



*By the Authority granted by the International Students Office, and extended through the President of Louisiana Tech University, the Association of Indian Students establishes this constitution on the twenty sixth of October, of the year 2002. All actions of the Association of Indian Students shall be in accord with the provisions of the Constitution.*

## *Preamble*

*We, the members of The Louisiana Technological University,  
Association of Indian Students (AIS) hereby associate  
ourselves to promote a better cultural and social  
understanding among the people of India and other countries  
and to render general help to incoming new Indian students.  
In The Name of God on this twenty-sixth day of  
October, 2002 do hereby Adopt, Enact and give  
ourselves to this CONSTITUTION.*

## **Article I : Motive**

**Section 1:** This organization shall be known as **Association of Indian Students**, hereinafter referred to as the 'AIS' in this constitution and its By-Laws.

**Section 2:** The AIS shall be a non-profit, non-political, non-religious organization formed to carry out its purpose as listed in Article II of this Constitution.

## **Article II : Purpose**

**Section 1:** The purpose of the AIS shall be as follows:

- (a) To bring together individuals who share an interest in various aspects of Indian life and culture.
- (b) To promote an awareness of India among the local community
- (c) To promote better relations and understanding among the various communities in Ruston, Louisiana and surrounding areas

## **Article III: Membership and Voting Rights**

**Section 1:** Membership is open to anyone who shares the goals listed in Article II of this Constitution subject to the following condition: at least seventy five percent (75%) of the members shall be university persons. The terminology 'university persons' refers to students, faculty, staff and their spouses at Louisiana Technological University.

**Section 2:** Membership is classified into two broad categories: (i) single membership and (ii) family membership. For membership purpose, a family is defined as consisting of a couple only. The children and the parents of the couple are entitled to all the family membership benefits of the AIS except for voting rights, to be classified in Section 3 of Article III of this Constitution.

**Section 3:** In the case of single membership, the member gets one (1) vote. In the case of family membership, each member of the couple constituting the family gets one vote.

## **Article IV: The Executive Committee**

**Section 1:** The AIS shall be governed by an elected committee, hereinafter referred to as 'The Executive Committee' in this Constitution and its By-Laws.

**Section 2:** The Executive Committee shall be composed of one (1) President, one (1) Vice President, one (1) Secretary, one (1) Treasurer and one (1) Public Relations Officer.

**Section 3:** Any member of the AIS is qualified to become a member of the Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected each year by the members of the AIS for a one (1) year term in a meeting that can be attended by all the members of the AIS. Any meeting that all the members of the AIS can attend shall hereinafter be referred as 'General Body Meeting'. The elections shall be held in the Fall Quarter end of the academic year of Louisiana Tech University. The members of the Executive Committee shall take office on the first day of the month of Nov on the year they are elected and shall leave office on the fifteenth day of the month of Oct of the following year.

- (a) All the members of the executive Committee shall be university persons. The terminology 'university persons' refer to students and persons enrolled at Louisiana Tech University in at least six (6) hours of undergraduate coursework or at least six (6) hours of graduate coursework or faculty or staff or spouses of such persons.
- (b) In the event that a member of the Executive Committee resigns at any time during his/her term, the member thus resigned shall continue in office till a new member is elected in his/her place in a General Body Meeting. The election shall be held within thirty (30) days of the date of resignation.
- (c) The AIS shall have a Faculty Advisor from the faculty of Louisiana Tech University at all times.
- (d) In the event that the Faculty Advisor resigns, the Executive Committee shall nominate a new Faculty Advisor.

## **Article V: General Body Meetings**

**Section 1:** The Executive Committee, during its term, shall call at least two General Body Meetings. The Executive Committee shall notify the members of the AIS of the date, time, place and agenda of any General Body Meeting at least ten (10) days in advance. However, in the case of an emergency, a General Body Meeting may be called at a shorter notice.

**Section 2:** If a member of the AIS wishes to call for a general Body Meeting, he/she should get the support of at least twenty percent (20%) of the total members of the AIS. A written request stating the purpose of the meeting shall be given to the committee, along with documentary evidence that the request enjoys the support of at least twenty percent (20%) of the total members of the AIS. The Executive Committee shall then call a General Body Meeting at an appropriate date, within one month of the date of the receipt of written request.

