



International Association of Buddhist Universities

Constitution

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Constitution

Preamble

1. The Institutions, whose names are set forth in the First Schedule below, are united in their aspiration to promote the Buddha-Dharma. Building on the great Buddhist heritage of higher education, they are determined to ensure that:

- The brightest and best of each new generation will gain a profound understanding of the Buddha-Dharma and will be motivated to apply that understanding fully in every area of their lives and work.
- The quality of scholarly work in Buddhist Studies will continue to rise, and its importance for other areas of scholarly endeavour will become ever more widely understood.
- The international Buddhist community, Sangha and lay, will make a vital contribution to meeting the challenges that face human society world-wide.

Accordingly, they are agreed to give concrete form to their unity by constituting the Association of Buddhist Universities.

Definitions

2. In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

‘University’	shall mean	any institute of Higher Education, whether a University, College, Academy or whatever, or a substantially autonomous component thereof;
‘the Association’	shall mean	the Association of Buddhist Universities;
‘the Council’	shall mean	the Council of the Association;
‘Members’	shall mean	‘Universities’ which are Members of the Association;
‘Associate Members’	shall mean	‘Universities’ which are Associate Members of the Association;
‘Additional Members’	shall mean	‘Universities’ which are Additional Members of the Association;
‘Member Countries’	shall mean	countries in which Members are located;

‘Representatives’	shall mean	individuals nominated by Members or Associate or Additional Members to represent them in the Association;
‘the Statutes’	shall mean	the Statutes of the Association for the time being in force;

Words in the singular number shall be understood as including the equivalent words in the plural number and vice versa; words importing the masculine gender only shall be understood as including the equivalent words in the feminine gender; and words importing persons shall be understood as including Corporations.

Objects

3 The object of the Association is:

- to support the Members and facilitate collaboration and cross-fertilisation between them, so that all humanity can benefit from the richness and variety of the multinational Buddhist tradition; and, to that end,
- to provide a framework within which the Members can:
- better understand each other’s policies and activities and be better understood regionally and internationally;
- collaborate in administration, teaching, research and outreach;
- recognise each other’s qualifications.

Accordingly, the Association will facilitate exchanges between Members. In order to do so, it will develop its administrative capacity.

Specifically, the Association will:

Exchanges

- i. facilitate the interchange of students and teachers between Members;
- ii. arrange conferences and congresses and otherwise facilitate communication and the exchange of information among the Members, and between them and other Universities, public bodies (including international organisations) and all sorts of learned institutions and societies;
- iii. print, publish and circulate journals, handbooks, circulars, leaflets and other publications with a view to disseminating information about and encouraging interest in the Buddha-Dharma, in Buddhist studies and in the objects, work and activities of the Association;
- iv. collect and distribute information from time to time on matters of interest to Members;
- v. co-operate with other associations having similar objects with a view to promoting the objects of the Association;

Administration

- vi. establish and maintain a central office in Bangkok to serve as a secretariat for the Association;

- vii. invite and collect subscriptions and donations to the funds of the Association by any lawful means;
- viii. undertake, execute and perform any trusts or conditions affecting any property of any description acquired by the Association and act as trustee of any such property held for purposes connected with the objects of the Association;
- ix. invest the moneys of the Association not immediately required for the purposes of the Association in such manner as the Council may from time to time think expedient;
- x. do all such other things as may be thought calculated to promote the interests and well-being of Members.

Membership requirements

4. Any University is eligible for Membership of the Association which:

- has the power to award degrees either in its own right or via a higher-level institution; and
- *either*: has a specific mission to educate students to understand and practise the Buddha-Dharma;
or: + operates according to Buddhist values, helping individuals work to improve and transform the quality of experience;
- promotes Buddhist principles, in favour of peace within and without; and
- has a significant commitment to academic Buddhist Studies

Members

5. The Members shall be:

- i. the Universities named in the First Schedule below; and
- ii. such other Universities as may from time to time be admitted to Membership by the Council in accordance with such regulations as may from time to time be made by the Council for this purpose.

