

Constitution and Bylaws of the CRUES

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CHAPTER 1: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The member associations, grouped together in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws, constitute the Coalition de résistance pour l'unité étudiante syndicale, hereinafter referred to as the CRUES.

ARTICLE 2: NATURE

The CRUES is a combative union that brings together local student associations at the regional level and at the scale of so-called Québec. The CRUES operates under the democratic control of its members.

ARTICLE 3: OBJECT

The CRUES aims to defend the material, professional, cultural, academic and social interests of students by building and maintaining permanent collective power against the state and the economic elite.

The CRUES is pursuing its goal:

1. by linking the various local student associations together;
2. by creating a space of solidarity that eliminates competition among students and recognizes their common interests;
3. through training, education, information, awareness and mobilization;
4. by supporting the struggles led by its members and other student groups, where these are consistent with the principles of the organization;
5. by supporting the struggles led by the workers' movement and popular movements, when these are consistent with the principles of the organization;
6. through an analysis and understanding of education from a global societal perspective;
7. by taking the material, human and financial means necessary to achieve the goals set by the organization.

ARTICLE 4: PRINCIPLES

Students are organized on a union basis as intellectual workers, as stated in the founding document of student unionism, the 1946 Grenoble Charter.

Aware of the need for permanent protest and for the convergence of social struggles to defend the gains of past student, labour and popular movements and to make new gains, the CRUES takes a stand:

1. for public, free, quality, accessible, non-discriminatory education, adapted to the needs and abilities of each student and free from interference by private businesses;
2. for a universal financial aid system that eliminates student debt and ensures decent living conditions;
3. for the recognition of student work and a wage for all internships;
4. for the democratization of educational institutions with a view toward self-governance;
5. for the recognition of Indigenous knowledge and the decolonization of education;
6. for the defence and expansion of universal public services;
7. for the common and democratic management of the economy in order to satisfy the needs of all, while respecting ecological limits, against capitalist exploitation as well as the inequalities and oppressions linked to this system;
8. for international trade union solidarity with all progressive struggles;
9. for solidarity with Indigenous peoples and nations of the North and South and with marginalized communities and racialized communities, against all forms of colonialism and imperialism;
10. for a just ecological transition in solidarity with the struggles historically waged by the Indigenous peoples and nations of the North and South;
11. for a combative feminism aiming at the abolition of cisheteropatriarchy, against all forms of discrimination based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or body diversity;
12. for a resolutely anti-racist struggle, opposing all forms of institutional and systemic discrimination, and for the abolition of white supremacy.
13. for the inclusion of neurodivergent students, students with disabilities, immunocompromised students, students with mental health issues and those with various accessibility needs.

CHAPTER 2: MEMBERS

ARTICLE 5: CONDITIONS

Any student association that has expressed its democratic will to affiliate to the CRUES and whose affiliation has been accepted by the Congress is a member of the CRUES.

In order for the Congress to accept an association for membership, the association must meet the following criteria:

1. the association practices student unionism, i.e. it aims to defend and improve the material and moral conditions of its members;
2. the association is democratic and controlled by its members through the general assembly and the general assembly is its supreme body;
3. the association has endorsed the principles of CRUES as set forth in Article 4 of this Constitution;
4. the association has completed the affiliation process in accordance with Article 6 of this Constitution.

The association becomes a member of the CRUES when the Congress ratifies its membership.

ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATION

A student association wishing to affiliate to the CRUES must have expressed its desire to do so by means of a resolution passed at a general assembly or by referendum.

The association must send the following to the Executive Council:

1. the dates and terms of the enrollment campaign;
2. the minutes in which the outcome of the general assembly or referendum vote is recorded, as well as the student participation in the vote;
3. minutes or position papers showing the adoption by a general assembly or referendum of the principles of the CRUES set forth in Article CRUES of this Constitution, if not included in the affiliation resolution;
4. the number of members of the association;
5. names and contact information for the local executive, the external affairs coordinator and the intermediate body of the student association, if applicable.

ARTICLE 7: DUES

Member associations must contribute 6 \$ per student per academic year in dues.

The payment of dues is made in two instalments, in the fall and in the winter semesters. The fall semester payment is made in the first three weeks of September based on a membership estimate; this amount is adjusted retroactively for the winter semester payment based on the actual number of members.

Payment of dues is optional for modular and departmental associations. The Congress may, at the time of affiliation or subsequently, revoke this exemption for a given association.

The Congress may increase the amount of the membership fee only after a resolution to that effect is passed at a general assembly or by referendum by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the member associations subject to the payment of the fee.

ARTICLE 8: DOUBLE REPRESENTATION

A modular or departmental member association whose individual members are also represented by a faculty or campus member association, so long as this situation persists:

1. may not exercise its right to vote at the Congress, but retains the right to speak and to make proposals;
2. is excluded from the number of member associations for the purpose of calculating a quorum of the Convention;
3. is exempt from paying the fee.

