

# **Official Bylaws**

**Of the**  
**Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association**

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## **1. NAME**

- 1.1. In accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Post Secondary Learning Act (Alberta), the students of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) shall be incorporated as the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association, which may also be known or referred to as NAITSA.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1. The objectives of the Students' Association shall be to provide for the administration of student affairs at NAIT, including the development and management of student committees, the development and enforcement of rules relating to student affairs, and the promotion of the general welfare of the students consistent with the purposes of NAIT.

## **3. AUTHORITY**

- 3.1. The Bylaws shall be the primary governing document of the Students' Association.
  - 3.1.1. The Bylaws shall set forth the foundation for the structure, operation, and maintenance of the organization.
  - 3.1.2. The Bylaws supersede policies, procedures, and special resolutions duly passed by the organization.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

### **4.1. GENERAL**

- 4.1.1. All students of NAIT, other than those enrolled in non-credit courses, shall be members of NAITSA.
- 4.1.2. Every member shall pay membership fees for the maintenance of the students' association as prescribed herein.
- 4.1.3. All students who observe designated course activities, but whose work is not evaluated and grades are not awarded, shall not be required to pay membership fees and shall not be members of NAITSA.

### **4.2. FEES**

- 4.2.1. The full NAITSA fee for all members for the 2013/14 academic year shall be, and shall not exceed, \$120.00 per semester, except for the following:
  - 4.2.1.1. Part-time – members who are enrolled in part-time study shall pay a pro-rated amount of the full membership fee based on the number of credits or hours in which they are registered in relation to the full-time equivalent for their program as determined by NAIT (typically 192 hours or 9 credits per semester).
  - 4.2.1.2. Apprenticeship – members who are enrolled in an apprenticeship program shall pay a pro-rated amount of the full membership fee based on their enrolment (measured in weeks) in relation to a full time semester of 15 weeks.
  - 4.2.1.3. Distance delivery and online – members who are enrolled in distance delivery courses and/or online courses shall pay a reduced fee for each of those courses; NAITSA shall levy fees to online courses at 25% of an on-campus course.
- 4.2.2. The NAITSA membership fee shall increase annually based on the Alberta Consumer Price Index specifically defined in the Government of Alberta Post-Secondary Institutions' Tuition Fees Regulation section 5(3), excepting negative inflation where the membership fee would neither increase nor decrease.
- 4.2.3. A referendum must be held for any introductions of dedicated fees apart from the NAITSA membership fees that are equal to or greater than \$50 per semester. Approval of the fee requires no less than a two-thirds majority of students who vote.

#### 4.3. WITHDRAWAL

- 4.3.1. A person not wishing to maintain membership in NAITSA may notify the Executive Council in writing. On receipt of notice by Executive Council, the person shall cease to be a member of NAITSA and his or her membership fee shall be forfeited to NAITSA;
- 4.3.2. A person withdrawing from NAIT, for whatever reason, shall cease to be a member of NAITSA and his or her membership fee shall be refunded according to withdrawal policies of the NAIT Registrar.

#### 4.4. RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.4.1. Members of NAITSA who are in good standing are eligible for the following:
  - 4.4.1.1. To vote in all NAITSA elections and referenda;
  - 4.4.1.2. To join and hold office in a student club, the Senate, or the Executive Council;
  - 4.4.1.3. To participate in all recreational and athletic programs supported by their membership fees, subject to their ability to consent to such activities;
  - 4.4.1.4. To attend all meetings of the Senate as non-voting guests;
  - 4.4.1.5. To serve on regular and special committees of NAITSA;
  - 4.4.1.6. To petition NAITSA, NAIT Administration, or the NAIT Board of Governors through the Student Association; and
  - 4.4.1.7. To enjoy the benefits provided by the Students' Association in representation and programming that their membership fees establish or support.
- 4.4.2. All persons with membership in NAITSA will assume the responsibility to obey the Bylaws and Policies of NAITSA, as well as the rights and responsibilities of being a NAIT student as set forth by NAIT.
- 4.4.3. Each member of the Students' Association shall pay fees in accordance with this section.
- 4.4.4. The institution shall collect fees from the membership on behalf of the Students' Association.
- 4.4.5. The members may, by a petition that is duly signed by at least ten (10) percent of the total membership, require the Senate to conduct a vote or referendum and enact any resolution pertaining to the affairs of the Students' Association.

### 5. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### 5.1. GENERAL

- 5.1.1. The Executive Council shall be the executive authority of the Students' Association and shall be responsible for the day-to-day affairs and the administration of the operating and capital budgets. The affairs, business and finances of NAITSA shall be controlled and conducted by the Executive Council to the extent that they are not otherwise provided for in the Bylaws.
- 5.1.2. The Executive Council shall consist of the President and at least three (3) Vice-Presidents.
  - 5.1.2.1. The Executive Director, fulfilling a fiduciary duty in an advisory capacity, shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of Executive Council.
  - 5.1.2.2. The Administration Director, acting as Secretary, shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of Executive Council.
- 5.1.3. Meetings of Executive Council shall be held a minimum of once per month.
- 5.1.4. Two (2) Vice-Presidents and the Chair shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in Executive Council.
- 5.1.5. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

5.1.6. The Chair shall cast a vote only to break a tie (passing or defeating a motion) or to create a tie (defeating a motion) and only when it is in the best interest of the organization to do so.

5.1.7. Meetings of the Executive Council are held in-camera and minutes shall be considered closed and sealed to anyone other than members of Executive Council. Only motions and their results shall be published.

5.1.7.1. The Chair may invite guests to participate in Executive Council meetings.

## 5.2. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

5.2.1. Students elected to Executive Council have a fiduciary duty to the organization and shall follow these principles when directing the affairs of NAITSA:

- a. Diligence – Act reasonably and in good faith, considering the best interest of NAITSA at all times;
- b. Loyalty – Place the interest of the organization ahead of personal interests;
- c. Observance – Act within the scope of the law, adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the organization, and follow the bylaws, policies and procedures of NAITSA.

5.2.2. Members of Executive Council shall provide representation by advocating for student rights to all levels of government, serving on councils and committees as required, and communicating effectively with all stakeholders.

5.2.3. In order to maintain eligibility to serve and accountability in their roles, each member of Executive Council shall fulfill the following obligations:

- a. Sign a written Executive Agreement prior to taking office;
- b. Adhere to the Executive Council Hours of Work Policy;
- c. Register in a minimum of one (1) but not more than three (3) credit courses in each of the fall and winter terms, and may at their discretion also register in a maximum of two (2) credit courses in the summer term;
- d. Report regularly to Executive Council, and in writing to the Senate, on all matters of relevance and importance to their position and the students of NAIT;
- e. Conduct monthly group appraisals to ensure accountability to job duties and commitment to goals.

5.2.4. Executive Council shall approve policies and procedures for the affairs of NAITSA within its jurisdiction, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Election campaign regulations;
- b. Annual NAITSA event plan;
- c. Co-curricular student activity policy;
- d. Poster policy.

## 5.3. SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 5.3.1. PRESIDENT

5.3.1.1. The President has administrative responsibilities including, but not limited to, serving as Chair of Executive Council and acting as the primary student signing authority for NAITSA;

5.3.1.2. The President supports the vice-presidents and the Executive Director in pursuit of their annual objectives and NAITSA's mission, and supervises the Executive Director on behalf of Executive Council.

