

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG STUDENT UNIONS



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CHAPTER 1: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The different associations that abide by these Bylaws belong to an organization that bears the name Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante (Association for Solidarity among Student Unions) and known by the acronym ASSÉ in both French and English.

ARTICLE 2: MANDATE

ASSÉ is a union-type organization that seeks to defend the material and moral interests of students, regardless of their political, philosophical or religious opinions.

ARTICLE 3: AIMS

ASSÉ seeks to unite local student unions at a regional and national level in order to defend students' interests through or by:

1. The promotion, development and protection, by all necessary means, of students' material, professional, cultural, academic and social interests;
2. Bringing different local student associations together;
3. Training, education, information, awareness-raising and mobilization;
4. Creating a space of solidarity that fosters the elimination of competition between students, in order to promote the development of the solidarity inherent in the various interests that they share;
5. Supporting struggles led by its members and by other student groups, insofar as they share ASSÉ's principles;
6. Supporting progressive struggles, including those led by workers, women, Native peoples, and immigrants;
7. Building and maintaining a permanent power relationship against the State and the economic elite;
8. Analyzing and understanding education from a holistic social perspective;
9. Using the material, human, and economic means necessary to reach ASSÉ's goals;
10. Establishing a democratic organization operating under the direct control of its members;
11. The democratization of educational institutions (administration by those directly concerned) with the aim of self-management.

ARTICLE 4: PRINCIPLES

ASSÉ's core principles are based on the foundations of student unionism laid out in article 1 of the 1946 Grenoble Charter. This document stipulates that students are young intellectual workers. Following this principle, students must organize on a union basis. ASSÉ believes in the necessity of struggle in order to maintain the rights acquired by the student movements of the past, as well as struggling to acquire new rights, by mounting a permanent challenge to those in power. Whereas education is a right, not a privilege, ASSÉ is based on the following principles:

1. For a public, free, secular, quality, accessible and non-discriminatory education system;
2. For an adequate financial aid system that aims to eliminate student debt and to ensure that basic needs are met;
3. For a public education system free from private sector interference, including sub-contracting;
4. For the democratization of educational institutions with the aim of self-management;
5. In solidarity with all progressive international struggles aiming for the betterment of society;
6. Against all forms of globalization that reinforce the dominance of profit over the well-being of people;
7. For a combative feminism seeking the abolition of the patriarchal system, and opposed to all forms of oppression and discrimination.

CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERS

Student associations that have a Referendum or General Assembly mandate to do so can become members of ASSÉ, as long as these have been recognized as such by the Congress and as long as their affiliation has been accepted by the latter. Associations wishing to become members must meet the following six criteria:

1. The student association is organized as a union-type organization, meaning that it aims to defend the material and moral rights of its membership;
2. The student association is democratic and controlled by its membership;
3. The student association proceeded with its affiliation campaign in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 6 of these Bylaws;
4. The student association pays its membership dues in accordance with the provisions described in these Bylaws.
5. The association endorses ASSÉ's core principles as laid out in Chapter 1, Article 4.
6. All member student associations must have feminist principles, demands, and practices.

Should any association not follow one of the above criteria, be it resolved that it be encouraged by the Congress to reconsider its position or, otherwise, its affiliation.

Voting rights for small university-level student associations are defined in accordance with the decisions of the Congress. The latter is empowered to allow each member association to maintain distinct voting rights or to combine the votes of small university-level member associations into a single delegation within which the above-mentioned associations share their vote. Any decision to combine small university-level member associations into a single delegation must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of voting members. Nevertheless, motions to reconsider delegation voting rights do not require a notice of motion when these are moved subsequent to the affiliation of one or several new small university-level student associations; however, they still require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members in order to carry. Speaking rights and the right to submit motions remain distinct in every case.

ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATION

All student associations wishing to join ASSÉ must proceed as follows:

1. Communicate the dates and modalities of the affiliation campaign to the Executive Council;
2. Communicate the minutes in which the General Assembly or Referendum results are recorded as well as the participation rate to the Executive Council;
3. Communicate the amount of members in good standing of the student association to the Executive Council;

4. Communicate the names and contact information of the local executive and the intermediary decision-making body, as the case may be, to the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Member student associations must contribute \$3 per student per school year as a membership fee. Payments should amount to \$1.50 before the first day of October for the fall semester, and to \$1.50 before the first day of February for the winter semester.

Notwithstanding the amendment procedures described in Chapter 11, the student associations' membership fees can only be modified upon the assent of two-thirds (2/3) of member associations via their respective General Assemblies and Referenda. These Assemblies and Referenda must be held within the same academic year. The new membership fee structure is then applied beginning in the following academic year.

Five percent (5%) of membership dues received by ASSÉ are allocated to the Mutual Assistance Fund described in Appendix G.

ARTICLE 8: DISAFFILIATION

Member associations wishing to disaffiliate from ASSÉ must proceed as follows:

1. Communicate the dates and modalities of the disaffiliation campaign to the Executive Council;
2. The same decision-making body that decided upon the affiliation must be the one to vote to disaffiliate;
3. Communicate the minutes of the decision-making body that decided upon the disaffiliation as well as the results and participation rate to the Executive Council.

CHAPTER 3: CONGRESS

ARTICLE 9: COMPOSITION AND DEFINITION

1. ASSÉ's Congress is the organization's highest decision-making body. It has final say on all decisions relating to the organization.
2. The Congress is made up of each member association's delegates, with a maximum of three (3) people having speaking and voting rights. Campus and faculty-level associations have three (3) votes and program-specific and departmental associations have one (1) vote, with the exception of motions affecting the logistical functioning of the Congress, meaning motions to pause or adjourn, or concerning drafting time or reading time, where all delegations are allowed only one vote. Each delegation should preferably include at least one woman and no delegation should include more than two men. A delegation may rotate up to two delegates from one Congress day to the next, as long as the other provisions regarding delegations are followed and the Presidium is kept informed of any changes. The Congress is also made up of all the members of the Executive Council and delegations from the Coordination Council, the Working Committees, the Women's Committee, the Newspaper Committee and the Mobilization Committee, all of which have speaking rights. The Executive Council, the Coordination Council as well as the Women's Committee also have the right to present motions.
3. An Annual Congress must meet each year around mid-April. Budget forecasts are adopted during this Congress in accordance with the action plan; in addition, the members of the Newspaper, Mobilization, Women's and Working Committees and the members of the Executive Council are elected at this Congress.

