

**The International Association of Contemporary Iraqi
Studies (IACIS)**

Bylaws

October 31, 2007

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1) Name and Ownership *The name of the association is the International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies (henceforth referred to as “IACIS” or the “Association” in these bylaws).*

IACIS is a legal entity owned by the College of Fellows¹.

2) Purpose *IACIS is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, scholarly association committed to the principles of free, open, sound, and thorough scholarship. The Association is further committed to the advancement of a reliable, critical, and expanding body of knowledge contributing to a deeper understanding of issues vital to contemporary Iraq from the perspective of the Iraqi people and with a commitment to the well-being of its citizens.*

The Association endorses a unified, democratic, non-sectarian, multi-ethnic and pluralistic Iraq independent from foreign intervention and occupation.

IACIS membership and activities shall be open to participation by any concerned scholar or student irrespective of academic discipline, current profession, political belief, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, or citizenship.

IACIS aims to disseminate scholarship on Iraq among the wider scholarly community and to a broad and diverse international public. In pursuit of this, IACIS will aim to:

- A. Enhance international scholarship on Iraq;
- B. Effectively integrate the variety of scholarly approaches in the diverse fields of social science and humanities scholarship on Iraq, and to promote applied science and technology inquiries and multi-disciplinary studies of Iraqi problems and issues.
- C. Stimulate and support the work of Iraqi scholars, advocating academic and publishing freedom in Iraq, and defend the civil and human rights of Iraqi academics;
- D. Encourage participation in the work of IACIS by the relevant activist, political, journalistic, NGO, and public policy communities that are committed to a scholarly approach.

3) Membership *Membership Types*

IACIS has the following type of membership: Fellow, Member, and Student Member.

¹ The College of Fellows will seek to register the Association in a country like US, UK, or Canada as a non-profit non-political public service scholarly organization owned by the College of Fellows.

The College of Fellows has the power to enact any additional forms of honorary or temporary membership by issuing an Association Policy.

Fellow

A Fellow is a scholar who has attained distinction or high academic standing and who has made distinct contributions to knowledge of Iraq and Iraq-related issues. A Fellow is a mentor, and an active promoter of the ideals of sound, thorough and critical scholarship applied to the mission and goals of IACIS. A Fellow in good standing is a Fellow that has paid association dues regularly, actively participates in the work of the College of Fellows, and provides leadership to its work. The College of Fellows elaborates these requirements in an Association Policy. Henceforth any reference to a Fellow is a Fellow in good standing.

A Fellow has a single vote in the College of Fellows and in any voting forum within the Association.

A Fellow is qualified to run for any position in the Executive Committee or in any of its sub committees.

The College of Fellows invites a candidate fellow to join. The Fellow is admitted, remains active, or changes status as per an Association Policy.

Member

A Member contributes to promoting the Association through high scholarship or other work that advances Iraq Studies and the purposes of IACIS. The Member should promote and encourage wide participation in the activities of the Association, diversity of opinions and the principles of free and open discussion.

A Member, in good standing, is a Member who pays association's dues, actively participates in the work of the Association, and contributes to its goals. The College of Fellows elaborates these requirements in an Association Policy. Henceforth, any reference to a Member is a Member in good standing.

A Member has a single vote in the General Assembly or in any remotely-organized voting authorized by the College of Fellows.

A Member is eligible to be a candidate for positions in the Executive Committee or any of its sub-committees.

The Executive Committee admits an applicant, who is not a student, to Member upon completing an application, signaling agreement with the principles, and the payment of the fee. The College of Fellows regulates admission, guidelines

for good standing, and other changes in status of a Member via an Association Policy issued for this purpose.

Student Member

A Student Member shall indicate commitment to sound scholarship and the purposes of IACIS. A Student Member demonstrates respect to the principles of discourse, open discussion, and respect to others. The Student Member should cherish and encourage diversity of participation and opinions.