5.3.1.3. The President represents NAITSA in many formal capacities:

- a. Liaise with the administration of NAIT;
- b. Liaise with NAIT alumni;
- c. Liaise with student members of the NAIT Board of Governors;
- d. Liaise with campus student groups to identify and address their unique issues.

#### 5.3.2. VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

5.3.2.1. The Vice President External represents NAITSA in many formal capacities:

- a. Liaise with satellite campus students and staff;
- b. Advocate to NAIT and participate in committees in regards to student spaces and services on campus;
- c. Participate in external advocacy organizations of which NAITSA is a member;
- d. Act as the official external representative to various levels of government in advocating for student and apprentice issues.

#### 5.3.3. VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

5.3.3.1. The Vice President Academic has administrative responsibilities including, but not limited to, appointing students-at-large to serve on NAIT's Academic Council;

5.3.3.2. The Vice President Academic represents NAITSA in many formal capacities:

- a. Official representative for students with academic-related grievances;
- b. Liaison to NAIT Academic Staff Association, and participate on committees relating to faculty;
- c. Liaison to NAIT Academic Council;
- d. Serve as a highly knowledgeable resource for students on issues involving academic rights, regulations and policy;
- e. Liaison to Office of the Ombudsperson.

#### 5.3.4. VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT SERVICES

5.3.4.1. The Vice President Student Services has administrative responsibilities including, but not limited to, serving as Chair of the Campus Activities Board.

5.3.4.2. The Vice President Student Services represents NAITSA in many formal capacities:

- a. Liaison between Executive Council, Senate and the Campus Activities Board;
- b. Liaison to NAIT's Student Life department;
- c. Advocate to NAIT and participate in committees in regards to student life on campus.

5.3.5. Members of Executive Council, with the unanimous consent of Executive Council, may exchange among themselves the responsibilities stated in these Bylaws.

#### 5.4. POSITION DURATION AND VACANCIES

5.4.1. All Executive-elects shall serve under the respective Executives until May 1st when they shall take office.

5.4.2. The term of office for each Executive shall be one year. In the case of a by-election a partial year shall be considered one year, except where in that by-election a current Executive is elected and transitions from one position to another.

5.4.3. An Executive Officer may hold a position as a member of the Executive Council for a maximum of two (2) terms, whole or partial, in his/her lifetime.

5.4.4. An Executive Officer may discontinue his/her duties as a member of the Executive Council in the following ways and circumstances:

- 5.4.4.1. Resignation – A resigning Executive Officer shall submit to the Executive Director a written resignation that is considered final with no opportunity for reinstatement;
- 5.4.4.2. Ineligibility by reasons of loss of membership in NAITSA;
- 5.4.4.3. An Executive Officer who is absent from three (3) consecutive council meetings (Executive Council and The Senate) without notice and just cause given to the presiding officer shall be automatically removed from office. The President shall give notice of delinquency to the absent Executive Officer after two (2) consecutive absences;
- 5.4.4.4. Dereliction of duty or misconduct — unanimous approval by the remaining Executive Council members or seventy-five (75) percent majority vote by The Senate shall be sufficient to remove a member of Executive Council from office for improper or indiscreet conduct or neglect of duty;
- 5.4.4.5. An Executive Officer shall automatically be removed from office if at any time during his or her term if he/she becomes no longer insurable for Directors and Officers liability coverage;
- 5.4.4.6. Failure to maintain an academic average above a minimum pass as defined by the NAIT Registrar's office; or
- 5.4.4.7. The Executive Council or Senate determines that the Executive Officer has breached his or her Executive Agreement.

#### 5.5. FILLING VACANCIES

- 5.5.1. Any vacancy occurring before the start of the second semester shall be filled by a by-election conducted in the same manner as Executive Council Elections (Section 7);
- 5.5.2. Any vacancy occurring after the start of the second semester shall be filled as determined by The Senate.

### 6. THE SENATE

#### 6.1. GENERAL

- 6.1.1. The Senate shall be the governing body of the organization and shall be responsible for the Bylaws, the approval of the annual operating and capital budgets, and general governance outside the purview of the Executive Council.
- 6.1.2. The Senate shall be comprised of elected students who shall act as Senate Representatives as outlined in these Bylaws.
- 6.1.3. The Senate shall hold a total of ten meetings during the months from October to April inclusively.
- 6.1.4. Quorum for meetings of the Senate shall be two-thirds of the total elected voting representatives. (Example: 12 voting members would constitute quorum of 18 total voting positions.)
- 6.1.5. Voting shall be structured such that each Senate Representative is assigned a number of votes at the start of their term based on the following criteria:
  - 6.1.5.1. The President shall formally request in writing from the NAIT Registrar the number of students enrolled in each program group.
  - 6.1.5.2. The Chair of the Senate, shall at the first meeting of the Senate, assign a number of votes to each Senate Representative based on the proportion of students they represent against the total number of students represented by all program groups, after approval by the Senate;
    - a. As there are two representatives for each program group, each representative will individually carry one-half of the total votes assigned to that program group;

- 6.1.5.3. Regardless of changes in enrollment during the year, once the votes are assigned at the first meeting, the distribution of votes shall not be redistributed for any reason until the first meeting of the following year, except under special circumstances where there must be a two-thirds majority in favor of the change of distribution;
- 6.1.5.4. During any meeting of the Senate, unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws, a simple majority of the number of votes represented during that meeting shall be sufficient to pass any motion or conduct business;
- 6.1.5.5. Proxy voting shall not be permitted;
- 6.1.5.6. Voting members are not permitted to split their allocated votes for any reason on any motion or item of business. Non-adherence to this shall result in an abstention by the offending member.
- 6.1.6. The Chair shall conduct a voting confirmation prior to the call to order of every meeting of the Senate.
- 6.1.7. The Senate shall, at the first meeting of each year, appoint a chairperson recommended by the Executive Council to chair all meetings of the Senate.
  - 6.1.7.1. The President may call a Special meeting of the Senate if he/she deems necessary.
  - 6.1.7.2. Notification of a Special meeting of the Senate shall be provided to all members of the Senate, voting and non-voting, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

## 6.2. REPRESENTATION

- 6.2.1. Each member of the Senate must be a member in good standing as specified by Section 4 of these Bylaws.

## 6.3. DUTIES OF THE SENATE

- 6.3.1. Senate representatives shall:
  - 6.3.1.1. Administrate the Bylaws pertaining to the activities and affairs of NAITSA within its jurisdiction;
  - 6.3.1.2. Appoint ad-hoc and/or standing committees to investigate any matters or problems that may arise concerning the student body;
  - 6.3.1.3. Approve all NAITSA budgets and all unbudgeted financial commitments and expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
  - 6.3.1.4. Fairly represent and communicate with the students in their respective program areas as outlined by NAITSA;

## 6.4. AUTHORITY

- 6.4.1. The Senate shall have the power to represent the Students' Association by advocating a position or expressing an opinion on any matter of concern to students.

## 6.5. MEMBERSHIP

- 6.5.1. The Senate shall consist of the following members:
  - 6.5.1.1. The NAITSA President (ex-officio, non-voting);
  - 6.5.1.2. The three (3) Vice-Presidents of NAITSA (ex-officio, non-voting);
  - 6.5.1.3. Two (2) Senate Representatives from each of the nine (9) program groups, as further defined in the Senate Standing Orders:
    - Business and Administration
    - Hospitality and Culinary
    - Health Sciences

- Environmental Management
- Building Construction and Design
- Engineering Technologies and Academic Upgrading
- IT and Electronics
- Media and Design
- Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships

6.5.1.4. NAITSA Executive Director (non-voting);

6.5.1.5. The Chair (non-voting).

6.5.1.6. The Secretary (non voting)

6.5.2. The student Senate Representatives shall be elected each October by the students in their respective program groups.

