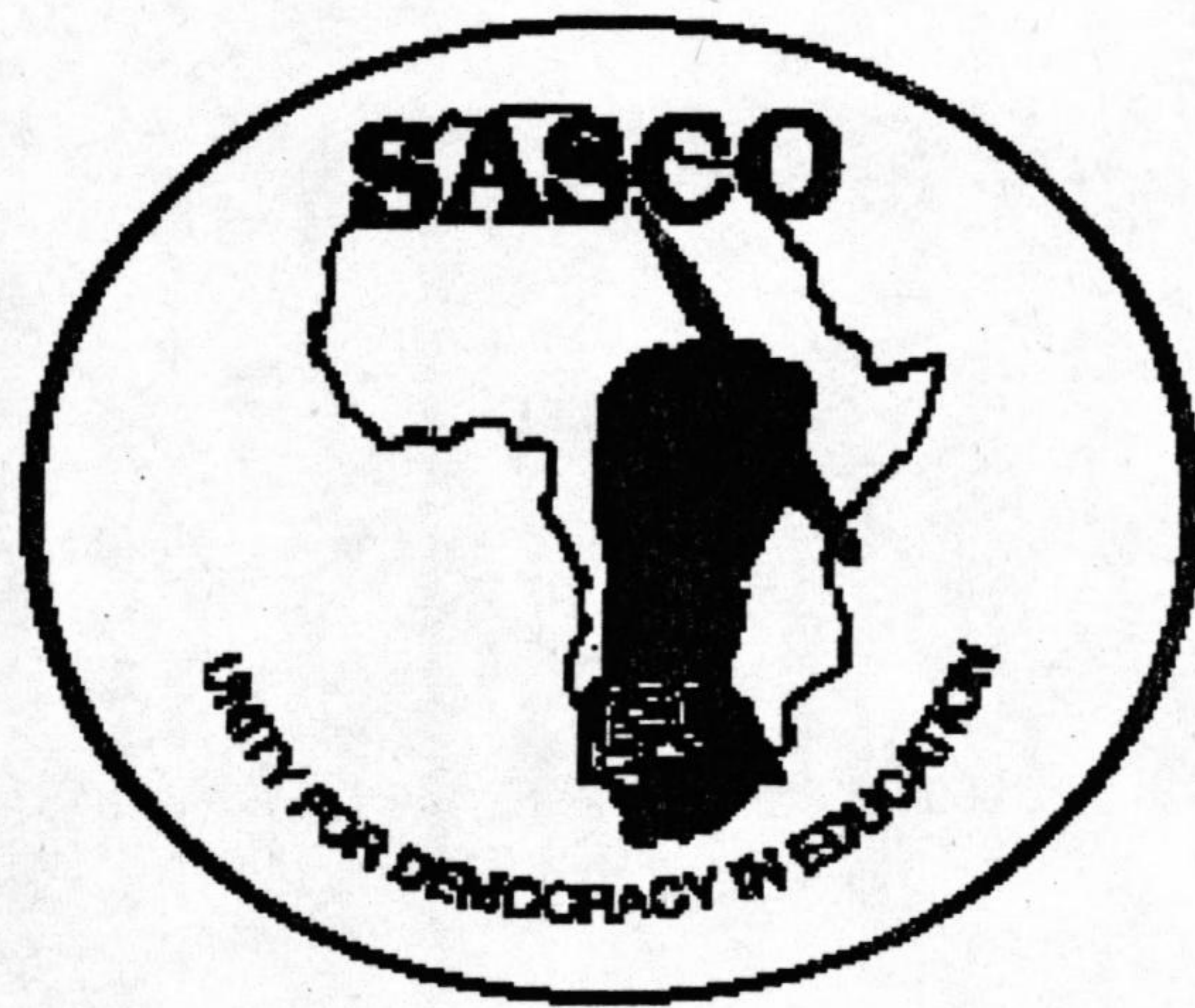

CONGRESS 96

*“Building a popular movement for
reconstruction, transformation and real
peoples power.”*



SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' CONGRESS

Introduction

The South African Students' Congress, the largest in Africa was formed in 1991 at Rhodes university, Grahamstown as a result of a merger between The National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) and South African National Students Organisation (SANSCO). This merger came as a result of intensive discussions and debate on the need of the formation of a single non-racial student organisation. Ever Since 1991 SASCO has grown from campus to campus, it has more than 140 (hundred & forty) branches in colleges, tecknikons, universities and vocational centres.

The 5th National Congress was held at the University of North-West (former Bophutatswana) from the 29th November to 5th December 1996. This historic Congress discussed amongst other future of the student movement, the world economic crisis, the wars ravaging Africa, issues of development, environment, AIDS, the role of tertiary education in society and the participation of students in community work.

This document is the summary of that congress.