ARTICLE 9: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The Congress may, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote, suspend or expel a member association for failure to pay dues or to comply with the Constitution of the CRUES or its principles. A member association may not vote on its own suspension or expulsion, but has the right to respond to any allegations made against it.

A suspended association loses all rights of membership until reinstated by the convention. An expelled association ceases to be a member of the CRUES.

ARTICLE 10: DISAFFILIATION

A member association wishing to disaffiliate from the CRUES must have expressed its desire to disaffiliate through a resolution to that effect, passed in the same body that decided on the affiliation.

The association must send the following to the Executive Council:

1. the dates and terms of the disaffiliation campaign;
2. the minutes in which the outcome of the general assembly or referendum vote is recorded, as well as the student participation in the vote.

The association ceases to be a member of the CRUES when the association adopts the disaffiliation resolution, provided the association has disaffiliated in accordance with this section.

CHAPTER 3: CONGRESS

ARTICLE 11: FUNCTION

The Congress of the CRUES is the supreme body of the organization. It has the final say on all decisions that concern it.

ARTICLE 12: POWERS

The Congress has the following powers:

1. to determine the general orientations of the CRUES, as well as its ideological and political orientation;
2. to determine the priority of campaigns and the broad outline of action plans;
3. to amend the Constitution and of the CRUES in accordance with Article CRUES of this Constitution;
4. to adopt or amend the Bylaws of the CRUES in accordance with Article CRUES of this Constitution;
5. to determine the amount of dues and the method of payment in accordance with Article CRUES of these bylaws;
6. to adopt or amend budget of the the CRUES and the amounts allocated to each line item;
7. to elect and remove from office the members of the Executive Council, the spokespersons and the Press Officers;
8. to ratify or reverse the decisions of the Coordinating Council;
9. to approve or reject the reports of the Executive Council, Coordinating Council or Committees;
10. to accept or deny applications for membership from student associations;
11. to suspend, reinstate or expel a member association;
12. to elect and remove members of the Standing Committees;
13. to create and dissolve Ad Hoc Committees and elect and remove members of such Committees;
14. to decide on the relevance of hiring employees;
15. to decide on affiliation with any coalition or organization, except a political party, with similar goals and purposes to the CRUES;
16. to exercise all powers not explicitly granted to other bodies of the CRUES.

ARTICLE 13: COMPOSITION

The delegations of each member association, with the exception of suspended associations, constitute the voting members of the Congress.

Campus and faculty associations have three (3) votes and modular or departmental associations have one (1) vote. Regardless of the number of votes held, each association is entitled to only one vote on proposals affecting the logistical conduct of the Congress, i.e., proposals for breaks, adjournments, writing time, and reading time.

The Executive Council and the delegations of each Standing Committee shall have the right to speak and to make proposals.

Each delegation, including observer delegations, consists of no more than three (3) persons. No delegation may be comprised of more than one cisgender man. A delegation may change its composition between days of the Congress, provided it complies with the other terms and conditions and informs the presidium.

The member delegations must give participation priority to non-white students. If an entirely white delegation is sent, a statement to justify this choice must be written and sent to the Executive Council, which will then report the justifications received to the other member associations.

Each person on a delegation shall:

1. be a member of the association or body that the delegate represents;
2. have been designated by that association or body in accordance with its internal procedures.

ARTICLE 14: INACTIVITY

A member association that has not sent a delegation to two consecutive Congresses shall be considered inactive, as soon as its absence is noted before the opening of the third Congress. The inactivity ends when the member association sends a delegation to a Congress.

ARTICLE 15: QUORUM

A majority of the voting member associations, regardless of the number of votes held by each, excluding inactive associations, shall constitute a quorum of the convention. Quorum is met only if one-half of the voting member associations are present.

ARTICLE 16: FREQUENCY

A regular Congress shall be convened at least three (3) times per academic year, including an Annual Congress in mid-April. The other two regular Congresses are held during the fall and winter semesters respectively, preferably at a time that allows a sufficient period after the start of a semester for member associations to adopt general assembly mandates to be brought to and debated at the Congress.

ARTICLE 17: CONVOCATION

The Congress or the Coordinating Council may call a Congress. Notice of the Congress shall be given to member associations and committees at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the Congress.

ARTICLE 18: ANNUAL CONGRESS

The Annual Congress adopts the budget for the coming fiscal year and elects the members of the Executive Council and the Committees.

ARTICLE 19: SPECIAL CONGRESS

The Congress, the Executive Council or the Coordinating Council may call a Special Congress to deal with a particular matter. Notice of the Congress shall be given to member associations and committees at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the Congress.

One-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the member associations may compel a Special Congress by making a joint request to the Executive Council specifying the agenda. The Executive Council shall then call a Special Congress, which shall begin no later than seven (7) days after receipt of the request.