6.5.2.1. Program groups and further defined in the NAITSA Internal Policy Manual.

6.5.3. Any member of the Senate who fails, withdraws, or is incomplete in two or more classes in any semester shall resign from the Senate.

## 6.6. POSITION DURATION AND VACANCIES

6.6.1. The term each Senate Representative serves shall be one year from October to April.

6.6.2. There shall be no limit to the number of times a student may hold a Senate Representative position in his/her lifetime.

6.6.3. A Senate Representative may discontinue his/her duties as a member of the Senate in the following ways and circumstances:

6.6.3.1. Resignation – A resigning member shall submit to the Senate a written resignation setting forth the reasons for resignation. The position is not considered vacant until the resignation is presented to the Senate, and it is then considered final with no opportunity for reinstatement during that academic year;

6.6.3.2. Ineligibility by reasons of loss of membership in NAITSA;

6.6.3.3. Being absent from three (3) meetings of the Senate;

a. The Senate, upon request, may approve an excused absence based on a program-related employment practicum. If such absence is excused, it will only be applicable to NAITSA bylaw 6.6.3.3.

b. The Senate, upon request, may approve an excused absence based on special-case scenarios, such as medical emergency or family death. If such absence is excused, it will only be applicable to NAITSA bylaw 6.6.3.3.

6.6.3.4. Dereliction of duty or misconduct — A majority vote by the Senate Accountability & Disciplinary Board shall be sufficient to remove a member from the Senate;

6.6.3.5. A Senate representative shall automatically be removed from his/her position if at any time during his or her term he/she becomes no longer bondable; or

6.6.3.6. Failure to maintain an academic average above minimum pass as defined by the NAIT Registrar's office.

## 6.7. FILLING VACANCIES

6.7.1. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled as follows:

- 6.7.1.1. The President, or his/her designate shall call a Special Meeting of the students from the program group for which there is a vacant Senate position, giving no less than ten (10) business days notice of the meeting.
- 6.7.1.2. The students at the Special Meeting shall accept nominations from the floor and via majority vote, shall appoint a student to fill the vacancy.

## **7. ELECTORAL REGULATIONS**

### **7.1. GENERAL**

- 7.1.1. All NAITSA elections and referendums shall be online.
- 7.1.2. The NAITSA Executive Council affirms the importance of good conduct by all members in elections and referenda and promotes adherence to campaign rules. Failure to adhere to any of these rules is grounds for disqualification.
  - 7.1.2.1. An Election Committee, whose decision is final, will make all decisions regarding adherence to campaign rules.
- 7.1.3. The Executive Council shall prescribe the dates and times for all Elections:
  - 7.1.3.1. The dates and times for the election of Executive Council and the Senate must be published in the handbook of that academic year.
- 7.1.4. The Vice-President Academic shall be the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). In the event that the Vice-President Academic is eligible to participate in the election as a candidate, he/she may delegate this duty to an Executive Officer who is not running or not eligible for re-election.
- 7.1.5. The Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will be responsible for the selection and recommendation of a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for Senate elections to the Executive Council for approval.
- 7.1.6. In conjunction with the Executive Council, the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will be responsible for the selection and recommendation of a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for Executive Elections to the Senate for approval.
- 7.1.7. The candidate for CRO must be impartial, able to make him/herself available to the candidates throughout the course of the elections, and capable of chairing the Election Committee as required.
- 7.1.8. Members of the Executive Council who are nominated for a second term must take leave during the election campaign period using time allotted to them (e.g. vacation) or unpaid leave if no time is allotted to them.

### **7.2. NOMINATIONS**

- 7.2.1. Executive Council must approve a nomination package no later than seven (7) days prior to the opening of nominations. Nomination packages must contain, at minimum:
  - 7.2.1.1. A complete and current copy of the bylaws;
  - 7.2.1.2. Nomination papers soliciting the name, contact information, student identification number, position the nominee intends to stand for election, and,
    - a. For Executive Council, soliciting the names, programs, student identification numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) members of the Students' Association;
    - b. For Senate, soliciting the names, programs, student identification numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) members of the Students' Association in the NAITSA Program Groups for which the proposed nominee is eligible to represent;
  - 7.2.1.3. Contact information for the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO); and

- 7.2.1.4. The time, date, and location for all candidate mandatory meetings.
- 7.2.2. All candidates must complete a NAITSA nomination package that must be submitted on the forms approved by Executive Council, and shall be submitted to the Administration Director with no less than the following for it to be considered valid:
- 7.2.2.1. A signed acceptance of the nomination by the proposed nominee;
- 7.2.2.2. A statement, signed by the proposed nominee, identifying the name in which he or she wishes to appear on the ballot, and
- a. For Executive Council, the names, programs, student identification numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) members of the Students' Association;
  - b. For Senate, the names, programs, student identification numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) members of the Students' Association in the NAITSA Program Groups for which the proposed nominee is eligible to represent;
- 7.2.2.3. For Executive Council, the proposed nominee's current NAIT transcript, a photocopy of the proposed nominee's valid student identification card, and a photocopy of the proposed nominee's valid government issued identification card.
- 7.2.3. Nominations shall be submitted to the Administration Director during the nomination period. Nominations submitted outside of the nomination period will not be accepted.
- 7.2.4. Nominations will not be accepted later than seven (7) business days prior to Election Day.
- 7.2.5. Prior to being issued a nomination package, all proposed nominees must declare the position he or she intends to stand for, in the election. Nomination forms shall be physically available only from the NAITSA office, by email upon request or online on the official NAITSA website.
- 7.2.6. Attendance of all pre-election nominee meetings is mandatory. Absence is grounds for disqualification and if the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) determines the violation to be flagrant, then a recommendation for disqualification shall be made to the Elections Committee for review.
- 7.2.7. Upon the close of nominations prior to an election, in the event that there are not enough candidates to fill the ballot for a specific position(s), the CRO may choose to set a new nomination period and deadline for that position(s). If the ballot for an election does not have at least one nominee by five (5) business days prior to the opening of polls, the position shall remain vacant until a by-election can be held.
- 7.3. ACCLAMATION
- 7.3.1. There can be no acclamation for any elected position.
- 7.3.1.1. For Executive Council, where there is a single candidate, with no opposition, that candidate shall be elected by a yes or no vote.
- 7.3.1.2. For Senate positions, when the number of candidates running for any school does not exceed the number of Senate seats up for election, those candidates shall be elected by a yes or no vote.
- 7.4. WITHDRAWALS
- 7.4.1. Withdrawals of candidates will be accepted by the CRO or DRO until twelve (12) hours prior to the date the polls open.
- 7.5. POLLING
- 7.5.1. Voting information booths shall operate at the following locations on the last day of elections between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.:
- NAITSA Office - E131

- Main Campus — South Lobby Kiosk
- HP Centre
- Engineering Technologies Annex Building
- Main Campus — North Cafeteria (Fresh Express)
- Main Campus — South Learning Centre (X-Wing)
- South Campus
- Patricia Campus
- CAT Building (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
- CAT Building (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

7.5.1.1. Additional voting information booths may be used as deemed appropriate by the CRO or DRO.

7.5.1.2. Voting information booths shall be open at the following locations on the second last day of elections between the hours of 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm:

- NAITSA Office – E131
- Main Campus – South Lobby Kiosk
- HP Centre

7.5.2. Each voting information clerk is responsible for the conduct of their station and for the following:

- Provide information and promote election;
- Reporting any breaches of or irregularities in the above to the CRO or DRO immediately; and
- Maintaining impartiality as a representative of NAITSA and absolutely refraining from expressing personal opinion or bias toward a candidate or referendum issue.

