



# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

AS OF MAY 2022

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## CONTENTS

1.	DICTIONARY .....	5
1.1.	Definitions .....	5
2.	NAME .....	7
2.1	Defined.....	7
3.	OBJECTS.....	7
3.1	Defined.....	7
4.	THE PATRON.....	8
4.1	Appointment.....	8
5.	MEMBERSHIP .....	8
5.1	Eligibility.....	8
5.2	Classes of Membership.....	9
5.2.1	Membership.....	9
5.2.2	Life Membership .....	10
5.2.3	USU Fellowship .....	10
5.2.4	Associate Membership.....	10
5.3	Membership Year and Membership Term.....	11
5.4	Membership Privileges .....	11
5.5	Cessation of or Ineligibility for Membership .....	11
6.	MEMBERSHIP FEES.....	11
6.1	Determination.....	11
7.	THE BOARD .....	12
7.1	Responsibilities .....	12
7.2	Conflicts of interest and director remuneration.....	12
7.3	Composition.....	13
7.4	Voting at Board meetings .....	13
7.5	Ceasing to hold office.....	13
8.	OFFICE BEARERS AND THEIR ROLES.....	14
8.1	Office Bearers of the USU .....	14
8.2	Role of President.....	14
8.3	Role of Vice President .....	14
8.4	Role of Honorary Treasurer .....	15
8.5	Role of Honorary Secretary.....	15
9.	POWERS OF BOARD AND OFFICE BEARERS .....	15
9.1	Office Bearers.....	15

9.2	Board.....	15
10.	ELECTIONS.....	16
10.1	Who may nominate for Board .....	16
10.2	Conduct of elections to Board .....	17
10.3	Executive and USU Committees.....	17
10.4	Terms of office .....	18
11.	MEETINGS OF THE BOARD AND USU COMMITTEES.....	18
11.1	Powers to establish USU Committees etc.....	18
11.2	Conduct of meetings .....	18
12.	ADMINISTRATION .....	19
12.1	Indemnity .....	19
13.	CEO.....	19
13.1	Appointment.....	19
13.2	Acting CEO.....	19
13.3	Role and responsibilities of CEO .....	20
14.	CONDUCT OF ADMINISTRATION.....	20
14.1	Register of Members.....	20
14.2	Auditors.....	20
14.3	Finances .....	21
14.4	Legal documents and property .....	21
14.5	Reporting obligations.....	21
15.	GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE USU.....	21
15.1	General requirements.....	21
15.2	Quorum for General Meetings.....	22
15.3	Voting.....	22
15.4	Chairing general meetings .....	22
15.5	Special provisions for Annual General Meeting.....	23
16.	ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION.....	23
16.1	Method .....	23
17.	REFERENDA .....	24
17.1	Proposals.....	24
18.	TRANSITIONAL PROVISION .....	25
18.1	Continuation and transition .....	25
19.	TRANSFER OF ASSETS.....	25
19.1	Dissolution .....	25
19.2	Reconstitution of the USU as body corporate .....	25

20.	DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS .....	25
20.1	Requirements.....	25
21.	RESERVE POWERS OF THE SENATE .....	26
21.1	Constitution subject to Senate resolution .....	26

## 1. DICTIONARY

### 1.1. Definitions

In this Constitution, the following words have these meanings when they commence with a capital letter in the text:

Annual Election	An annual election to the Board of the University of Sydney Union (USU) in accordance with article 10.2
Board	The Board of the USU constituted by article 7.3
Board Year	1 July to 30 June
CEO	The person appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the USU (including any person who acts in that position)
Director	A member elected or appointed to the Board to govern the affairs of the USU
Due Notice	“Due Notice” shall be notice posted to the last known postal, email or university address of each member of the Board or Committee, as applicable, at least four clear working days prior to any meeting
Eligible Director	A Director elected pursuant to article 10.2 who has agreed in writing, and who is qualified to be a member of and to act as a director of, the USU, and who has signed and given the USU a Nomination Form
Executive	Executive of the Board elected in accordance with article 10.3
Graduand	A person who has completed the requirements for the award of a degree or diploma of a university or another educational institution but who has not yet had that degree conferred
Graduate	As the case may be: (a) A graduate of the University as defined in section 3(2) of the University of Sydney Act; or (b) A graduate of another university or educational institution
Immediate Past President	The person who served as President in the term before the term of office of the current President
Incoming Board	Upon declaration of the results of the Annual Election, the elected candidates, together with the Directors whose tenure extends into the next Board Year, constitute the Incoming Board. The Incoming Board has no power prior to 1 July other than to conduct the business of the special meeting mandated by article 10.2

In Camera	In camera sessions are confidential and exclude all who are not members of the Board or relevant Committee from participation in the meeting, unless otherwise resolved by that Board or Committee.
Member	A person who is a Member of the USU by satisfying the eligibility requirements under article 5.1
Membership Year	As defined in article 5.3
Misconduct	Fraud, negligence, dishonesty, a breach of duty or any unlawful or improper conduct
Nomination Form	A form signed by an eligible candidate, who seeks election as an Office Bearer
Notice	Notice of a meeting or a motion given to (as the case may be) a Member or to a Director or member of a Committee, working party or other advisory structure of the USU in accordance with this Constitution
Notice Board	Any method of public display whereby information is capable of being conveyed to the whole membership, including physical and electronic methods.
Officer of the Union	CEO and members of the executive staff
Office Bearer	The offices defined in article 8.1, who together form the Executive of the Board
Patron of the Union	As defined in article 4.1
President	The person elected as President of the USU pursuant to article 10.3
Registrar	The Registrar of the University of Sydney
Regulations	The Regulations of the USU made under article 9.2(e)
Senate	The Senate of the University of Sydney
Special Meeting	A non-scheduled meeting of the Board called pursuant to 10.3(b), 10.3(c) and 11.1(c) of the Constitution.
Special Resolution	A motion of the Board of which Due Notice has been given, which is passed by two-thirds of the Members present and voting thereon provided that the affirmative vote is at least equal to half the Members of the Board
Standing Orders	Standing orders for the conduct of meetings as prescribed by the Regulations from time to time
Union	The University of Sydney Union, and where the context admits, includes its Members

USU Committee	A committee, working party or other advisory structure created by the Board of the USU in accordance with article 11.1(a)
University	The University of Sydney, established by the University of Sydney Act 1989 (NSW) (as amended) (University of Sydney Act)
USU	The University of Sydney Union, and where the context admits, includes its Members
Visitor of the University	A person whom the University recognises as Visitor of the University as stated in University of Sydney Act
Voting Members	Members of the USU Board or a USU Committee who are present and eligible to vote
Website	The website of the University of Sydney Union which is presently <a href="http://www.usu.edu.au">www.usu.edu.au</a>
Women and Gender Diverse	Person with lived experience as a woman, Person with lived experience of a gender beyond the binary, Person with lived experience as non-cis men

## 2. NAME

### 2.1 *Defined*

The name of the organisation hereby constituted is "The University of Sydney Union".

## 3. OBJECTS

### 3.1 *Defined*

The objects of the USU shall be to:

- (a) promote the interests and welfare of the USU and the members of the University community;
- (b) work at all times towards creating an environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment;
- (c) provide a safe and clean common meeting ground for Members, and the University community;
- (d) facilitate the personal, intellectual, cultural, and social development of its Members by activities and debates whereby Members and the University community may meet and share talents, interests, and ideas;
- (e) provide its Members subsidised conveniences, facilities, services, and amenities, including, but not limited to, dining and refreshment services, childcare services, and social, cultural, and recreational facilities;

- (f) secure the cooperation of the University community and other bodies in furthering the interests and welfare of the Members and the University community;
- (g) encourage and practice environmental responsibility and to promote at all times an awareness of the need for environmentally sustainable practices and behaviour;
- (h) support, promote and encourage universal student unionism in recognition of the benefits it provides to the Members and the University community; and
- (i) do all other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects.