ARTICLE 10: CONVENING A CONGRESS

A Congress can be convened by itself or by the Coordination Council. It must be convened at least four (4) weeks in advance and must be announced in at least one of ASSÉ's official communication channels.

ARTICLE 11: POWERS

1. Determine the general orientation of ASSÉ, as well as its broad ideological and political guidelines;
2. Determine priorities relative to campaigns, and outline action plans;
3. Modify ASSÉ's Bylaws;
4. Set membership dues and the conditions governing their payment;
5. Adopt budgets as well as the distribution of funds;
6. Elect the Executive Council;

7. Impeach members of the Executive Council;
8. Ratify or overturn decisions made by the Coordination Council;
9. Approve or reject reports submitted by the Coordination Council;
10. Expel a member association;
11. Refuse or accept any and all requests to affiliate;
12. Decide whether or not it is relevant to hire employees;
13. Exercise any and all powers not explicitly delegated to other decision-making bodies or committees of ASSÉ;
14. Dismiss one or more members that were elected by the Coordination Council to an ad hoc committee or commission acting under the purview of the Coordination Council;
15. Decide whether or not to affiliate to any coalition or organization with similar aims and goals to ASSÉ;
16. By majority vote, censure or applaud any decision-making body, committee, delegate or member of the Executive;
17. Elect members of the Working Committees, the Women's Committee, the Mobilization Committee, the Newspaper Committee, as well as the Secretary-General of the Coordination Council;
18. Create ad hoc committees that will be directly accountable to the Congress as well as being under its immediate purview;

ARTICLE 12: ELIGIBILITY

In order to be part of an official delegation, a student must:

1. Be a member of the association which has delegated him/her.

ARTICLE 13: QUORUM

Quorum is set at 50% + 1 of member associations and 50% of college-level associations must be in attendance.

ARTICLE 14: EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS: DEFINITION, POWERS, DUTIES

An Extraordinary Congress may be convened at one week's notice in order to address an urgent situation. Its agenda must be limited to the urgent matter giving rise to the meeting and may not include elections to the Executive Committee, nor may it make changes to the Bylaws, unless it is explicitly convened in order to discuss these subjects. Under no circumstances may it reconsider the decisions and broad guidelines made by the most recent regular Congress.

ARTICLE 15: CONVENING AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

1. The Coordination Council may choose to convene an Extraordinary Congress. The minimum delay is 72 hours.
2. A third (1/3) of member associations can request that an Extraordinary Congress be convened by submitting a written request to the Executive Council. The date, location and agenda of this Congress must be specified, and it must be held a maximum of one week after the request is received.

CHAPTER 4: WOMEN'S CONGRESS

ARTICLE 16: COMPOSITION AND DEFINITION

1. The Women's Congress of ASSÉ is a non-mixed decision-making body. It is separate and independent from ordinary and extraordinary Congresses and consequently, decisions taken in this body are part of ASSÉ's action plan and don't require the approval of another decision-making body.
2. The Congress is made up of delegates from each member association, preferably from local women's committees. A member association's delegation has a maximum of three (3) delegates and it has the right to speak and vote. Campus and faculty-level associations have three (3) votes and departmental and program-specific associations have one (1) vote, except for resolutions affecting the logistical aspects of the congress such as pauses, adjourning, drafting and reading times, where each delegation has one (1) vote. The Congress is also made of every woman elected on the Working Committees, including the Women's Committee, the Newspaper Committee, the Mobilization Committee, the Executive Council and the Coordination Council. The Executive Council, the Coordination Council and the Women's Committee each has the right to submit motions.
3. The Women's Congress takes place annually in March or may be called at any moment if it needs to be in the form of an extraordinary Women's Congress. The Congress acts as a hybrid between a decision-making body and a space of learning and sharing between the female members of ASSÉ.

ARTICLE 17: CONVENING A WOMEN'S CONGRESS

The Coordination Council convenes a Women's Congress. It must be convened at least four (4) weeks in advance through at least one of ASSÉ's official communication channels. Extraordinary Women's Congresses are an exception and may be convened one week in advance.

ARTICLE 18: POWERS

1. Determine ASSÉ's general orientations as well as its general ideological and political directions regarding feminist issues.
2. Determine the priorities and the general orientations of ASSÉ's feminist agenda.
3. Censor or congratulate any decision-making body, committee, delegate or executive by a simple majority vote.

ARTICLE 19: ELIGIBILITY

To be part of an official delegation, any student has to be:

1. A member of the association that delegates her.
2. To identify as a woman, trans*, genderqueer or any other marginalized gender identity.

ARTICLE 20: QUORUM

The quorum is equal to 50% +1 of the member associations.

CHAPTER 5: REGIONAL COUNCILS

ARTICLE 21: COMPOSITION AND DEFINITION

There may be up to nine (9) Regional Councils within ASSÉ. They are divided up as follows: South-East, Montréal, Québec City, Center of Québec, Laurentians, Eastern Québec, Outaouais, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, and Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

As long as there is a member association in one of these nine (9) regions, a Regional Council may be established. Each region must ensure that each association in its region is equally represented within the Council. Each region must determine whether all student associations or only ASSÉ member associations have voting rights within the Regional Council. Delegates sitting at a Regional Council must have been elected to this position by the decision-making bodies of their local associations.

ARTICLE 22: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

Each Regional Council must elect three (3) delegates to the Coordination Council (delegates must be members of ASSÉ in good standing). Each delegation must be made up of at least one woman and no delegation may include more than two men. The names of each person making up each delegation must be communicated to the Executive Council.

The purpose of Regional Councils is to coordinate and develop student unionism at the level of their respective regions, and to serve as a bridge between different student struggles specific to each region. In order to fulfill this mandate, Councils must serve as a space for exchange and discussion between different local associations that aim to defend their interests:

1. by promoting, developing and protecting the material, professional, cultural, academic and social interests of students, using any means necessary;
2. by facilitating relations among the diverse member associations of ASSÉ represented on each Regional Council, as well as with the other non-member student organizations present at Regional Council meetings;
3. by ensuring that relevant information is distributed to its members and within the region;
4. by supporting and assisting the struggles led by the labour movement, women, Native peoples, immigrants, and all other progressive struggles;
5. by ensuring that the decision-making bodies and committees it has put in place for its own purposes run smoothly.