**Section 3:** If the Executive Committee refuses to call a General Body Meeting even after a member demonstrates that such a request satisfies the criteria laid out in Section 2 of Article V of this Constitution, the member may then file a complaint with the faculty Advisor, who may then act according to the provisions of Article VI of this Constitution.

### **Article VI: Dismissal of the Committee Members**

**Section 1:** If the Faculty Advisor determines that the Executive Committee has violated one or more of the procedures set forth in this Constitution and its By-Laws or that the Executive Committee has been acting against the interests of the AIS, he/she may choose to initiate dismissal procedures against one (1) or more of the members of the Executive Committee as described in section 2 of Article VI of this Constitution.

**Section 2:** To effect the dismissal of one (1) or more members of the Executive Committee, the Faculty Advisor shall call a General Body Meeting of the AIS. For this purpose, Section 2 of the Article V of this Constitution does not apply. At this meeting the Faculty Advisor shall provide justification for his/her decision to seek the dismissal of one (1) or more members of the Executive Committee. If a member of the Executive Committee facing dismissal is not in agreement with the faculty Advisor's decision, he/she shall be given an opportunity to address the members of ISA at this meeting. The members of the AIS shall then vote in favor of or against the dismissal of each member of the Executive Committee facing dismissal. An Executive Committee member is dismissed if two thirds (2/3) of the members present vote in favor of the dismissal of that Executive committee member. However if the member facing the charges agrees to read out a confession that shall be written by him/her before the Executive Committee and the Faculty Advisor he or she may be allowed to continue. This privilege is given only ONCE.

**Section 3:** In the event that one (1) or more members of the Executive Committee are dismissed, the members of the AIS shall immediately elect replacement for each dismissed member of the Executive Committee for the remaining term.

### **Article VII: Amendments**

**Section 1:** This Constitution may be amended at any General Body Meeting by two thirds (2/3) vote of the members attending. Introducing any amendments to this Constitution in any General Body Meeting needs the written support of at least twenty percent (20%) of the total members of the AIS. The full text of the proposed amendment(s) to be

considered in a General Body Meeting shall be communicated to the members in advance.

**Section 2:** The By-Laws to this Constitution may be amended at any General Body Meeting by simple majority vote of the members attending.

### **Article VIII: Election Procedure**

**Section 1:** AIS student members interested in Executive Committee posts should make their interest known by completing an election nomination form available at the AIS website. The incumbent Executive Committee will receive nomination until the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of August in the year the elections are held. The date will be mentioned in the election notice communication sent to all AIS members, after consultation with, and review by, the faculty advisor. Nominations received after the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of August will not be accepted.

**Section 2:** The incumbent Executive Committee will review all nominations received to determine eligibility of the nominees. Eligibility requirements are as follows: Nominees shall be enrolled at , Louisiana Tech University and shall be current members of AIS, and will be affiliated with both the University and AIS for a minimum of two quarters. AIS members will be notified of nominees for various posts eligible for running in the election by the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of August. The date will be mentioned in the website.

**Section 3:** Elections will be held at a General Body Meeting during the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of October. The date will be mentioned in the website. The faculty advisor will facilitate the meeting; An election ballot with names of all nominees will be given to AIS members present at the meeting. Nominees should be present at the meeting to be eligible for receiving votes. Nominees for various Executive Committee posts will be given 5 minutes to share their vision for AIS and answer any questions from the audience. Following the presentations, AIS members will be asked to cast their vote using the ballot. Winners for various posts will be based on number of votes received. The faculty advisor will oversee the counting process or an individual (usually a faculty member or a student in the most urgent cases) designated by the faculty advisor will oversee the vote-counting process.

**Section 4:** In the case of tie-vote, the faculty advisor will cast the deciding vote. Any objections from the students shall be overruled.

**Section 5:** The newly formed Executive Committee will select an AIS member for any of the Executive Committee positions that was not voted-on during elections at the General Body Meeting. The selected nominee(s) should comply with the eligibility standards mentioned in Section 2 above.

**Section 6:** The election results will be made public at the General Body Meeting to the members present, and via e-mail to all AIS members not present at the meeting.