The agenda of a Special Congress may be amended during the meeting, but shall be limited to items relevant to the matter for which it was called.

ARTICLE 20: LOCATION

The choice of location for Congresses should seek to vary the region over time and to minimize the logistical burden of travel.

In order to minimize the expenses of the member associations during the holding of the congresses and to ensure fairness, the CRUES budget must provide financial compensation or a

provided transportation option for the member associations if the congress is not held in their city.

ARTICLE 21: PARTICIPATION USING TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS

Remote participation in the Congress using technological means is not permitted, except in the case of an exceptional situation making the holding of an in-person Congress impossible or if the Congress in question was called with less than seven (7) days of prior notice.

CHAPTER 4: COORDINATING COUNCIL

ARTICLE 22: FUNCTION

The Coordinating Council coordinates the national campaigns and implements, together with the Executive Council, the decisions of the Congress. The decisions of the Coordinating Council must be in accordance with the political and ideological guidelines determined by the Congress.

The Coordinating Council has the following responsibilities:

1. to ensure the execution of the decisions taken by the Congress;
2. to oversee and support the work of the Executive Council and Committees;
3. to work on the internal consistency of the CRUES;
4. to mediate disputes that arise within the CRUES;
5. to report on its activities at each annual convention.

ARTICLE 23: POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Coordinating Council has the following powers:

1. to carry out the action plans adopted by the Congress;
2. to specify the tasks of the various committees;
3. to create Ad Hoc Committees to assist in its work and appoint members to these committees;
4. to appoint interim members of the Executive Council and Committees, as well as Press Officers, until the next regular Congress;
5. to remove from office any person appointed by it;
6. to make recommendations and proposals to the Congress;

7. to make available the minutes of the Coordinating Council upon request from a member association;
8. to open its meetings to any member association who wishes to participate as an observer;
9. to publicize its meetings to members at least 72 hours in advance.

ARTICLE 24: COMPOSITION

The voting members of the Coordinating Council are the delegates of the Executive Council and of each Standing Committee.

The persons delegated by a member association or an Ad Hoc Committee have the right to speak and to make proposals.

ARTICLE 25: SECRETARIAT

The Secretary of the Coordinating Council is elected in Congress.

The Secretary has the following responsibilities:

1. to give notice of meetings of the Coordinating Council and ensure the presence of the delegations convened;
2. to prepare agendas and meeting booklets for the Coordinating Council;
3. to follow up on decisions made at the Coordinating Council;
4. to prepare the reports of the Coordinating Council to the Congress.

In the event of a vacancy or in the absence of other candidates, the Coordinating Officer assumes the duties of the Secretary.

ARTICLE 26: QUORUM

A quorum of the Coordinating Council consists of a majority of its voting members, excluding vacant Committees. A Committee composed exclusively of members of the Executive Council is considered vacant.

ARTICLE 27: FREQUENCY

A meeting of the Coordinating Council shall be convened at least once a month, with no more than forty-five (45) days between each meeting.

ARTICLE 28: CONVOCATION

The Coordinating Council convenes itself. Failing that, the Executive Council may convene a Coordinating Council, in consultation with the Secretary. In this case, notice of the meeting shall be given at least seven (7) days before the meeting.

ARTICLE 29: SPECIAL MEETING

One-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the non-vacant Committees may compel a special meeting of the Coordinating Council by making a joint request to the Executive Council specifying the reason. The Executive Council shall then convene a Coordinating Council meeting to begin no more than five (5) days after receipt of the request and shall disseminate notice of the meeting at least twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting.

The agenda for a special meeting of the Coordinating Council may be amended at the meeting.

ARTICLE 30: PARTICIPATION USING TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS

Remote participation in the Coordinating Council using technological means that allow for immediate communication is permitted, but generally discouraged.

CHAPTER 5: ELECTED POSITIONS

ARTICLE 31: TERM OF OFFICE

Members of the Executive Council, Spokespersons, Press Officers and Standing Committee members are elected by the Annual Congress. Any Congress may fill a vacancy among these positions, or elect additional persons to positions where the number of officeholders is unlimited, without affecting the expiration date of the term.

The term of office for members of the Executive Council begins and ends thirty (30) days after the Annual Congress, in order to ensure a smooth transition to the incoming Executive Council. The terms of office for Spokespersons, Press Officers and Standing Committee members begins and ends at the Annual Congress.

ARTICLE 32: ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for election to the Executive Council and to the positions of Spokesperson, each candidate must, at the time of election, be a member of a member association or be enrolled in a program of study that would entitle them to become a member of a member association during their term of office.

To be eligible for election to the positions of Press Officer or Committee member, each candidate must, at the time of election, be enrolled in a program of study in higher education.