Associate and Additional Members

6. Subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the Council may admit to such privileges and benefits of the Association as may be determined by the Council, excepting always the right to vote at general meetings of Members:

i. Universities, which do research in Buddhist Studies and award degrees either in Buddhist Studies or to students whose work has been exclusively in Buddhist Studies.	as Associate Members; and
ii. other Universities which teach and do research in Buddhist Studies.	as Additional Members.

Loss of qualification

7. Any Member, Associate Member or Additional Member, which shall cease to have the appropriate academic status, or to be incorporated, shall forthwith and without notice cease to be a Member, Associate Member or Additional Member as the case may be.

General Meetings

8. There shall be held a General Meeting of the Association once in each calendar year (hereinafter called 'the Annual General Meeting') and Special General Meetings at such times as may be necessary or desirable, in every case in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes.

Council

9. There shall be a Council of the Association composed of persons elected among the Members. The Council shall come together twice yearly to review progress and formulate policy. Council members shall be Representatives of Members or of Associate Members; they shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association or at a meeting specially called for the purpose; once elected, they shall serve as members of Council in a personal capacity rather than on behalf of their respective institutions.

The Council shall comprise:

- a Chairman, who shall undertake to give at least 2 days a week to this task;
- a Vice-Chairman, who shall undertake to assume the duties of the Chairman as and when this may be necessary;
- a Treasurer, who shall undertake to give up to 2 days a month to this task;
- a further six Council members.

The first Council of the Association shall comprise the persons whose names appear in the Second Schedule below.

Income and property

10. The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association set forth in this Constitution.

11. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of the Statutes, the Council shall have the management and control of the Association and the administration of all its property and income, with power to delegate all or any of their powers to committees or sub-committees from amongst their own number or otherwise appointed for the purpose, provided that no resolution passed at a meeting of a committee or sub-committee shall take effect unless a majority of the persons present at such meeting are Council members or the resolution is confirmed by the Council.

Statutes

12. The Statutes set forth in the Third Schedule below shall be the Statutes of the Association until the same shall be amended as provided below.

Amendment of Statutes

13. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Council shall have full power to propose to a General Meeting of the Association, convened by notice specifying clearly the subject of such proposal, Statutes or amendments to Statutes relating to the government, administration and management of the Association; and these Statutes or amended Statutes shall come into force once approved by a resolution to that effect passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the Association.

Audit of accounts

14. True accounts shall be kept of the income and expenditure of the Association. There shall be an audit of the accounts of the Association made every year by one or more duly qualified Auditors to be appointed by the Association in General Meeting. The Auditors shall make a report, a copy of which shall be circulated to Members together with a copy of the audited accounts, not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting at which they are to be approved.

Dissolution

15. If two consecutive Special General Meetings resolve to wind up the affairs of the Association, the Council shall be empowered to do so as directed by such Special General Meetings (or, in default of such directions, as the Council shall think it expedient having due regard to the liabilities of the Association for the time being). If, upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Association, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid or transferred to a Buddhist educational charity.

Amendment of Constitution

16. The Council may amend or add to this Constitution by a resolution to that effect which is:

- passed at any Council meeting by
- a majority, of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council present and voting, which also constitutes
- an absolute majority of all members of the Council; and is
- confirmed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Representatives of the Members present and voting at a Special General Meeting held not less than one month nor more than four months afterwards.

Schedules

1. Member Universities as at May 2007

Republic of Cambodia

University of

Union of Myanmar

University of

Et cetera.