## 7.6. VOTING

7.6.1. The date, time, and location of information booths shall be published in the Nugget and posted on NAITSA poster boards a minimum of seven (7) business days prior to the date the polls open.

7.6.2. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

## 7.7. THE COUNT

7.7.1. For the purposes of all NAITSA elections, a ballot shall be defined as an individual section of a voting form that pertains to an individual position.

7.7.2. The candidate that receives the most number of votes shall be declared the winner.

7.7.2.1. For Senate positions, where there are more than two (2) candidates running for only two (2) positions, the two (2) winners shall be the candidates who receive the most and the second-most votes in that election.

## 7.8. TIE VOTES

7.8.1. If two or more leading candidates have received an equal number of votes, a new election will be held with only the names of those candidates appearing on the ballot.

## 7.9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

7.9.1. The CRO or his/her designate shall announce publicly the results of the elections at a pre-established and publicized time and place and shall submit the results in writing to the NAITSA Executive Director no later than the business day following the tabulation of results.

## 7.10. APPEALS

7.10.1. All appeals must first be made to the CRO and DRO. Upon receipt of the appeal, the CRO shall have 24 hours to respond.

7.10.1.1. The CRO shall either make a ruling on the appeal or, at his/her discretion, send the appeal directly to the Election Committee.

7.10.1.2. Upon receipt of appeal, the Election Committee shall have three (3) business days to respond.

7.10.2. All appeals to the Election Committee or the CRO and DRO regarding the conduct of an election can be made at any time during the campaigning and/or voting period but must be made no later than one (1) business day after the closing of the polls.

7.10.2.1. Appeals must be in written form, signed by the candidate or Students' Association member-at-large submitting the appeal, and requires the following information:

- The name and student identification number of the candidate or Students' Association member-at-large submitting the appeal;
- The specific bylaw and section, rule, or regulation that has allegedly been contravened;
- The specific individual or group that is alleged to be in contravention; and
- The specific facts which constitute the alleged contravention; and
- Evidence of these facts.

7.10.2.2. The Election Committee shall hold meetings any time after the closing of nominations and before the closing of the polls to deal with potential appeals.

7.10.3. All rulings by the CRO and the Election Committee must be reported in writing and should, where appropriate, include the following:

- A summary of the appeal;
- A list of parties to the complaint;
- A ruling regarding the alleged contravention;
- A summary for the reasons for the ruling;
- A summary of the facts regarding the ruling;
- A listing of all bylaws, rules, and regulations that apply;
- The penalty assigned, if any; and
- The date and time of the ruling.

7.10.4. Penalties available to the CRO shall include the following:

- A fine, to be deducted from the candidate's campaign funds reimbursement; and
- Limits, restrictions, and prohibitions on any type of campaign activities for any period of time up to and including the voting period.

7.10.5. Penalties available to the Election Committee shall include the following:

- A fine, to be deducted from the candidate's campaign funds reimbursement;
- Limits, restrictions, and prohibitions on any type of campaign activities;
- Disqualification of the candidate; and
- Invalidation of the election.

7.10.6. All parties to an appeal shall be invited and shall have the opportunity to address the Election Committee for a maximum of five minutes each unless otherwise requested by the Election Committee.

7.10.6.1. Parties to an appeal are defined as the candidate(s) or member-at-large of the Students' Association submitting the appeal and the candidate(s) of whom the appeal is regarding.

#### 7.11. ELECTIONS — EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & THE SENATE

7.11.1. Elections for the positions on the Executive Council shall take place once per year, no later than the last weekday in February.

7.11.2. Elections for positions on the Senate shall take place once per year, no later than the third week of October.

#### 7.12. ELIGIBILITY

7.12.1. A candidate for Executive Council and Senate positions must:

7.12.1.1. Be a member of the Students' Association in good standing.

a. Candidates for Executive Council must have completed at least one semester of a NAIT credit program prior to submitting a nomination, hold a current minimum 3.0 GPA, and not be an Apprenticeship member.

7.12.1.2. Be a full-time or part-time student who is registered in a credit program; or a student running as an incumbent for a position on executive council; and

7.12.1.3. Commit to being in attendance at a metro-Edmonton campus of NAIT and not on a school-related practicum for the entire length of the term of office; and

7.12.1.4. Maintain an academic average above a minimum pass as set by the NAIT Registrar's office.

7.12.2. All candidates must be insurable for directors and officers liability coverage.

7.12.3. Each candidate for an Executive Council position must be willing to sign a NAITSA Executive Agreement if elected. The Senate shall approve the contents of the Executive Agreement within at least 30 days before the NAITSA Executive Elections.

#### 7.13. CAMPAIGNING

7.13.1. All posters and promotional material must be approved by the Chief Returning Officer or the Deputy Returning Officer prior to posting, use or disbursement.

7.13.1.1. The Deputy Returning Officer shall maintain a listing of the number of posters and promotional material approved for every candidate.

7.13.1.2. Candidates are permitted to post a maximum of thirty posters.

a. Maximum poster size shall be 60 cm by 60 cm.

b. All posters must be posted only on NAITSA poster boards.

c. Posters must not be posted on any painted surfaces, glass, or walls, or hung from the ceiling.

d. Posters cannot be hung prior to the date and time stated by the Chief Returning Officer.

e. Defacing of posters is not allowed.

f. Candidates shall not be permitted to remove or move any posters belonging to other candidates.

g. During the prescribed Election day or days, candidates are not permitted to move, add or remove any posters under any circumstances.

7.13.2. No brochures, business cards or leaflets are allowed.

7.13.3. Campaign slogans, drawings, etc. cannot display any religious, racial, sexual prejudices and/or anything inappropriate for display in a public space.

7.13.3.1. NAITSA and the Election Committee maintain a *zero-tolerance* policy regarding prejudice and discrimination. Improper conduct by candidates regarding this is grounds for immediate disqualification

7.13.4. Every candidate shall have the right to submit an article for use by NAITSA (ie Nugget, NAITSA website, online ballot) during the election period. *500 words maximum for Executive Council elections and 200 words maximum for Senate elections*. A deadline for submission will be announced by the CRO and no late submissions or exceptions will be permitted.

7.13.5. Paid Nugget advertisements above and beyond the picture and article will be permitted, but the candidate must be able to produce a receipt from NAITSA and include it in his/her campaign expenses.

7.13.6. Campaigning off the premises of NAIT, in the NAITSA offices and in the Nest Taphouse Grill shall not be allowed. Off-campus campaigning or advertising (with the exception of electronic media as described in 7.13.7) shall be grounds for disqualification of a candidate.

7.13.7. Candidates are permitted to campaign using social networking or open source websites (i.e.: facebook, Twitter, blogging, etc.). Candidates are not permitted to campaign using unique domain names. The use of social media to endorse or agree with another candidate(s) may be considered slate campaigning.

