

Champaign-Urbana
P.O. Box 206, Sta. A
Champaign, Illinois

Constitution of
The Committees On Public Issues
(adopted April 11, 1962)

I. Statement of Purpose

The Committees on Public Issues join together for the purpose of coordinated action based on the following beliefs:

The nuclear age opened an era in which many conventional policies and forms of political action have lost their former relevance.

The cold war, if continued long enough, will lead to nuclear war either accidentally or otherwise.

Nuclear war threatens the extinction of civilization.

Therefore, modern weapons of mass destruction pose their primary challenge to the imagination, intelligence, and courage of peoples who possess these weapons.

We propose:

To stimulate research, discussion, and public communication bearing on the unprecedented policy problems of the Nuclear Age;

To explore and develop alternatives to the present collision course;

To act on behalf of such policies as the Committees deem necessary or desirable in the full spirit of democratic freedoms.

II. Principles of Organization

The proposed group is an informal organization of concerned and active people. Its basic units are Committees working on specialized tasks of their own, planning and initiating activities within their spheres of interest, and performing functions which complement and reinforce each other. The Committees are joined together for purposes of coordination and communication through the Coordinating Committee.

Neither the individual Committees nor the Coordinating Committee is bound to any partisan position beyond sharing in the broad principles expressed above. The functions of the Coordinating Committee are limited.

The major purpose of the organization is to stimulate, facilitate, and coordinate individual and group activity. Differences of opinion on specific issues or activities are to be expected and respected.

III. Affiliations

The organization invites interested groups to form Committees with specialized tasks of their own, and to become affiliated for more effective coordination on behalf of the common purposes and principles outlined above. Individuals may join by becoming a member of one of the constituent Committees.

Beyond the Committees composing it, the organization has no affiliations to any local or national groups. The Coordinating Committee maintains communication with such local groups as the Champaign-Urbana Peace Council and Women for Peace, and with such other groups as the Committee of Correspondence, Turn Toward Peace, and the Inter-University Clearing House on Public Issues.

Any change in affiliation or organization, whether of a member Committee or of any other existing or new group, requires the unanimous vote of the Coordinating Committee (composed of representatives of all member Committees) provided that a quorum (majority of the membership) is present. (If the proposed change relates to a member Committee, the representative of the Committee in question is disqualified from casting a ballot on the proposal.)

IV. Membership and dues

Membership in the organization consists of membership in one or more of the constituent Committees. New members may be accepted by a majority vote of the Committee in which the applicant desires to be active.

Dues for all Active Members are \$10.00 a calendar year. All members are encouraged to become Supporting Members and contribute an additional \$50.00 or more a calendar year toward the program of the organization.

All dues and contributions are payable to the treasurer of the Committee in which the individual member is active.

Committees may retain for petty cash purposes 10 percent of all dues and contributions collected during the year. The balance of the funds may be allocated to Committees, assigned for special purposes, or retained in the General Reserve of the organization by a majority vote of the Coordinating Committee.

V. Functions Common to All Committees

Every affiliated Committee is encouraged to perform all functions necessary for autonomous activity, as well as the specialized functions which provide the focus for its activities. No affiliated Committee may speak for the Committees on Public Issues on major policy issues without prior approval from the Coordinating Committee.

This means that each Committee should elect such officers as it deems necessary, and that it designate persons to perform the following functions:

Chairman, responsible for Committee activity and representation on the Coordinating Committee;

Secretary, responsible for keeping a record of Committee activity and for correspondance;

Membership, responsible for contact and communication with present and prospective members;

Treasurer, responsible for collecting dues and for the receiving and disposition of all Committee funds;

Publicity, responsible for contact with local media, and for publicizing Committee activities.

Except as specified in these pages, no Committee function or activity needs to be "cleared" by any other unit of the organization. Committees are encouraged to act freely and independently. Committees are also urged to keep the Coordinating Committee as well as other interested Committees informed of their activities, to avail themselves of the facilities for assistance and coordination, to consider the advice and suggestions of the Coordinating Committee, and to respect the integrity of other groups and individuals in the organization.

VI. Specialized Committee Functions and Membership

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

General exchange of ideas and coordination of activities.

Liaison with non-affiliated groups; vote on proposed changes in affiliation.

Provide and maintain channels of communication within the organization and between the organization and other interested groups. Communicate with members and others through individual Committees on matters of common concern and interest.

Suggest special projects and activities.

Allocate funds as needed.

Recommend changes in the existing structure of the organization as needed or desired by the constituent Committees.

Membership:

Chairman _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Membership _____

Publicity; editor of Newsletter _____

National Activities _____

Chairman (or delegate) of every affiliated Committee _____

COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY

Explore every avenue of University participation in the discussion of policy problems of the Nuclear Age. Stimulate faculty, administration, and student involvement in such discussion. Act to clarify and publicize the role the university as an institution of higher education and as a community of scientists and scholars should play in policy discussion and formation.

This committee might well have a number of specialized functions (or sub-committees) such as arranging all-university conferences, exploring the possibility of a peace research center, working with AAUP, the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, the YMCA and campus foundations and churches, etc.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

COMMITTEE ON SPEAKING ACTIVITIES

Initiate and arrange lectures, forums, speaking engagements wherever possible (campus and community organizations, churches, clubs, service groups, etc., locally and in the state). Canvass members of the organization for speakers and topics. Develop and keep up to date a roster of available speakers including both members and non-members of the organization sharing its basic principles. Stimulate members of the organization to develop talks on relevant subjects consonant with their competence and interest.

Handle the details of coordinating speaking engagements and of making this service known to all groups looking for speakers.

It should be understood that the purpose of this service is to facilitate the expression of responsible and relevant individual points of view. No speaker need speak in the name of, or for, the organization.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

COMMITTEE ON THE MASS MEDIA

Monitor and communicate with national and such local media as the broadcasting stations in the area, the Courier, News Gazette, Daily Illini, etc.

This Committee keeps a consistent check on mass media material relevant to the purposes and concerns of the organization. It calls such material to the attention of groups and persons most competent to react in a manner consistent with the general aims of the organization. It may communicate with the media directly, it may request others to do so, or it may place appropriate materials from whatever source at the disposal of the media.

The purpose of this committee is not primarily to publicize organizational activities; such publicity, when appropriate, is the primary responsibility of those engaging in the activities. The purpose of this Committee is to maintain

a flow of communication to and in the media, both on its own initiative and in response to materials appearing in the media, focussed on issues and policies of substantive concern to the entire organization.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Explore every avenue of non-campus community participation in the discussion of policy problems of the Nuclear Age. Work with community groups and individuals on a person-to-person, direct mail, and group basis, in collaboration with such other Committees as might be helpful to the specific activity.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Activity in election campaigns and legislative matters. Work for the nomination and election of candidates best qualified to help formulate policy in the Nuclear Age. Work with legislators and political parties. Stimulate and facilitate the communication of views between the Committees and local, state, and national administrative and legislative offices.

Arrange for the expression of Committee views at all relevant local state (and possibly national) legislative and other hearings.

Keep all Committees advised (through the Coordinating Committee) on the pending relevant legislative, governmental, and general political issues and problems.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS

Search for pertinent and useful materials in relevant literature. File materials for use and reference by all Committees. Order and handle materials for distribution.

Develop original statements and literature bearing upon special projects and problems of the organization. Commission or develop such materials for publication and/or wider distribution.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL PROJECTS

Plan and conduct special campaigns and projects (circulation of petitions

or statements, preparation and placing of advertisements, letter or signature campaigns, major public events, etc.) which require major concentration of effort for limited periods of time.

The committee should have the customary officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity director, membership director.

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