University of

2. Members of Council

Chairman

The Most Venerable Professor Phra Dharmakosajarn
Rector, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand

Vice Chairmen

1. Venerable Xue Chen, Vice President, Buddhist Association of China & Buddhist Academy of China
2. Prof. Dr. Chisho M. Namai, Former President & Director of the Research Institute of Esoteric Buddhist Culture, Koyasan University, Japan
3. Prof. Dr. Le Mahn That, Acting Rector, Vietnam Buddhist University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Executive Secretary

Venerable Dr. Khammai Dhammasami, Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies,
University of Oxford, UK

Assistant Secretaries

1. Venerable Dr. Kim Misan, Joong-Ang Sangha University, Korea
2. Dr. Tamas Agocs, Foreign Relations Manager & Director of Research Institute of East and West, Budapest Buddhist University, Hungary
3. Associate Prof. Dr. Phramaha Somjin Samapanyo, Pro-Rector for Academic Affairs, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand

Members

1. Venerable Bhikkhuni Dr. Yifa, Chair, Department of Religious Studies, University of the West, L.A, USA
2. The Most Venerable Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, Chancellor, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Myanmar
3. The Most Venerable Ching Hsing, Ching Cheuh Buddhist Sangha University, Chinese-Taipei
4. Venerable Prof. Geshe Gnawang Samten, Director/Rector, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, India
5. Venerable Prof. Tepsattha Sovanratana, Vice Rector, Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, Cambodia
6. Prof. Sumanapala Galmangoda, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
7. Dr. Eko Legowo, Principal, Kertarajasa Buddhist College, Jawa, Indonesia
8. Dr. Rabindra Panth, Director/Rector, Nalanda University (Nalanda Mahavihar), India
9. Prof. Philip Stanley, Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Naropa University, Colorado, USA

3. Statutes

Members

1. (1) Any University desirous of becoming a Member of the Association shall apply under seal to the Secretary (see below) with such evidence as may be required to satisfy the Council that the University's principal mission is to educate students to understand and practise the Buddha-Dharma. The Council may make such regulations governing applications and admission to Membership as may be required from time to time.
(2) Every Member shall appoint a person to act as its Representative in the manner provided by the Bye-Laws. The Representative of a Member may nominate a deputy from time to time by notice in writing to the Secretary, and in these Statutes 'Representative of a Member' includes a deputy so nominated.
(3) Any Member may withdraw from the Association upon giving notice under seal to the Secretary in the manner indicated in the Bye-Laws.
(4) Any Member, which ceases to be a University, or to be incorporated, shall forthwith cease to be a Member.
(5) The rights of a Member shall be suspended upon failure to pay the annual subscription within twelve months of its becoming due and unless the Council otherwise determines shall be restored only upon payment of all arrears of subscription.
(6) In these Statutes the word 'Member' or 'Members' used alone shall not include an Associate Member or Associate Members nor an Additional Member or Additional Members.

Associate Members and Additional Members

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of Article 6 of this Constitution, the Council may admit such Universities as Associate or Additional Members as it may from time to time decide and the Council may for this purpose make such regulations as it deems necessary.
2) Paragraphs (2) to (5) inclusive of Statute 1 relating to Members shall apply with such modifications as may be necessary and appropriate to an Associate or an Additional Member.
(3) At no time shall an Associate Member or Additional Member have any right to vote, but it shall have such other privileges and benefits as may be allowed to it by the Council.

Subscriptions

3. Every Member, Associate Member or Additional Member shall pay such minimum annual subscription respectively as may be fixed from time to time by the Association in General Meeting.

Notices

4. A General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary who shall issue notices of such Meeting by post or otherwise not less than twenty-eight days before the Meeting. The accidental omission to give such notice or the non-receipt of such notice by a Member, Associate Member or Additional Member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any Meeting.

Meetings of Members

The Annual General Meeting

5. (1) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held once in every year, at which the business to be transacted shall include the consideration of the accounts, the reports of the Council and of the Auditors, and the election of members of the Council as requisite. Any Representative of a Member desiring to bring any matter or proposal before the Annual General Meeting shall give 14 days prior written notice thereof to the Secretary.