ARTICLE 23: POWERS

Each Regional Council is empowered to make decisions relevant to its specific issues. It may:

1. Establish its own internal procedures;

2. Set up its own publications and media outlets;
3. Create the committees it needs to meet its goals (mobilization, research, information, etc.);
4. Promote, first, the creation of student associations where they do not exist, and second, their affiliation with ASSÉ;
5. Levy and administer membership dues at a regional level.

ARTICLE 24: BUDGET

Each Regional Council is responsible for ensuring its own funding in accordance with Appendix B of these Bylaws.

Each duly constituted Regional Council is allocated a standing minimal annual budget amounting to 500\$. This basic budget amount can be increased according to each Council's needs when budget estimates are being adopted. A maximum of 25% of ASSÉ's total budget can be allocated to the combined budgets of the Regional Councils. Regional Councils must provide the Congress or Coordination Council with their financial statements and budget estimates in order for their budgeted funds to be transferred to them. If a Regional Council is dissolved, the funds shall be transferred back to ASSÉ.

Each Regional Council is responsible for ensuring the presence of its delegates at Coordination Council meetings (i.e. transportation costs).

Each Regional Council must immediately inform the Coordination Council in the event of financial difficulties.

CHAPTER 6: COORDINATION COUNCIL

ARTICLE 25: COMPOSITION

The Coordination Council is made up of the following delegations: the Executive Council, the Committees and the active Councils, and the member associations. Every delegation can count up to three persons with at least one woman or one non-binary person if the delegation is made up of two or three persons. Every delegation has a right to speak and submit motions but only the Executive Council, the Regional Councils and the Committees have the right to vote.

ARTICLE 26: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Coordination Council aims to coordinate the national campaigns. It is responsible for putting in motion, assisted by the Executive Council, the Congress' decisions. It also has the following duties:

1. Produce a report of its activities to every Annual Congress;
2. Promote ASSÉ and student unionism;
3. Ensure the internal cohesion of ASSÉ;
4. Supervise, assist and ensure the proper functioning of the Executive Council and the Committees.

ARTICLE 27: POWERS

The Coordination Council is responsible of ASSÉ's decision making process in-between Congresses although it cannot in any case make decisions regarding affiliations, suspensions, expulsions, the Bylaws, membership dues or ASSÉ's dissolution. Any decision made by the Coordination Council must be made in conformity with the Congress' general political and ideological orientations. It can specify and add content to existing resolutions but cannot adopt new ones. It can specify and add content to the existing action plan but cannot adopt a new one. The Coordination Council cannot reconsider any decision made by the Congress but the Congress can reconsider decisions made by the Coordination Council. Every Regional Council has a veto to bring any subject to the Congress.

The powers delegated to the Coordination Council are the followings:

1. Make recommendations and motions to the Congress;
2. Create ad hoc committees to assist in its work;
3. Ensure the execution of the decisions made by the Congress;
4. Resolve any dispute between ASSÉ and its various bodies;
5. Define the tasks assigned to the Committees.
6. Appoint an interim member to the Executive Council or Committees until the next

Congress;

7. Relieve of their functions any individual it has appointed.

ARTICLE 28: QUORUM

The quorum is set at 50%+1 of ASSÉ's active Committees and Councils.

ARTICLE 29: SECRETARY-GENERAL

There is one (1) Secretary-General of the Coordination Council. He or she is elected by Congress in accordance with the usual election procedure.

He or she has the following duties:

1. Summon ASSÉ's members to the Coordination Council and ensure the participation of the summoned delegations;
2. Prepare the agendas and preparation booklets of the Coordination Council meetings;
3. Supervise the execution of the mandates given by the Coordination Council to the Committees and Councils;
4. Make follow-ups regarding the decisions made by the Coordination Council;
5. Assist the Committees and Councils if need be.

ARTICLE 30: CONVENING

The Coordination Council has to be convened at least once a month with a maximum of 45 days between each meeting. It may be convened by itself, by the Secretary-General or by the Executive Council if the former two bodies are not capable of doing so. In the case where the Executive Council is the only abled body to convene a Coordination Council, it may do so a minimum of 14 days in advance.

In the event of an extraordinary meeting of the Coordination Council, it has to be convened by at least three Committees or Councils. To do so, a written demand must be sent to the Executive Council who will then convene a meeting in the next 5 days following the demand.

The Coordination Council is convened through ASSÉ-Support in a message including the preparation documents, the minutes and the link to the video-conference.

CHAPTER 7: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ARTICLE 31: COMPOSITION

The Executive Council is made up of 9 positions, to which candidates may be elected at each Annual Congress for a one (1) year term. The positions are:

1. **Coordination Secretary:** responsible for keeping meeting minutes and archives, applying Bylaws and procedures, coordinating the work of the Executive Council, convening and preparing said Council's meetings. He or she is also responsible for convening and preparing Congresses and Coordination Council meetings, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the latter body.
2. **External Relations Secretary:** acts as a representative of the organization to non-member student associations and non-student organizations. He or she represents ASSÉ to the student movement outside Quebec.
3. **Finance Secretary:** ex-officio signing officer for all bank accounts; responsible for managing the organization's assets, for preparing the financial statements and budget estimates that must be submitted to each Congress, and for ensuring that the budget adopted by the Congress and the Executive Council's financial decisions are respected.
4. **Internal Relations Secretary (3 positions available):** communicate with member associations and Regional Councils, collect notices of motions, complaints, etc. Ensure delegations are prepared to participate in the organization's decision-making bodies.
5. **Information Secretary:** coordinates production and distribution of informational material (newspapers, pamphlets, flyers, website, etc.) in collaboration with the Newspaper Committee and the Working Committees.
6. **Academic Affairs Secretary:** evaluates government policies and reform proposals, acts as the point person for anonymously submitted grievances of member associations, examines all other matters pertaining to the pedagogical and academic aspects of education.
7. **Communications Secretary:** promotes and defends ASSÉ's core principles and action plans in the public sphere; elaborates media strategies, contacts media during specific events and prepares the Executive Council for public statements. He or she also rigorously keeps track of current events and ensures analyses of the current conjuncture are produced.

The Congress is responsible for ensuring 50% of Executive Council positions are filled by women. However, the Congress retains sovereign power over the final decision.