#### **4. THE PATRON**

##### *4.1 Appointment*

There shall be a Patron of the Union, who shall be appointed from time to time by Special Resolution of the Board. The Patron shall be a person who has agreed to lend their name to the Union in order to support its reputation and standing for the advancement of its objects.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

##### *5.1 Eligibility*

The following persons shall be eligible for Membership:

- (a) The Visitor of the University;
- (b) The Patron of the Union;
- (c) Graduands of the University;
- (d) All Members of Convocation of the University as defined in section 14(1) of the University of Sydney Act;
- (e) Persons appointed by Senate to the USU Board who are not otherwise eligible for membership;
- (f) Students enrolled in a course of study leading to the award of a degree or diploma from the University;
- (g) Members of the full time, part time or casual staff of the:
  - (i) USU;
  - (ii) University;
  - (iii) Students Representative Council;
  - (iv) Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association;
  - (v) Student Association of Sydney College of the Arts; and



- (vi) Sydney University Sport;
- (h) Persons enrolled in any non-award course conducted by the University, including any course conducted through the University's Centre for Continuing Education;
- (i) Persons enrolled in any course conducted by the USU;
- (j) Persons, who, having been a Member of the USU in the preceding year, have been granted permission to defer their study;
- (k) Graduates and graduands of such other universities or educational institutions as the Board may, by Special Resolution from time to time, prescribe after consultation with the University; and
- (l) Residents and staff of student accommodation providers servicing the University not otherwise eligible for membership as the Board may prescribe from time to time.

## 5.2 *Classes of Membership*

There shall be the following classes of membership:

- (a) Members;
- (b) Life Members;
- (c) Fellows; and
- (d) Associate Members.

### 5.2.1 *Membership*

- (a) Any person eligible for Membership pursuant to article 5.1(a) to (k) may, upon application and the payment of any fee or fees as determined by Board, become a Member of the USU.
- (b) The Board may permit pre-payment of any fee or fees for Membership for any consecutive future Membership Years.
- (c) The Board may offer varying discounts for pre-paid Membership fees.
- (d) Pre-paid Membership fees are non-refundable.
- (e) Membership will remain valid until such time that the member:
  - (i) Does not pay the relevant membership fee, as proscribed by Board;
  - (ii) Resigns their membership, in accordance with 5.5 and 9.2(f) of this Constitution;
  - (iii) Ceases to be eligible to be a member;
  - (iv) Otherwise ceases to be a member.

### 5.2.2 *Life Membership*

- (a) Prior to 1 January 2006 Life Membership was conferred on those members who:
  - (i) Were graduates
  - (ii) Had paid at least five years' fees
  - (iii) Completed the Life Membership Application Form.
- (b) After 2006 Life Membership may be awarded to members who:
  - (i) Have, in the opinion of the USU Awards Committee, given outstanding service and / or made an outstanding contribution to the USU community;
  - (ii) Are in their final year or have graduated within the last 12 months;
  - (iii) Have paid the required fee for least three years; and
  - (iv) Have been members of good standing for at least three years.
- (c) Persons who were Life Members as at 1 January 2006 shall continue to be recognised as USU Members / Life Members and shall remain eligible to vote in USU elections and enjoy whatever benefits Board may from time to time determine.

### 5.2.3 *USU Fellowship*

- (a) The Board may confer a USU Fellowship by Special Resolution upon any person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the USU or the University community.
- (b) The Patron of the Union shall be entitled to USU Fellowship.
- (c) USU Fellows will enjoy whatever benefits Board may from time to time determine saving that unless they are otherwise members in accordance with 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, Fellows may not:
  - (i) Nominate for election to the Board; or
  - (ii) Vote at any elections or meetings of the USU.
- (d) Persons holding the former membership status of Honorary Life Member will, as of September 2019, be deemed USU Fellows.