Resolutions

hereas we, delegates to the Fifth Annual Congress of the South African Students' Congress at the University of North West from the 29 November to 05th December 1996

BUILDING THE ORGANISATION

Noting that:

1. Resolution of the last congress on the payment of membership fees was not implemented and adhered to and further that there has been improper regulation and control of membership fees.
2. There has been a decline on the membership and our recruitment drive is not effective.
3. The weak state of our branches.
4. Suspensions and expulsions are rife in most branches.
5. Loss of SRC elections.
6. Lack of political clarity within the organisation.
7. Law suits that have riddled and plagued the organisation.
8. Our audit capacity is minimal.
9. PEC's are the most financially constrained tiers of the organisation.

Therefore resolve:

1. Membership fees be paid directly to the NECS.
2. A quarterly audit on membership be conducted.
3. Commission the NEC to investigate the funding of provinces through a uniform operational budget allocation.
4. SRC's and institutional managements make available resource to branches as part of capacity building.
5. Membership fees should remain ten rand (R 10.00).
6. Such dues from membership be divided between the PEC's and Branches.

ON FULL TIME PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES

Noting:

1. The poor state of the organisation and the level of coordination at provincial level
2. The financial state of the organisation and provinces in particular.

Desiring:

1. The need for effective and efficient administration and management, for delivery and implementation.

Therefore resolve:

1. That communication between the three tiers of the organisation be improved.
2. Provincial Working Committees be established.
3. PEC's employ full-time General Secretaries or Administrators.
4. PEC's should obtain means of affordable mobile communication (eg. pagers).
5. Provincial coordinators be secured among PEC's.

AFFILIATION FEE & MEMBERSHIP FEES

Noting that :

1. The resolution of 4th Annual Congress;
2. The financial state of the organisation is in tatters;
3. The fund raising capacity of branches is very poor;
4. Provinces and branches are experiencing serious problems;
5. The strengths and weaknesses of our membership system;

Believing:

1. That branches have a responsibility to ensure a stable head office;
2. That financial resources are at the centre of the survival of the organisation;
3. That our membership systems has to be improved for efficient disbursement of membership card and forms as well as expedite branch deposits.

Therefore resolve:

1. The affiliation fee be reduced by R150.00 to R100.00 and that all branches are expected to pay on an annual basis;
2. To retain the R10.00 membership fee;
3. To mandate the national executive committee to resolve on the issue of allocation to branches and provinces.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Noting that:

1. The centre has been hijacked by our strategic adversaries.
2. Our undeclared reluctance to fully participate in its activities.

3. The lack of clear strategic goals around our contribution.
4. The deliberate failure to make the centre student driven.

Therefore resolve that:

1. Sasco continues participating in the structure.
2. Composition of the structure be reviewed.

YOUTH ALLIANCE

Resolve:

1. Build a strong youth alliance and participate in its programme.
2. Tripartite members need to develop a clear programme and process for complementing each other.
3. Sasco comrades should refrain from contributing in the launching of such branches.
4. Branches should continue interacting with the youth league leadership to obviate and avert confrontation.
5. Reaffirm the 1994 resolution of not creating no go areas for youth league.

COSAS

Noting:

1. The state in which Cosas finds itself.
2. Technical colleges remains grey areas.

Aware:

1. Of our responsibility to build a strong youth alliance.

Therefore resolve:

1. That the national executive committee and Provincial Executive committee should meet the Congress of South African Students urgently and resolve, inter alia, the technical college issue, however with the mandate that Sasco should lead in technical colleges.
2. A merger is not feasible and viable for the organisation in the light of its longer term strategic objectives.
3. To develop a concrete programme to revitalise Cosas and set it a clear agenda.

ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Resolve:

1. To reaffirm and operationalise the 4th Annual Congress resolution.
2. to engage the Ministries of Education, Foreign and Home Affairs in this regard.

SRC FEDERATION

CONGRESS 96

Noting:

1. The state of College SRC's.
2. The last congress mandate has not been taken to its logical conclusion.
3. Our inability to systematise our programme towards a merger.

Therefore resolve:

1. That SASCO spearheads the concretisation of the college union.
2. That the National Executive Committee should speed up the process of the SRC federation formation.
3. That the federation be launched in 1997

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRONT OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES

Noting:

1. The emerging dominant ideology in the current world disorder} is neo-liberal in outlook, content and form;
2. The weakness of progressive forces in the region, Africa as a whole and globally;
3. The impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe socialist countries on the international progressive movement;
4. Our relationship with the liberation movement and political organisation in the region and Africa and worldwide since the unbanning of the liberation movement and the installation of the GNU;
5. The absence of leadership in the international progressive forces;
6. The socio-economic-political crisis facing nations and people of the South as a result of military, political and economic stranglehold that the North exert on developing societies;
7. The continued manipulation of international organisations, institutes and bodies by the superpowers chiefly the United States;
8. The post-world war triumphalism of the west has not automatically translated into the success of capitalism as a social system, and that this system is the throes of a deeper crisis that began in the 70s;
9. Faced with this crisis, the ascendancy of neo-liberalism as a new orthodoxy is pushed through the throats of developing nations in order to open up their economies to further economic plunder;

Believing:

1. To succumb to the assault on the progressive forces is not in the interest of real social transformation;
2. There is a need to resuscitate our relationship with the liberation movements, political organisations, the youth and student movement

3. The youth and student movement must play an important role in tilting the present balance of forces;
4. The continued crisis of civil war, military dictatorships, refugees, human rights abuse around the world and Africa is not conducive to development and redressing the situation of the poor;
5. The process of forming regional trading blocks and integration is dictated by the trends of globalization;
6. The South African Department and Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a role paly in the regrouping of the progressive forces;

Aware and Conscious:

1. Of our political and social responsibility toward the Southern African region, Africa and the rest of the world;

Reaffirm and Confirm:

1. The resolutions of the fourth Annual Congress;
2. The urgent need for the transformation of the UN and all its agencies, particularly the Security Council.