ARTICLE 32: ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for election to the Executive Council:

1. Candidates must be members of an ASSÉ member student association in good standing,

or be registered in an ASSÉ member student association in good standing, at the time of their election;

2. Their student association must endorse their candidacy.

The persons elected to this decision-making body cannot be paid employees of ASSÉ. These same persons also may not receive any salary, bursary or other financial advantage in relation to their status as an elected official.

ARTICLE 33: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Executive Council oversees the implementation of the mandates and decisions adopted by the Congress and the Coordination Council. More specifically, its tasks include:

1. Coordinating the efforts of the standing and ad hoc committees;
2. Nominating three (3) of its members as signing officers for administrative documents;
3. Ensuring public statements are made when and where required;
4. Reporting back on its activities to the Congress and the Coordination Council;
5. Coordinating the work done by employees;
6. Authorizing expenses according to the guidelines set by the Coordination Council and the budget adopted by the Congress;
7. Ensuring office hours are held.

CHAPTER 8: WORKING COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 34: COMPOSITION

The Working Committees are each made up of students elected by the Congress.

ARTICLE 35: ELIGIBILITY AND LENGTH OF TERM

Candidates must have student status and be elected according to the election procedure. However, the Coordination Council can nominate individuals by interim in order to fill vacancies. A term on a Working Committee cannot exceed one year without new elections being held. In exceptional situations, the Executive Council can extend a term for 45 days if, and only if, no Congress or Coordination Council meeting is to be held in the meantime. The persons elected to this decision-making body cannot be paid employees of ASSÉ. These same persons also may not receive any salary, bursary or other financial advantage in relation to their status as an elected official.

ARTICLE 36: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

Working Committees exist in order to accomplish certain tasks that the Executive Council or local associations cannot undertake on their own, as well as to support the latter in their work. Under no circumstances are they invested with decision-making powers. They execute the tasks given to them by the Congress and the Coordination Council. They may, however, issue direct recommendations to the Executive Council, the Coordination Council and the Congress within their own area of work. They may take part in debates during meetings of the Coordination Council, but they must abide by the latter's decisions. They may also work with collaborators, if the need arises.

ARTICLE 37: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The Information Committee coordinates the creation and distribution of information material in collaboration with the Information Secretary.

ARTICLE 38: RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This committee works on research and elaborates demands and the arguments to support them. In particular, it is responsible for tracking academic and pedagogical matters. It works closely with the Academic Affairs Secretary and the Communications Secretary as it tracks current events.

ARTICLE 39: SOCIAL STRUGGLES COMMITTEE

This committee aims to develop an action and communication network with other relevant unions and community organizations in Quebec and elsewhere, as well as with student organizations at the international level. In order to carry out this mandate, the committee ensures ASSÉ's presence at various organizational meetings and ensures follow-up with the relevant decision-making bodies (Congress, Coordination Council, Executive Council).

It also carries out research in order to add to the organization's reflection on the current social situation in Quebec and on the global context.

The Committee collaborates closely with the External Relations Secretary and the Communications Secretary as it tracks current events across society.

ARTICLE 40: TRAINING COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for ensuring activists are trained, including by organizing training camps, workshops, and creating handbooks or training documents.

ARTICLE 41: LEGAL COMMITTEE

This committee offers solidarity and support to students under the yoke of police repression and judicialization. Its principal task is to provide logistic, financial and human support for those who have been arrested, by:

1. Establishing a network connecting lawyers and activists;
2. Overseeing the financing of the Arrest Fund;
3. Overseeing the day-to-day management of the Arrest Fund (see Appendix H);
4. Gathering information about the criminalization and the judicialization of the student movement;
5. Keeping track of ongoing cases.

CHAPTER 9: NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 42: COMPOSITION

The Newspaper Committee is made up of students elected by the Congress.

ARTICLE 43: ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, the candidate must be a student. The persons elected to this body cannot be paid employees of ASSÉ. These same persons also may not receive any salary, bursary or other financial advantage in relation to their status as an elected official.

ARTICLE 44: AIMS AND FUNCTION

The Newspaper Committee's sole function is to ensure the production and distribution of ASSÉ's newspaper. It may retain an unlimited number of collaborators and must work in conjunction with the Executive Council and the Information Committee. More specifically, its tasks are as follows:

1. Find funding for the newspaper;
2. Produce and distribute the newspaper;
3. Promote ASSÉ using the newspaper;
4. Find and train journalists;
5. Cover events related to the student movement and to ASSÉ's aims and principles;
6. Ensure, as much as possible, that the newspaper is produced in a regular fashion;
7. Develop and promote a real student press within the student movement;
8. Communicate the point of view of ASSÉ's decision-making bodies;
9. Inform the broader population of ASSÉ's activities;
10. Inform students of education-related issues with the aim of mobilizing them;
11. Participate in meetings of the Coordination Council, where it has speaking rights and the right to submit motions;
12. Nominate one person responsible for coordinating the Committee's work, in order to establish a close working relationship with the Secretary-General of the Coordination Council and with the Executive Council.

CHAPTER 10: WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 45: COMPOSITION

The Women's Committee is made up of student women elected by the Congress as well as collaborators and voluntary members.

ARTICLE 46: ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, candidates must be a student and a woman. The persons elected to this body cannot be paid employees of ASSÉ. These same persons also may not receive any salary, bursary or other financial advantage in relation to their status as an elected official.

ARTICLE 47: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Women's Committee aims to promote the women's struggle in education and in society in all of ASSÉ's various bodies. It must be able to provide the Annual Congress with a report on women's issues. It may also:

1. Produce information material related to its field of intervention in collaboration with the Information Committee;
2. Be allocated a women's section inside the ASSÉ newspaper, or any other official publication;
3. Organize women's actions jointly with regional and local mobilization committees;
4. Participate in Coordination Council meetings, where it has the right to submit and second motions;
5. Nominate one person responsible for coordinating the Committee's work, in order to establish a close working relationship with the Secretary-General of the Coordination Council and with the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 48: MEETING AGENDAS

Each meeting of the Coordination Council and Congress, except for extraordinary meetings (except if they are on this specific topic) must include a women's item on the agenda.

ARTICLE 49: CONVENING MEETINGS

The Women's Committee meets at least once, when possible, between each Coordination Council meeting.