### 5.2.4 *Associate Membership*

- (a) In the event that the annual membership fee proscribed in accordance with article 6, is greater than \$1, Associate Membership may, upon application, be conferred on persons who are:

- (i) eligible for Membership by virtue of article 5.1(f); and
  - (ii) who are not already financial members of the USU.
- (b) Associate Membership confers only the right to vote at an election of directors to the Board.

### 5.3 *Membership Year and Membership Term*

- (a) The Membership Year of the USU begins on 1 January and ends on the last day of December in the same year.
- (b) All Members shall hold Membership until such time as they are no longer eligible for Membership as provided for in this Constitution, notably at 5.2.1.
- (c) Nothing in this article 5.3 prevents or prohibits pre-payment of Membership fees fixed by the Board under article 5.2.1.

### 5.4 *Membership Privileges*

- (a) Other than those provided for in this Constitution, different classes of membership will be eligible to enjoy certain rights and privileges, as determined by Board, from time to time.

### 5.5 *Cessation of or Ineligibility for Membership*

- (a) Persons eligible for Membership in accordance with article 5.1 shall cease to be Members if they cease to be so eligible.
- (b) A Member may resign by presenting a letter of resignation signed by that Member to the CEO.
- (c) Membership may be terminated in accordance with article 9.2(f) of this Constitution.
- (d) Any Graduate or Graduand who is a member of the Board, but who has not yet been granted Life Membership, shall be deemed to be a Member until the expiration of their term on Board, subject to payment of any Fee prescribed by article 6. For the purposes of this subsection the relevant Fee must be paid within 14 days of the Board member receiving notification that their membership shall expire if the Fee is not paid.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

### 6.1 *Determination*

- (a) The Board shall determine fees payable by various classes of Members from time to time.
- (b) Any Membership fees shall first be approved by the Senate before taking effect.

## **7. THE BOARD**

### *7.1 Responsibilities*

- (a) The conduct and management of the USU shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board shall:
  - (i) oversee the performance of the USU;
  - (ii) approve and monitor the USU's policy and other aspects of its strategic direction;
  - (iii) establish and monitor the USU's annual budget and annual business plan;
  - (iv) oversee risk management and risk assessment within the USU's;
  - (v) establish and monitor the USU's systems of control and accountability; and
  - (vi) regularly review its own performance (in light of its powers and obligations under this Constitution).
- (b) The Board shall engage as the CEO of the USU a person with an appropriate financial background who will be accountable for ensuring that the USU is properly managed from a financial perspective and who will provide advice and reports to the Board on financial management of the USU.
- (c) All Directors shall be charged with the duty of promoting the interests and furthering the development of the USU.

### *7.2 Conflicts of interest and director remuneration*

- (a) No Director shall engage directly or indirectly with the USU in any transaction which results in such Director:
  - (i) receiving remuneration
  - (ii) selling goods or services to the USU
  - (iii) receiving goods or services from the USU at rates different from those charged to any other person or organisation.
- (b) Sub-article (a) does not apply where:
  - (i) the Board resolves to reimburse the Director for any expenses incurred arising from the carrying out of their duties as Director; or
  - (ii) the Annual General Meeting, on the recommendation of a specialist remuneration committee, resolves to remunerate Directors or Office Bearers as the case may be, at defined rates or through defined fringe benefits.

