

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be The University of British Columbia International Law Society, hereinafter called the "ILS".

Article II: Members

The membership of the ILS will be made up entirely of students registered in the Faculty of Law of the University of British Columbia who indicate that they wish to be members.

Article III: Mission Statement

The ILS exists to engage students in matters of international law. It seeks to create a forum to discuss matters of international law and to help students garner an appreciation that we live in an increasingly interdependent world where there are overlapping interests among states and their peoples. It seeks to work with, and be familiar with the work of, other international law-focused organizations – whether on campus, regional, national or global – and to make the membership aware of opportunities that may be of interest.

Article IV: ILS Executive

- (1) The ILS Executive will consist of *at least* the following positions:
 - (a) The President;
 - (b) The Vice President Internal (hereinafter referred to as “VP Internal”);
 - (c) The Vice President External (hereinafter referred to as “VP External”);
 - (d) The Vice President Finance (hereinafter referred to as “VP Finance”);
 - (e) Editor-in-Chief of the ILS-sanctioned journal (hereinafter referred to as “Editor”); and
 - (f) Three Directors-at-large (hereinafter referred to as “Directors”).
- (2) Independent international law-related organizations at the UBC Faculty of Law (e.g. Canadian Lawyers Abroad), as well as committees working within the auspices of the ILS (e.g. the Humanitarian Caucus), may be invited to have a member of their organization or committee sit on the ILS Executive as a representative.
- (3) The object of the ILS Executive will be to carry out the Mission Statement by coordinating a variety of events that facilitate discussion of issues involving international law, as well as making the membership aware of opportunities that, in light of the Mission Statement, may be of interest.
- (4) The President, VP Internal, VP External and VP Finance shall be elected by the general membership of the ILS following the procedures listed in Article XIII.
- (5) The outgoing ILS Executive, in coordination with the incoming President, VP Internal, VP External and VP Finance, shall select the incoming Editor following the procedures listed in Article XIV.
- (6) In accordance with Article XV, the President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance and Editor shall select three Directors in the month of September, with a strong preference for at least one of the Directors being a first-year law student.
- (7) Members sitting on the ILS Executive from organizations or committees referred to in (2) shall be selected by those organizations.
- (8) Each member of the ILS Executive has an equal vote; however, the ILS Executive shall strive to reach all decisions by consensus.
- (9) No resolution may be passed unless there is quorum, defined as half the ILS Executive membership and including at least three of the following members: the President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance and Editor.

Article V: The President

The President will:

- (a) serve as chair, or designate a chair, for meetings of the general membership as well as the ILS Executive;
- (b) prepare an agenda for meetings of the general membership as well as the ILS Executive, and ensure the agenda is distributed before each meeting;
- (c) call regular meetings of the ILS Executive and general membership and book facilities for those meetings;
- (d) cast the deciding vote in the event of a tied result of any ILS Executive vote on any matter;
- (e) oversee the general affairs of the ILS and ensure that each member of the ILS Executive fulfills the duties of his or her office; and
- (f) be responsible for organizing one speaker event or awareness campaign each semester.

Article VI: VP Internal

The VP Internal will:

- (a) be responsible for maintaining communication among the general ILS membership as well as between the ILS and the UBC Law Students' Society;
- (b) maintain the ILS bulletin board;
- (c) ensure that information about the ILS on the UBC Faculty of Law website is current;
- (d) coordinate, in conjunction with the VP External, the advertisement of ILS-sanctioned events around the Faculty of Law;
- (e) take minutes of all meetings of the general membership as well as the ILS Executive; and
- (f) make minutes available to the general membership within six days of the meeting for which the minutes were taken.

Article VII: VP External

The VP External will:

- (a) be responsible for opening and maintaining lines of communication between the ILS and other organizations around The University of British Columbia that share an international focus, where such lines of communication would help the ILS fulfil the Mission Statement;
- (b) research and inform the ILS membership of events and opportunities – whether on campus, regional, national or abroad – that may be of interest; and
- (c) coordinate, in conjunction with the VP Internal, the advertisement of ILS-sanctioned events around the Faculty of Law.

Article VIII: VP Finance

The VP Finance will:

- (a) maintain financial records;
- (b) allow any member access to the financial records of the ILS;
- (c) prepare a budget for the approval of the ILS Executive before the beginning of the academic year; and
- (d) coordinate fundraising efforts.

Article IX: Editor

The Editor will:

- (a) be responsible for the development and publication of an international law-focused journal.

Article X: Directors

(1) The Directors will:

- (a) assist the President, VP Internal, VP External and VP Finance in fulfilling their duties, when called upon to do so;
 - (b) help with the general running of the ILS.
- (2) The Directors may be called upon to head special projects or events under the auspices of the ILS.

Article XI: Representatives from other organizations

Representatives from other organizations invited to sit on the ILS Executive will:

- (a) be expected to communicate with the rest of the ILS Executive and help develop possible synergies that may be had by combining the resources and efforts of his or her respective organization and the ILS'.