Therefore Resolve:

a) International Union of Students.

1. To endorse the request and offer of Macedonia Student Union to host the IUS Constituent Congress in 1998;
2. To organise and prepare regional member unions for the historic 1998 Congress;

b) International Students and exchange and co-operations programmes

1. To engage our administrations on the issue of the transparency and content of student exchange programmes;
2. To mandate our policy unit to develop a clear policy on international students, conscious of the categories of international students such as refugees, politically persecuted students and student who voluntarily come to study in South Africa and have the private means;
3. On the basis of policy, participate and contribute in the legislation process of the Higher Education and the so-called "Aliens Control" Bill;
4. Conscientiae our members and the general students and youth on the new Internationalism that is based on solidarity and dismiss all forms of xenophobia
5. To take a conscious decision to support politically persecuted student to promote the democratisation processes in Africa and the world
6. To maintain the present co-operation agreements that the organisation has.

c) Struggle of Students (SOS).

1. To work closely with SOS to ensure that the Conference for Democratic Students' Unions and African Diaspora take place in December 1997 as part of a programme to rebuild AASU;
2. The incoming NEC should convene a meeting of all SOS partner organisation in South Africa to prepare for the conference;
3. That the international department should take responsibility for the co-ordination of the Conference preparations;
4. To work closely with the SOS to ensure that the scholarship programme for politically persecuted students become a reality in South Africa;

d) Solidarity with Cuba.

1. To reaffirm fourth Congress resolutions on the Hands-Off Cuba Campaign
2. To engage Latin American Students formations with the aim of a joint Cuban Solidarity campaign;
3. The projects' officer in consultation with the Secretary for International Officer should prioritise the collection of stationary campaign;
4. To use the Cuba campaign as a spring board for solidarity with other countries, such as East Timor, Nigeria and broader solidarity with countries of the south,

e) Palestine PEACE Process

Noting:

1. The peace process in Palestine is at a delicate stage;
2. The conservative Israeli Government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, have consistently undermined and seeks to derail the Peace Process;
3. The US foreign policy has not assisted the process, but is in keeping with its neo-colonial Middle East policies;

We urge:

1. That both parties should seriously expedite the implementation of the Peace Process, particularly Israeli Government;
2. Israeli settlements in Occupied Territories must **STOP** immediately!

Therefore resolve:

1. To re-affirm and reinforce our ties and support for the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS), and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).
2. To put pressure on our Government to assist in keeping the Peace Process on track;

3. The aim of the Peace Process must be the Liberation of the Palestinian People and the creation of a Palestinian State.

f) East-Timor

Noting:

1. The international community have once again confirmed the right of East-Timorese People to self-determination and national independence;
2. The Suharto regime continues to murder East-Timorese and plunder their resources;
3. Countries such as Australia and the US are the main beneficiaries of the oppression of the East-Timor People;
4. Numerous UN Resolutions recognising the right to self determination;
5. The ties between our Government and the Indonesian Military Junta;

Believing:

1. That East-Timor People have a right to self-determination and national independence;
2. That by conferring the Nobel Peace Prize, to Bishop Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos Horta, the international community has reaffirmed this inalienable right of the East-Timor People;

Therefore Resolve:

1. To forge links with East-Timor progressive movement, particularly student organisations;
2. To put pressure on our Government to cut its ties with the Indonesian Military Junta;
3. To vigorously campaign for the implementation of UN resolutions on East-Timor.

Further Resolve:

1. To contribute in the foreign policy development and engage the ministry and department of foreign affairs and the sub directorate in the education department;
2. To convene an international policy conference in the first semester of 1997 in order to develop our policy on international affairs and relations; solidarity work and promoting democracy; and human rights;
3. To condemn in no uncertain terms the suppression of students protest in Zimbabwe, Swaziland, South Korea and East Timor,

SOCIO -ECONOMIC POLICY DOCUMENT Resolution on Socio-Economic Document.

a) Content.

Noting:

1. The document provides the organisation with a framework on socio-economic issues.
2. it broadly analyses the characterisation of the global and national situations; articulates a socio-economic vision and on the basis of this, provides a programme for democratising and socialising the economy.

