

Do NSA Policies Remain Within Its Constitution?

Editors Note: This is the last in a series of depth reports on the United States National Student Association. It deals with various criticisms which have arisen since the association was originated.

How closely do the policies of the United States National Student Association (NSA) follow its purposes and procedures as stipulated within its constitution and by-laws?

Article X of the NSA constitution, entitled "Participation in Political Affairs," stipulates that:

"No body acting on behalf of NSA shall participate in sectarian religious activities or partisan political activities; they shall not take part in activity which does not affect students in their role as students.

No substantial part of the activities of the national and regional bodies of NSA shall be devoted to carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation."

In the 1961-62 "Codification of Policy," a resolution passed by the 14th National Student Congress reads:

"NSA urges that all its member campuses support the abolition of the House on Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). We urge the support of such bills as that of Representative James Roosevelt which calls for (said) abolition . . . by such means as letter-writing campaigns to members of the Eighty-Seventh Congress."

In a concurrent mandate, the National Affairs Vice-President is directed to conduct an information campaign concerning HUAC and to "send a copy of this resolution to every member of the Eighty-Seventh Congress."

A declaration on the matter reads "NSA disapproves of the HUAC on the grounds that no 'propaganda' should be restricted in a democratic society and that Congressional investigation of 'propaganda' can serve no legislative purpose which is consistent with the Constitutional guarantee that 'Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . .'"

The Declaration also commends six specific Representatives for their "courageous commitment to the abolition of HUAC."

In a resolution disapproving loyalty oaths and disclaimer affidavits passed by the 13th National Student Congress, NSA focused its attention on Section 1001 of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 and the Prouty amendment.

NSA declared its general opposition to laws requiring students to sign loyalty oaths and disclaimer affidavits.

It specifically urged: Amendment of the act by deletion of Section 1001 and the Prouty amendment, and repeal of municipal and state laws requiring loyalty oaths and disclaimer affidavits both as a condition

of student employment at institutions of higher learning, and for faculty members before they may be employed at such an institution.

The Congress urged regions to communicate their resolutions and opinions to their congressional and state legislative representatives.

In a mandate, the Congress directed its national officers to "Use all means permissible to persuade the U.S. Congress of the importance of deleting Section 1001 and in particular the Prouty Amendment."

In its passage of resolutions and mandates, the National Student Congress often takes positions quite opposite to what individual members would support, said Warren Dansken, who was a member of the Senate at Wesleyan University when it affiliated with NSA.

The following year, as president of the Senate, he himself attended the 1959 Congress.

To present a more perfect reflection of member views, many critics of NSA suggest the inclusion of minority reports (with 20 per cent approval) and vote tallies in the annual "Codification of Policy."

Currently, noted one critic, all statements appear as the unanimous opinion of all students.

Kay Wonderlic, a former member of NSA as vice-president of the Student Senate at Northwestern University, who now leads opposition to the association, is chairman of a non-organization composed of both conservative and liberal critics of NSA's "internal structure" — Students Committed to Accurate National Representation.

In addition to advocating the above changes, the group also advocates that "all NSA public statements, both resolutions and in testimony by officials should accurately note who is represented by such statements.

"Presently, even resolutions passed by the 35-member National Executive Committee (NEC) are prefaced with, 'In order to present the American student point of view . . .'"

In April, 1961, Howard Phillips, then president of the Student Council at Harvard, termed the NEC a "power elite" which is "allowed to operate without any checks and balances."

This criticism of the executive committee is most often directed against its underlying control within the structure of NSA.

Serving as a steering committee for the congress, it sets the priority of individual policy items and time limits for debate at each plenary session of the Congress.

According to Miss Wonderlic in an analysis of NSA, at the 13th National Student Congress, 95 resolutions came from five committees.

"This committee," she claims, "met for approximately 14 hours, allowing an average of twenty minutes for consideration of each resolution.

Miss Wonderlic continued, "Only 13 of the 95 resolutions presented by the five committees were considered ship?"

at the plenary session, because of TIME LIMITATIONS." She noted that items not given priority are automatically referred to a post-congress session of the National Executive Committee.

Others not voted upon by the plenary session are referred to this session by vote of the delegates.

Said Miss Wonderlic, "Eighty-four resolutions were sent to the post-congress NEC meeting, along with eight program resolutions and seven program mandates—a total of 99 items for consideration.

"Of these, 82 were passed and included in the 1960-61 codification."

She also pointed out that four resolutions, not referred to the NEC by committee (according to the prioritization given at the Congress), were passed by the NEC and included in the Codification.

"There is no constitutional authority for the NEC to do this, nor is such power granted in the rules of the congress."

Attempts to determine how and why NSA has taken consistently "liberal" positions in its years in existence, and how and why it has continued to emphasize many of the same areas is another topic of much controversy, according to Miss Wonderlic.

A former NSA president, Robert Kiley, wrote in 1958, "If we are to hold to the thesis that college life contributes to the development of more intelligent citizenship, then we must assume that students SHOULD BE DIRECTED to a greater social awareness."

A contradiction arises—in claiming to speak in behalf of "more than a million students," how can the group simultaneously speak TO and FOR its member-

"Resource personnel" and "background papers (for congress sessions)" are another major topic of controversy.

The president of the student body at the University of Colorado objected to "biased resource personnel" at the 13th Congress.

According to comment on page one of the "Colorado Daily," Oct. 3, 1960, "a foreign student from Japan, said to be Japan's number-two communist, spoke in favor of the students who demonstrated against Japanese Premier Kishi just prior to the cancellation of President Eisenhower's visit to Japan."