Special General Meetings

(2) The Council may whenever it thinks fit — and shall upon a request made in writing and signed by Representatives of not less than one-tenth of the Members having at the date of the request a right to vote at General Meetings — convene a Special General Meeting. The Secretary shall at any time, when required by the Chairman (or, in his absence, by the Vice-Chairman) summon a Special General Meeting. If upon request the Council shall fail to convene or the Secretary to summon a Special General Meeting within 21 days of receipt of the request, then a Special General Meeting to be held within 3 months may be convened by not less than half of those making the request.

Chairman of General Meetings

(3) The Chairman of the Association shall be the chairman of all General Meetings and Council Meetings; in his absence the Vice-Chairman shall preside but, if neither be present, then the Representatives of Members present shall choose some one of their number to be chairman of such Meeting.

Quorum

(4) At every General Meeting, ten Representatives of Members present in person at the commencement of business and entitled to vote shall be a quorum. If, within half-an-hour from the time appointed for the Meeting, a quorum is not present, then:

- if the Meeting has been convened at the request of Representatives of Members, it shall be dissolved;
- in any other case, it shall be adjourned to a place and a date not earlier than two weeks nor later than one month from the date of the original Meeting as may be fixed by the chairman of such Meeting. If at such an adjourned

Meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the Meeting, then the Representatives of Members present, entitled to vote and being five or more, shall be a quorum.

Adjourned Meetings

(5) The chairman of any Meeting may, upon the resolution of that Meeting, adjourn it from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting from which the adjournment took place.

Voting

(6) At any General Meeting unless a ballot is demanded by two or more Representatives of Members, a declaration by the chairman of the Meeting that a resolution has been carried or has been carried unanimously or by a particular majority or lost or not carried by a particular majority shall be deemed to have been so carried, lost or not carried as the case may be.

No ballot in certain cases

(7) No ballot shall be demanded on the appointment of a chairman or on a question of adjournment of any Meeting.

Chairman's discretion

(8) If a ballot is demanded by two or more Representatives of Members, it shall be taken in such manner as the chairman of any Meeting may direct and he shall have power to take the ballot at once at the meeting or to adjourn the meeting for a reasonable time for the purpose of taking a postal ballot, and the result of such ballot shall be deemed to be the resolution of the Association in General Meeting.

Minutes as evidence

(9) Minutes of all resolutions and proceedings at General Meetings signed by the chairman of the Meeting at which such Minutes were signed as correctly recorded shall be conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated.

Chairman's casting vote

(10) A Representative of a Member or Associate Member present shall have one vote at every meeting and the Representative of every Member or Associate Member shall have one vote on a postal ballot. The chairman of any Meeting, in the case of an equality of votes, shall have a second or casting vote at that meeting and on a postal ballot.

The Council

6. (1) The members of the Council shall be nine in number chosen from among the Representatives of Members in such manner as may be prescribed by the Bye-Laws. Membership of the Council will reflect the spread of Member Countries. No more than two members of the Council shall come from a single Member Country; at least five Member Countries shall be represented on the Council.

Deputies

Any ordinary member of the Council may appoint a deputy to act on his behalf at a meeting of the Council, and in these Statutes 'a member of the Council' includes the deputy of such member when present at a meeting.

Election

(2) Representatives of Members shall be elected at a General Meeting to be members of the Council until the next General Meeting, when they shall be eligible for re-nomination and re-appointment, with the proviso that:

- no person shall serve for more than five consecutive annual terms as an ordinary member of the Council;
- no person shall serve more than five consecutive annual terms as a Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Treasurer; and
- no person shall serve more than ten consecutive annual terms as a member of the Council.

If there shall be less than the statutory number of nominations, then the General Meeting shall have power to elect without prior nomination sufficient Representatives of Members to be members of the Council to complete that number.

Vacancies

(3) The office of a member of the Council shall ipso facto be vacated if his appointment as a Representative of a Member is withdrawn by that Member; or if the University or University College appointing him ceases to be a Member or an Associate Member as the case may be, or if he has already served 5 consecutive years as a member of the Council.