7.13.8. Slate campaigning, which is strictly prohibited, shall be defined as 2 or more candidates running for different positions, who gain an electoral advantage through one of the following actions:

- Publicly endorsing another candidate; and
- Sharing of election posters and promotional material.
- Presenting to potential voters together.

7.13.9. Each candidate is fully responsible for the original placement of their own campaign material.

7.13.9.1. No candidate shall use NAIT or NAITSA branding in their promotional materials.

#### 7.14. PRE-CAMPAIGNING

7.14.1. The action of a candidate who publicly announces his/her candidacy for an Executive Council position at any time before the time prescribed for campaigning shall be known as pre-campaigning.

7.14.2. Pre-campaigning is grounds for disqualification and candidates are strongly encouraged to avoid such an activity.

7.14.3. The determination as to whether or not a candidate committed the act of pre-campaigning shall be made by the Election Committee.

#### 7.15. CAMPAIGN FUNDING

7.15.1. The maximum amount of money to be spent campaigning for Executive Council elections is not to exceed two hundred (\$200.00) dollars + GST and for Senate elections is not to exceed one hundred (\$100.00) dollars + GST (e.g. posters, tape, buttons, felts, etc.).

7.15.2. Any supplies or services that are donated to a candidate will be valued at their retail value (as though they were purchased from a supplier). The value placed upon a service is the value of the service provided.

7.15.3. All Executive Council candidates shall be entitled to reimbursement by the Students' Association of the amount they have spent on campaign materials up to a maximum of two hundred dollars (\$200) at the discretion of the DRO and/or CRO.

7.15.4. All candidates for Senate shall be entitled to reimbursement by the Students' Association of the total amount they have spent on campaign materials, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) at the discretion of the DRO and/or CRO.

7.15.5. Candidates are to submit their campaign receipts, requests for reimbursement, and a detailed explanation of all campaign expenses to the Administration Director by 4:30 p.m. on the final day of campaigning, failure to do so shall eliminate candidates entitlement to reimbursement.

7.15.6. The Students' Association shall not reimburse candidates for personal expenses incurred in the course of any candidate's election campaign.

7.15.7. At the discretion of the CRO, reimbursement may be withheld from any candidate for any infractions of the NAITSA Bylaws.

## **8. REFERENDUM REGULATIONS**

### **8.1. GENERAL**

8.1.1. The NAITSA Executive Council affirms the importance of good conduct and adherence to campaign rules. Failure to adhere to any of these rules is grounds for disqualification. A Referendum Committee, whose decision is final, will make all decisions regarding adherence to this policy.

8.1.2. The Executive Council shall prescribe the dates and times for all Referenda.

8.1.3. The Vice-President Academic shall be the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO).

8.1.3.1. The Executive Council may delegate this duty to another Executive Council member, or to an external third-party.

8.1.4. The Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will be responsible for the selection and recommendation of a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for all Referenda to the Executive Council for approval.

8.1.4.1. The appointed individual for CRO must be impartial, able to make him/herself available to the yes and no campaign committees throughout the course of the elections, and capable of chairing the Referendum Committee as required.

### **8.2. WITHDRAWALS**

8.2.1. Withdrawals of Referenda questions will be accepted and must be approved by the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer until forty-eight hours prior to the date the polls open.

8.3. Voting information booths shall operate at the following locations on the last day of voting between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.:

- NAITSA Office - E131
- Main Campus - South Lobby Kiosk
- HP Centre
- Engineering Technologies Annex Building
- Main Campus
- North Cafeteria (Fresh Express)
- Main Campus - South Learning Centre (X-Wing)
- South Campus
- Patricia Campus
- CAT Building (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
- CAT Building (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

8.3.1.1. Additional voting information booths may be used as deemed appropriate by the CRO or DRO.

8.3.1.2. Voting information booths shall be open at the following locations on the second last day of elections between the hours of 4:00pm to 7:00pm:

- NAITSA office – E131

- Main campus – South lobby kiosk
- HP centre

8.3.2. Each voting information clerk is responsible for the conduct of their station and for the following:

- Provide information and promote election;
- Reporting any breaches of, or irregularities in the above, to the CRO or DRO immediately; and
- Maintaining impartiality as a representative of NAITSA and absolutely refraining from expressing personal opinion or bias toward a candidate or referendum issue.

#### 8.4. VOTING

8.4.1. All NAITSA Referenda voting shall be held online.

8.4.2. The date, time, and location of the polls shall be published in the Nugget and posted on NAITSA poster boards a minimum of seven business days prior to the date the polls open.

#### 8.5. THE COUNT

8.5.1. For the purposes of all NAITSA referenda, a ballot shall be defined as an individual section of a voting form that pertains to a question.

8.5.2. A referendum question that receives no less than a two-thirds majority of total students who vote shall be declared the winner.

8.5.3. A minimum of ten percent of the eligible voting students must have voted in order for a referendum question to pass.

8.5.3.1. If less than ten percent of the eligible voting population participates, the results of the referendum question shall be invalidated.

8.5.4. NAITSA must retain all voting records for a minimum of two (2) years after the closing of the polls.

#### 8.6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

8.6.1. The CRO or his/her designate shall announce publicly the results of the referendum and submit the results in writing to the NAITSA Executive Director no later than the business day following the tabulation of results.

8.6.2. Results are to be announced by the CRO at a pre-established and publicized time and place.

#### 8.7. APPEALS

8.7.1. All appeals shall be made to the Referendum Committee.

8.7.2. All appeals to the Referendum Committee regarding the conduct of a referendum must be made no later than one business day after the closing of the polls. Appeals must be in written form and signed by a student representing a referendum poll.

8.7.2.1. The Referendum Committee shall hold meetings any time after the closing of nominations and before the closing of the polls to deal with potential appeals.

- a. A meeting of the Referendum Committee shall be scheduled up to three business days after the closing of the polls to deal with potential appeals.

#### 8.8. CAMPAIGNING

8.8.1. For the purpose of campaigning for all referenda, both a “Yes” and a “No” committee for each side of the question shall be formed.

8.8.1.1. The Executive Council shall call for volunteers from the Senate to form the “Yes” and the “No” Committees before advertising for student-at-large volunteers.

- 8.8.2. All posters and promotional material must be approved by the Chief Returning Officer or the Deputy Returning Officer prior to posting or disbursement; minimum of seven (7) days before voting opens.
- 8.8.2.1. The Chief Returning Officer shall maintain a listing of the number of posters approved for both campaign committees.
- 8.8.2.2. Both Campaign committees are permitted to post a maximum of sixty posters.
- a. Maximum poster size shall be 60 cm by 60 cm.
  - b. All posters must be posted only on NAITSA poster boards.
  - c. Posters must not be posted on any painted surfaces, glass, or walls, or hung from the ceiling.
  - d. Posters cannot be hung prior to the date and time stated by the Chief Returning Officer.
  - e. Defacing of posters is not allowed.
  - f. Campaign committees shall not be permitted to remove or move any posters belonging to other candidates.
  - g. During the prescribed Referenda day or days, campaign committees are not permitted to move or remove any posters under any circumstances.
- 8.8.3. Campaign slogans, drawing, etc. cannot display any religious, racial, and/or sexual prejudices.
- 8.8.4. Campaign Committees shall have the right to submit a picture and article to the Nugget for publication (500 words maximum). A deadline for submission will be announced by the CRO and no exceptions will be permitted.
- 8.8.5. Campaign Committees shall have the right to submit two advertisements (quarter-page size) to the Nugget that will be published the week prior to the opening of the polls and the week of the polls being open.
- 8.8.6. Paid Nugget advertisements above and beyond the picture, article, and advertisements stated in bylaw 8.7.5 and 8.7.6 are not permitted.
- 8.8.7. Campaigning off the premises of NAIT shall not be allowed.
- 8.8.8. Off-campus campaigning or advertising (with the exception of electronic media, as described in 8.8.10) shall be grounds for removal from the campaign.
- 8.8.9. Campaign committees are permitted to campaign using social networking or open source websites (i.e. facebook, myspace, blogging, etc.). Campaign committees are not permitted to campaign using unique domain names.