CHAPTER 11: MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 50: COMPOSITION

The Mobilization Committee is made up of students elected by the Congress.

ARTICLE 51: ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, candidates must be students. The persons elected to this body cannot be paid employees of ASSÉ. These same persons also may not receive any salary, bursary or other financial advantage in relation to their status as an elected official.

ARTICLE 52: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Mobilization Committee aims to promote ASSÉ's action plans through combative unionism. It may work with an unlimited number of collaborators. More specifically, its tasks include:

1. Coordinating “mobile squads” for mobilization;
2. Ensuring action plans are established and implemented at the local and regional levels;
3. Supporting the Internal Relations Secretaries in their work as well as local student associations and their Mobilization Committees;
4. Participating in Coordination Council meetings, where it has the right to submit and second motions;
5. Nominating one person responsible for coordinating the Committee's work, in order to establish a close working relationship with the Secretary-General of the Coordination Council and with the Executive Council.

CHAPTER 12: SPECIAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 13: MODIFYING THE BYLAWS

ARTICLE 53: PROCEDURE

Any change to these Bylaws, with the exception of membership dues, must be made by the Congress and requires a vote in favour by two-thirds (2/3) of delegations with voting rights. The procedure is as follows:

1. A notice of motion specifying the proposed changes to the Bylaws must have been submitted to the previous Congress;
2. Alternatively, it may have been submitted at least four (4) weeks before a Congress is held;
3. In both cases, the proposed changes must be distributed along with the convocation for the Congress.

ARTICLE 54: REFORM

The Executive Council may revise these Bylaws if it deems it necessary. The revision process can only change the numbering of articles, or correct spelling or grammatical errors, but may not change the nature and meaning of the clauses. The Executive Council must advise members of this revision process so that the next Congress may ratify it.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ELECTION PROCEDURES

ARTICLE A1: SCOPE

This appendix applies to the elections to all positions on the Executive Council, to the position of Secretary-General, and to the positions on the Newspaper Committee, the Mobilization Committee, the Women's Committee as well as all Working Committees.

ARTICLE A2: TYPES OF ELECTIONS

A2.1 General elections

General elections are held during the Annual Congress. The terms of elected officials begin on June 1st, in order to allow for a transition and training period for those recently elected. Terms end on the following May 31st.

A2.2 By-elections

By-elections are held during any Regular Congress. The terms of elected officials begin as soon as the Congress is adjourned and end on the following May 31st. Only empty positions can be filled by a by-election.

A2.3 Interim elections

Interim elections can occur during any Coordination Council meeting. The terms of elected officials begin as soon as the Coordination Council meeting is adjourned and end when the following Congress is called to order. People elected by interim may submit their candidacy as part of a by-election or a general election in accordance with this elections policy.

ARTICLE A3: CALLING ELECTIONS

Each general election or by-election must be announced in at least one of ASSÉ's official media and must allow for a reasonable and realistic delay between the moment it is made public and the deadline for submitting candidacies. General elections must be announced in publications distributed at least four (4) weeks before the Annual Congress is held. In the case of a Regular Congress, the publication must be distributed at least three (3) weeks before a Congress is held. The process of an interim election begins when a Coordination Council meeting is convened. Each member association is responsible for posting and distributing information related to elections. The Executive Council is responsible for calling elections. It must call by-elections and interim elections when positions become vacant.

ARTICLE A4: SUBMITTING CANDIDACIES

A4.1 Executive Council

Any student who is a member of ASSÉ or who is registered in an ASSÉ member association may submit his or her candidacy for the Executive Council. In order to be valid, candidates must submit a letter detailing their candidacy to the ASSÉ head office at least two (2) weeks before the relevant decision-making body is called to order, for general elections and by-elections, and 72 hours in advance for interim elections. This letter must be added to the document package for the next Congress or Coordination Council, when it is next updated.

A4.2 Committees and Secretary-General

Any student may submit his or her candidacy for the Newspaper Committee, the Mobilization Committee, the Women's Committee, the position of Secretary-General as well as for any position on any Working Committee. In order to be admissible, each candidacy must be sent to the ASSÉ head office. Candidacies must be submitted in time for them to be included in the document package of the relevant decision-making body, i.e. preferably two (2) weeks or at the latest 72 hours before the body is called to order for general or interim elections or by-elections. This letter must be added to the document package for the next Congress or Coordination Council, when it is next updated.

ARTICLE A5: CAMPAIGNING

Every candidate is encouraged to campaign in each local association; however, no candidate may go against the will of a local student association. Only member associations may publish texts advocating for or against a certain candidate. Texts containing discriminatory comments, personal attacks or which impugns motives on candidates cannot be published. Debates surrounding candidacies must be held during meetings of decision-making bodies or by publishing texts.

In the case where a candidate might break with ASSÉ's core principles, Bylaws or demands, the candidate is expected to act transparently and to inform ASSÉ members that his or her interests and/or beliefs may run against those of ASSÉ.

ARTICLE A6: VOTING

Before voting begins, candidates have a minimum of 3 minutes to present their candidacy followed by a question period lasting at least 5 minutes. In addition, during a general election, a plenary session lasting at least 30 minutes on the subject of all the candidacies must precede voting. All debates on candidacies are held with the candidates present.

A6.1 Executive Council and Secretary-General

Candidates are elected position by position. Associations may only vote for one candidate per position.

- a) If there is only one candidacy for a certain position, the candidate must still obtain an absolute majority of the votes of the associations present in order to be elected.
- b) If two people are running for the same position and one of them obtains an absolute majority of votes in the first round of voting, he or she is declared elected. If two people are running for the same position and neither of them obtains an absolute majority of votes in the first round of voting, a second round of voting is held for the candidate having obtained the most votes in the first round.
- c) If there are more than two candidacies for one position and none of these candidacies obtains the an absolute majority of votes during the first round of voting, a second round will oppose the two candidates having obtained the most votes in the first round of voting. If neither of these candidacies obtains an absolute majority of votes during the second round of voting, a third round of voting is held for the candidate having obtained the most votes in the second round.

A6.2 Committees

Candidates are elected Committee by Committee.

