

Rules

CHAPTER 1

General provisions

Section 1 Name

The name of the association is Suomen ylioppilaskuntien liitto (SYL) ry, in Swedish Finlands studentkårers förbund (FSF) rf. The association is referred to in English as the National Union of University Students in Finland. In these rules, the association is referred to as the Union.

The domicile of the association is the city of Helsinki.

Section 2 Purpose and operation

As a central organisation, the purpose of the Union is to represent its member communities and their members in Finland, in Nordic and European and other international activities, and to promote and supervise their common interests, especially in matters of education and social policy.

In order to fulfil its purpose, the Union may organise meetings and discussion events, engage in advisory, publishing, and service activities, and act in other similar ways for the benefit of students and its member communities.

The Union's operations are funded by membership fees, income from its operations and available donations and subsidies.

The Union has the right to receive bequests and donations, to own movable and immovable property and, with appropriate permission, to raise funds for the realisation of its purpose.

Section 3 Members

The members of the Union are the member communities.

Upon application, a student union, organised by legislative measures or operating in other ways by virtue of rules confirmed by a public authority, can become a member community. The member communities' own member community cannot be a Union member.

Acceptance as a member is decided by the General Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast.

Acquired membership rights are retained.

Section 4 Resignation and expulsion from the Union

A member has the right to resign from the Union at any time by notifying the Board or its Chair thereof in writing or by announcing the resignation at the General Assembly for entry into the minutes.

If the notice of resignation is made before the budget for the next term of the Union has been approved, the member's resignation will take effect immediately from the beginning of the next term. If the notice of resignation is made only after the budget has been approved, the resignation shall take effect one year after the notice of resignation and the member shall be obliged to pay the full membership fee approved in the budget for the following term.

The decision to expel a member from the Union is made by the General Assembly with a 2/3 majority of the votes cast. A proposal to expel a member shall be included in the invitation to the meeting. Before making a decision, the representatives of the member community must be heard on the matter, unless the reason for expulsion is failure to pay membership fees for more than one term.

Section 5 Languages

The languages of the Union are Finnish and Swedish. The language of the minutes is Finnish. You can attend the meetings using Finnish, Swedish or English.

CHAPTER II

General Assembly

Section 6 Delegates to the General Assembly

The highest decision-making power of the Union is exercised by the General Assembly. At the General Assembly, decision-making power is exercised by delegates appointed by the member communities by proxy. The proxies of the member communities' delegates to the General Assembly must be delivered to the Union's office no later than seven (7) days before the General Assembly. After this, the General Assembly will decide on the changes submitted by the member community.

Each member community has one proxy for every thousand members. A delegate can have a maximum of two proxies.

The number of members refers to the number of individual members of a member community as it has been calculated on the first day of November in the last academic year.

When member communities merge, the total number of individual members of these member communities as it has been on the first day of November of the last academic year shall be deemed to be the number of its members.

A member community has the right to appoint one deputy delegate for each ordinary delegate by proxy. However, all member communities are entitled to at least two deputy delegates if there is more

than one ordinary delegate. A member community may appoint an ordinary delegate as a deputy delegate of another ordinary delegate.

The deputy delegates are not personal, unless the member community specifically so stipulates by proxy. The order of priority of the deputy delegates shall be determined by proxy. More than one personal deputy delegate may be appointed for a delegate, and a deputy delegate may be a deputy delegate for more than one delegate.

The Board of the Union issues a statement to the General Assembly on the proxies submitted.

Section 7 Convening

General Assemblies are the Annual General Assembly and the Extraordinary General Assembly. The General Assembly is convened by the Board of the Union.

The Annual General Assembly is held annually in November.

The invitation to the General Assembly must be sent to the members at least twenty-one (21) days before the General Assembly. Documents necessary for the processing of matters disclosed at the Assembly must be sent to the members at least fourteen (14) days before the Assembly.

Section 8 Extraordinary General Assembly

An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened if at least one tenth (1/10) of the members of the Union, whose total number of individual members is at least one tenth (1/10) of the total number of individual members in the member communities of the Union calculated in accordance with section 6, subsection 3 of these rules, so request in writing for the consideration of a matter notified by them. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held no later than two months after the request was made.