## 8.9. CAMPAIGN FUNDING

- 8.9.1. The maximum amount of money to be spent campaigning for Campaign Committees of Referendum is not to exceed one thousand (\$1000.00) dollars + GST.
- 8.9.2. Any supplies that are donated to a Campaign Committee will be valued at their retail value (as though they were purchased from a supplier).
- 8.9.3. Both Campaign Committees shall create a proposal up to the maximum allowed amount that must be approved by both the DRO and CRO before the Students' Association will issue a cheque for the appropriate amount.
- 8.9.4. Campaign committees must submit their campaign receipts to the CRO or his/her designate by 4:30 p.m. on the day following the closure of polls.

## 8.10. INVALIDATION

- 8.10.1. In the case of any grave violation of the NAITSA Bylaws on the part of either campaign committee the Referendum Committee will invalidate a referendum if, in its opinion, a violation of the Bylaws

has adversely affected the outcome of that referendum. In making this decision, the Referendum Committee will consider the conduct of the parties and the seriousness of the violations.

#### 8.11. NON-METRO CAMPUS MEMBERS

8.11.1. Non-Metro Campus Members are not eligible to vote in referenda held in the metro-Edmonton region.

#### 8.12. DONATIONS AND MAJOR GIFT REFERENDA

8.12.1. Donations and major gifts that are given by NAITSA to an external body and that are forecasted to have a net effect on the finances of NAITSA in excess of \$50,000 in any one year require a majority approval via a referendum of the student body duly called by the Senate.

8.12.1.1. All such referenda shall, at minimum, provide the following information in the text of the question:

- The amount per year student fees will be affected;
- The purpose and/or benefit to the membership
- The amount of reserve funds, if any, contributing to the total amount.

### 9. ACADEMIC COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

#### 9.1. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

9.1.1. Each appointed member of Academic Council shall:

- 9.1.1.1. Attend all meetings of Academic Council Student Representatives and the Vice-President Academic as required; and
- 9.1.1.2. Consult with the Vice-President Academic on student matters prior to Academic Council meetings.

#### 9.2. APPOINTMENT

9.2.1. Pursuant to the Post Secondary Learning Act (Alberta), there shall be seven (7) student members on Academic Council:

- 9.2.1.1. The NAITSA Vice-President Academic shall be one (1) student representative on Academic Council.
- 9.2.1.2. The Vice-President Academic shall appoint six (6) student members to Academic Council.

9.2.2. Candidates must be members in good standing as defined by Section 4.

9.2.3. Appointments shall occur prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> for the current academic year.

#### 9.3. POSITION DURATION

9.3.1. The term shall be October to May and in no case shall a term extend beyond the prescribed annual appointment date of new Academic Council members.

#### 9.4. VACANCIES

9.4.1. Any vacancy shall be filled as determined by the Executive Council.

### 10. BOARD OF GOVERNORS STUDENT MEMBERS

#### 10.1. GENERAL

10.1.1. Board of Governors student members shall be appointed by the Senate to a 12-month term during the final meeting of the Senate in April.

10.1.2. The Senate shall nominate, to the Minister of Advanced Education one (1) student-at-large in good academic standing; and one (1) newly elected Executive Council member for Board of Governor membership. Senate shall make a selection in April for the following academic year.

10.1.3. The Senate shall:

- 10.1.3.1. Receive written application forms from eligible student-at-large nominees, including proof of good academic standing, a cover letter limited to one paragraph in length and a description of relevant experience and achievements limited to one page in length;
- 10.1.3.2. Hear presentations from eligible executive council nominees and student-at-large nominees on why they feel they would be the best candidates for a Board of Governor position;
- 10.1.3.3. Formally vote for one (1) executive council member and one (1) student-at-large, as a nominee to the NAIT Board of Governors; and
- 10.1.3.4. Instruct the NAITSA President to formally announce the successful candidates to the Alberta Government through the President of NAIT within ten (10) days of the respective nominations by the Senate.

## 10.2. VOTING PROCEDURES

- 10.2.1. All ballots are secret.
- 10.2.2. In the event there is only one nominee, the Senate shall conduct one round of voting to confirm the appointment via a "Yes" or "No" ballot. In the event that no winner is found by this method, the Chairperson shall reopen nominations and the process shall start again from scratch.
- 10.2.3. In the event there is more than one candidate, then an instant-runoff voting system shall be used whereby voters shall indicate their preference for all candidates on one round of balloting.
- 10.2.4. Each voter must rank all candidates. In the event that a ballot is found not to have a preference ranking for every candidate then that ballot shall be deemed spoiled in its entirety and not counted in any round.
- 10.2.5. Once the balloting is complete the counting shall begin. In the initial count, the first preferences of each voter are counted as one vote and used to order the candidates. If, once all the first preferences are counted, one candidate holds a majority of the votes, that candidate shall be immediately declared the winner. Otherwise the candidate who holds the fewest first preferences is eliminated.
- 10.2.6. In the event of a tie for the fewest first preference votes, all candidates in the last position shall be eliminated.
- 10.2.7. Once a candidate or candidates have been eliminated, all the ballots assigned to them are recounted and the second preference of each voter is used to reassign their vote to one of the remaining candidates. The total counts are updated and the candidates are reordered, and if a candidate has received a majority they shall be declared the winner.
- 10.2.8. The process of eliminating the last place candidates and redistributing those votes continues until one candidate attains a majority of votes and is declared the winner.
- 10.2.9. Board of Governors student-at-large candidates will be given 2 minutes to present privately; presentations and a Q&A for each candidate will be pre recorded and viewed by the senate.
  - 10.2.9.1. The Q&A will consist of two (2) questions to be determined by the current executive council with a thirty (30) second response time limit from the candidate.

## 11. COMMITTEES, BOARDS, CLUBS & EXTERNAL AFFILIATIONS

### 11.1. GENERAL

- 11.1.1. Student Clubs, committees, and boards established under the authority granted by these bylaws will be responsible to the Students' Association for the fulfillment of the objectives and purposes for which they were established, and for the proper management of their finances.

11.1.1.1. Students involved in committees, boards, and sanctioned clubs will be responsible to the Students' Association for carrying out the duties and responsibilities undertaken by them in assuming their positions.

11.1.2. The Executive Council shall have the authority to ratify, de-ratify, or permit dissolution of all student clubs and to establish policy regarding the activities of such clubs.

## 11.2. SENATE SUB-COMMITTEES

11.2.1. There shall be two standing sub-committees: Finance, Governance.

11.2.1.1. The Finance Sub-Committee shall consist of the following members:

- a. The NAITSA President (Ex-officio, non-voting);
- b. The Chair (One of the NAITSA Vice-Presidents, Ex-officio, non-voting);
- c. The NAITSA Executive Director (Ex-officio, non-voting); and
- d. Six (6) representatives elected from the Senate.