- a) If the number of candidates for a given Committee is smaller than or equal to the number of positions on this Committee, each candidate, in order to be elected, must obtain the support of an absolute majority of associations present, and votes must be held for each individual candidate.
- b) In the opposite situation, i.e. if there are more candidacies for a Committee than open positions, a first round of voting is held in which associations have as many votes as the number of open positions. Subsequently, a second round of voting is held for the candidates who obtained the most votes during the first round of voting, the number of candidates moving along to the second round being equal to the number of positions available. During the second round of voting, each candidate, in order to be elected, must obtain the support of an absolute majority of associations present in order to be elected, and votes must be held for each individual candidate.

ARTICLE A7: EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES

An Extraordinary Congress may hold by-elections or general elections if convened for this explicit purpose. The body convening the Extraordinary Congress (one third of member associations or the Coordination Council) must determine the procedures governing elections held during the Extraordinary Congress when it convenes the meeting, while allowing for a reasonable and realistic delay in which candidacies may be submitted.

APPENDIX C: COLLECTION, ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSÉ FUNDS

ARTICLE A8

No ASSÉ body may make financial commitments contrary to these Bylaws, to resolutions adopted by the Congress or resolutions which are to be adopted in the future, or which go against the interests of the students of Quebec.

ARTICLE A9

All of ASSÉ's bodies must provide each person or organization with which it enters into a contractual relation with an official receipt and keep a copy of any receipt for a period of three years.

ARTICLE A10

All of ASSÉ's bodies must publish two (2) times per year financial statements that are sufficiently detailed to allow member associations to understand these bodies' financial situation as well as the method by which they are funded.

ARTICLE A11

All ASSÉ's bodies should record all their revenues and expenses in their books.

ARTICLE A12

Any commitment taken on within ASSÉ in exchange for an amount of money greater than \$5000 (or multiple commitments with the same entity that amount to more than \$7000 during the course of one financial year) must be approved by ASSÉ's Coordination Council.

ARTICLE A13

- a) The Finance Secretary of ASSÉ's Executive Council is empowered to delegate a representative in order to solicit financial commitments during any assembly organized by one or many associations or Regional Councils at which a member or delegate from the Coordination Council or Executive Council participates as guest speaker.
- b) During such an assembly, any person soliciting funds acts as the designated representative of the Finance Secretary on the ASSÉ Executive Council. This person must sit on the Coordination Council of ASSÉ and the Coordination Council must provide this person with a mandate.

- c) All funds received in this manner are allocated as such: 50% at the national level of ASSÉ and 50% for the association(s) or Regional Council(s) organizing the event.

ARTICLE A14

- a) ASSÉ's financial year extends from July 1st to June 30th of each year. The same applies to its Regional Councils;
- b) The Finance Secretary on the Executive Committee is expected to present the annual financial report for the previous year as well as budget estimates for the current year to the Annual Congress. This person is also responsible for presenting a mid-year report to the first Coordination Council meeting of the fall semester. In addition, during the winter Congress, he or she is expected to present a preview of the current year's financial statements;
- c) The point-people for finances of each Regional Council are expected to present annual and mid- year financial reports to the Coordination Council. The former must be submitted after the winter semester (between June and September), and the latter must be submitted after the fall semester (between December and February). After a reminder has been sent to Regional Councils who have not produced their report within the set time limits, the point-person for finances on the Executive Council is authorized to withhold the funds due to these Regional Councils until their reports are received.
- d) All financial reports must include:
 - i) detailed information on all financial commitments;
 - ii) a list of all liquid assets, including all "special accounts";
 - iii) a detailed inventory of all equipment and furniture, regardless of whether or not they have value on the books.

APPENDIX D: PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS FOR MEETINGS

ARTICLE A15

Preparatory documents for meetings can be submitted by all bodies, including: individual students who are members of ASSÉ member associations, the Executive Council, General Assembly or intermediary decision-making body of an ASSÉ member association, the Executive Committee of a Regional Council, the Coordination Council, the Newspaper Committee, the Women's Committee, the Mobilization Committee, the Working Committees and the Executive Council of ASSÉ.

ARTICLE A16

The documents used to prepare for a Congress must have been received by the ASSÉ Executive Council at least two (2) weeks before a Congress is held, and at least one (1) week before a Coordination Council meeting is held.

A16.1

If it becomes impossible to respect the time limits set herein, any main motion that was not sent within the time limits may be tabled with a relative third of the votes (33% + 1 of votes cast in favour of or against tabling, which is to say that abstentions do not count as votes against).

ARTICLE A17

ASSÉ's Executive Council must send member and non-member associations of ASSÉ all documents and the agenda at least two (2) weeks before a Congress is held, and at least one (1) week before a Coordination Council meeting is held.

A17.1

If it becomes impossible to respect the time limits set herein, any main motion that was not sent within the time limits may be tabled with a relative third of the votes (33% + 1 of votes cast in favour of or against tabling, which is to say that abstentions do not count as votes against).

A17.2

If the proposal in question was submitted in accordance with Article 15 of this appendix by a member association, or any other body except for the Executive Council, article 16.1 does not apply.

ARTICLE A18

Minutes of each Congress must be sent to member and non-member associations a maximum of four

(4) weeks after the Congress is held. Minutes of each Coordination Council meeting must be sent to member and non-member associations a maximum of two (2) weeks after the Council meeting is held.

APPENDIX E: DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND BEHAVIOUR OR DELEGATES DURING MEETINGS

ARTICLE A19

The delegates and representatives of all ASSÉ bodies must use both masculine and feminine genders in their public interventions, both spoken and in writing.

The policy on this matter is as follows:

In speech: words that sound different when spoken must be expressed completely in both masculine and feminine forms; words whose sound is the same in both the masculine and feminine forms when spoken can be expressed only once.

In writing: words that sound different when spoken must be expressed completely in both masculine and feminine forms; words whose sound is the same in both the masculine and feminine forms when spoken must be expressed in the masculine and feminine forms using a hyphen, according to the rules of French grammar.

ARTICLE A20

For member associations and Regional Councils, a notice of meeting must be circulated at least forty-eight (48) hours before a public censure motion is submitted that is aimed at the Executive Council, the Coordination Council or the Congress or before an association or Council publicly distances itself from these bodies' decisions or attitudes. The notice of meeting must be sent within the specified time limit to ASSÉ's head office and must indicate the matter to be debated.