(4) Casual vacancies shall be filled by the Council from amongst the Representatives of Members.

(5) No act or resolution of the Council shall be invalidated by reason of the existence of any vacancy or vacancies among members of the Council, but if the number of members (including officers) of the Council shall be reduced below six, the continuing members may act for the purpose only of filling vacancies or summoning a General Meeting for that purpose.

Powers and duties of the Council

General

7. (1) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and these Statutes the Council may exercise any of the powers of the Association. Any decision of the Council may be overruled by a resolution of the Association in General Meeting but any such resolution shall not affect the validity of anything done in accordance with that decision before the date of the General Meeting.

To appoint Committees

(2) The Council may, in consultation with appropriate groups of Universities, appoint special Committees to study and report on questions of interest to the Universities and may provide the necessary secretarial assistance for such Committees.

(3) The Council may, either by means of special Committees or otherwise, study and report on any question referred to them by any Conference or Congress of Universities.

(4) The Meetings and proceedings of every Committee and Sub-Committee shall be governed by the provisions of these Statutes for regulating the meetings and proceedings of the Council so far as they are applicable thereto or the Council shall not otherwise direct.

To appoint a Secretary and other officers

(5) The Council may from time to time appoint a Secretary of the Association and any other officers or servants who may be required for the performance of its business. The Council may from time to time appoint a temporary substitute for the Secretary.

Bye-Laws and Regulations

Bye-Laws

I: Appointment of Representatives

1. The appointment of its Representative by a Member, Associate Member or Additional Member must be made in writing, deposited with the Secretary.
2. A Member, Associate Member or Additional Member may from time to time in writing revoke the nomination of the Representative and appoint in accordance with this Bye-Law another Representative in his/her place.
3. Any Member or Associate Member, which has an officer such as Principal, President or Vice-Chancellor whom it recognises as its executive head shall appoint that officer to be its Representative. If a Representative so appointed by virtue of being the executive head of a Member or Associate Member ceases to hold the office by virtue of which he/she was appointed he/she shall cease to be the Representative and his/her successor in that office shall subject to these Bye-Laws be the Representative of the Member or Associate Member.
4. Three months before an Annual General Meeting, the Secretary will compile a list of Representatives and Representatives' Deputies. If any Member, Associate Member or Additional Member has not by then notified the Secretary of its Representative, and where relevant Deputy, he will ask them to do so within at most one month's time. Two months before the Annual General meeting, he will circulate to all Members, Associate members and Additional Members a complete list of Representatives and Deputies.

II: Election of members and officers of Council

1. At the last meeting of the Council to be held three months or more before any Annual General Meeting,
 - the Chairman shall ask all members of the Council who under the terms of Statute 6 (2) above are eligible for re-election to the Council whether they wish their names to be submitted for re-election to membership of the Council for the following year;
 - in the case that one or more of the Chairman, Treasurer or Vice-Chairman either has come to the end of his allowable term under the terms of Statute 6 (2) above or has indicated that he does not wish to be considered for re-election to membership of the Council,
 - the Chairman shall
 - call for nominations to any office that is consequently falling vacant and
 - confirm that those nominated would be willing to serve in such office; and then
 - the Council shall if possible proceed to elect a member to each vacant office, subject to endorsement by the Annual General Meeting.

2. Three months before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall write to all Representatives:

- to inform them of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Council;
- to ask that they inform him within one month;
- whether they wish to nominate any other Representative from their Member Country for election to the Council;
- whether, if nominated, they would be willing to serve as members of the Council and, if so,
- whether they would be willing in principle, if nominated and chosen, to discharge the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Treasurer.

3. If more than one Representative from a Member Country has been nominated and has indicated his willingness to serve as a member of the Council, then two months before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall conduct a postal ballot of the Representatives from that Member Country in order to determine which candidacy has the greatest support among those Representatives, and which has the second greatest support.

