

Ratified 2024

Ratification Completed 8/8 voted YES. 8/15 participated

References:

- 2022 Not Ratified Draft: [SUSTA Constitution.docx - Google Docs](#)
- SUSK Constitution: [The University of Alberta's \(susk.ca\)](#)
- SUSTA 1950s Constitution: [SUSTA_Certificate of Incorporation - Google Drive](#)

*Dear Delegates, thank you for taking the time to review the SUSTA Constitution. **We ask all current SUSTA Member Student Organizations to review and vote Yes to adopt this Constitution. In case you vote No, please offer feedback and reasoning.***

*This will be the first Constitution to be adopted by SUSTA in a decade, so **we anticipate this version to be imperfect and expect amendments to be needed during the next Congress.** The present draft draws inspiration from SUSTA's 1954 Constitution and SUSK's 2008 Constitution.*

The current Constitution draft has been reviewed, edited, and endorsed by the Executive, Advisors (previous Executives), and a few leaders of Ukrainian Student Organizations.

To be adopted, the Constitution needs to be approved by 2/3 of responsive Member Student Organizations. To this date, SUSTA has 15 formal Members.

The Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America

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The Constitution was endorsed by the **SUSTA Executive team** and **Dr. Mariia Petryk** (Assistant Professor at George Mason University, ex-SUSTA President 22-23).

The Constitution was approved by the following Member Student Organizations (**8/15**):

- Tufts for Ukraine, Tufts University
- Ukrainian Student Association, University of Florida
- Ukrainian Club, Northeastern University
- Ukrainian Club, Hunter University
- BC Ukrainian Club, Boston College
- The Purdue University Ukrainian Student Association, Purdue University
- Ukrainian Students United, Washington University
- Ukraine Support Alliance at Stanford, Stanford University

The Constitution was disapproved by the following Member Student Organizations (**0/15**):

Below is the summary of the Constitution Draft and the full Draft.

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CONSTITUTION SUMMARY FOR CONGRESS DELEGATIONS

The summary was generated using ChatGPT 3.5

III. PURPOSES and OBJECTIVES

The mandates of objectives for SUSTA include representing Ukrainian students in the U.S. before governmental and social institutions, fostering a Ukrainian-American student movement, promoting local Ukrainian student organizations, supporting leadership development, facilitating intercollegiate activities, fostering cooperation among Ukrainian students, providing a forum for discussion, educating students on relevant issues, encouraging a democratic Ukrainian-American community, fostering understanding among ethnic groups, promoting Ukrainian-American and Ukrainian studies, assisting newly arrived Ukrainian students, advocating for Peace, Independence, and Democracy in Ukraine, and collaborating with democratic Ukrainian student organizations worldwide.

IV. THE EXECUTIVE

The SUSTA Executive is a governing body consisting of a President, Vice-President, Regional Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and other roles proposed by Congress delegations and the Executive. The Executive is bound by Congress resolutions, can create internal protocols, and may appoint staff or hire professionals. Responsibilities last until the next Congress. Removal conditions include failure to fulfill duties or constitutional violations. Meetings occur monthly in person or online. The outgoing Executive advises the incoming one, and in case of the President's absence, a replacement is elected. For other Executive members, replacements may be appointed with prior notification to member organizations.

V. MEMBERSHIP / VI. WITHDRAWAL/SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any Ukrainian club, association, or federation seeking membership in SUSTA must meet specific criteria. Eligible entities include those primarily comprised of students from American post-secondary institutions falling into categories such as recognized student organizations, autonomous but unrecognized student groups, or collective assemblies of students sharing a common purpose. To qualify for SUSTA, they must function as sociocultural groups, fostering supportive communities for Ukraine-identifying students. Interested organizations can apply by submitting a formal request. A member can withdraw from SUSTA either by submitting a declaration of withdrawal to the Executive or by dissolving its organization. Membership suspension occurs if a member violates SUSTA's constitution or by-laws, or neglects its activities or responsibilities.