- a) for member associations: the notice must be sent to each member of the association's executive;
- b) for Regional Councils: the notice must be sent to each member of each executive of each Regional Council's member associations. A copy of this notice must immediately be sent to the Coordinating Secretary of ASSÉ's Executive Council.
- c) member associations and Regional Councils must do everything in their power in order to contact and invite as many members as possible in order to allow them to take part in said meeting.

ARTICLE A21

The representatives of each Regional Council to the Coordination Council's meetings and Congresses will regularly issue full reports to the members of their Regional Council. Reports will detail all decisions made by said representatives.

ARTICLE A22

As much as possible, Regional Council representatives will seek mandates from their respective Councils before voting on any important matter not originally included in the Congress or Coordination Council meeting.

ARTICLE A23

Regional Council representatives shall visit each of their Regional Council's member associations at least two (2) times per year, at the beginning of each semester. If a region is not represented on the Coordination Council and/or Congress, the other members of both of these decision-making bodies shall take on this responsibility.

ARTICLE A24

Representatives of all of ASSÉ's bodies must represent the interests of students, while respecting the mandates emanating from the different decision-making bodies.

APPENDIX F: TRANSLATION

ARTICLE A25

The original version of documents takes precedence over the translated version, if a dispute arises.

APPENDIX G: MUTUAL ASSISTANCE FUND

ARTICLE A26

Student associations with limited financial means who wish to benefit from the Mutual Assistance Fund can submit a request to the Congress or the Coordination Council. The request must be sent to the Executive Council two weeks before a meeting. The amount requested shall be specified. The Congress or the Coordination Council will have sovereign power to make whatever decision it believes is relevant in accordance with the amount available in the fund, and the financial situation of the association submitting the request, all in the spirit of increasing participation by all parties in ASSÉ's decision-making bodies. Up to half of the unused funds from previous financial years may carry over into the Mutual Assistance Fund.

APPENDIX H: COALITION LARGE DE L'ASSÉ (CLASSE)

Adopted by the CLASSE founding Congress, December 3 and 4, 2011 Last modified: CLASSE Congress, March 3 and 4, 2012

Motion to dissolve CLASSE was adopted by the CLASSE Congress, November 3, 2012

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND ACRONYM

CLASSE is the ASSÉ Broad Coalition, known in French as Coalition Large de l'Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante. It shall be known by the acronym CLASSE in both French and English.

ARTICLE 2: ROLE

CLASSE is a temporary enlargement of ASSÉ's structures as described in the present appendix. It is a coalition of student associations brought together for a definite period of time in the context of the 2011-2012 campaign. It brings together all of the student associations in Quebec that meet the membership requirements for CLASSE. It seeks to defend the material, academic and social interests of students by militant, democratic, feminist and independent means.

ARTICLE 3: APPLICATION

The present appendix complements ASSÉ's Bylaws and takes precedence over these. It takes effect following the organization of a Congress convened by ASSÉ's member associations to found CLASSE. It is rendered void by a proposal adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of ASSÉ's member associations or by a proposal adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of CLASSE's member associations.

ARTICLE 4: CORE PRINCIPLES OF CLASSE

CLASSE's core principles are the following:

1. For a free, accessible, public, non-discriminatory, and quality education system, free from private interference;
2. For democratic, feminist, militant and independent student unionism.

CHAPTER 2: MEMBERS

ARTICLE 5: DEFINITION

Any student association which is a member of ASSÉ and any association admitted as a member following a regular motion during an ASSÉ or CLASSE Congress is a member of CLASSE.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Student associations that are not members of ASSÉ but that wish to be members of CLASSE must meet the following requirements:

1. They must have adopted demands equivalent to the demand “against all tuition fee increases in the perspective of free education”;
2. The General Assembly must be the student association’s supreme decision-making body;
3. It must have voted to join CLASSE;
4. It must commit to making a financial contribution to CLASSE between the meeting in which it is admitted as a member and the following meeting;
5. It must be admitted following a regular motion in Congress;
6. It must have a mandate to consult its members with regard to the unlimited general strike or be on unlimited general strike.

ARTICLE 7: FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

A financial contribution of one (1) dollar per member is suggested for associations that are not members of ASSÉ. The amount of each student association’s contribution must be proposed by the association in question and then reviewed and adopted by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 8: EXPULSION

A student association which is a member of CLASSE can be expelled following a regular motion of Congress when it no longer meets the membership requirements or by notice of motion for any other reason deemed valid by Congress.

ARTICLE 9: MEMBERS’ RIGHTS

Any CLASSE member association has a right to vote, to submit motions, to speak and to second motions during CLASSE’s meetings, on any agenda item except the “ASSÉ” item. Campus and divisional associations have three (3) votes. Program-specific or departmental associations have one (1) vote.

CHAPTER 3: CONGRESS OF CLASSE

ARTICLE 10: AGENDA

“ASSÉ” is a statutory item which is included on the agenda of each of CLASSE’s meetings.

The ASSÉ item is defined by everything that might have an impact on ASSÉ beyond the unlimited general strike. This item is not taken up in closed session; however, student associations which are not members of ASSÉ temporarily lose their rights as members of CLASSE, notwithstanding Article 9 of the present Appendix. The ASSÉ item includes matters related to ASSÉ’s immobilizations, employees, finances, Bylaws, and Rules of Order.

CLASSE can modify the present Appendix and the Rules of Order for the duration of the unlimited general strike.

Matters pertaining to employees and to ASSÉ’s finances as well as motions affecting ASSÉ’s Bylaws and its Rules of Order may only be discussed as part of the ASSÉ item.

The items pertaining to demands and to the action plan (“revendication” and “plan d’action,”) are given priority outside of the ASSÉ item.

ARTICLE 11: MODIFICATION OF APPENDIX H AND OF THE RULES OF ORDER

All members of CLASSE can propose modifications to the present Appendix and the Rules of Order for as long as CLASSE exists. These modifications must be raised outside of the ASSÉ agenda item.

ARTICLE 12: SPEAKING RIGHTS

Student associations which have a mandate to consult their membership with regard to the general unlimited strike or which are on general unlimited strike have the same right to speak as CLASSE’s member student associations.

ARTICLE 13: MOTIONS

Any motion adopted by CLASSE is only valid only as long as CLASSE exists.

ARTICLE 14: QUORUM

The quorum for the Congress of CLASSE is 50% plus one of CLASSE’s members.