Believing:

1. Notwithstanding it's broad scope, the document needs to be reworked on some of the sections and include sections that were not originally in the document, viz, the document has to unpack on budget restructuring/ reprioritisation, restructuring of state assets, update the labour relations section, provide a link between micro and macro economic processes, further discuss small-medium-micro enterprises, include a section on the land question, when discussing the structure of the economy the document should also analyse the role of the military-industrial complex, and lastly, link industrial strategy with promoting non-exploitative regional trading relations;

Therefore resolve:

1. To adopt the document as a working draft on socio-economic policy, and a process to update and rework it should be expedited.
2. An implementation strategy should be discussed.

b) Process.

Noting:

1. The socio-economic document was discussed at the Leadership Workshop;
2. The present document is a reworked version of the document discussed at the Leadership Workshop, and was discussed in the Policy Unit;
3. It was distributed in the organisation but not widely discussed;

Believing:

1. The document represent a major step forward in the organisation and empowers the organisation to impact on socio-economic processes;
2. There needs to be broader discussion in all level of the organisation such that the end product should reflect
3. Positions in the organisation;

Therefore Resolve:

1. The document should be reworked and sent to branches and provinces;
2. The political education officer should spearhead and co-ordinate the process of discussions in the - branches and provinces should be empowered to discuss the document through workshops and access to information;

3. A Policy Conference should be convened in April to discuss and adopt the Policy document on Socio Economic Policy, and other policy documents in the organisation.

4. Until a final version is adopted, the working document should serve to guide the NEC when it needs to take positions on socio-economic issues; and furthermore the NEC should discuss whether to adopt it as an NEC document until it is finally adopted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Noting that:

1. The report has not been audited but has been prepared through the expertise of a bookkeeper.
2. There is no clear structural relations between the NEC, PEC's and branches.
3. The decision and resolution of the last congress.
4. PEC's and Branches do not account for membership fees.
5. There is no central coordination of the finances of the organisation.
6. The decision and mandate and resolution of the 4th Annual Congress was not fulfilled nor implemented.
7. Lack of proper policy on the allocation and distribution of fees and funds to both Provinces and Branches.
8. The poor and appalling state of the provinces and branches
9. The financial state of the organisation has improved tremendously.

Extolling:

1. The mammoth tasks and tireless endeavours by the NEC is improving the state of the organisation.
2. The contribution and efforts of the funders, donors and all those who financed Sasco and piloted it into the present state of sustenance.
3. Endeavours to invoke the assistance of a book-keeper.

Therefore resolve:

1. Adopt the financial report as presented.
2. To develop a systematic and acceptable way of administration and accounting purposes.
3. To audit the financial report every two years.
4. Establish National and Provincial linkage and network within the treasuriat.
5. Encourage members of the NEC to pay membership fee as an enforced responsibility.
6. Inculcate a sense of creativity on the part of branches and provinces as relates to fund-raising.

FUND-RAISING POLICY

Having noted that:

1. Since the dawn of a new democratic era, NGO and CBOs in South Africa have been losing their traditional international and domestic donors to the government initiated projects.
2. Sasco has not been able to secure a lot of funding during the 1996 year and it is on the verge of facing a severe financial crisis.
3. The need to demystify fundraising and to get branches and provinces starting to participate effectively.
4. That our present funders are not guaranteed for a long term and that some of them have already started to show problems.

Recognising that :

1. Although Sasco has not fully implemented the 1994 and 1995 resolutions on Investment Initiatives, some amount of developments have emerged so far.
2. The need for the organisation to develop some level of sophistication and professionalism in order to run a more dynamic and sustainable fundraising plan.

Believing that:

1. There is a need to develop a long-term and sustainable fundraising plan
2. A long term objective of our initiatives should be geared at benefiting students
3. The organisation has the necessary potential to generate finding even during these trying times and realities that are hostile to the plight of NGOs
4. Proper and good record keeping in the organisation will enhance our capacity to both acquire resources and to manage them.
5. Skills training in this regard will be an important pillar in ensuring that this exercise succeeds

Therefore Resolve:

1. On General Fundraising

1. That all tiers of the organisation should be able to embark on fundraising initiatives, this includes branch, region and provinces.
2. That the National Fundraiser should develop and communicate clear guidelines to all provinces and branches on fundraising.
3. That special events such as cultural and entertainment should be organised for fundraising in branches and provinces.
4. Proper record keeping and accounting mechanisms should be developed within the organisation
5. An Strategic Planning Workshop be convened at the beginning of next year (1997) to develop a clear fundraising plan for Sasco.

2. On Investment Initiatives for Sasco

That in line with the 1994 and 1995 resolutions,

1. The fundraiser continues with the process of setting up an investment trust that will deal with all investment activities of the organisation.
2. That the Youth Empowerment Network Trust, Thebe Investment Initiative and the Ama Call Project be accelerated.
3. That broadly our investment areas should cover inter alia:
 - Education and Training
 - Travel and Tourism
 - Food and Beverages
 - Entertainment-Student Services
4. The long term objectives of the trust should be geared at assisting the broad student sector
5. That it must lead to organisational sustenance and self-reliance.
6. The organisation should be able to calculate the risks that are involved in this initiatives in terms of control and direction of the trust, and its activities in line with the broad objectives of both these initiatives and in particular our organisation.