ARTICLE 33: MULTIPLE POSITIONS

A person may not hold more than one elected position in the CRUES. A member of the Executive Council or a spokesperson for CRUES may not hold a position on the executive of a local student association.

ARTICLE 34: REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Congress must make sure to minimize the amount of cisgender men and white people within the Executive Council and prioritize diversity of representation between educational institutions and regions, all the while remaining sovereign over the final decision.

ARTICLE 35: NON-REMUNERATION

Persons elected to the Executive Council, as Spokespersons, and as Committee members shall not be employed by the CRUES and shall not receive any financial benefit due to their status as elected office holders.

ARTICLE 36: NON-PARTISANSHIP

Elected members of the Executive Council, Spokespersons and Press Officers may not be elected members of a body of a political party or be employed by a political party.

CHAPTER 6: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ARTICLE 37: FONCTIONS

The Executive Council implements the decisions of the Congress and the Coordinating Council.

The Executive Council has the following responsibilities:

1. to coordinate the work of the people employed;
2. to authorize expenditures in accordance with the directives of the Coordinating Council and the budget adopted by the Congress;
3. to produce or approve any statement or press release, in accordance with the directives of the Coordinating Council and the orientations, priorities and action plans established by the Congress;
4. to coordinate and staff the CRUES office, for which the Executive Council is responsible;
5. to appoint three (3) of its members as signatories for banking transactions and administrative documents;
6. to report on its actions to the Congress and the Coordinating Council.

Members of the Executive Council whose duties are related to a Committee are responsible for performing the duties of the Committee in the event of a vacancy or lack of effectiveness of the Committee.

ARTICLE 38: COMPOSITION

The Executive Council is composed of the following positions:

1. a Coordinating Officer;

2. a Finance Officer;
3. an External Relations Officer;
4. three (3) Internal Relations Officers;
5. an Academic Affairs Officers;
6. an Information Officer;
7. a Communications Officer.

Coordinating Officer

The Coordinating Officer has the following responsibilities:

1. to keep minutes and records;
2. to ensure the application of the CRUES Constitution and procedures;
3. to coordinate the work of the Executive Council;
4. to convene and prepare the meetings of the Executive Council;
5. to ensure the preparation of the meetings of the Congress and the Coordination Council.

Finance Officer

The Finance Officer has the following responsibilities:

1. to be a signatory for banking transactions;
2. to manage the property of the CRUES;
3. to prepare the financial statements and budget forecast, and present them at the Annual Congress;
4. to ensure compliance with the budget and financial guidelines of the Coordinating Council.

External Relations Officer

The External Relations Officer has the following responsibilities:

1. to represent the CRUES to non-member student organizations, unions, community groups, political organizations, etc;
2. to represent the CRUES to the international student movement.

Internal Affairs Officers

The three (3) Internal Affairs Officers have the following responsibilities:

1. to maintain contact with the member associations;
2. to receive notices of motion, complaints and other documents from member associations;
3. to ensure the preparation of delegations to meetings of the bodies of the CRUES;
4. to liaise with the Education Committee, participate in Committee meetings, and ensure that its duties are carried out;
5. to liaise with the Mobilization Committee, participate in Committee meetings, and ensure that its duties are carried out.

Academic Affairs Officer

The Academic Affairs Officer has the following responsibilities:

1. to receive grievances from member associations;
2. to liaise with the Research and Academic Affairs Committee, participate in Committee meetings, and ensure that its duties are carried out.

Information Officer

The Information Officer has the following responsibilities:

1. to liaise with the Information Committee, participate in Committee meetings, and ensure that its duties are carried out;
2. to liaise with the Newspaper Committee, participate in Committee meetings, and ensure that its duties are carried out.

Communications Officer

The Communications Officer has the following responsibilities

1. to ensure the preparation of statements or press releases;
2. to support the work of the Spokespersons;
3. to coordinate the work of the Press Officers;
4. to manage social networking and email accounts of the CRUES.

The Communications Officer shall assume the duties of a Press Officer when no one else holds that position.

ARTICLE 39: QUORUM

A quorum of the Executive Council consists of a majority of the positions then in office.

ARTICLE 40: DELEGATION

The Executive Council delegates one of its members to represent it on the Coordinating Council.

CHAPTER 7: SPOKESPERSONS

ARTICLE 41: COMPOSITION

Spokespersons, press attachés and the person in charge of communications are responsible for spokesperson duties. These persons may not be assisted by non-elected collaborators.

ARTICLE 42: SPOKESPERSONS

There are two (2) spokesperson positions:

1. Which cannot be filled by cis men;
2. One of the two spokespersons must be from the region;
3. That people at the intersection of various oppressions be favored.