ARTICLE 15

Notwithstanding article A16 of Appendix D of ASSÉ’s Bylaws, the time limit to send a motion after which it is subject to being tabled with a third of votes is 24 hours.

CHAPTER 4: COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

ARTICLE 16: ASSÉ'S COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

ASSÉ's Committees and Councils, as well as its elected officials, are also those of CLASSE.

ARTICLE 17: ELECTIONS

For as long as CLASSE exists, it is possible to be elected to a Committee or Council with the support of one of CLASSE's member associations and to be elected during one of CLASSE's Congresses. Any person elected during one of CLASSE's Congresses will remain in office on the Committee or Council to which he or she has been elected until CLASSE's dissolution. ASSÉ's election procedure applies. Members of CLASSE are eligible to join the Executive Council for as long as CLASSE exists.

Persons wishing to join one of ASSÉ's Committees must be elected in Congress during the ASSÉ item.

ARTICLE 18: COORDINATION COUNCIL

All of ASSÉ's active Committees and Councils as well as all of the Committees defined in this Appendix are members of a decision-making body called the Coordination Council, which is defined in ASSÉ's Bylaws.

ARTICLE 19: STRIKE MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION COMMITTEE

The Mobilization Committee is hereafter named the "Strike Maintenance and Expansion Committee". Its principal mandate is to maintain and expand the strike, particularly by helping with mobilization and by offering logistical support to local associations that have voted to strike, in collaboration with the Internal Relations Secretaries and the External Relations Secretary.

The Mobilization Committee's other mandates, as per the Bylaws, remain in force.

ARTICLE 20: NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

The Negotiating Committee is made up of four people, including one person from the Executive Council, one person from the college level and at least one woman.

The Negotiating Committee's mandate is to:

1. Present the demands determined by CLASSE's Congress to its interlocutors;
2. Ensure that information pertaining to negotiations with the government is communicated and distributed to student associations within 24 hours.
3. Inform the Executive Council about developments in the negotiation process as quickly

as possible;

4. Produce a report after each meeting in order to ensure the transparency of the negotiation process;
5. The Negotiating Committee is not empowered to make any decision.

ARTICLE 21: MEDIA COMMITTEE

The Media Committee is made up of three people in addition to the spokespersons.

The Media Committee's mandate is to:

1. Develop CLASSE's media strategy;
2. Organize CLASSE's public statements;
3. Train local spokespersons in each of CLASSE's member associations;
4. Assist student associations with their public statements;
5. Ensure a feminist presence in its media discourse.

ASSÉ's Communications Secretary is tasked with its coordination.

ARTICLE 22: LEGAL COMMITTEE

The Legal Committee is made up of five people.

The Legal Committee offers solidarity and support to students under the yoke of police repression and judicialization. Its principal task is to provide logistic, financial and human support for those who have been arrested by:

1. Establishing a network that joins lawyers and activists;
2. Overseeing the financing of the Arrest Fund;
3. Overseeing the day-to-day management of the Arrest Fund;
4. Gathering information about the criminalization and the judicialization of the student movement;
5. Keeping track of ongoing cases.

This Committee works closely with ASSÉ's Finance Secretary.

APPENDIX I: ARREST FUND

ARTICLE A27 : PRINCIPLES

The Fund exists in solidarity with those who are arrested in the context of demonstrations and actions that are in accordance with the principles and demands of ASSÉ, as well as those who are facing administrative or disciplinary measures by their educational establishment's administration, regardless of their role or political position in the organization. The Fund considers that all activists arrested in the context of the student struggle have the right to logistical, human and financial support. The ASSÉ Legal Committee seeks to respond to every need expressed by these people and considers that no one should be forced to plead guilty for reasons of financial need.

ARTICLE A28 : CRITERIA

The Fund is primarily destined to people who have been arrested in the context of protests and actions that are in accordance with ASSÉ's principles and demands, as well as those who are facing administrative or disciplinary measures by their educational establishment's administration, and who have made contact with ASSÉ's Legal Committee.

Financial resources are allocated to people who request it according to the following order of priority:

1. People facing criminal charges, particularly those that could lead to imprisonment;
 - 1.1. Individual trial: in the case of Legal Aid being refused, the Fund covers all costs related to the defense. Regarding Contributory Legal Aid, the Fund covers the cost of the requested contribution;
 - 1.2. Collective trial (mass arrest leading to criminal charges or individual arrests leading to criminal charges in the context of a single event): the Fund's support is determined according to, among others, the following criteria: the amount of people arrested – the amount of Legal Aid mandates – the amount of lawyers representing the group – the length and complexity of the case;
2. People who are facing administrative or disciplinary measures by their educational establishment's administration, such as expulsion or threats of expulsion;
3. People facing penal charges (e.g.: tickets, mass arrests);
4. People who are targeted for their role in political organizing.

Considering the transformation and expansion of the forms of repression, the ASSÉ Legal Committee has a certain degree of flexibility in the application of its mandates, which is oriented towards the preoccupation of offering its support to people who are targeted by new forms of repression.

When evaluating requests for financial aid, the Committee considers the following criteria:

- Other resources (Legal Aid, local associations, etc.) people have access to;
- The risks for targeted individuals and the impacts on their lives;
- Political profiling;
- Equity among requests;
- The impact of a legal decision on current struggles;
- Other considerations.

ARTICLE A29 : EXPENSES COVERED

This list applies to people who are representing themselves as well as people represented by a lawyer.

1. Bail;
2. Lawyers' fees (a prior agreement with the Legal Committee is required);
3. Legal fees (transcripts, etc.);
4. Logistical fees (transportation to the venue, etc.);
5. Access to information requests;
6. Other defense-related expenses.

In cases of emergency only, a loan may be done to a person in order to avoid any important consequences related to their prosecution (e.g.: paying a fine after a plea of guilty or a verdict of guilt).

ARTICLE A30 : CONFLICTS OF 'INTEREST

Lawyers cannot be elected to the Legal Committee. Members of the Legal Committee must declare to the other members of the Committee any actual or apparent conflict of interest related to any decision. Members of the Legal Committee must recuse themselves from any decision in cases where an actual or apparent conflict of interest may arise. The Legal Committee is accountable to ASSÉ's instances at all time.

The Committee approves of the Bylaws enacted above and ensures their application. It must receive and rule on funding requests for legal defenses. It is also authorized to reimburse accrued expenses, solely upon presentation of receipts.