Section 9 Elections

Each delegate to the General Assembly of a member community present at the election has the number of votes according to their proxies. Voting shall take place by secret ballot. Attached to the minutes shall be a record of the counting of votes for each election held, showing the distribution of votes in each round of counting carried out in the election, name of the person to be eliminated or elected on the basis of the round, and information on how the elimination was carried out, if it is not directly apparent from the distribution of votes in the round. If the counting of votes is carried out using a computer program, the source code of the program used for the counting or a detailed description of the operating logic of the program shall be appended to the minutes.

Section 10 Election of one candidate

When there is one candidate to be elected, the single transferable vote method is used which is described as follows:

1. The voter marks the nominated candidates on the ballot paper in the order of their choice: the candidate they consider to be the best first, then the second best candidate, etc. Voters may also choose to include fewer names on the ballot paper than there are candidates in the election.
2. Each ballot paper counts as a vote for the candidate who is listed as number one on the ballot.
3. If one of the candidates has received an absolute majority, i.e. more than half of the first votes cast, the candidate has won the election.
4. If none of the candidates obtains an absolute majority of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated.
5. Each ballot paper received by this eliminated candidate is transferred as a vote to the candidate who is listed in second place on the ballot.
6. If one of the candidates has received more than half of the votes cast, the candidate has won the election.
7. If none of the candidates still has received a majority of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated from among the remaining candidates. Each ballot paper for this eliminated candidate is transferred as a vote to the next non-eliminated candidate on the ballot paper. This is repeated so many times that one of the remaining candidates has obtained an absolute majority of the votes.
8. If, at some point in the calculation, the candidates reach a tie, their order shall be determined as defined in section 11, paragraph 7.
9. If it is not possible to determine on the basis of the ballot paper of the eliminated candidate to whom the vote should be transferred, the surplus on that ballot paper shall be divided equally among all the remaining candidates, as described in section 11, paragraph 5.

Section 11 Election of more than one candidate

When there is more than one candidate to be elected, the single transferable vote method described here is used. The single transferable vote election will proceed in stages as follows:

1. The voter enters the desired number of candidates' names on the ballot paper in order of preference.
2. Electoral threshold.

The number of accepted, rejected and blank ballot papers is calculated and an electoral threshold is determined that a candidate must reach in order to be elected.

The electoral threshold is calculated as follows: $\text{electoral threshold} = \text{number of accepted ballot papers} / (\text{number of available seats} + 1)$. The electoral threshold is defined to two decimal places rounded up.

3. The first stage of the counting of votes.

For the purpose of calculating the election result, the ballot papers are sorted according to the first candidates and the number of first votes achieved by each candidate is calculated.

All candidates whose number of first votes is equal to or higher than the electoral threshold are found to have been elected.

If more candidates are elected than there are seats to be filled, the order of the candidates to be elected shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 7.

If as many candidates are elected as there are seats to be filled, the election is declared closed.

4. Transfer of the surplus

If fewer candidates are elected than there are seats to be filled, any surplus of votes attained by the candidates will be transferred.

The transfer of the surplus starts with the candidate with the highest number of votes.

If there is a surplus in the first stage of the counting of votes, all ballot papers counted in favour of the candidate shall be examined.

If a surplus occurs at a later stage of the counting of votes due to the transfer of another surplus or the elimination of a candidate or candidates, only the last set of ballot papers of equal value which gave rise to that surplus shall be considered.

In order to transfer the surplus in favour of the other candidates, the ballot papers based on which the surplus is transferred shall be arranged in accordance with the second votes indicated therein for the candidates who are still included in the counting of votes. If a candidate marked as the second vote on the ballot paper has already been elected or eliminated, the candidate marked third on the ballot paper will be considered and, after having already been elected or eliminated, the candidate entered in fourth place, etc., until the surplus can be transferred. If the ballot paper does not allow the surplus to be transferred, the surplus on that ballot paper shall be divided equally among all the remaining candidates.