4. One month before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall write to all Representatives to inform them

- which Representatives are candidates for membership of Council;
- which Representatives who are candidates would be willing in principle, if nominated and chosen, to discharge the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Treasurer; and
- in the case that two Representatives from a Member Country are candidates, which is the first candidate from that Member Country.

5. At the Annual General Meeting, the election of Council Members for the following year, and of officers from among those members, shall proceed as follows:

- The Chairman shall first put to the Meeting a motion to re-elect all those members of the council eligible and available for re-election. If that motion fails, the Chairman shall put to the Meeting separate motions to re-elect each individual member of the council eligible and available for re-election.
- If there remain vacancies on the Council, the Chairman shall then put to the Meeting a series of motions to fill those vacancies by electing to membership of the Council candidates whose names have been advised to Representatives as per Clause 4 above of this Bye-Law. The Chairman shall choose among those candidates in such a way as always:
- to conform with the terms of Statute 6(1) above; and
- if he chooses two candidates from a Member Country, to choose first the first candidate whose name has been advised to Representatives as per Clause 4 above

1. If there remain vacancies on the Council, the Chairman shall then put to the Meeting motions to fill those vacancies by electing to membership of the Council Representatives whom he shall nominate at his own discretion, subject only to the need to conform with the terms of Statute 6(1) above

2. The Chairman shall then put to the Meeting a motion to endorse the officeholders elected by the Council as per Clause 1 above of this Bye-Law.

3. If any offices on the Council remain vacant, the Chairman shall then put to the Meeting motions to fill each vacancy in turn by electing members of the Council whom he shall nominate at his own discretion.

Regulations

1: Admission to Membership

1. The Secretary shall provide any university which intimates to him/her its wish to become a Member with a form of application for execution by it under seal. The form will require the university to enter into an undertaking to be bound by the provisions for the time being in force, or at any time thereafter to be duly brought into force, of the Constitution and of the Statutes, Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Association and to name the person to be appointed its Representative in the event of its admission as a member.
2. The application shall be accompanied by:
 - i. a copy of the constitution of the university
 - ii. a copy of the instrument incorporating it under the law of the country in which it is situated. This should normally comprise either a Government decree or an attestation from a regulatory body itself established in law for the purposes of overseeing the development of higher education. It shall be clear from the aforesaid documents that the applicant university is empowered to award its own degrees
 - iii. a copy of the most recent audited Income & Expenditure/Profit & Loss Account, and Balance Sheet.
3. The applicant university must also tender to the Secretary at the same time a remittance for a sum equal to the annual subscription to the Association: if the university is admitted to membership this sum will be treated as its subscription for the financial year of the Association in which it is so admitted.
4. If it appears to the Secretary that the foregoing requirements have been complied with, he/she shall make a report to this effect to the next meeting of the Council or of the appropriate committee thereof and shall submit the application for its consideration.
5. The Council or appropriate committee may direct such further enquiries as it thinks necessary or appropriate.
6. If the Council decides to admit the university as a Member, its admission shall be effective from such date as the Council specifies. The Secretary shall notify the new Member.
7. A list shall be submitted to each Annual General Meeting of the Association of the new Members admitted by the Council since the previous Annual General Meeting.
8. Until otherwise provided by regulation, the foregoing provisions of this Regulation shall mutatis mutandis govern the procedure for applications for the admission by the Council of Associate Members or Additional Members.

II: Admission to Associate/Additional Membership

Without prejudice to the generality of Regulation I, an applicant for Associate or Additional Membership, must, to be admitted:

- 1.** offer degree courses for which at least half the work that is required of a student and is tested in the relevant examination and/or dissertation/thesis is in the field either of Buddhism or of Pali language;
- 2.** have a significant number of postgraduate students registered up to doctoral level;
- 3.** be involved in some significant research activity.