

# Constitution of the Ritsumeikan University Student Union

## Chapter 1: General Provisions

---

### Article 1 Name

The name of the Union shall be Ritsumeikan University Student Union.

### Article 2 Organization

The Union shall be composed of all the students of Ritsumeikan University.

### Article 3 Headquarters

The Union has its headquarters within Ritsumeikan University.

### Article 4 Objectives

1. To strive to develop and improve the student life in general as well as contribute to the development of the Academy, through members' voluntary activities.
2. To establish academic freedom and the autonomy of the university and contribute to the social development based on the idea of peace and democracy.

### Article 5 Operations

The Union shall engage in the following operations in order to achieve the objectives prescribed in the preceding Article:

1. Activities for supporting student life and expanding students' rights
2. Activities for creating Ritsumeikan University student culture
3. Activities for contributing to the peaceful and democratic development of education and research
4. Activities for contributing to the development of the university and student autonomy
5. Any other activities necessary for achieving the objectives prescribed in the preceding Article

### Article 6 Rights and Obligations of Members

Members of the Union shall have the following rights and obligations:

1. The right to participate in the events hosted by the Union or any organization belonging to the Union
2. The right to become a member of any organization belonging to the Union
3. The obligation to pay the membership fee and enrollment fee specified by the Union
4. To respect this Constitution of the Union and abide by the decisions of the relevant organs; provided, however, that if a member fails to perform the obligations as a member of the Union or violates this Constitution and autonomous provisions of the various rules established by the Union, the member may be suspended from exercising all or a part of the rights.

### Article 7 Organs

The Union shall have the following organs:

1. Central Committee
2. Central Standing Committee
3. Universal Student Council
4. Central Project Organization

## Chapter 2: Central Committee

---

### Article 8 Central Committee

The Central Committee is the highest decision-making body of the Ritsumeikan University Student Union; provided, however, that if specifically provided for in this Constitution, the ultimate decision of the Union shall be made by a vote by all university students (hereinafter referred to as "Universal Vote").

### Article 9 Composition of Central Committee

The Central Committee shall be composed of the persons in charge of the organizations below and the officers prescribed in Article 10:

- Universal Student Council
- Student Council of College of Law
- Student Council of College of Letters
- Student Council of College of Social Sciences
- Student Council of College of International Relations
- Student Council of College of Image Arts and Sciences
- Student Council of College of Economics
- Student Council of College of Science and Engineering
- Student Council of College of Information Science and Engineering
- Student Council of College of Life Sciences
- Student Council of College of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Student Council of College of Sport and Health Science
- Student Council of College of Gastronomy Management
- Student Council of College of Business Administration
- Student Council of College of Policy Science
- Student Council of College of Comprehensive Psychology
- Student Council of College of Global Liberal Arts
- Headquarters of Academic Association
- Headquarters of Arts and Sciences Association
- Headquarters of Athletic Association
- Ritsumeikan University Press
- Cheering Club
- Ritsumeikan Univ. Broadcasting Center

### Article 10 Officers

The Central Committee shall have the following officers:

- Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee: 1 person
- Vice-chairperson of the Central Standing Committee: Several persons
- Head of the Central Administrative Office: 1 person
- Chairperson of the College Promotion Committee: 1 person

### Article 11 Election of Officers

The officers as prescribed in the preceding Article shall be elected by election in a meeting of the Central Committee.

### Article 12 Duties of Officers

1. The Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee shall represent the Union and supervise the Central Committee.
2. The Vice-chairpersons of the Central Standing Committee shall assist the Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee and if the Chairperson is prevented from acting as such, one of the Vice-chairpersons shall perform the duties of the Chairperson on his or her behalf.

3. The head of the Central Administrative Office shall be in charge of the affairs of the Union.
4. The Chairperson of the College Promotion Committee shall assist the Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee and shall be in charge of the policy activities of the Central Committee and the Standing Committee.

**Article 13 Duties of Officers and Central Committee Members**

The term of office of the officers and Central Committee members shall be one (1) year; provided, however, that they may be reappointed.