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VII. THE CONGRESS

In this section, key terms and concepts related to the governance of SUSTA are defined. A "delegate" is a representative authorized by a SUSTA member organization to participate in the Congress. The "Congress" refers to both the supreme legislative body of SUSTA and the specific assembly of this body. Delegates, appointed by student organizations, hold voting privileges in the Congress. The Executive is responsible for calling regular and Extraordinary Congress assemblies, with specific notification requirements. The Annual Congress elects various committees, such as the Congress Council, Nominations Committee, and Resolutions Committee. The Executive sets the Annual Congress agenda, including reports, financial statements, resolutions, constitutional amendments, and the election of the next Executive. Additionally, the outgoing Executive collaborates with the outgoing Congress committee to allocate funds for the startup costs of the next Congress.

VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The authority to amend the Constitution is vested exclusively in the Congress assemblies. Constitutional amendments must be submitted in writing to the Executive at least two weeks before the Congress convenes, and they should undergo style editing by the Congress Constitutional Committee. The Executive is responsible for circulating the proposed amendments to all its members a week prior to the Congress session. To pass an amendment, a two-thirds majority vote of the Congress is required.

BELOW IS THE FULL 2023 CONSTITUTION DRAFT

The Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF

The Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America

Союз Українських Студентських Товариств Америки



SUISTA

Ratified in February 27, 2024

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The Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America

PREAMBLE

We, the Ukrainian Students of the United States, guided by the principles of unity and shared effort, desire to form a coalition to defend the interests and needs of the greater Ukrainian-American student body, promote the Ukrainian identity undeterred by the distance from the ancestral land, provide a centralized platform for student leaders, secure the footings of Ukrainians in American society, and henceforth establish this Constitution for The Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America, SUSTA.

I. NAME

The name of the organization is the "The Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America" (SUSTA), or, in Ukrainian, "Союз Українських Студентських Товариств Америки (СУСТА)."

II. MOTTO

The motto of the organization is "United effort," or, in Latin, "VIRIBUS UNITIS."

III. PURPOSES and OBJECTIVES

1. In this section,

- a. "Ukrainian-identifying" refers to individuals who identify themselves as being connected to or associated with Ukraine, either culturally, ethnically, or in terms of national identity;
- b. "Ukrainian American student" is a student who matriculated in at least one American post-secondary institution and identifies as Ukrainian. This term shall include but not be limited to American-born Ukrainian students, Ukrainian international students, and other foreign nationals who identify as Ukrainian;

2. The mandates of objectives of SUSTA are as follows:

- a. To represent Ukrainian students in the United States before Ukrainian and the U.S. governmental and social institutions;
- b. To encourage and support the development of a Ukrainian-American student movement by:
 - i. Promoting the formation of local Ukrainian student organizations at American Universities;
 - ii. Supporting local Ukrainian student organizations at American Universities;
 - iii. Supporting and mentoring Ukrainian-American students to gain leadership experience;
 - iv. Coordinating and initiating intercollegiate activities of

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Ukrainian student organizations;

- c. To foster cooperation and understanding among the American-born Ukrainian students and Ukrainian students in America;
- d. To provide an open forum for discussion of issues of concern to Ukrainian-American students;
- e. To educate and inform Ukrainian-American students about issues and events relevant to them as students of Ukrainian origin;
- f. To participate and encourage the development of a dynamic Ukrainian-American community that adheres to democratic and humanitarian principles;
- g. To foster an understanding among non-Ukrainian ethnic groups as to Ukrainian affairs and issues;
- h. To promote and support Ukrainian-American and Ukrainian studies at universities in America and elsewhere;
- i. To support newly arrived Ukrainian students by helping them maximize their potential;
- j. To support and cooperate with Ukrainian democratic student organizations worldwide;
- k. To support Peace, Independence, and Democracy in Ukraine by encouraging student-led initiatives, participating in activities organized by Ukrainian-American community, and collaborating with Ukrainian democratic student organizations worldwide;

IV. THE EXECUTIVE

- 1. The SUSTA Executive (the Executive) is composed of:
 - a. **a President**, who
 - i. shall be responsible for all SUSTA business, chair all Executive meetings and represent SUSTA before the public, and
 - ii. may delegate any of the position's responsibilities or tasks to any other Executive member;
 - b. **a Vice-President**, who
 - i. shall assist the President and fulfill the duties of the President when the President is unable to do so, and
 - ii. shall coordinate, help organize and maintain contact with all SUSTA member organizations, coordinating all actions and activities with the SUSTA Regional Vice-Presidents;
 - c. **Regional Vice Presidents**, each of whom
 - i. shall coordinate SUSTA activities in a given geographical region of the United States or where deemed necessary, and