The spokespersons have the following responsibilities:

1. To convey CRUES' decisions, demands and positions to the media and general public, according to CRUES' campaigns, priorities and media strategy;
2. To promote and defend the principles and actions of CRUES in the public sphere;
3. To report on their activities to the Congress and the Coordinating Council.
4. To carry out each of its communications in consultation with the press officers and the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 43: SPOKESPERSON IN THE EVENT OF A GGI

The planned or unforeseen outbreak of an indefinite general strike (GGI) or a renewable general strike (GGR) as part of a CRUES campaign - or a broader grouping linked to it - automatically entails the following changes to the spokespersonship:

1. the mandates of current spokespersons are automatically terminated thirty (30) days after the launch of a GGI or GGR by at least four (4) CRUES member associations or a related group representing more than 30,000 students;
2. replacement positions: up to one (1) year before the planned launch of a GGI or GGR, by CRUES or a related broader grouping, replacement positions for spokespersons become effective. They remain in effect until the end of the semester in which the said activation is scheduled.
 - a. The election of replacements takes place at a congress.

- b. The sole function of the replacement spokesperson is to assume the role of spokesperson at the end of the thirty (30) day mandate of the previously elected spokesperson, following the triggering of a GGI or GGR corresponding to the criteria of the present article.
 - c. A replacement Spokesperson becomes a full Spokesperson as soon as they assume the position, which implies that all responsibilities of the position now fall to them.
 - d. At the moment when a replacement person assumes the functions of spokesperson, any other function they hold within the CRUES is immediately terminated.
 - e. Whether the GGI or GGR is planned or unplanned, the congress must in all cases elect replacements before the end of the spokesperson's thirty (30)-day term.
 - f. For the duration of the strike, replacement spokespersons must be elected by the congress if the spokesperson positions are filled.
3. Following a strike corresponding to the criteria of this article, the mandates of each spokesperson last exactly thirty (30) days each, and this until the end of the strike of all student associations affiliated to CRUES or to a broader grouping linked to it;
 4. That the same person may not be re-elected for two (2) affiliate mandates, but that they may reoccupy the position of spokesperson for the same strike.
 5. That the same person may not serve as spokesperson for more than ninety (90) days per year.
 6. The end of a GGI or GGR which meets the criteria of the present article entails the end of the mandate of the spokespersons and replacements.

ARTICLE 43: PRESS OFFICERS

An unlimited number of press officers are elected, as required, to support the work of the spokespersons. Press Officers have the following responsibilities:

1. Provide administrative support for the work of the spokespersons;
2. Invite the media to special events and prepare press briefings;
3. Help spokespersons prepare for public appearances;
4. Keep abreast of current events.

ARTICLE 44: DELEGATION

Persons performing the duties of spokesperson must delegate, among them, a person who represents them at meetings of the Coordinating Council, without the right to vote.

ARTICLE 45: VACANCY

Exceptionally, in the event of a vacancy in the position of spokesperson, the Executive Council shall choose, for each occasion when it is necessary, one of its members to assume the duties of spokesperson. Under no circumstances may this procedure be used to postpone the election of spokespersons.

CHAPTER 8: COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 46: FUNCTIONS

The Committees provide specific expertise to the CRUES in their area of work and support the Executive Council and member associations in their work. They carry out their tasks in accordance with the orientations, priorities and action plans established by the Congress, as well as the mandates entrusted to them by the Congress and the Coordinating Council.

ARTICLE 47: STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committees are defined in this chapter:

1. the Education Committee;
2. the Mobilization Committee;
3. the Research and Academic Affairs Committee;
4. the Information Committee;
5. the Newspaper Committee;
6. the Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Committee.

ARTICLE 48: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Committees are created by the Congress or the Coordinating Council with a specific mandate. Each Ad Hoc Committee:

1. is accountable to the body that created it;

2. reports its activities to this body as determined by the latter;
3. is dissolved upon submission of its final report or upon completion of its mandate.

ARTICLE 49: POWERS

Standing Committees have the following powers:

1. to serve on the Coordinating Council and participate in discussions and debates at its meetings, while following its decisions;
2. to make recommendations to the Executive Council, the Coordinating Council and the Congress, within the scope of their area of work;
3. to agree on their internal functioning, in accordance with the decisions of the Congress and this Constitution;
4. to appoint unelected collaborators to assist them for ad hoc tasks.

ARTICLE 50: COMPOSITION

Committees shall be composed of elected members. Any member of a Committee has the right to speak, propose and vote. Non-elected collaborators are not members of the Committee in which they are involved, but have the right to speak and to make proposals. The members of the Executive Council whose tasks are related to one or more Committee(s) have the right to speak and to make proposals.

ARTICLE 51: COORDINATION

Each Committee appoints among its members a person responsible for coordinating the work of the Committee. In the absence of other nominations, a member of the Executive Council who is an ex-officio member of the Committee is responsible for coordinating the work of the Committee.

