of the date, time and venue of a special meeting with disclosure of the agenda shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours before such a meeting.
- 23.7.9 A quorum shall be seven (7) members
- In the event of a quorum not being formed, the meeting shall be postponed by the chairperson to a day within the next five (5) days and the members then present shall be a quorum.
- In the event of such a postponement notice of at least twentyfour (24) hours shall be given to all members of the date, time and venue of the next meeting.
- 23.7.12 The Sports Council shall ensure that a designated person shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each Sports Council meeting.
- 23.7.13 The minutes of a Sports Council meeting shall be submitted to the following ordinary Sports Council meeting for approval and thereafter signed by the chairperson.
- The minutes thus approved and signed shall be the only official account of the proceedings of the meeting and shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party within five (5) days after the approval of the minutes.
- A document register shall be kept of all documents considered by the Sports Council and this register, including the documents, shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party.
- 23.7.16 Resolutions may only be adopted in respect of matters disclosed by the agenda, provided that other matters may be added to the agenda if there is no objection thereto by any member present.
- A resolution shall be adopted by an ordinary majority of votes of the members present and shall be submitted to the Sport Committee for consideration.
- 23.7.18 Members of the Student Body shall be entitled to attend Sports Council meetings.
- 23.7.19 Members of the Student Body may apply in writing to the Sports Council for permission to speak at a Sports Council meeting on

- a particular matter disclosed on the agenda. Such requests may reasonably be granted or refused.
- A non-member of the Student Body may apply in writing to the Sports Council for permission to attend a Sports Council meeting.
- A non-member of the Student body may apply in writing to the Sports Council for permission to speak at a Sports Council meeting on a particular matter disclosed on the agenda. Such a request may be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- 23.7.22 In the event of the Sports Council dealing with personnel matters and if it has to conduct its business *in camera*, non-Sports Council members shall leave the meeting.

SECTION 24: AWARDS

- Nominations for awards shall normally take place in the third (3rd) term of each year as set out in the Rules for Awards and Colours.
- 24.2 Any sports club member may nominate a person for an award.
- 24.3 The Sports Council may confer awards from time to time.

SECTION 25: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 25.1 A person shall cease to be a member of the Sports Council if:
 - A motivated written resignation of that person as a Sports Council member is not withdrawn within fourteen (14) days after it has been noted by the Sports Council at a Sports Council meeting; or
 - A motion of no-confidence in that person is passed by a general meeting of the sports club; or,
 - A person is absent, without a valid excuse, from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Sports Council; or
 - A person's Sports Council membership is terminated as a result of disciplinary action taken by a disciplinary body or organ of the University; or
- In the event that the Chairperson's membership is terminated, the remaining members of the Sports Council shall elect a chairperson from its own ranks by an ordinary majority of votes in a secret ballot.

SECTION 26: RESIGNATION OF THE SPORTS COUNCIL

26.1 If the Sports Council has passed a resolution to resign, the Chairperson shall immediately convene a special general meeting of the sports clubs for the purpose of motivating such resignation to the sports clubs.

- 26.2 If such resolution has not been withdrawn by the Sports Council within three (3) days of the said meeting of the sports clubs, the term of office of the Sports Council shall expire forthwith.
 - 26.2.1 If the resignation of the Sports Council becomes effective, the SC Chairperson shall immediately convene a special meeting of the SC.
 - At such a meeting the SC shall appoint four (4) persons from the sports clubs to form a Interim Sports Council, pending the election of a new Sport Council.
 - The duly appointed interim Sports Council shall elect an acting Chairperson from their own ranks by an ordinary majority of votes in a secret ballot.

CHAPTER 6: STUDENT HOUSING COUNCIL

SECTION 27: STUDENT HOUSING COUNCIL

27.1 Composition

- 27.1.1 The Student Housing Council shall be made up by the House Committee(s) on the George Campus which has representatives from both the official residences and the student houses on campus.
- 27.1.2 In the event of the development of a new residence, the Primarius/Primaria and one other shall represent such.

27.2 Constituting

- 27.2.1 Within five days of the last house committee elections the Student Housing Council members shall be summoned by the SC Chairperson to a venue and a time that has been predetermined.
- 27.2.2 Once summoned, the SC Chairperson shall declare the Student Housing Council duly constituted in terms of the provisions of this constitution.

27.3 Term of Office

- 27.3.1 The term of office of the Student Housing Council shall ordinarily be a calendar year beginning in January and ending in December.
- 27.3.2 The Chairperson Elect of the incoming Student Housing Council shall, within two (2) days of the constituting of the newly elected Student Housing Council, meet with the presiding chairperson to arrange the process by which the handing over of the student housing council administration shall take place. The Chairperson shall serve as the Accommodation and Catering Officer of the SC.

27.4 Functions and Powers

- 27.4.1 The Student Housing Council is charged with the effective and equitable administration of residence affairs and is therefore competent to:
 - Discuss Student housing issues;
 - In consultation with the SC, submit recommendations to the Student Housing Committee for consideration.
 - Having regular communication with the Student Housing Council in Port Elizabeth.