11.2.1.2. The Governance Sub-Committee shall consist of the following members:

- a. The NAITSA President (Ex-officio, non-voting);
- b. The Chair (One of NAITSA Vice-Presidents, Ex-officio, non-voting);
- c. The NAITSA Executive Director (Ex-officio, non-voting); and
- d. Six (6) representatives elected from the Senate.

11.2.2. The Senate shall elect the members of the standing sub-committees:

11.2.2.1. Finance and Governance no later than the third meeting of the academic year.

11.2.2.2. In the case of any vacancy, the Senate shall elect a new representative.

11.2.3. Standing committees shall only meet if given direction by the Senate or by the Executive Council.

11.2.4. All standing sub-committees will provide the full complement of senate with recommendations for approval.

11.2.5. For all meetings of the standing committees, members must receive a minimum of three (3) business days notice.

11.2.6. Quorum for standing committees is three of the voting members.

## 11.3. SENATE ADVOCACY AD-HOC COMMITTEES

11.3.1. The Senate shall form an ad-hoc committee to deal with any potential advocacy issue.

11.3.1.1. An Advocacy Ad-Hoc Committee shall consist of the following members:

- a. The NAITSA President (Ex-officio, non-voting);
- b. The Chair (One of the NAITSA Vice-Presidents, Ex-officio, non-voting);
- c. The Director Of Advocacy (Ex-officio, non-voting); and
- d. Six (6) representatives selected from the Senate.

11.3.2. Once the Advocacy ad-hoc committee has dealt with the issue, the committee shall be disbanded.

11.3.2.1. A new advocacy ad-hoc committee shall be formed with each new advocacy issue presented to the Senate.

- a. At the discretion of the Senate, multiple advocacy issues brought up at the same time can be dealt with by the same committee.

11.3.3. Advocacy ad-hoc committees shall only meet if given direction by the Senate or by the Executive Council.

11.3.4. For all meetings of the advocacy ad-hoc committees, members must receive a minimum of three (3) business days notice.

11.3.5. Quorum for standing committees is three of the voting members.

#### 11.4. ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

11.4.1. There shall be an Activities Committee consisting of:

11.4.1.1. The NAITSA Director of Campus Culture, who shall act as chair;

11.4.1.2. The NAITSA Vice President Student Services; and

11.4.1.3. The NAITSA Marketing & Communications Director.

11.4.2. The Activities Committee shall be responsible for the planning, budgeting, and administration of all activities under the jurisdiction of NAITSA.

11.4.3. The Executive Council shall approve all proposals for activities proposed by the Activities Committee.

#### 11.5. SENATE ACCOUNTABILITY & DISCIPLINARY BOARD

11.5.1. Upon receipt of written complaint from a Students' Association member against the Senate Representative from his or her School of NAIT, the President shall call a meeting of the Senate Accountability & Disciplinary (SA&D) Board.

11.5.2. Senate members of the SA&D Board may not be enrolled in the same School of NAIT as the Senate Representative under disciplinary review.

11.5.3. The SA&D Board shall be responsible for all decisions regarding the removal of a Senate Representative.

11.5.4. The members of Executive Council shall vote only to break a tie.

#### 11.6. ELECTION COMMITTEE

11.6.1. The CRO and DRO shall form an Election Committee to hold the exclusive responsibility and authority of dealing with appeals, grievances, and other electoral issues regarding the eligibility of a candidate or candidates during and after an election.

11.6.2. The Election Committee shall consist of:

11.6.2.1. The Deputy Returning Officer, who shall act as chair;

11.6.2.2. Five (5) students-at-large who have no declarable conflict of interest with any candidate or referenda question;

11.6.2.3. The NAITSA Executive Director (non-voting); and

11.6.2.4. The Chief Returning Office (non-voting).

11.6.3. An Election Committee shall be formed not less than one week prior to the close of nominations.

#### 11.7. EXTERNAL AFFILIATIONS

11.7.1. External affiliations, where membership fees are charged on a per FLE basis, to join or withdraw, the Senate must pass a motion to do so in two consecutive academic years;

### 12. COMMUNICATION WITH THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

12.1. All communications from Executive Council, the Senate, or the Students' Association, to the NAIT Board of Governors shall be made by the President of NAITSA through either the President of NAIT or through the student members that sit on the Board of Governors.

12.2. Where approval of the NAIT Board of Governors is required for the borrowing of money or acquisition or disposition of real property, the prior approval of the Student Association through Special Resolution shall be required.

### 13. REMUNERATION

13.1. The Executive Council remuneration shall be as follows:

- 13.1.1. The President and Vice-Presidents shall each receive a fixed, full-time salary in the amount of \$3465.48 per month (current as of the 2017-18 year), payable semi-monthly, while in office;
- 13.1.1.1. Executive salaries shall increase annually at the beginning of the executive term each May according to the Alberta Consumer Price index. The percentage of annual change in Alberta CPI shall be calculated using the sum of Alberta CPI indexes according to Statistics Canada, for a 12-month period ending the preceding December.
- a. Executive Salaries shall not increase or decrease in the case where the Alberta CPI is below zero percent (0%).
- 13.1.2. The President-elect and each Vice-President-elect, for the months of March and April, shall receive 25% of the current remuneration amount for Executive Council payable semi-monthly, during which time they will train with the out-going Executive according to the schedule stated in the Executive Council Nomination package.
- 13.1.2.1. If re-elected for a second term, an Executive Officer cannot receive two salaries.
- 13.2. Each Executive Council member shall receive reimbursement for their NAIT tuition for all credit courses taken during their term, not to exceed the regular per credit tuition charged the their respective program, excluding health and dental premiums, NAITSA fees, and other applicable NAIT fees.
- 13.3. The salary for the final half-month that an Executive member is in office shall be withheld until the outgoing Executive member has made a genuine effort to familiarize the incumbent with the duties and responsibilities of that position. This shall be determined by the incoming Executive in consultation with the NAITSA Executive Director.
- 13.4. Remuneration of Executive Council shall be reviewed by the Senate on an as-needed basis.
- 13.5. The Board of Governors Student Representatives shall receive an honorarium for tuition and fees excluding health and dental premiums and locker fees from the NAIT Board of Governors or the Alberta Government.
- 13.6. The elected representatives to the Senate shall receive an honorarium of a maximum of \$600.00 per Senate term.
- 13.6.1. For all elected representatives to the Senate who are elected at the beginning of the Senate year, the total honorarium amount shall be reduced by \$100.00 for each missed day of Senate training.
- 13.6.1.1. No elected representative to the Senate who is elected after the beginning of the Senate term shall incur the \$100.00 penalty for each missed day of training.
- 13.6.2. A maximum of \$600.00 of the total amount shall be based on the individual elected Senate representative's attendance at complete meetings of the Senate.
- 13.6.2.1. As the Senate has a total of ten meetings in the Senate term, the elected representatives to the Senate shall receive an honorarium of approximately \$60 per meeting attended.
- 13.6.2.2. Any elected representative to the Senate who is elected after the beginning of the Senate term shall receive an honorarium of \$60 per meeting they attend.
- 13.6.3. Payment of honoraria shall be made no later than ten business days following the final Senate meeting of the Academic Year.
- 13.7. Members serving in a remunerated position of authority with either the Executive Council, the Senate, or the Nugget media's editorial staff, shall not hold any other remunerated position within NAITSA while serving in any one of those roles.