Article XII: ILS Executive Meetings

ILS Executive Meetings will:

- (a) be held at least once per month during the first three months of the fall and spring terms;
- (b) be open to all Members, though only ILS Executive Members will move, second, and vote on motions; and
- (c) consider substantive motions (i.e. motions calling for some sort of action or resolution; not merely procedural) only when there is quorum, defined as half the ILS Executive membership and including at least three of the following members: the President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance and Editor.

Article XIII: Elections

- (1) By February 1, the ILS Executive shall appoint a Chief Returning Officer (hereinafter called the "CRO") who will be responsible for conducting the election of the President, VP Internal, VP External and VP Finance and will have the authority to implement measures to ensure the fair and efficient operation of the ILS election.
- (2) The CRO and any of his or her delegates shall not be eligible to run for President, VP Internal, VP External or VP Finance.
- (3) The election must occur during the month of February or March.
- (4) In order to vote or seek a nomination, a student must have been a member of the ILS at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the nomination period.
- (5) Nominations for President, VP Internal, VP External and VP Finance will:
 - (a) close one week after the CRO declares the nominations open; and
 - (b) contain the name and signature of at least two ILS Members.
- (6) Elections for contested positions will be:
 - (a) held by secret ballot for one day in the week after the nominations close, between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.
- (7) All election materials shall comply with the Mission Statement outlined in Article II.

Article XIV: Selection of the Editor

- (1) At the time of the elections held according to Article XIII, applications will be made available for persons wishing to be considered for the position of Editor.
- (2) To seek a nomination, a student must have previously worked on the UBC International Law Journal (ILJ).
- (3) From the applications, the outgoing editorial committee will select the incoming Editor.
- (4) As part of the selection process, applicants may be interviewed.

Article XV: Selection of the Directors

- (1) At some point during the first two weeks of September, applications will be made available for persons wishing to be considered for one of the Director positions.
- (2) From the pool of applicants, the President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance and Editor shall select the three Directors, with a strong preference for at least one of the Directors being a first-year law student.
- (3) The selection shall occur before the first of October.
- (4) As part of the selection process, applicants may be interviewed.
- (5) In accordance with Article X, the ILS Executive may tailor the description and duties of a Director position, such as having a Director in charge of a special project or event (e.g. delegations to conferences; website development; etc.).

Article XVI: Amendments to the Constitution

- (1) This constitution may be amended:

- (a) at a meeting of the general membership, if there is a two-thirds majority, provided that notice of the proposed modifications be posted on the bulletin board of the ILS two clear weeks before the proposed meeting and that the notice contains the signatures of at least ten members; or
 - (b) by a simple majority of votes in favour of a proposed constitutional amendment appearing on a regular election ballot.
- (2) For an amendment to appear on a regular election ballot:
- (a) the proposed constitutional amendment must be submitted to the President by January 15; and
 - (b) the proposed constitutional amendment must have the valid names and signatures of at least 5 students currently registered as members of the ILS, with each page of the petition containing the full text of the amendment and the text which it is replacing, if any.
- (3) Upon receipt of a proposed constitutional amendment in accordance with 2(a) and (b), the President will:
- (a) post the proposed amendment in its entirety to the ILS bulletin board;
 - (b) ensure that the proposed amendment appears in its entirety on the ballot during elections; and
 - (g) direct the VP Internal to take all reasonable steps to notify the ILS membership that a proposed constitutional amendment will be appearing on the ballot.

Article XVII: Ad Hoc Committees

- (1) The ILS may form Ad Hoc Committees as deemed necessary.
- (2) An Ad Hoc Committee may be established by the ratification of a motion brought by a member of the ILS Executive.
- (3) The motion shall include:
 - (a) the purpose and mandate of the committee;
 - (b) who will chair the committee;
 - (c) how members to the committee shall be appointed.

Article XVIII: Term of Office

- (1) The term of office of the President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance begins on April 1 and ends on the last day of March of the following year.
- (2) The term of office of the Editor begins from the time of selection of the Editor in accordance with Article XIV or on April 1, whatever occurs later, and ends on the last day of March of the following year.
- (3) The term of office of the Directors begins from the time of selection in accordance with Article XV and ends on the last day of March of the following year.
- (4) The term of office of representatives from organizations referred to in Article IV (2) begins from the time of selection by his or her respective organization or on April 1, whatever occurs later, and ends on the last day of March of the following year.
- (5) If the position of President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance or Editor becomes vacant:
 - (a) before the beginning of the academic year, the remaining members of the ILS Executive shall make a call for applications for a replacement during the month of September and select a replacement by October 1;
 - (b) during the academic year, it is up to the discretion of the remaining ILS Executive members to decide whether to fill the vacant position and what procedures to follow.
- (6) If one of the Director positions becomes vacant, it is up to the discretion of the remaining ILS Executive members to decide whether to fill the vacant position and what procedures to follow.
- (7) If one of the representatives referred to in Article IV (2) vacates his or her position on the ILS Executive, it is up to the discretion of the home organization to decide whether and how to fill the position.