Cognitive Systems
Student Association Bylaws

Preamble

With the goal of representing the interests and concerns of the students in the Master's Program Cognitive Systems: Language Learning and Reasoning at the University of Potsdam (henceforth referred to as "CogSys"), the following Bylaws are enacted.
These Bylaws are based on the Bylaws of "The Students of the University of Potsdam".

A. Student Association

§1 Definition and Legal Position

1. The CogSys Student Association (henceforth referred to simply as "Student Association") consists of all officially enrolled Masters students in the Cognitive Systems program.
2. Every student officially enrolled in the CogSys Masters program is a member of the Student Association.

§2 Governing Bodies

1. The Student Association consists of the following governing bodies:
    a. General Assembly
    b. Student Council

§3 Rights and Responsibilities

1. Every member of the Student Association has the right to propose candidates for Student Council ("active voting right") and vote on the candidates proposed by others ("passive voting right").

2. Every member of the Student Association has the right to submit written proposals to the Student Council.
3. The Student Council has the right to send any consenting Student Association member as a delegate to any student or academic governing bodies. The delegate Student Association member must perform the related tasks to the best of their abilities and regularly report back to the Council.

§4 General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the Student Association.
2. Every member of the Student Association has the right to a seat and a vote in the General Assembly.
3. Every member of the Student Association has the right to make proposals in the General Assembly.
4. The General Assembly must meet at least once per year. The meeting is not permitted to take place during the winter and summer breaks.
5. The General Assembly can meet at the urging of the Student Council or on request from at least 10% of the members.
6. Meetings of the General Assembly must be announced at least 10 business days in advance. The announcements must be made through the Student Association mailing list. If possible, they can also be posted on the Student Association website. The announcements must include the proposed agenda for the meeting being advertised.
7. Decisions in the General Assembly are made with a simple majority vote, unless specified in these Bylaws.
8. The General Assembly can initiate a new election for the Student Council. This decision requires at least a two thirds majority in favor. The election is conducted according to the Student Council Election Regulations.
9. A quorum of 10% of the Student Association members is required for the General Assembly to make decisions.

B. Student Council

§5 Definition, Elections, Revocation of Membership, Disbandment

1. The Student Council is the second governing and primary executive body of the Student Association.
2. The members of the Student Council are chosen in general, direct, free, equal and secret elections. The exact election process is described in the Student Council Election Regulations.
3. Every member of the Student Association can introduce new positions in the Student Council at a meeting of the General Assembly.
4. The Student Council consists of at least three and at most thirteen members.
5. The newly elected Student Council appoints a Treasurer and assistant Treasurer from within their midst. The Student Council must also appoint a liaison to all other organizations at the University of Potsdam ("Vernetzungsbeauftragter"). All remaining positions are filled similarly by available Council members.
6. The Student Council has the right to assign tasks to consenting Student Association members who are not on the council, provided there is a two thirds majority in favor of the decision.
7. A single full Student Council term is one academic year, i.e. two semesters. A Student Council term may be interrupted prematurely for any of the following reasons:
    a. Resignation or revocation of mandate
    b. Exmatriculation
    c. Death
8. The proposal to revoke a Council member's mandate must be communicated to the member in question at least 7 days before the next regular Council meeting. Grounds/reasons for exclusion:
    a. Less than 50% participation rate in Council meetings.
    b. Theft of property of the Student Association or its members.
    c. Abuse of their powers as member of the Council.

Once the proposal to exclude achieves two thirds majority support it is effective immediately.

9. If there are not enough candidates to create a new Student Council, the last elected Student Council must dissolve the Student Council body.

§6 The Responsibilities of the Student Council

1. The Student Council conducts the day-to-day operations of the Student Association.
2. The Student Council represents the academic interests of the Student Association in all other governing bodies of the University of Potsdam.
3. The Student Council supports all members of the Student Association in their initiatives related to the CogSys studies. The Student Council fosters a constructive and positive learning environment and offers advice and help in case of academic problems.
4. The Student Council has fiduciary control over the financial resources of the Student Association and manages them with due responsibility and care.
5. For each term the Student Council must create a budget and a supplemental budget (if necessary). The proposed budget is approved with a two thirds majority vote.
6. As a non-profit organization within the University of Potsdam, the Student Council is not allowed to commercialize any of its offerings. Should profits result from events, publishing, or other activities, they must be used to fulfill of the duties of the Student Council.
7. Each member of the Student Council can be held accountable to the Student Association upon oral request made at any meeting of the General Assembly.

§7 Meetings and Quorum

1. The Student Council as a rule meets once per month during the lecture period. During the lecture-free period, meetings take place if requested by at least 2 council members.
2. The meetings of the Council are open to anyone at the University of Potsdam to attend. A specific agenda item may also be discussed privately, by request of

at least one Student Council member. They are announced 7 days in advance on the Student Association website. The announcement need not be renewed if the meetings take place on the same day every month. Every meeting must have its minutes recorded. These minutes must be made available to the university community on the CogSys Student Council Website. A digital copy must also be sent to the AStA Financial department within 10 days of the meeting.

3. At least half of its members must be present for the Student Council to be able to make resolutions.
4. Unless specified in these Bylaws, a decision requires a simple majority to pass. Abstentions count as uncast votes.

C. Bylaws and Regulations

§8 Supplements, Amendments, and Deletions in the Bylaws

1. Changing, supplementing, or deleting existing Bylaws can only be done by the General Assembly.

§9 Enforcement and Legal Binding

1. These Bylaws as well as all subsequent modifications to them take force on the next day after they are published.
2. Within 14 days after these Bylaws or any subsequent modifications to them are published, every member of the Student Association has the right to dissent from them in written (paper) form or via email. If no such dissent is made within 14 days, the Bylaws and all subsequent modifications are considered approved by the whole Student Association.
3. These Bylaws as well as subsequent modifications to them are binding for every member of the Student Association.