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- ii. shall be responsible for increasing feedback from the SUSTA members in their designated region to the Executive and for strengthening SUSTA at the member level;
 - d. **a Treasurer**, who
 - i. shall be responsible for handling all SUSTA funds and keeping an accurate financial record using generally accepted accounting principles,
 - ii. shall draft a budget for the SUSTA fiscal year and be responsible for its realization, and
 - iii. must present a completed final financial report to the SUSTA Congress delegates and to the auditing committee for examination at the Congress;
 - e. other Executive roles with Executive voting privileges as proposed by Congress delegations and the Executive;
 - f. other Executive staff roles without Executive voting privileges if deemed necessary by the elected Executive members.
 - g. **an Immediate Past-President**, who
 - i. is not elected, hence has no Executive vote, but is the outgoing SUSTA President of the immediately preceding term of office, and
 - ii. shall advise the Executive on all SUSTA matters, and provide an organizational continuity with the previous year's Executive.
2. Any person may run for election to the Executive if that person:
- a. is a full member in good standing of a SUSTA member organization; and
 - b. is a matriculated student of at least one American post-secondary or a recent graduate within the past year.
3. The Executive:
- a. shall fulfill the objectives outlined in section 2 of the Constitution to the best of its ability;
 - b. shall be bound by the resolutions of all annual and Extraordinary Congresses;
 - c. may create or adopt existing Protocols, Codes, and Policies it feels is necessary for internal operations of the Executive;
 - d. may appoint any Executive Staff roles it feels is necessary to fulfill the objectives outlined in section III.2 of the Constitution;
 - e. may, subject to budgetary constraints, employ any professional staff it feels is necessary to fulfill the objectives outlined in section III.2 of the Constitution.
2. The Executive shall assume its responsibilities at the conclusion of the Congress at which it was elected and shall hold these responsibilities until the conclusion of the next Congress, or until they resign or are removed from office.

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- a. Immediately following Congress, the entire outgoing Executive shall remain as active advisors to the incoming Executive.
3. The Executive, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, and no sooner than one week after all SUSTA members have received notification of its intentions, shall remove from office any Executive member who:
 - a. has, for two or more months, continually failed to fulfill the position's responsibilities; or
 - b. has seriously or flagrantly violated the SUSTA constitution or by-laws.
4. Should the President resign or be removed from office, the Executive shall, by a two-thirds majority of all its members and after all SUSTA members have been advised of the candidates' names, elect a replacement from among any of the vice presidents;
5. Should a member of the Executive, other than the President, resign or be removed from office, the Executive may appoint a replacement, provided it advises all SUSTA member organizations of the candidate's name at least one week before the appointment is made.
6. The Executive shall hold a meeting at least once a month. Either in person or via the Internet;

V. MEMBERSHIP

1. Any Ukrainian club, association, or federation:
 - a. whose majority members are students of American post-secondary institutions;
 - b. belongs to at least one of the following categories:
 - i. student organizations recognized by the governing body of their post-secondary institution;
 - ii. autonomous student organizations without formal recognition or legal status at post-secondary institutions;
 - iii. a collective assembly of students, self-constituted from various neighboring educational institutions, unified by a common purpose; and
 - iv. autonomous student-led organization, affiliated with larger noncommercial entities such as religious congregations, interest groups, identity-based associations, etc., functions independently while contributing to the overarching objectives and principles of the associated collective.
 - c. which is governed democratically, with an elected executive responsible for its membership; and
 - d. qualifies as a sociocultural group, highlighting affinity, identity, social, and cultural connections, with the primary objective of fostering a supportive community for

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Ukraine-identifying students;

e. may apply for membership in SUSTA by submitting to the SUSTA Executive:

- i. a formal written request for membership;
- ii. a list of its executive members; and
- iii. a list of the names, e-mail addresses, and academic enrollment status of each of its members.

2. Where an applicant for SUSTA membership has fulfilled the criteria outlined in section 1, the Executive may conditionally accept this applicant as a member of the organization, pending one month probation during which the aspiring club must appoint a SUSTA delegate(s) and complete entry training.