## **14. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **14.1. Fiscal Year**

14.1.1. The fiscal year for the Students' Association shall be from July 1 to June 30.

#### 14.2. Audit

14.2.1. There shall be an audit at least once per year in accordance with the Post Secondary Learning Act (Alberta.)

14.2.2. An audited financial statement shall be presented annually to the Senate.

#### 14.3. Restricted Funds

##### 14.3.1. Building Fund

14.3.1.1. This fund shall be restricted for use by the Senate to obtain and/or develop physical space under the exclusive control of NAITSA. If the opportunity to achieve this goal becomes available before the designated ten-year goal of 2016/2017, the Building Fund can be accessed for this purpose by a 75% majority vote of the Senate at two consecutive meetings. After the 2018/19 academic year, the fund can be accessed with a 75% majority vote of the Senate.

14.3.1.2. Of each membership fee collected, 5% shall be allocated to the Building Fund.

##### 14.3.2. Student Space Fund

14.3.2.1. This fund shall be a restricted fund, accessed only by a majority vote of the Executive for the purposes of creating and improving student space on campus; such as The Nest, Shared Spaces, and general student space.

##### 14.3.3. Operating Reserve

14.3.3.1. This fund shall be a restricted fund to ensure the stability of the mission, programs and ongoing operations of the organization. The fund will grow by any surplus in our net income after capital asset expenditures and obligations to the Building and Student Spaces Funds are met. There is a fund ceiling of 100% of the most recent year's total operating expenses and a floor equivalent to 25% of the most recent year's total operating expenses as outlined within the approved budget for that year.

14.3.3.2. The Senate may access the Operating Reserve through approval of the annual NAITSA budget and/or audited financial statements (to address a deficit) and/or throughout the year to address unbudgeted expenditures.

#### 14.4. BORROWING POWERS

14.4.1. For the purpose of carrying out its objectives, the Students' Association, after approval of the NAIT Board of Governors, may borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as it deems necessary, including the issue of debentures, provided that the debentures shall not be issued without the passing of a Special Resolution by the Students' Association membership.

14.4.2. The Students' Association may acquire real property by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and may hold and dispose of it provided that:

14.4.2.1. The Senate has approved such acquisition; and

14.4.2.2. The NAIT Board of Governors has approved.

#### 14.5. ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

14.5.1. The NAITSA Accountant, in conjunction with the finance manager and the NAITSA President, shall maintain the accounts of NAITSA.

14.5.2. NAITSA shall keep its funds in a financial institution as defined in the Post Secondary Learning Act (Alberta).

14.5.3. All payments made from NAITSA funds shall be by cheque or order signed by:

14.5.3.1. One (1) NAITSA staff member who is either the Executive Director or another staff member designated by Executive Council as a signing authority; and

14.5.3.2. One (1) elected student leader who is either the NAITSA Vice-President Academic or the NAITSA President.

## **15. ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

15.1. The accounts, books, and records of the Students' Association shall be open to any member of the Students' Association for inspection at any time during normal business hours, in the offices of the Students' Association only. Notice of intent to view must be given to NAITSA in writing at least forty-eight (48) hours prior.

## **16. AMENDMENTS**

### **16.1. Bylaws**

16.1.1. Subject to the provisions of these Bylaws, the Senate has the power to enact, amend, or rescind Bylaws that:

16.1.1.1. Establish and administer such student groups, organizations and committees, as it may deem necessary from time to time for the effective organization and functioning of student activities and student government;

16.1.1.2. Establish and administer student publications;

16.1.1.3. Establish a committee to interpret and enforce these Bylaws and all legislation passed under its authority and to discipline Students' Association members in violation thereof;

16.1.1.4. Legislate as to the conduct of nominations and elections for positions on the Executive Council; and

16.1.1.5. Create and present such awards as it may deem suitable to recognize outstanding contributions made to student activities by members of the Students' Association.

16.1.2. The Senate will have the power to enact, amend or rescind any Bylaw that it deems necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Students' Association.

### **16.2. Amendment Procedure**

16.2.1. A proposed Bylaw amendment must be presented to the Senate in the following format:

16.2.1.1. The wording as it currently exists;

16.2.1.2. The wording as it will read if passed.

16.2.2. Amendments to the Bylaws, excepting Bylaw 5.4.3, become effective only upon passage of a seventy-five percent majority vote by quorum at two (2) consecutive meetings of the Senate held not less than one week apart.

16.2.3. Amendments to Bylaw 5.4.3 become effective only upon passage by a seventy-five percent majority at two (2) meetings of the Senate, which must be held in two distinct academic years and must not be separated by more than three regularly scheduled meetings.

### **16.3. Policies**

16.3.1. The Executive Council shall develop, maintain, and implement a comprehensive set of operational policies for the Students' Association.

16.3.2. The policies shall not contradict any item provided for in the Bylaws.

16.3.3. The Executive Council will have the power to enact, amend, or rescind any policy that it deems necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Students' Association.

16.3.3.1. Any new policy or revisions to current policy that could possibly have a benefit or conflict of interest to an individual executive, or multiple executives, shall be brought to the attention of the Senate Governance Sub-Committee for information.

16.3.4. Notice of Motion must be given at least one (1) meeting prior in order to enact, amend, or rescind any policy.

## 17. MINUTES, BOOKS AND RECORDS

17.1. The Executive Council shall be responsible for keeping the detailed minutes of all Executive Council, Senate, Special, and Annual General Meetings of the Students' Association.

17.2. The common seal of the Students' Association shall be held by the President who shall be responsible for its safe custody. The seal shall not be affixed to any document except by resolution of the Executive. Every sealing shall be signed by two members of the Executive Council.

## APPENDIX I.

This Appendix will serve to keep track of all bylaw amendments and revisions.

Prior to April 8, 2009, both the Official Bylaws and the Constitution governed the NAIT Students' Association. On April 8, 2009, the Senate passed a second reading to amalgamate the two documents into one, to be named the Official Bylaws of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association.

Approved by General Council February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Amended by General Council April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Amended by Senate April 12, 2005 and October 25, 2005

Amended by Senate January 24, 2006 (*to come into force April 1, 2006*)

Amended by Senate April 11, 2006

Amended by Senate January 31, 2007

Amended by Senate April 18, 2007

Amended by Senate April 9, 2008

Amended by Senate April 8, 2009

Amended by Senate December 9, 2009

Amended by Senate January 13, 2010

Amended by Senate February 24, 2010

Amended by Senate April 7, 2010

Amended by Senate October 27, 2010

Amended by Senate February 2, 2011

Amended by Senate March 23, 2011

Amended by Senate April 6, 2011

Amended by Senate October 19, 2011

Amended by Senate December 7, 2011

Amended by Senate April 4, 2012

Amended By Senate March 6, 2013

Amended by Senate April 3, 2013

Amended by Senate November 20, 2013

Amended by Senate March 26, 2014

Amended by Senate April 9, 2014

Amended by Senate January 21, 2015

Amended by Senate April 8, 2015

Amended by Senate January 20, 2016

Amended by Senate March 9, 2016

Amended by Senate April 6, 2016

Amended by Senate December 7, 2016

Amended by Senate April 5, 2017

Amended by Senate November 29, 2017  
Amended by Senate December 5, 2018  
Amended by Senate April 3, 2019