



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JESUIT UNIVERSITIES

## CHARTER

### IDENTITY

IAJU is an association of Jesuit Catholic universities and institutes of higher education. Founded in 2018 and approved by the Fr. General, Arturo Sosa, of the Society of Jesus, the IAJU is recognized as the international advisory and coordinating body to the Secretariat of Jesuit Higher Education and, through him, to Father General and his Assistants in matters related to higher education and the intellectual apostolate.

### MISSION AND PURPOSES

A. The mission of the IAJU is to contribute to the progress of the Society's apostolate of higher education through the application of its decrees and documents in order to promote the development of a more just and humane world for the greater honor and glory of God.

B. The purposes of the IAJU are:

1. To promote the collective reflection on the mission of Jesuit institutions of higher education in light of the Society's decrees and the writings of the Generals of the Society;
2. To promote collaboration between and among the networks of the Society's higher education institutions, between and among lay and Jesuit faculty and administrators, and between and among the various apostolates of the Society;
3. To represent the membership at international meetings and colloquia and to collaborate with other institutions and associations with common purpose, especially other associations of Catholic institutions of higher education;
4. To contribute to the development of Jesuit higher education and its mission through promotion of projects and programs that enhance the effectiveness and quality of these institutions, as well as, protecting their autonomy when necessary; and
5. To promote the expansion of Jesuit higher education for the marginalized and the poor whenever and wherever possible.

### REPRESENTATION

A. Membership in the International Association is predicated on membership in the regional association of Jesuit higher education institutions. In each of the six regions of the Society, a formal association is, or shall be, established to encourage sharing of best practices, leadership development, broad discussions of common concerns and collective promotion of the identity and mission of Jesuit higher education in the region.

B. These regional associations are constituted to facilitate collaboration and networking among and between Jesuit institutions, as well as, between regions.

### TYPES OF MEMBERS

A. Full members are those institutions with the following characteristics: legally established, degree granting, with a single or multiple faculties, sponsored by the Society of Jesus, with a commitment to reflection on human knowledge from the point of view of faith, especially the Catholic faith, a deep and abiding commitment to the promotion of justice and reconciliation in the light of the Gospel. These characteristics should normally be embedded in the charter, mission statement, or bylaws of the institution. Its ties to the Society of Jesus should be explicitly stated in its public materials.

B. Associate members are those institutions doing higher studies, research and/or advocacy. Associated members are operated independently of a degree-granting institution, but dedicated to advancing the mission and agenda of the Society of Jesus.

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEETINGS OF THE IAJU

A. An institutional member will be represented at the tri-annual General Assembly of the IAJU by the institution's chief officer, that is, its president or rector, or his or her designee. Delegates chosen by the Rector/President may also attend such convocations and meetings as invited. Each institution will have one vote on matters calling for a decision. General Assemblies may be called more frequently than every three years.

B. The Assembly is advisory to the Society of Jesus and its Father General through the Secretary for Higher Education. The Society of Jesus, through its Secretary for Higher Education, communicates its concerns and its priorities to the membership of the IAJU.

C. The Board of the IAJU will be composed of twelve members, two from each Conference, chosen by those attending the Tri-annual Assembly. Normally, this will be the chair or president of the association and one other member or officer. The Secretary for Secondary Education and other Secretaries, as needed, will also be invited to attend Board meetings.

D. The Board will select, from among its members, a vice-chair and secretary to assist the Secretary who will chair the Board. Bylaws will be created to define the duties of the board and its officers. The Secretary for Higher Education will chair the General Assembly's meetings. Bylaws for the General Assembly will also be created to guide the deliberations of the Assembly and to define its responsibilities and relationship with the Society.

E. The Board of Directors will meet at least once annually to advise the Secretary for Higher Education of the Society on matters of the Society's higher education planning and strategy, educational policy, mission and identity development, and for planning the tri-annual meeting of the association.

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Arturo Sosa, SJ  
Superior General, Society of Jesus

Michael J. Garanzini, SJ  
Secretary for Higher Education, Society of Jesus