A Student Member, in good standing, pays dues regularly, actively participates in the work of the Association, and provides service to its goals. The Executive Committee elaborates these requirements in an Executive Policy. Henceforth any reference to a Student Member is a Student Member in good standing.

A Student Member has a single vote in the General Assembly or in any remotely-organized voting authorized by the College of Fellows.

A Student Member may become a member of a sub-committee, except in the Membership Sub-Committee.

The Executive Committee admits an applicant, who is a student, into the Student membership upon completing an application, signaling agreement with the principles, and the payment of the fee. The College of Fellows regulates admission, guidelines for good standing, and other changes in status of a Student via an Association Policy issued for this purpose.

4) Organization College of Fellows

The College of Fellows is the body of all Fellows. The College of Fellows is the legal owner of the Association and it is responsible for enacting Association policies binding to all its activities, setting direction, approving budgets, promulgating changes to the bylaws, and nominating the members of the Executive Committee.

The composition of the College of Fellows shall reflect a balance of disciplinary subject, gender, age, world region and country of residence, with a specified minimum target number of scholars resident in Iraq and in the neighbouring region.

The College of Fellows establishes its own rules of operation. The College should meet regularly using remote conferencing or direct face-to-face meetings. At minimum, the College of Fellows should meet once every six months. One of these meetings could be scheduled to coincide with the General Assembly provided at least one session is a closed sessions to Fellows only. The College of

Fellows elects a Chairperson, as per the guidelines established in an Association policy, to perform the following duties:

- A. Represent the College in the conduct of its business;
- B. Inform and consult with the Fellows;
- C. Convene regular sessions of the College of Fellows to ensure engagement of all the fellows;
- D. Receive and ensure distribution of the periodic report of the Executive Committee.

The College of Fellow serves continuously. A resolution to disband the Association, and dissolve the College of Fellows and to dispose its responsibilities shall have the support of the absolute majority of the active Fellows.

Membership General Assembly

The Executive Committee shall convene an annual General Assembly. Only Fellows, Members, Students, and invited guests may attend the proceedings. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the College of Fellows, invites the guests and presents them to the Assembly at the start of the session.

The Executive Committee prepares the agenda for the meeting.

- A. Attending voting members review and revise the Agenda if necessary;
- B. The Agenda should contain a report from the College of Fellows and a report from the Executive Committee

All resolutions of the General Assembly are recommendations to the College of Fellows and the College has a period of two months to uphold or reject the recommendations.

The College of Fellows regulates the General Assembly by an Association Policy.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, the Heads of the Sub-Committees, and any additional at large members as defined by the College of Fellows. The Association Journal's Editor in Chief is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

The President has to be an active Fellow and leads the Executive Committee. The President is responsible for representing the Association in any interaction with outside parties.

The General Secretary is the chief operating officer of the Association and is responsible for implementing the program, communicating with the membership, and expanding the resources of the Association.

IACIS

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial well-being of the Association and is responsible for collecting membership and other dues, for managing the Association's resources, tracking Association expenses and budgeting. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Sub-Committee.

The Executive Committee may exercise all the powers of IACIS in furtherance of its aims including:

- i) the power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee does not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and that it conforms to any relevant requirements of the law.
- ii) the power to employ such staff as are necessary for the proper pursuit of its aims and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of such employment.
- iii) the power to pay for facilities and services and do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of its aims.

The Journal

The International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies (IJCIS) is the Journal of IACIS. Membership and fellowship fees of IACIS include a subscription to IJCIS.

The Executive Committee appoints one of its members as Editor for a period of up to five years.

The Editor can appoint an Associate Editor and other members of the editorial team, and invites scholars to join the Editorial Advisory Board. All appointments shall be ratified by the Executive Committee.

A change of Editor shall be approved by the Executive Committee and ratified by the Editorial Advisory Board.