**Article 14 Convocation**

In addition to regular meetings to be held six (6) times per year, a meeting of the Central Committee shall be convened by the Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee when deemed necessary by the Chairperson or upon request of one-fourth (1/4) or more of the Central Committee members or Standing Committee members.

**Article 15 Quorum and Decisions**

A majority of the Central Committee members shall be present at a meeting of the Central Committee to make the meeting valid, and a decision thereat shall be made by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution.

**Article 16 Meetings Opened to Public**

A meeting of the Central Committee shall be open to the public, in principle; provided, however, that a confidential meeting may be held if a decision to do so is made by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) or more of the members present at the meeting.

**Article 17 Matters to Be Decided**

The Central Committee shall deliberate and make decisions on the following matters:

1. Basic policy concerning the operation of the Union
2. Budgets and settlement of accounts
3. Decisions on or changes to the membership fee and enrollment fee of the Union
4. Election of the Standing Committee members
5. Approval of the head of the Central Project Organization
6. Election of the Financial Auditing Committee members
7. Matters concerning rewards and punishments
8. Any other important matters

---

## Chapter 3: Standing Committee

---

**Article 18 Standing Committee**

1. The Standing Committee shall perform the affairs of the Union in accordance with the decisions of the Central Committee.
2. In order to administer the affairs of the Union, the Administrative Office shall be established under control of the Standing Committee. Details of the Administrative Office shall be prescribed separately.
3. The College Promotion Committee shall be established as a professional committee that assists the policy activities of the Standing Committee. Details of the College Promotion Committee shall be prescribed separately.

**Article 19 Composition of Standing Committee**

1. Chairperson of the Standing Committee
2. Vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee
3. Head of the Administrative Office
4. Chairperson of the College Promotion Committee

Any other person responsible for any organization constituting the Central Committee may participate in the committee as an observer if deemed necessary by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee; provided, however, that observers shall have no voting rights.

**Article 20 Quorum and Decisions**

A majority of all the Standing Committee members shall be present at a meeting of the Standing Committee to make the meeting valid, and a resolution thereat shall be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting.

**Article 21 Matters to Be Decided**

The following matters shall be decided by the Standing Committee:

1. Proposals to be submitted to the Central Committee
2. Any other important matters

---

## Chapter 4: Universal Student Council

---

**Article 22 Establishment of Universal Student Council**

1. The Universal Student Council shall be established under control of the Central Committee.
2. The Universal Student Council shall be operated in accordance with the Rules of Universal Student Council established separately; provided, however, that the operation thereof shall not violate this Constitution of the Union and the decisions of the Central Committee.

## Chapter 5: Central Project Organization

---

### Article 23 Establishment of Central Project Organization

1. The Union shall establish the following Central Project Organizations under control of the Central Committee:
  - Athletic Association
  - Ritsumeikan University Press
  - Cheering Club
  - Ritsumeikan Univ. Broadcasting Center
2. Each Central Project Organization shall be in accordance with the bylaws established separately; provided, however, that such bylaws shall be subject to approval of the Central Committee.

## Chapter 6: Vote by All University Students

---

### Article 24 Universal Vote

A decision made by Universal Vote shall be the ultimate decision of the Union.

### Article 25 Execution of Student Vote

Universal Vote shall be implemented with a decision of the Central Committee in the following cases:

1. If a request in joint names of three hundred (300) or more members is submitted; or
2. If otherwise deemed necessary by the Central Committee.

### Article 26 Management

Universal Vote shall be managed by the Election Administration Committee of the Universal Student Council.

### Article 27 Announcement

An announcement for Universal Vote shall be made by the Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee. The Chairperson of the Central Standing Committee shall make an announcement of the matters relating to the vote and other necessary matters to all students at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled voting date.

### Article 28 Valid Votes

1. A Universal Vote shall be effective with valid votes equal to or greater than one-tenth (1/10) of the total members.
2. A Universal Vote shall make the ultimate decision of the Union with a majority of the valid votes.
3. If a Universal Vote fails, a decision shall be made by a resolution of the Central Committee.