ARTICLE 52: DELEGATION

Each Committee delegates one person among its members to represent it at Coordinating Council meetings and at the Congress.

ARTICLE 53: EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee promotes the training of new activists and the preservation of activist knowledge.

The Education Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. to produce, compile and disseminate training materials;
2. to organize workshops on specific topics, based on priorities and action plans;
3. to prepare and organize training camps, in collaboration with the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 54: MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

The Mobilization Committee promotes the implementation, through combative student unionism, of the action plans of the CRUES.

The Mobilization Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. to coordinate mobile mobilization teams;
2. to monitor the implementation of action plans at the local and regional levels;
3. to support member associations and their mobilization committees in their work;
4. to disseminate information materials, mobilization materials and the newspaper to member associations in collaboration with the Information Committee.

ARTICLE 55: RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Research and Academic Affairs Committee develops argumentation in support of the demands of the CRUES and monitors issues of an academic nature.

The Research and Academic Affairs Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. to research and evaluate government policies and actions;
2. to analyze the political and economic situation;
3. to develop and compile resources and arguments in support of the demands of the CRUES;
4. to support member associations and coordinate knowledge sharing on academic issues.

ARTICLE 56: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The Information Committee is responsible for the technical production of information and mobilization materials for member associations.

The Information Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. to design and produce the information and mobilization materials needed to implement the campaigns and action plans;

2. to disseminate information materials, mobilization materials and the newspaper to member associations, in collaboration with the Mobilization Committee.

ARTICLE 57: NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

The Newspaper Committee produces and distributes the newspaper of the CRUES.

The Newspaper Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. to produce the newspaper on a regular basis;
2. to support people who wish to contribute to the newspaper;
3. to promote the principles and demands of the CRUES and to inform the population about its activities through the newspaper;
4. to comment on current events and cover events related to the student movement and other social struggles, based on the campaigns and priorities of the CRUES;
5. to inform and mobilize the student body, based on the campaigns and priorities of the CRUES.

ARTICLE 58: INCLUSION AND ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE

The Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Committee promotes feminism, anti-racism, anti-oppression and inclusion within the bodies and Committees of the CRUES.

The Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. to make recommendations to any body or Committee of the CRUES regarding its practices or political work;
2. to develop and recommend to the Congress practices, policies or procedures that promote inclusion and the struggle against oppression;
3. to report to the Annual Congress on the issue of inclusion and the struggle against oppression.

The Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Committee has the authority to create and dissolve subcommittees, which may be open or closed on an identity basis and whose scope is limited to one or more specific oppressions.

Each subcommittee of the Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Committee has all the rights of a Standing Committee, once its creation has been ratified by the Coordinating Council. Subcommittees are not counted in the quorum of the Coordinating Council, but the Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Committee is considered present if at least one subcommittee is present.

CHAPTER 9: MODIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 59: PROCEDURE

Only the Congress may amend this Constitution, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote, provided that a notice of motion specifying the amendments to be addressed has been either:

1. tabled in the previous Congress; or
2. filed and sent to member associations at least three (3) weeks prior to the Congress.

ARTICLE 60: MINOR REVISION

The Executive Council may adjust the numbering of the articles of this Constitution or correct any typographical, spelling or grammatical error, but shall not change the nature or meaning of the articles. Any such adjustment must be ratified by the next regular Congress.

ARTICLE 61: LINGUISTIC INCOMPATIBILITIES

In the event of any inconsistency between different language versions of these Statutes and By-Laws, the French version shall be the original document and shall take precedence over the others.

ARTICLE 62: SUSPENSION OF AN ARTICLE

It is under no circumstances possible to suspend an article of the articles of association. The Congress may, however, suspend one or more sections of the by-laws (Chapter 10) by following the terms of the Suspension of By-laws set out in the CRUES Code of Procedures.

CHAPTER 10: BYLAWS

ARTICLE 63: PROCEDURE

The Congress may adopt or amend Bylaws to supplement this Constitution by majority vote, provided that a notice of motion specifying the changes to be addressed has been filed in the same manner as a notice of motion to amend the Constitution.

BYLAWS

BYLAW A: ELECTION PROCEDURE

Application

These rules apply to elections of the Executive Council, Spokespersons, Press Officers and Committee members.

Type of elections

General Elections

General elections are held at the Annual Congress.

By-elections

By-elections are held at any regular Congress. The term of office of those elected begins upon adjournment of the Congress. Only vacant positions are eligible for by-election.

Interim Elections

Interim elections are held at any Coordinating Council, at a regular Congress or at a special Congress if relevant to the matter for which it was called. The term of the elected persons begins as soon as the body that elects them rises and ends at the opening of the next regular Congress. Such elected persons may stand for re-election in a by-election or general election in accordance with this election policy.

Triggering the elections

Each election must be announced via the CRUES mailing list and official media.

