

Article I. The name of the organization shall be the Student Peace Union.

Article II. THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The Statement of Purpose of the Student Peace Union shall read as follows:

The Student Peace Union is an organization of young people who believe that neither war nor the threat of war can any longer be successfully used to settle international disputes and that neither human freedom nor the human race can long survive in a world committed to militarism.

Without committing any member to a precise statement of policy, the SPU draws together young people for a study of alternatives to war and engages in education and action to end the present arms race. The SPU works toward a society which will ensure both peace and freedom and which will suffer no individual or group to be exploited by another. Because both East and West have pursued foreign policies which are not in the interests of their own people or the people of the world and because both bear major responsibility for the cold war, the Student Peace Union believes that the peace movement must act independently of both East and West, must apply the same standard of criticism to both, and must seek new and creative means of achieving a free and peaceful society.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP:

Section 1. Any individual who is in agreement with the purposes of the SPU is invited to be a member of the organization upon his communication of his wish to do so.

Section 2. Faculty members and other non-student older members shall be listed as advisory members. They shall have the same privileges and responsibilities as other members except that they cannot serve as official representatives to the governing councils of the SPU. (See Art. V, Sect. 3; Art. VII, Sect. 2.)

Article IV. LOCAL ORGANIZATION:

Section 1. Chapters. Five or more members of the SPU on any campus or in any city can constitute themselves as a chapter of the SPU. The requirements for such an organization shall be that it adhere to the principles of the SPU, that it be fully democratic internally and that it act in accordance with the SPU Statement of Purpose. No member shall be excluded from a local chapter or affiliate who qualifies for membership in the SPU. Any chapter of the SPU shall be completely autonomous as long as it fulfills the above listed requirements.

Section 2. Affiliated Organizations. An affiliated organization of the SPU shall be defined as a local organization which agrees to adhere to the principles of the SPU, but whose members are not all members of the SPU. An affiliated organization shall have complete autonomy as long as it acts in accordance with the SPU Statement of Purpose.

Section 3. Recognition. The National Council, through its Steering Committee, shall have the power to recognize local chapters and affiliates.

Article V. REGIONAL COUNCILS:

Section 1. Formation. The steering committee shall have the power to approve the formation of Regional Councils.

Section 2. Function. Regional Councils shall be responsible for initiating, directing and coordinating activities at the regional level, such as speaking tours, publications, and action projects.

Section 3. Representation. Each Regional Council shall consist of one representative of each chapter or affiliate in that region. Any chapter with 10 or more SPU members may elect two representatives to the Council. In addition any five or more members of SPU on a single campus or in a single city may elect a representative. Any staff members appointed by a Regional Council shall also be members of that Council. All members of a Regional Council must also be members of the SPU. All representatives to the Regional Councils must either be 26 years of age or younger or full-time students. All Regional Council members shall serve one year, but shall be subject to immediate recall by their constituents.

Article VI. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Section 1. Function. Each year the SPU shall hold a National Convention open to all its members. The National Convention is the highest body of the SPU. It is the duty of the National Convention to review the actions and policies of the organization for the preceding year, to suggest direction for the SPU, to elect members of the National Council, and to provide an arena for discussion of vital issues facing the SPU and the Peace Movement.

Section 2. Representation. The convention as a voting body shall be made up of delegates from local SPU groups. The ratio of delegates to members will be determined by the Nation-

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al Council. Only delegates will have voting rights, but all SPU members and invited observers will have speaking rights.

Individuals must be members of the SPU for 2 months before the Convention to qualify as delegates.

Section 3. Scheduling. The National Steering Committee shall be responsible for setting a date and place for the National Convention and must announce its decision to all SPU members and the Advisory Council at least one month before its date.

Article VII. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL:

Section 1. Meeting. The National Council shall meet at least twice a year, always in open session.

Section 2. Representation. The National Council shall consist of a number of members elected by the National Convention. All members of the National Council shall serve for a term of one year and may be re-elected. All members of the National Council shall be 22 years of age or younger or full-time students.

Section 3. Function. The principal function of the National Council shall be to determine the general direction to be followed by the SPU. The National Council has the power to make general policy statements in the name of the majority of the members of the SPU. The National Council shall elect a steering committee which shall direct the national SPU when the National Council is not in session.

Section 4. Control of the Steering Committee. The National Council may by a mail vote reverse any decision of the Steering Committee. Such a vote shall be conducted upon demand by any member of the National Council. Such a demand must be submitted within ten days of notification of a decision.

Section 5. Officers and Functionaries. The National Council shall elect the National Chairman of the SPU, the Bulletin Editor, and the National Secretary of the SPU, and may appoint the financial secretary. (In addition, the National Council will elect a publications editor.)

Article VIII. THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE:

Section 1. Membership. The Steering Committee shall be elected by the National Council of the SPU.

Section 2. Function. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for all activities of the SPU organized on a national level, for all fund appropriations from the national treasury, for all literature released by the SPU, and for handling the general day-to-day work of the national organization. Financial reports will be made regularly to the National Council.

Article IX. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION:

Section 1. Violation of the Constitution shall be the only grounds for expulsion or suspension of a member or group from the SPU.

Section 2. Individual Members. A member may be suspended or expelled only in the following manner: a local chapter may suspend or expel any member by a 3/4 vote, following adequate presentation and discussion of charges in open session of the chapter. Such suspensions or expulsions shall be subject to automatic review by the National Council.

Action against members-at-large and members of any affiliated groups may be initiated directly by the National Council or in the following manner: the member in question shall have charges brought against him by a majority vote of the National Council; he will then be notified of the charges in writing; on receipt of an answer from said member, or 30 days after notification, the Council shall vote upon expulsion or suspension, a 3/4 majority of the entire Council being necessary to expel or suspend.

Section 3. Chapters and Affiliates. A chapter or affiliated group may be suspended by a 3/4 vote of the National Council after notification of the charges in writing and upon receipt from the accused chapter of an answer to these charges within 30 days of notification. All such suspensions shall be subject to review by the National Convention, which may reinstate, expel, or continue suspension by a 2/3 vote after adequate discussion in open session.

Article X. AMENDMENTS:

Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a majority vote of the National Convention or by a national referendum.