Financial commitments incurred by the Journal on behalf of the Association shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

IACIS is a self-financed association

5) Finances *The sources of income include initiation fees, dues, sale of publications, Conference proceeds, and proceeds from other activities organized by the Executive Committee to raise funds*

The Executive Committee can accept donations or endowment provided:

- A. The Executive Committee identifies the source, amounts, and the reasons for the donation to the College of Fellows;
- B. The Executive Committee votes to accept the donation by a simple majority
- C. Upon receiving a donation, the Executive Committee shall publish and make available to all active members the sources and amounts received. The donors list shall also include any conditions associated with the donation.

- D. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of the Association, shall be published annually and submitted for approval to the Annual General Assembly which next follows their publication.
- E. The income and assets of the Association shall be applied solely toward the promotion of its aims and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profits to its members. No member of the Executive Committee shall receive remuneration, or have any interest in any contract entered into by IACIS. Executive Committee members may, however, be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on behalf of IACIS.

The College of Fellows defines an Association Policy that specifies the initiation and annual dues that the Fellows, Members, and Students shall pay.

6) Voting and Elections *The College of Fellows shall issue a Voting and Elections Association Policy. The Policy and the affiliated processes shall:*

- A. Clearly indicate complete transparency in the listing of the eligible voting members;*
- C. Protect the right of active members to participate and to promote their positions;*
- D. Provide for a sufficient period before the vote to allow people to participate, nominate, run for office, and to discuss important resolutions.*

If an active member, or a group of active members, abuses these rights in such a manner as to undermine the integrity and mission of the Association or these bylaws, then the College of Fellows shall implement the remedy measures specified in an Association Policy.

7) Amendments *Any active Fellow has the right to submit to the Chair of the College of Fellows a proposed amendment to the articles of these bylaws. The proposed amendment shall have the signed support of a minimum of five active Fellows.*

The College of Fellows defines an Association Policy to articulate the guidelines and processes for reviewing and discussing proposed amendments.

At the end of the discussion period, the College of Fellows passes an amendment based on a the following results of the vote of the active Fellows:

- A. Sections I and II by a 60% majority of the College of Fellows
- B. All other Sections by a simple majority of the College of Fellows

8) Definitions *Quorum: A quorum in any body is the participation of 40% or more of the active membership of that body's participants.*

Bodies include the College of Fellows, Executive Committee, Sub-Committee, and Journal Editorial Board.

Enactment: The annex to these bylaws defines the process of enactment of these bylaws. This process will be invoked only once.

Period of Applicability: Once this bylaws document is enacted, it remains in effect until the College of Fellows decides to disband IACIS by a 60% majority vote of the active Fellows or if the College amends these bylaws.

Association Policy: A policy issued by the College of Fellows. It is binding on the whole Association. Except where explicitly stated in the policy, all policies are enacted and amended by a simple majority of the College of Fellows.

Executive Policy: A policy issued by the Executive Committee to regulate its work and the work of its Sub-Committees. An Executive Policy cannot contravene or contradict an Association Policy. The College of Fellows may issue an Association Policy to nullify or cancel an Executive Policy.

Annex - Enactment of the bylaws*These bylaws will enter into effect once the Executive Committee and the Founding Members approve them.*

Founding members and the Executive Committee act as a nucleus College of Fellows. A maximum number of 25 Fellows may be elected every three months after the enactment of these bylaws until the College of Fellows reaches to a strength of 75 Fellows. Thereafter, a maximum of 10 additional Fellows may be elected every 6 months.

They shall remain in effect until the active Fellows in accordance with the following process revise them:

- A. The active Fellows have a period of three months to raise revisions and objections;
- B. The Executive Committee reviews these proposed revisions, addresses them, and issues the new version of the bylaws should it be deemed necessary;
- C. If the revised version is still not acceptable to more than 25 per cent of the active Fellows, the period of review is extended to six months beyond the initial three months for a total of nine months;
- D. This process can be repeated only one more time before any revisions or objections fail.

The total cycle for finalizing these bylaws is one year from the date they are initially enacted by the Executive Committee. After this period, the most current version of the bylaws is active and further amendments are possible as per the Amending formula as outlined in the Association bylaws.