Surplus

The transferred surplus shall be determined in such a way that the electoral threshold shall be deducted from the total number of votes counted in favour of the candidate

Transfer value

The surplus transferred on the basis of an individual ballot paper, i.e. the transfer value of the ballot paper, is determined by dividing the current value of the ballot paper multiplied by the surplus by the total number of ballot papers held by the candidate. The transfer value shall be

determined to four decimal places, rounded down.

Transfer of votes

In accordance with the order of preference indicated on the ballot papers, ballot papers are transferred in favour of the next candidate on the ballot paper. If the candidate next on the ballot paper has already been elected or eliminated, the ballot papers will be transferred to the next candidate, etc. Each transferred ballot paper increases the number of votes of the candidate by the transfer value of the ballot paper.

The surplus of non-transferable ballot papers, i.e. ballot papers which do not allow the surplus to be transferred, shall be divided equally among all the remaining candidates, rounded down to four decimal places.

After the transfer of the surplus, the total number of votes attained by the candidates is examined, and after the transfer of the surplus, any surplus of the candidates who have reached the electoral threshold is transferred.

5. Elimination

Once all the surplus has been transferred and one or more seats remain unfilled, the candidate with the lowest total number of votes after the transfer of the surpluses shall be eliminated. If no candidate reaches the electoral threshold in the first round, the candidate with the lowest number of first votes will be eliminated. In the event of a tie, the order of the candidates shall be determined as provided in section 6.

The credited votes of the candidate to be eliminated are arranged in stacks in descending order, so that the first votes counted in favour of the candidate are first, the ballot papers first transferred in favour of the candidate are second, and third, the ballot papers that may have been transferred later, etc. Each stack therefore contains only ballot papers with the same transfer value.

Each stack is examined individually and the votes are transferred to the remaining candidates according to the order of preference indicated on the ballot papers. If a candidate marked as the second vote on the ballot paper has already been elected or eliminated, the candidate marked third on the ballot paper will be considered, and if they have already been elected or eliminated, the candidate marked fourth will be considered, etc. until the vote can be transferred. In the case of non-transferable ballot papers, the transfer value of the ballot paper shall be transferred equally among all remaining candidates, rounded down to four decimal places.

If non-transferable votes have been transferred in favour of a candidate at an earlier stage of the counting of votes, they shall be transferred equally among all remaining candidates, rounded down to four decimal places.

After the elimination, the total number of votes of the remaining candidates is examined, and

when a candidate reaches the electoral threshold, their surplus is transferred. If, based on the elimination, no candidate reaches the electoral threshold, the next candidate with the fewest votes at that moment will be eliminated as described above.

6. The transfer of the surplus and the elimination will continue until all seats have been filled or until there are as many candidates left as there are available seats.
7. Order of candidates in the event of a tie

If one or more candidates have the same number of votes in a situation where there are more elected candidates in the first round than there are available seats, or when the surplus from the first round is distributed, or in an elimination situation when no surplus has been transferred in favour of the candidates, the order of the candidates shall be determined on the basis of the second votes they have obtained. When the second votes are tied, the number of third votes obtained by the candidates is examined, etc. If the ballot papers cannot be used to determine the order of the candidates, the order of the candidates shall be determined by lot.

Candidates may arrive at the same number of votes when transferring the surplus or in an elimination situation when votes have been transferred in their favour. In that case, the order of the candidates is determined on the basis of the earlier stage of the counting of votes when the candidates still had a different number of votes. If the number of votes cast for the candidates at all stages of the counting of votes has been the same, their order shall be determined on the basis of the original second votes. When the second votes are tied, the number of third votes obtained by the candidates is examined, etc. If the ballot papers cannot be used to determine the order of the candidates, the order of the candidates shall be determined by lot.

Section 12 Officials of the General Assembly

The Union Chair and, in their absence, the Vice Chair opens the General Assembly and chairs it until a Chair and Vice Chair have been elected for the General Assembly. The secretary of the General Assembly is the Secretary General of the Union or, in their absence, a person chosen by the General Assembly.