### 7.3 *Composition*

- (a) The Board shall comprise:
  - (i) 11 Directors elected in accordance with this Constitution and Regulations made pursuant to it;
  - (ii) two Directors appointed by the Senate; and
  - (iii) the Immediate Past President of the USU.
- (b) If the Immediate Past President is unable or unwilling to become a Director, the Board may appoint a person who was a member of the immediate past Executive, and who is not currently a Director, as an alternative Director. The alternative Director shall then serve:
  - (i) for the balance of the Immediate Past President's term; or
  - (ii) until such time as the Immediate Past President notifies the USU that they are able to accept or resume their appointment under article 7.3(a)(iii) after inviting and considering any recommendations put to it by Special Resolution of Board;
- (c) Subject to this Constitution, and any Standing Orders, all Members shall have the power to attend and speak at any meeting of the USU, except “in camera” sessions which shall be confined to the relevant USU Committee Members and Members of the Board.

### 7.4 *Voting at Board meetings*

- (a) All Directors may vote at Board Meetings.
- (b) The following persons may participate in, attend, and speak at meetings of the Board, but do not have any right to vote:
  - (i) the CEO and other Officers of the USU; and
  - (ii) the Immediate Past President.

### 7.5 *Ceasing to hold office*

- (a) A Director shall cease to hold that office if:
  - (i) that Director ceases to be a member of the USU;
  - (ii) the CEO receives a letter of resignation signed by that resigning Director;
  - (iii) that Director is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board (including special meetings of the Board) without leave of absence being granted by the Board provided that leave shall not be withheld without good reason; or
  - (iv) that Director is absent from six (6) ordinary meetings of the Board in any Board Year

provided that any Director who ceases to hold office under the terms of articles 7.5(a)(ii), (iii) or (iv) may continue to act as a Director until a successor is appointed pursuant to article 10.2.

- (b) The CEO shall notify the Registrar in writing should a Director appointed by the Senate cease to hold office pursuant to article 7.5(a).

## **8. OFFICE BEARERS AND THEIR ROLES**

### *8.1 Office Bearers of the USU*

There shall be the following Office Bearers of the USU elected in accordance with article 10.3(b):

- (a) President;
- (b) Vice President;
- (c) Honorary Treasurer; and
- (d) Honorary Secretary.

### *8.2 Role of President*

The President shall:

- (a) act as representative of the USU on the Board's behalf and defend the decisions and policies of the Board;
- (b) sign contracts authorised by the Board on behalf of the USU;
- (c) be an *ex officio* member of every USU Committee;
- (d) call a meeting of the Board or any USU Committee with the agreement of at least one other member of the Executive, or at the request of four Members of the Board or that USU Committee;
- (e) be a signatory to all USU accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- (f) in consultation with the CEO, ensure that the decisions of the Board are implemented; and
- (g) exercise the functions of President as specified from time to time in the Regulations.

### *8.3 Role of Vice President*

The Vice President shall:

- (a) act on the President's behalf in any matter the President wishes;
- (b) act in the absence or unwillingness of the President, with the authority and responsibility of the President as granted under article 8.2(a);
- (c) sign contracts authorised by the Board on behalf of the USU;
- (d) be a signatory to all USU accounts in accordance with the Regulations; and

- (e) exercise the functions of Vice President as specified from time to time in the Regulations.

#### 8.4 *Role of Honorary Treasurer*

The Honorary Treasurer shall:

- (a) cause proper books of account to be kept dealing with the finances and property of the USU;
- (b) exercise a general supervision over the financial affairs of the USU;
- (c) sign contracts, authorised by the Board on behalf of the USU;
- (d) be a signatory to all USU accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- (e) in consultation with the CEO, facilitate the Board's understanding of the finances and property of the USU;
- (f) oversee the annual budget of the USU and act as a conduit between the Officers of the Union and the Board in the formation of the annual budget; and
- (g) exercise the functions of Honorary Treasurer as specified from time to time in the Regulations.

#### 8.5 *Role of Honorary Secretary*

The Honorary Secretary shall:

- (a) act as director of student publications of the USU and act as such in accordance with the Regulations;
- (b) assist and supervise USU Activities in conjunction with the CEO; and
- (c) exercise the functions of Honorary Secretary as specified from time to time in the Regulations.