27.5 **Obligations of members** 27.5.1 Members shall individually and collectively serve the residences interests of the Student body; Perform the duties and functions allocated to them by the 27.5.2 Student Housing Council. 27.6 Meetings 27.6.1 Ordinary meetings of the Student Housing Council shall be held at least once per term. All members shall attend such meetings. 27.6.2 The Chairperson shall give at least five (5) days notice of the date, time and venue of such a meeting with accompanying provisional agenda. 27.6.3 Members shall be granted a reasonable opportunity to put matters on the agenda of the meeting for a period of not less than three (3) days, but closing no later than two (2) days before the said meeting. 27.6.4 The Chairperson shall act as chairperson of Student Housing Council meetings and shall have an ordinary and a casting vote. 27.6.5 The generally accepted rules pertaining to meetings of the SC shall apply at all Student Housing Council meetings. A Special meeting shall be held if: 27.6.6 (i) the Chairperson calls such a meeting or (ii) at least four (4) members submit a written request to the Chairperson for such a meeting accompanied by a written motivation for consideration at the meeting. 27.6.7 Notice of the date, time and venue of a special meeting with disclosure of the agenda shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours before such a meeting. A guorum shall be 60% of the Student Housing Council. 27.6.8 27.6.9 In the event of a quorum not being formed, the meeting shall be postponed by the chairperson to a day within the next five (5) days and the members then present shall be deemed to be a quorum. 27.6.10 In the even of such a postponement notice of at least twentyfour (24) hours shall be given to all members of the date, time and venue of the next meeting. 27.6.11 The Student Housing Council shall ensure that a designated person shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each Student Housing Council meeting. 27.6.12 The minutes of a Student Housing Council meeting shall be submitted to the following ordinary Student Housing Council meeting for approval and thereafter signed by the chairperson.

The minutes thus approved and signed shall be the only official account of the proceedings of the meeting and shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party within (5) days

A document register shall be kept of all documents considered

after the approval of the minutes.

27.6.13

27.6.14

- documents shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party.
- 27.6.15 Resolutions may only be adopted in respect of matters disclosed by the agenda, provided that other matters may be added to the agenda if there are no objections thereto by any member present.
- 27.6.16 A resolution shall be adopted by an ordinary majority of votes of the members present.
- 27.6.17 A resolution adopted at a Student Housing Council meeting shall, in consultation with the SC, be submitted to the Student House Committee or other relevant university bodies for consideration for implementation.
- 27.6.18 Members of the Student body shall be entitled to apply in writing to the Student Housing Council for permission to attend and to speak at a Student Housing Council meeting on a particular matter disclosed on the agenda. Such requests may reasonably be granted or refused.
- 27.6.19 A non-member of the Student body may, on invitation attend the Student Housing Council meeting.
- 27.6.20 In the event of the Student Housing Council dealing with personnel matters and it deciding to conduct its business *in camera*, non-Student Housing Council members shall leave the meeting.
- 27.6.21 All SC members are ex-oficio members of the Student Housing Council meeting

SECTION 28: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 28.1 A person shall cease to be a member of the Student Housing Council if -
 - (i) written notification from the particular residence to that effect has been noted by the Student Housing Council at a Student Housing Council meeting;
 - (ii) a person is absent, without a valid excuse, from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Student Housing Council.
 - (iii) a person's Student Housing Council membership is terminated as a result of disciplinary action taken by a disciplinary organ of the University.
- In the event that the Chairperson's membership being terminated, the remaining members of the Student Housing Council shall elect a chairperson from its own ranks by an ordinary majority of votes in a secret ballot and the Chairperson of the SC shall preside over the election.

CHAPTER 7: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 29: AMENDMENTS TO SC CONSTITUTION

29.1	Any Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University club/society or student may make submissions for consideration by the SC as constitutional amendments.
29.2	Any such submission must be submitted in writing and must be supported by a list of at least fifty (50) names, student numbers and signatures of currently registered students.
29.3	The SC shall submit the proposed amendments to the Student Parliament for agreement in principle and thereafter to an Annual General Meeting for adoption after which it shall be forwarded via the correct channels to EMCOM for final approval. Should the change be of an institutional nature then after the approval on the George Campus they will be submitted to the SRC AGM in Port Elizabeth.
29.4	In case of conflict arising from the interpretation of this Constitution, the matter shall be referred to the Senior Manager: Student Development Services and then to the Executive Director Student Affairs for notification.
29.5	The Senior Manager: Student Development Services in consultation with the SC shall arbitrate, mediate, or refer the matter to the relevant structure within the university mandated to handle such issues.

CHAPTER 8: APPROVAL

SECTION 30: APPROVAL

- Once adopted by EMCOM, this Constitution replaces the existing Constitution of the SC.
- This Constitution shall be the supreme document governing the activities of the SC, student bodies affiliated to it and students in general on the George Campus.