Section 13 Duties of the General Assembly

The duties of the Annual General Assembly are:

1. To process the report issued by the Board of the Union on the activities of the Union during the previous term and decide on measures that may result from it;
2. approve the annual accounts and, on the basis of the opinion of the auditors, decide on the discharge from liability of the accountable persons;
3. decide on the amount of the membership fee for the next term, the time of collection and the interest on late payment due for late payment of membership fees. In order for the decision to

change the amount of the membership fee to enter into force, it must be supported by at least three-quarters (3/4) of the votes cast.

4. confirm the Union's action plan and budget for the next term;
5. elect the Union Chair and six other members of the Board for the next term of office;
6. elect for the Union one auditor and their deputy auditor, as well as one operations inspector and their deputy operations inspector for the next term of office. The auditor and the personal deputy auditor appointed as their deputy shall be auditors certified by the Finland Chamber of Commerce (KHT).

The Board submits to the General Assembly a report on its activities since the previous General Assembly.

In addition to these matters, the General Assembly may decide on other matters proposed to it by the Board, members of the Union or delegates to the General Assembly as provided in section 14.

Section 14 Matters to be discussed

Members of the Union have the right to have a matter of their choice discussed at the General Assembly. To this end, the members shall submit their initiative no later than forty (40) days before the General Assembly to the Board, which shall attach it to the invitation to the meeting. When the matter is discussed at the General Assembly, the Board must issue a statement on the initiative made by a member.

Matters that are not mentioned in the invitation to the meeting must be postponed after discussion to the next General Assembly.

However, the General Assembly has the right, by a majority of three-quarters (3/4) of the votes cast, to decide on such a matter to be dealt with as urgent in the same Assembly, taking into account, however, the provisions of section 23 of the Associations Act .

If at least one third (1/3) of the delegates to the General Assembly so request, the matter mentioned in the invitation to the meeting to be discussed for the first time at the General Assembly shall be tabled and discussed at the next General Assembly.

Section 15 Right to speak and attend

The Union Chair, members of the Board, auditors, deputy auditors, operations inspector, deputy operations inspector, Secretary General and other members of the personnel have the right to attend and speak at the General Assembly.

CHAPTER III

Board

Section 16 Organisation and term of office

The Board of the Union consists of a Chair, who is called the Union Chair, and six other members.

A member of a member organisation of the Union or a person who has the right to complete a degree at a university in accordance with the Universities Act at the time of election may be elected as the Chair or a member.

The Board elects the Vice Chair of the Union from among its members for a term of office.

The term of office of the Board is the calendar year following the election. If the Board changes in the middle of the Union's term, the Board's term of office begins immediately after the election and lasts until the end of the current term.

Section 17 Convening the Board

The Board is convened by the Chair or, in their absence, the Vice Chair.

The Board decides on the method of convening.

Section 18 Decision-making power

A meeting of the Board has quorum when the Chair or Vice Chair and at least three other members of the Board are present.

Section 19 Remuneration of the Board

The remuneration of the Chair and other members of the Board is decided by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER IV

Finances

Section 20 Membership fees

For its operations, the Union collects membership fees from its members.

The members shall pay the annual membership fee determined by the Annual General Assembly based on the number of individual members calculated in accordance with section 6 of these rules. The method of collecting the membership fee is decided by the Annual General Assembly.

Section 21 Term and financial year

The Union's term and financial year is a calendar year.

CHAPTER V

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 22 Signatories

The name of the Union is signed by the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary General always two together.

Section 23 Amendment of the rules and dissolution of the Union

A proposal to amend these rules or dissolve the Union shall be deemed to have been approved if, at two consecutive General Assemblies held at intervals of at least twenty-two (22) days, it has in both received at least three-quarters (3/4) of the votes cast, or if it has been approved by a majority of at least five-sixths (5/6) of the votes in one General Assembly whose invitation to the meeting mentions the matter.

If the Union is dissolved or discontinued, its assets shall, unless otherwise stipulated by the transferor, be divided among the member communities in proportion to their membership to be used by them in a manner decided by the last General Assembly in some field of activity of the Union.

Adopted at the General Assembly 22–23 November 2002

Amended section 6, subsection 4 at the General Assembly 17–18 November 2006

Amended sections 11 and 13 at the General Assembly 19–20 November 2010

Amended section in its entirety at the General Assembly 18–19 November 2022