3. On relationship between the Trust and Sasco

1. That the trust be established by a resolution of the organisation, but be a separate entity.
2. The organisation appoint trustees from different sectors of our community.

POLITICAL STRATEGY

Resolution on Political Strategy.

Noting That:

1. The dominant political ideology globally is neo-liberalism.
2. Neo-liberalism is the enemy of National Democratic Revolution and continues to undermine current states.
3. Some aspect of the NDR theory are out of context.
4. The need to revisit our Pillars of struggle

Believing:

1. The NDR is still going on, but with vivid internal contradictions;
2. Revolution is a complex process that could succeed through a series of complex struggles

Aware Of:

1. The contestation of the leadership role of the ANC in the NDR by various strata and classes;
2. Our inability to use the ANCYL as a vehicle for engaging effectively the ANC,

Therefore Resolve:

1. Sasco must launch a vigorous ideological battle against neo-liberalism and the strengthening of the democratic state.
2. Sasco must agitate for a popular movement for transformation, whose minimum programme - should be to fight neo-liberalism and globalization;
3. The mass democratic movement led by the ANC must take a fresh look at the theory of the NDR.
4. To enhance the battle for the soul of the ANC, using among others, the Progressive Youth Alliance
5. To develop a clear programme for the Progressive Youth Alliance as a basis of the relationship of the constituent elements;
6. To continue to strengthen our relations with the SACP and practically building it.
7. To employ as part of our pillars of struggle, Economic Transformation, mass struggle and mobilisation.
8. To further locate our role and involvement in the PMT (Popular Movement for Transformation).

RESOLUTION ON SECRETARIAT REPORT.

Noting:

1. That the report is comprehensive and broadly reflects the state of the organisation and the activities that took place in the organisation.
2. That 1996 will go down in the annals of the organisation as having been a year in which there was unprecedented activity in the history of the organisation.
3. That the report has unwittingly left out other activities taking place in the organisation such as crises areas in Unisa, Vista Mamelodi and in the Free State.
4. That there is a need for the report to capture some of these areas and expand on some of the sections.

Believing:

1. The report clearly and unequivocally maps the way forward for the organisation in the coming years and the twenty first century.
2. The incoming NEC has the challenge to take the organisation to new heights

Therefore resolve:

1. To adopt the secretariat report with the following amendments.
2. The section on Wits Tech around Holomisa issue "in preparation for the national day of action" preparation for the SRC elections.
3. To include crises areas covering Unisa, Vista University of the North Qwaqwa campus

AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**Noting:**

1. The alarming statistics around the spread of the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus and sexually Transmitted Disease.
2. Women as the most vulnerable and disempowered sector of our patriarchal society are the most affected.
3. The lack of proper and coherent coordination and delivery strategy for implementation of projects and campaigns.

Believe:

1. There is a need to dispel myths surrounding HIV/AIDS and people living with the disease.
2. Need to empower community/individuals/students to input in policy processes as part of primary health care.
3. Social responsibility and responsiveness needs to be built into and linked to broader developmental programme.
4. Students have a moral obligation and social responsibility towards the upliftment and development of our community.
5. Need to further raise the awareness, educate and influence attitude and sexual behaviour of student as our immediate target group.
6. There is a need to ensure continuous evaluation of the project in concert with the NGO's.

Therefore resolve:

1. To identify and focus on the student population in respective campuses as the immediate target group and broader community in the long term.
2. Network with relevant and progressive NGO's as part of programme implementation and facilitation.
3. Identify pilot branches should launch media campaign on AIDS awareness/education.
4. To conduct and facilitate seminars and workshops on the issue as part of our POA.
5. To lobby for the inclusion of sex education into the curriculum through participating in the structures of Ministry of Health and Education.
6. To develop policy proposal/framework around rights of people plagued by the virus, particularly at the work place.

RDP STUDENT BRIGADES AND COMMUNITY WORK**Noting:**

1. Problems encountered in launching the project.
2. Lack of clear programme of action on the part of branches
3. Lack of central coordination measures for the project implementation.
4. The move by SASVO to hijack.
5. Move by racist campuses to stifle the project
6. Lack of fund-raising mechanisms.

Believing:

1. That there is a need to include all students and structures in this project.

Therefore resolve:

1. We should assume leadership in this project and should be inclusive of all students, communities and NGO's.
2. Establish RDP centres.
3. To develop a clear programme for the student brigades.
4. This process be people driven.

ON STUDENT MOBILISATION**Noting:**

1. Student graduates neglect their responsibilities towards community development and upliftment.

Believing that:

1. There is a need to create capacity for the student brigades for sustenance.

Therefore resolve:

1. This process be people driven.
2. Community work be part and be included in the curriculum.
3. Stabilisation fund be established for capacity and empowerment.
4. Incentives be provided to encourage students in partaking in the project.
5. To quantify the present existing strategies and tactics and programme of action.