VI. WITHDRAWAL/SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. A member may withdraw from SUSTA by:
 - a. filing a declaration of withdrawal with the Executive; or
 - b. dissolving its organization.
2. A member is suspended from SUSTA when a member:
 - a. infringed the constitution or by-laws of SUSTA; or
 - b. unjustifiably neglected its activities or responsibilities;
3. The Executive, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, may suspend the member's membership provided it has advised all SUSTA members at least two weeks before the suspension of:
 - i. its intention to suspend the member;
 - ii. the reasons for the suspension; and
 - iii. the duration of the suspension.
4. Where a member has been suspended under the above mentioned provisions, the next Congress shall review the circumstances of the suspension and shall:
 - a. remove the suspension;
 - b. renew the suspension; or
 - c. expel the member.

VII. THE CONGRESS

1. In this section,
 - a. a "delegate" means a member-in-good-standing with a SUSTA member organization, who is authorized by that club to participate in the Congress on behalf of their organization;
 - b. "Congress" encompasses both the supreme legislative body of SUSTA and the occasion when this legislative body assembles.
2. The Congress is the supreme legislative body of SUSTA.

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3. The Congress is composed of delegates appointed by the student organizations they represent. These delegates, in turn, exercise voting privileges on behalf of their respective student organizations.
4. The Congress assembly consists of delegates, observers, the Board of Directors, and the Executive.
5. The Executive shall call a General assembly of the Congress at least once during every calendar year.
6. Upon the request of one-third of all SUSTA members, the Executive shall call an Extraordinary assembly of the Congress and set its agenda.
7. The Executive shall, in writing and no less than two calendar months prior to a General Congress assembly or no less than two calendar weeks prior to an Extraordinary Congress assembly, notify all SUSTA members of the date, format, and place the Congress is to be held.
8. Should the Executive be incapable of calling a Congress as required by the constitution, an ad hoc Congress committee composed of the presidents of at least half the SUSTA membership may call a Congress and set its agenda.
9. Quorum at a Congress is fifty percent of the delegates registered at the Congress. The SUSTA General Congress assembly shall follow proper congressional procedure.
10. No person shall delegate a right to vote at a Congress to another person. Student organizations should inform the Executive in written form of any delegate changes as soon as possible.
11. At its outset the Annual Congress shall elect from among its delegates and members of the Executive:
 - a. a Congress Council (the Council), composed of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretarie(s), empowered to conduct the Congress proceedings;
 - b. a Nominations Committee, empowered to prepare a list of candidates for election to the Executive for the subsequent term of office;
 - c. a Verifications Committee, empowered to verify that each member club has only the constitutionally permitted number of delegates and that these delegates are bona fide delegates;
 - d. a Constitutional Committee, empowered to prepare the text of all proposed constitutional changes, if any, to the Congress;
 - e. a Resolutions Committee, empowered to prepare the text of any Congress resolutions for the consideration of the Congress;
 - f. an Auditing Committee, empowered to audit the outgoing Executive's financial records; and
 - g. any other Committee which the Congress may deem necessary.

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12. The Council shall set the Congress agenda, which shall include at least:
 - a. reports from each of the outgoing Executive members;
 - b. reports from any existing committees;
 - c. reports from SUSTA member clubs;
 - d. an audited financial statement;
 - e. resolutions;
 - f. constitutional amendments; and
 - g. election of the Executive of the following year.
13. The outgoing Executive, in cooperation with the outgoing Congress committee;
 - a. should set aside a fixed amount of capital to be held in trust for the start-up administration costs of the next Congress, to be used by the newly-elected Congress coordinator and their committee;
 - b. This amount will be determined only after the current Congress books have been closed;
 - c. This money will not be absorbed by the Executive.

VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. Only the Congress assemblies have the power to amend the Constitution.
2. The Congress assemblies shall consider those constitutional amendments which:
 - i. have been submitted, in writing, to the Executive no later than two weeks prior to the convening of the Congress; and
 - ii. have been edited for style by the Congress Constitutional Committee.
3. The Executive shall submit the text of all proposed constitutional amendments to all its members no later than one week prior to the convening of the Congress.
4. A two-thirds majority vote of the Congress is required to pass an amendment to the Constitution.

IX. RULE OF ORDER

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern SUSTA in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with the SUSTA Constitution.