In a report on the 13th Congress, Carol Dawson, a leader in the Young Republican National Federation, pointed to a resolution entitled "The Student in the Total Community."

"In this resolution," wrote Carol, "they praised the Japanese students who rioted against President Eisenhower, citing their 'right to riot' because of social and economic pressures in Japan."

It seems clear, then, that the goals and purposes of the National Student Association are not the target under fire.

What is under fire are the means employed to achieve these goals.

Is it, then, up to each student at this University to determine for himself whether or not the means justify the end.

Hours Extended

University coeds will receive "15 minutes after" closing hours March 15 for the Limeliter's show.

The show will begin at 8 p.m. at Pershing Municipal auditorium and tickets will be sold for \$3.00, \$2.50 and \$2.00.

Eleven Couples Fall To Bow, Arrow Man

Six coeds are now the proud possessors of shiny fraternity pins.

The little man with the bow and arrows had almost equal success in the ring department when five engagements were announced.

Pinnings
Patricia Arnold from Omaha to Douglas Teaford, Delta Sigma Pi, a senior in Arts and Sciences from Lincoln.

Sharon Bernstein from Omaha to Stan Cohen, Sigma Alpha Mu, a senior in Arts and Science.

Carolyn Kars from Kansas City, Mo. to Harold Novicoff, Sigma Alpha Mu senior in Arts and Sciences from Lincoln.

Shirley Rhinesort from Auburn to Anson Andrew, Theta Xi junior in civil engineering from Auburn.

Doris Hoge, Terrace Hall freshman in Teachers College from Scriber to Richard Ivobken, Delta Chi sophomore

at Midland College from Scriber.

Marilyn Gibson, Kappa Alpha Theta sophomore in Arts and Sciences from Sioux Falls, S.D., to Dick Masters, Kappa Sigma freshman in Law College from Arcadia.

Jean Cheryl Kennell, Towne Club, freshman in Teachers College from Lincoln to Joe Farmer from Brevard, N.C.

Sarah Jean Moenter, graduate student in Arts and Sciences from Fremont to William C. Andersen, graduate student in secondary education from Waverly.

Janelle Hagerbaumer from Lincoln to Larry Wulf, Farmhouse senior in Agriculture College from Blair.

Judy Stuvvendick, freshman in Business Administration from Syracuse to Ron Beckman, junior in Wartburg Theological Seminary from Dubuque, Iowa.

Karalee Shaner, junior in botany from Lincoln to J. D. Schafer, senior in civil engineering from Hastings.

Graf Will Head Ag Union Board

Jay Graf was elected president of the Ag Union Executive Board last night.

Other new officers include: Margarethe Plum, vice-president; Pat Frazer, secretary; and Ron Meinke, treasurer.

Graf is president of Alpha Gamma Rho, secretary of the University 4-H Club, member of Corncoops, Alpha Zeta, Ag science honorary, and the Block and Bridle Club.

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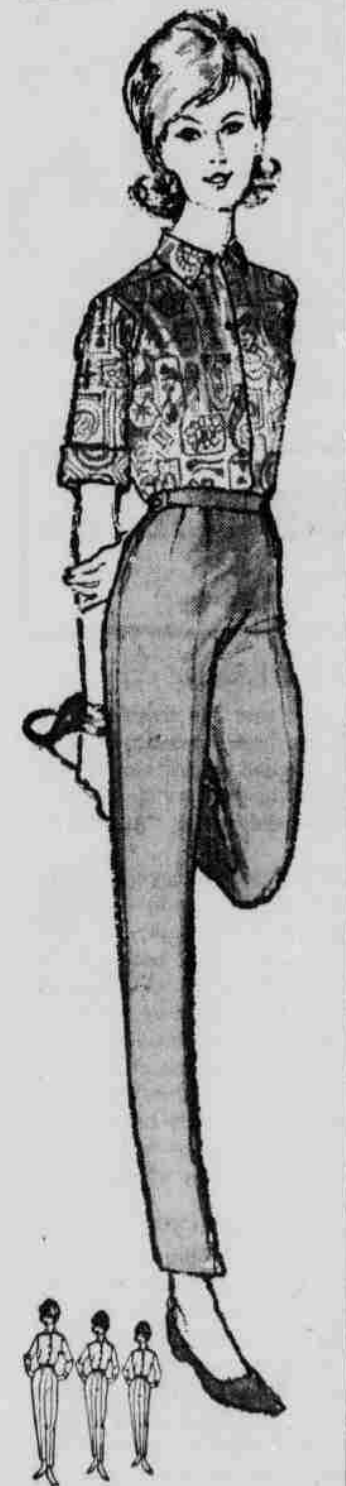
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Campus Calendar

STUDENT COUNCIL meeting at 4 p.m. in the Pan American room, Union.

CAMPUS HANDBOOK PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE meeting at 7 p.m. in 232 Union. All those interested in being workers are invited to attend the meeting.

ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS is having a meeting at 7 p.m. in the Union.

GERMAN CLUB is sponsoring an illustrated lecture by Dr. W. K. Pfeiler, chairman of the department of Germanic Languages and Literature, at 7:30 p.m. in Love Memorial Library auditorium. There will be no admission charge to the lecture, entitled "Here and There in Germany."

YWCA PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND KFMQ-FM radio station will sponsor this Sunday's "Equal Time" broadcast which will have the "Discussion of the Free Lunch Program in the Lincoln Public Schools" as its topic. The public is invited to attend the live broadcast and participate in the discussion. Participants on the 8-9 p.m. program will be Esther Eisenbarth, Allen Elliott, Mrs. William Brill and Earl Dyer Jr. Betty Jane Holcomb will moderate the program.

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