RESOURCE AND FUND-RAISING**Noting that :**

1. SRC's be engaged in providing resources.
2. To engage the RDP Council and donors.
3. Establish a coordinating team that will monitor the project and deal with fundraising.
4. Sasco should refrain from interacting with SAVCO.

MASAKHANE CAMPAIGN**Noting that:**

1. The campaign has grounded.

Aware:

1. Of our responsibility to social upliftment.

Therefore resolve:

1. To revitalise the campaign.
2. To conscientise our community on the importance of this campaign.
3. Provinces to coordinate this project.

4. To embark on a vigorous and rigorous campaign.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Noting:

1. The Gender Conference resolution on this question;
2. That the issue has been debated in the organisation since its formation;
3. That there is an urgent need for the organisation to express itself on this question;
4. Congress could not resolve whether to constitutionalise the principle of non-Homophobia or not;

Believing:

1. That this issue is very crucial and important for the organisation as it strengthens its radical content;
2. That societal discrimination against Gays and Lesbians is against the letter and spirit of the present constitution;
3. Sexual orientation is a sexual construct that presently is underpinned by patriarchal relations;
4. The Bill of Rights protect every individual from discrimination and inequality which is a decisive major step forward and characterise our Constitution as the most progressive;

Therefore Resolve:

1. That the Congress adopts the principle of non-discrimination against Gays and Lesbians;
2. Commit ourselves to fighting all forms of discrimination against Homosexuals;
3. Reaffirm and Confirm Gender Conference Resolutions;
4. To refer back the question of whether to Constitutionalise the principle of non-Homophobia to branches and provinces for further discussion;
5. The Gender department should empower branches and provinces by availing more information and documents;
6. That this issue should be discussed in the planned Policy Conference in March.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Noting:

1. That the constitution has been amended since the third Congress, but has not been updated;
2. The Organisation was operating with an old version of the constitution;

Believing:

1. The constitution is the supreme law of the organisation and regulates its importance;
2. It should be continuously assessed and amended to reflect changing conditions in the organisation;

Therefore Resolve;

a) Preamble.

1. Insert historically oppressed ; thus preamble read:

"Whereas we the students of South Africa, realising that we are members of the community before we are students, and committing ourselves to a non-racial and democratic society free of exploitation and national oppression in which harmony amongst people will prevail, find it necessary to articulate the aspirations of the progressive, democratic-minded and **historically oppressed people** in a united and organised manner, are therefore determined"

b) Membership.

Insert nationality so that section one reads:

" Membership shall be open to all students at institutions of post-secondary learning and training as decided by the annual congress (hereinafter referred to as AC), regardless of their race, colour, creed, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstances, any disability they may have, their field or place of of study, their social standing, and **nationality**, on condition that such persons adhere to the principles , policies, and mode of operations of the organisation"

c) Annual Congress.

Delete REC to PEC, sub-regional to regional executive committee, and three delegates to branch delegates. Thus section 5.1 will read:

The AC shall consist of members of the National Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the NEC), the provincial executive committee (hereinafter referred to as PEC), AND REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (REC) and delegates from each branch of the organisation and any other person whose presence shall be deemed necessary by the NEC.

Section 5.2.b changed It shall assess the state of the organisation in the branches, regions, PECs and the NEC.

SECTION 5.2.C. changed to " it shall review the state of the nation and develop appropriate programmes of action around the political, economic, and social situation.

Section 5.2. F. Changed to " it shall endorse or reject or accept branch applications for membership.

Section 5.3. delete once a year change to " the AC shall be convened by the NEC.

Add section 5.4 " The AC shall reserve the prerogative to convene any necessary commission(s) or committee(s) as the case may be.

Add section 5.5. " The AC shall ratify numeration levels of all employees as decided by the NEC.

d) General Students' Council (GSC).

Section 6.1. delete REC to PER, SEC to REC and one to representatives from each branch. Thus

" The General Students' Council (hereinafter referred to as the GSC), shall consist of members of the NEC, PER, REC and representatives from each branch; and any other person(s) whose presence is deemed necessary by the NEC for the proceedings of the GSC.

e) Commissions

delete section 7 entirely.

f) Honorary President.

Add section 8 for honorary president whose duties shall be to:

- a. Advise the NEC and/or AC on any matter for which advise is sought.
- b. Maintain and service the organic link between the organisation, the tripartite alliance and progressive elements of civil society
- c. Make complimentary interventions in the finance department's fund raising efforts;
- d. Symbolise and represent the organisation in major national and international functions.

g) The National Executive Committee

Change section 8 to section 9.

9.5. Change from education officer to education and transformation officer and add deputy education and transformation officer which is changed from people's education officer

9.10. Change from political education officer to political education and training officer.

9.12. Delete.

The NEC will be composed of the following:

1. President.
2. Deputy President

3. Secretary General
4. Deputy Secretary General
5. Treasurer General
6. Political Education and Training Officer
7. Projects and Campaigns Officer
8. Deputy Projects and campaigns Officer
9. Education and Transformation Officer
10. Deputy Education and Transformation Officer
11. Gender Officer
12. Media, Publicity and Information Officer
13. Secretary For International Affairs

It shall be the prerogative of the NEC to decide whether provincial secretaries to be part of the NEC meeting.