The Executive Council is responsible for calling general elections and by-elections. By-elections shall be called by the Executive Council when vacancies occur. In the case of a general election, the notice shall be issued at least four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Congress. In the case of a regular Congress, the notice shall be issued at least three (3) weeks prior to the Congress.

The Executive Council or the Coordinating Council may call interim elections when they are held at the Coordinating Council. In this case, the notice shall be issued at least one (1) week prior to the Coordinating Council.

It is the responsibility of each member association to post and disseminate election information.

Nomination of candidates

Each candidate in a general election or by-election must send a letter of candidacy to the CRUES headquarters, except in the case of an Ad Hoc Committee candidacy. This letter shall be added to the next update of the Congress booklet.

The letter of nomination must be sent at least two (2) weeks prior to the opening of the Congress for a position on the Executive Council or a Spokesperson position. It must be sent at least seventy-two (72) hours before the opening of the Congress for a candidacy to a Standing Committee or a position of Press Officer.

Campaigns

Each candidate is invited to tour the local associations, but may not override the wishes of a local association. Only member associations may publish texts on the CRUES mailing list taking a position for or against a candidate. Debates about candidacies must be held within the bodies of the CRUES or through the publication of texts.

Voting procedure

The procedure varies according to the number of people who can fill the position and the number of candidates. In all cases, to be elected, each candidate must receive an absolute majority of votes (50% + 1, counting abstentions).

General and by-elections at Congress are conducted on a position-by-position basis, in the following order:

1. the moderator gives a brief description of the responsibilities of the position to be filled;
2. the moderator announces the names of those who have been duly nominated for the position;
3. each candidate has three (3) minutes in which to present himself/herself;
4. when all candidates have introduced themselves, a ten (10)-minute question-and-answer period is held. Questions are answered immediately after being asked. When questions concern more than one candidate at a time, they must be answered in turn, in an order that varies from question to question, for the sake of fairness.
5. each candidate must then leave the room so that the body can discuss the nominations in a twenty (20)-minute plenary.
6. the Congress votes on the nominations as follows:
 - a) If the number of nominations is less than or equal to the number of persons eligible to hold the position, or if the number of persons eligible to hold the position is unlimited, the vote is taken individually for each nominee.

- b) If the number of candidates is greater than the number of persons eligible to hold the position, a ballot is held, in which each delegation votes for a number of candidates equal to or less than the number of persons eligible to hold the position. Those with the absolute majority of votes are elected, while the person with the fewest votes is eliminated. If the number of persons eligible to occupy the position is not reached, the procedure is repeated for the unfilled positions only, as many times as necessary.

The only admissible amendments to the running order are :

1. increasing the length of the presentation, question/answer and plenary periods.
2. inviting one or more candidates who have left the room to return briefly to answer one or more questions put to them by the body.
3. secret ballot, in accordance with the CRUES code of procedure.

In the case of a candidate who is also acting as an associative delegation for the duration of the body, and this delegation signifies its association's interest in voting on the candidates, the body in question is invited to proceed with a secret ballot.

Interim elections at Congress

Interim elections at Congress follow the same procedure as by-elections and general elections, with the exception of point 2 of the voting procedure, in which the moderator receives unsolicited candidacies rather than nominating candidates who have been duly submitted. When all positions have been filled, the moderator may also give the room one last chance to receive nominations for positions still vacant.

The Congress may hold both by-elections and interim elections, in which case interim nominations must be processed after all those duly submitted.

Spontaneous candidacies for general elections

It is not possible to hold interim elections or to elect unsolicited candidates at a Congress that deals with general elections (with the exception of ad hoc committees). All nominations processed must be duly filed within the prescribed deadlines.

Resignation

In the case of a resignation, the outgoing official must give two (2) weeks notice of resignation, unless otherwise specified, with a letter of resignation.

Exceptional measures

A Special Congress may conduct by-elections or general elections if specifically called for that purpose. For elections in the context of a Special Congress, the body calling the Convention shall determine the procedure of the elections at the time of the call, while respecting a reasonable and realistic time frame for the submission of nominations.

BYLAW B: COLLECTION, DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

ARTICLE 1

No body of CRUES shall enter into any agreement or transaction which is contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws, to resolutions adopted by the Congress or which are to be considered in the near future, or to the interests of its members.

ARTICLE 2

For all transactions, any body of the CRUES shall issue or obtain an official receipt and retain a copy for a period of three years.

ARTICLE 3

All bodies of the CRUES shall publish financial statements twice a year in sufficient detail to enable member associations to understand the financial position and funding of the body.

ARTICLE 4

All bodies of the CRUES record all revenues and expenses in their books.

ARTICLE 5

Any transaction in excess of \$5,000 (or multiple transactions with the same party totaling more than \$7,000 in a single fiscal year) must be approved by the Coordinating Council or the Congress.