## Chapter 7: Public Hearing

---

### Article 29 Public Hearing

If the Central Committee deems it necessary for the important issues of the Union, a public hearing shall be held to hear the opinions of the members.

### Article 30 Quorum

One hundred (100) or more members of the Union shall be present at a public hearing to make it valid.

### Article 31 Voting

No decision may be made at a public hearing; provided, however, that a vote may be taken to compile the opinions of the members present thereat, but it shall not bind the Central Committee or the member organizations of the Union.

### Article 32 Respect for Intention

Opinions expressed at a public hearing and the result of the vote under the preceding Article shall be announced to the Central Committee and the member organizations of the Union.

## Chapter 8: Advisor

---

### Article 33 Advisor

The Union shall have several advisors. One of them shall be the Dean of the Division of Student Affairs.

Faculty and staff members of Ritsumeikan University shall be commissioned to serve as advisors.

## Chapter 9: Accounting

---

### Article 34 Costs and Expenses

Costs and expenses of the Union shall be paid from the enrollment fee, membership fee, donations, subsidies by the University, etc.

### Article 35 Enrollment Fee and Membership Fee

The amount of the enrollment fee and the membership fee of the Union shall be determined in a meeting of the Central Committee after a decision of the Conference of Representatives of the Universal Student Council.

### Article 36 Fiscal Year

A fiscal year of the Union shall commence on April 1 every year and end on March 31 of the following year.

### Article 37 Payment Due Date

The enrollment fee of the Union shall be paid concurrently with the enrollment at the University and the membership fee shall be paid concurrently with the payment of the tuition at the beginning of each semester.

### Article 38 Budgets and Settlement of Accounts

The budgets and settlement of accounts of the Union shall be determined in a meeting of the Central Committee.

#### Article 39 Financial Audit

The accounting of the Union and the member organizations of the Union shall be audited by the Financial Auditing Committee established under control of the Central Committee.

#### Article 40 Accounting Regulations

The accounting of the Union shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Accounting Regulations of the Ritsumeikan University Student Union.

---

### Chapter 10: Personal Information

---

#### Article 41 Personal Information

Personal information shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations on Personal Information Protection of the Ritsumeikan University Student Union.

---

### Chapter 11: Rewards and Punishments

---

#### Article 42 Commendation

A person who makes an especially significant contribution to the development of the Union may be commended after the approval of the Central Committee. The method of commendation shall be determined in a meeting of the Central Committee.

#### Article 43 Punishment

1. Any member of the Union who defames the Union or brings dishonor as a member or engages in any improper act shall be given warning under the name of the Central Committee.
2. If the member is unlikely to mend his or her way irrespective of the warning under paragraph 1 above, the Union shall impose appropriate punishment or make a request to the University authorities to exercise the disciplinary right with the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Central Committee members present at a meeting where two-thirds (2/3) or more of the total Central Committee members are present.
3. A person who is punished under paragraph 2 shall lose certain rights pertaining to the Union and the relevant member organization of the Union for the fiscal year in which he or she is punished.

---

### Chapter 12: Revision

---

#### Article 44 Revision

1. Any revision of this Constitution of the Union shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Central Committee members present at a meeting where two-thirds (2/3) or more of the total Central Committee members are present, after a decision of the Conference of Representatives of the Universal Student Council.
2. Any fundamental revision of this Constitution of the Union shall require an affirmative vote by the Universal Vote, in addition to the procedures prescribed in the preceding paragraph.

---

### Chapter 13: Supplementary Provisions

---

This Constitution of the Union shall come into effect on April 26, 2001.

#### Supplementary Note

The Administrative Office established under control of the Standing Committee shall have the Finance Department, the Marketing Planning Department, and the University-wide Events Department, and the General Manager of each Department shall attend the meetings of the Standing Committee; provided, however, that each General Manager has no voting rights. The operation of each Department shall be prescribed separately.

Partially revised on July 16, 2004  
Partially revised on February 3, 2006  
Partially revised on June 20, 2014  
Partially revised on July 9, 2016  
Partially revised on January 14, 2017  
Partially revised on June 14, 2018  
Partially revised on March 2, 2022  
Partially revised on August 9, 2023

-End-