9.2. Delete section 9.2 and substitute with " there shall be a National Working Committee which shall be constituted by the NEC in its first meeting.

9.3. Delete regional to provincial to read thus " Provincial chairpersons shall be ex-officio members of the NEC.

9.5. Delete annual thus " The NEC shall be elected by the AC."

9.6. Delete annually thus " The AC may determine whether any of the above posts be designated full-time and the incumbent employment of personnel by SASCO.

h) Duties of the NEC

Change from section 9 to 10.

C0.2. Add deputy president shall link with parliament as a part of a lobby process for the organisation.

I) Demarcation of Provinces.

Change from section 10 to section 11.

Change to demarcation of provinces shall conform to provincial demarcation as provided for in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

j) Sub-regional Committee

Delete.

k) Provincial Executive Committee.

Change section 12 to Provincial Executive committee and add "4. there shall be the Provincial Working Committee which shall be constituted by the PER in its first meeting".

The PEC shall comprise:

1. Provincial chairperson
2. Deputy Provincial Chairperson
3. Provincial Secretary

4. Deputy Provincial Secretary
5. Provincial Treasurer
6. Education and Transformation Officer
7. Political education and Training Officer
8. Gender Officer
9. Media, Publicity and Information Officer.

l). Branches.

Change section 16 to 15. Add " The BEC shall be composed of the following: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Branch Secretary, Treasurer, Media, Publicity and Information Officer, education and Transformation Officer, Projects and Campaigns Officer, Political education and Training Officer, Gender Officer;

m) Regional Council.

Change to Provincial General Council

1. The Provincial general Council (hereinafter referred to as the PGC), shall constitute branch delegates and the PER.
2. It shall be convened annually.
3. It shall perform functions of the GSC at provincial level;
4. The PGC shall determine the programme of action for the province and make policy recommendations to the AC and the GSC.

n) Voting.

20.d change to voting at all meetings shall be by secret ballot and add two-thirds majority after unless.

o) Principle of Women's Leadership.

The political education and training officer, the gender officer should develop a discussion document around this issue.

STRATEGY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Noting that:

1. Our desire to have an accessible higher education policy.
2. We as SASCO have adopted a policy document on transformation of Higher education.
3. The ministry of Education will be unveiling the green paper on Higher Education for comment and input.
4. The brief and basis for the green paper is the NCHE report.
5. Our difference with the NCHE report as presented : on the following issues, Governance, Funding, Access, and Redress.

Further Noting:

1. Language has been used as a tool of oppression in the past and it continues to be used as a mechanism of denying the majority of a people their inalienable right to education.
2. That the NCHE report is silent on the issue of language policy .

Believing That:

- 1 It is both a responsibility and necessity to for SASCO to make a qualitative input on the green paper
2. The overall mass democratic movement should play a significant role on the process towards the enactment of a Higher Education Act.

Therefore Resolve:

1. To reaffirm our policy position as adopted by the policy conference.
2. To convene an MDM education alliance summit to develop a common approach to the green paper on Higher education.
3. To engage on fierce and vicious lobby programme from the unveiling of the green paper to the Promulgation of the Higher education Act.

ENVIRONMENT

Noting:

1. Lack of environmental awareness within society in general and students in particular.
2. We have not done much on making students aware and conscious of green politics.
3. Our campuses are some of the most environmentally unfriendly zones.

Believing:

1. Impacts of environmental degradation are an expression of social inequality.
2. Provision of basic needs and and continued economic growth depends on the sustainable utilization of the environment.
3. Sustainable management of the environment should underline sustainable economic and social development.
4. Institutions have a capacity to play an important role in environmental awareness.
5. It is important for SASCO to implement and consolidate programmes on environmental awareness.
6. Governments , Institutions and funding agencies have a duty to resource and finance environmental campaigns.

Further Believing:

1. Environmental deterioration has serious consequences on the health and welfare of our people.
2. Environmental issues are tools of organisation.

Therefore Resolve:

1. Our Policy and Research Unit to develop a comprehensive policy on environment in consultation with branches and provinces
2. To Launch the environmental awareness campaign as a matter of urgency.
3. A national environmental week be declared around the month of June to prepare us for the World Environment Day.
4. The Branch project officer should establish environmental sub-committees.

BUILDING A STRONG DEMOCRATIC STUDENT MOVEMENT**Noting that:**

1. We have to capacitate ourselves in the broader struggle

Believing that:

1. There is a need for strategic, tactical alliances
2. There is a need for a democratic youth movement composed of SASCO, ANCYL and COSAS

Therefore resolve that:

1. Internal education must be conducted throughout the country
2. Active alliances should be entered with various youth formations nationally and internationally

CHARTER ON STUDENTS' RIGHTS.**Noting:****a) Content.**

1. Most of the issue have been discussed in the leadership and gender conference;
2. The democratic state has not necessarily guaranteed students' rights;
3. Students' Rights vary at various levels, i.e., socio-economic environment;
4. There are some important issues that should have been included in this charter, like :

4.1. 1.4 Should include free and compulsory education at pre-tertiary level.