ARTICLE 6

- a) The fiscal year of CRUES is from July 1 to June 30 of each year;
- b) The Finance Officer is required to present the annual financial report for the previous year and the budget forecast for the current year to the Annual Congress. The Finance Officer is also required to present a mid-year report to the first Coordinating Council of the fall semester. In addition, at the winter Congress, the Finance Officer is required to present an overview of the financial statements;

c) All financial reports shall include:

i) details of any financial commitments;

ii) all liquid assets, including "special accounts";

iii) a complete inventory of equipment and furnishings, whether or not they have value on the books.

ARTICLE 7

The Executive Council is responsible for approving expenses under \$5000. Higher jurisdictions may approve expenditures in a lower jurisdictional budget.

ARTICLE 8

The signatories of the CRUES are three members of the Executive Council, including the Treasurer Delegate, if this position is filled. The signatories authorize transactions in the presence of a report of a body having jurisdiction over the corresponding budget, containing the proposal authorizing this expenditure and the invoice related to this expenditure.

When a signatory completes his or her mandate, the process of changing signatories should be initiated as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 9

That the financial statements of CRUES be certified by an external chartered accountant during the annual congress.

BYLAW C: CRUES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

1. "FEES"

All amounts reimbursed by CRUES and related to the costs of transportation, accommodation or meals, registration or membership in the context of external mobilization activities of the Association (mobilization tours, booths, workshops, conferences), made by an elected member of a Committee or of the Executive Council, an administrator, a person employed by CRUES in the performance of their duties, or by an invited collaborator, will be reimbursed according to the rules set out in this policy and must be adopted by the Executive Council.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- Regularize the current practices of the administration of income and expenses;
- Oversee the practices of the administration of accumulated funds;
- Establish an ethical standard of behaviour for the actors who work within CRUES in order to maintain a climate of good faith and good understanding;
- Stipulate verification mechanisms for any breach of this policy;
- Establish more precisely the responsibilities of elected members, collaborators, and employees of CRUES with respect to the management of financial resources;
- Prevent fraud, theft and loss to CRUES.

B) Rules for the Use of Fees

To the extent possible, external hospitality expenses must be authorized in advance by the Executive Council or the body responsible for the budget box from which the box is to be drawn. They must relate to the mandates of the persons acting on behalf of the Association and be reasonable.

1) Personal car

The eligible amount for transportation expenses attributable to the use of a personal vehicle is \$0.68 per kilometer traveled up to the cost of renting an equivalent vehicle for that period, in addition to parking fees.

2) Rental Car

The eligible amount for transportation costs attributable to the use of a leased car is the actual cost of the lease, the actual cost of the gasoline used, and the parking fees.

3) Public Transit

The eligible amount for transportation costs attributable to the use of public transit is relative to the actual cost of the transit pass, with the exception of regular season ticket holders.

4) Accommodation Costs

The eligible amount for accommodation costs is a maximum of \$150.00 taxes included per person per day, only if alternative accommodations (such as with friends) are not available.

5) Meal Expenses

In the case of external representation activities, the maximum amount eligible per person as compensation for meal expenses is \$15.00 per breakfast, \$20.00 per lunch and \$20.00 per dinner. For a maximum of \$55 taxes included per day per person.

6) Legal Alcohol or Recreational Drugs

Under no circumstances may alcohol or legal recreational drugs (e.g. marijuana) be subject to representation fees or reimbursements to persons acting for or in collaboration with the Association.

(C) Claims for Expenses Incurred

Claims for expenses or purchases incurred by an elected member or employee of CRUES activities must be submitted to the Executive Council as soon as possible using supporting documentation.

BYLAW D: TRANSLATION

ARTICLE 1

All of the following documents will be translated into English:

- Website
- Budget and financial statements
- By-laws and regulations
- Official mobilization material
- Journal
- congress minutes
- Social media publications

ARTICLE 2

Simultaneous verbal translation and translation of the minutes will be provided at all congresses if requested by a member or non-member delegation.

ARTICLE 3

Any member association of CRUES and any individual member of a student association in so-called Quebec may request that a CRUES document be translated into English. A follow-up must be made within seven (7) days of receipt of this request, to transmit the translated document, or failing that, to explain the reasons for the delay in translating the document.

BYLAW E: PRAESIDIUM

The congress praesidium is composed of at least four (4) people fulfilling the functions of moderator, secretary, mood watcher, speaking turn and up to four (4) translators as needed. QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous and People of Color) must be given preference when selecting a candidate for animation.

The work of people on the praesidium is compensated at the rate of \$20 per hour of congress time, with a minimum of \$60. An hour started is an hour paid. This amount is indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with indexation taking effect one year after adoption of this article. The indexation is ratified by the Coordinating Council once a year, depending on CRUES' financial health. Under no circumstances may this entrenchment be used to lower the amount of remuneration.