4.2. 1.4. should also include state subsidy at tertiary level;

4.3. 3.4. No one should be discriminated against his/her orientation, i.e. language, gender and race.

4.4. 4.10. Should include otherwise after the word academical

4.4. Should include right to language;

5. The following issues from the charter should be changed, such as:

CONGRESS 96

5.1. sexual orientation should be changed to non-Homophobia as per 5th Congress
Resolution on sexual orientation;

6. There should be separation of administrative and information rights

Believing:

1. That the Charter on Student Rights will serve as a mobilisation tool that rallies the masses of students under the banner of Sasco;
2. That to develop student rights is not to overburden our democracy, but to deepen and enhance it to be accessible as wide a constituency as possible;

Therefore Resolve:

1. The Charter be adopted with amendment as outlined in the noting section

b) Process.**Believing:**

1. The organisation should adopt the charter as aspirations and take it for legal scrutiny;
2. The organisation should call a summit of all progressive students' movement for input;
3. It should be submitted to the education and transformation officer and youth commission;
4. It should be submitted in the Green and White paper process;

Therefore Resolve:

1. It should be co-ordinated by the education and transformation officer;
2. A policy Conference should be convened to discuss and adopt this Charter in April after discussing it with other structures and progressive students' organisations

YOUTH POLICY DOCUMENT AND YOUTH ALLIANCE**Noting:**

1. The laxity on the part of the youth commission to taking youth development seriously.
2. That youth development and transformation is moving at the slow pace
3. The need to have a National Youth Council
4. Lack of clear policies around Youth Development and Transformation

Further noting that:

1. The youth alliance is lacking clear vision
2. The need to consolidate and the youth alliance at the programmatic level.
3. The resolution of the last congress

Aware of:

1. Our responsibility to develop both the Youth Alliance and the Youth Commission

Therefore resolve:

1. To actively and consciously engage all progressive youth and student structures to developing and consolidating the Youth Alliance.
2. To prioritise policy development around Youth Development and transformation
3. To engage ourselves to develop the National Youth Council and further consolidate the Youth Commission.

Committing ourselves:

1. To develop Policies centred around Youth development and Transformation.

ON STUDENT GOVERNANCE

Noting that :

1. SRC's remains relevant and necessary tool of implementation of our policy at micro level .
2. In the past, SRC's has been riddled with corruption, ill-discipline and lack of accountability.
3. There exist gross imbalances between SRC's colleges, Technikon and Universities.
4. Tertiary education student representation remains fragmented by three SRC federations.
5. SASCO has long standing resolution on a single SRC federation for all tertiary student.

Believing that :

1. We need SRC as organ of people mass popular support
2. The academic pressures on student leaders necessitate the award of academic incentives and waivers
3. A single SRC federation is to the advantage of building a strong student movement.

Confirming and reaffirming:

1. The 4th Annual Congress resolution on the formation of a single non-racial ,non-sexist SRC federation of post-secondary institution

Therefore resolve :

1. To continue to build and contest SRC's
2. To rebuild SRC image amongst students
3. To mandate our NEC to consult with the leadership of SAU-SRC , SATSU and SACE-SRC in order to propel formation of such a federation;

b) On SRC INCENTIVES

Noting:

1. The problem student leaders face academically due to their involvement;
2. The lack of infrastructural support for student leaders and SRCs;

3. The need for administrations to have understanding and appreciation of the contribution by student leaders in the transformation process;
4. The general financial problem experienced by students;

Therefore Resolve:

1. There should be no financial incentives to SRC member and student leaders save to assist them with running an efficient organisations;
2. The administration and lecturers should understand the time-schedules of student leaders and make necessary concessions.

RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI AND RWANDA

Noting:

The Lack of decisive intervention and apathy by the international community on the genocidal butchering of the innocent Tutsi and Hutu peoples in Rwanda by the Hutu Militia.

Further noting:

The Potential outbreak of civil war exacerbated by the return of the refugees and uncontrolled gun smuggling.

Believing that:

The international community under the aegis of the United Nations, is having a moral obligation to intervene in the crisis that plague Rwanda and Burundi respectively.

Furthermore believing that:

1. Our country can also play a significant role in an endeavour to deteriorate the crisis, and adopting an informed strategic approach in the sale of arms to Rwandan Government.

Therefore Resolve To:

1. Deplore unequivocally the smuggling of arms to Rwanda for the purposes of instigating war.
2. Agitate the government through campaigns to act responsibility and carefully in its sale of arms to the Rwandan government, basically for the sole purpose of reviving and sustaining tranquillity, peace, order and stability in the Great Lakes Region.
3. Encourage dialogue between the Zairian and Rwandan government respectively.
4. Urge the OAU in conjunction with the UN to work tirelessly in a quest to seek a long lasting solution to the crisis in the Great Lakes Region.