### **9. POWERS OF BOARD AND OFFICE BEARERS**

#### 9.1 *Office Bearers*

The Office Bearers of the USU shall have such other powers and duties as the Board may by Regulation from time to time prescribe.

#### 9.2 *Board*

- (a) The Board shall have the power to do all such things as are necessary for and incidental to the purpose of carrying into effect or furthering the objects of the USU subject to those powers reserved in this Constitution to the University.
- (b) The Board may enter into Industrial Agreements with organisations which also have Members employed by the University subject to University approval only.

- (c) The Board may grant a licence for the use of any USU premises by Special Resolution only, subject to University approval.
- (d) USU premises shall be made available to any club or society recognised by the University where such provision is reasonable and practicable.
- (e) The Board may enact Regulations by Special Resolution to give effect to the provisions of this Constitution and for the proper conduct of the USU's business provided only that:
  - (i) the mover of any amendment to the Regulations shall set out the Regulation in full and present it to the President who shall include it in the next Notice calling a meeting of the Board;
  - (ii) minor changes to such an amendment may be made by the Board at the discretion of the Chairperson; and
  - (iii) each Regulation passed by the Board shall forthwith be left with the Registrar for the information of the Senate.
- (f) The Board may take legal action against, or expel from membership, any Member who:
  - (i) Fails to pay an applicable membership fee as prescribed by Board;
  - (ii) Has apparently committed a legally actionable wrong against the USU; or
  - (iii) Is guilty of Misconduct

Provided only that such Member or Members shall be informed of the matters to be raised against them, have a reasonable opportunity to respond to those matters, and have a right of appeal to the Senate. The Board may not delegate its authority in such a matter.
- (g) The Board may, by Special Resolution, establish Committees to advise the board, provided that:
  - (i) the mover of such a motion sets out Terms of Reference that define the composition, procedures, responsibilities, and powers of the proposed Committee; and
  - (ii) the Committee's delegated authority is subject to reporting requirements and its decisions subject to approval by Board.

## **10. ELECTIONS**

### *10.1 Who may nominate for Board*

Any ordinary member may nominate for election to Board, provided they are eligible for ordinary membership pursuant to Article 5.1(f), (g)(i) and (h) hereof. Any Life Member may nominate for election to Board.



### 10.2 *Conduct of elections to Board*

- (a) Anytime in May of each year, as determined by the CEO, an Annual Election shall be held from nominations received.
- (b) The Annual Election shall be conducted by secret ballot and by a quota preferential method of representation according to the rules published by the Proportional Representation Society of Australia, or its successor body, subject to the provisions of article 10.2(c) and in accordance with the Regulations.
- (c) Five Directors shall be elected during years ending in an even number and six Directors shall be elected during years ending in an odd number provided that in any year ending in an even number, two, and in any year ending in an odd number, three such elected Directors shall be women or gender diverse.
- (d) Any vacancy which arises from time to time amongst the Members elected to the Board shall be dealt with in the following manner:
  - (i) if the tenure attaching to the vacancy is of less than six months, it shall not be filled
  - (ii) if the tenure attaching the vacancy is of six months or more, it shall be filled from the candidates for election at either the previous Annual Election or the subsequent Annual Election, whichever is most proximate to the date at which the vacancy arises, by the next highest polling candidate at the relevant Annual Election who is willing and able to fill the vacancy
  - (iii) if (ii) mandates that the vacancy is to be filled from the candidates for election at the previous Annual Election and no such candidate is willing and able to fill the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled at the subsequent Annual Election, but only if the tenure attaching to the vacancy at the time of the subsequent Annual Election is of six months or more
  - (iv) there shall be not less than five women or gender diverse persons amongst the eleven elected Directors at any one time. If a vacancy arises that frustrates this rule, it must be filled by a women or gender diverse candidate
  - (v) if the vacancy cannot be filled pursuant to (ii) or (iii) and in compliance with (iv), the vacancy shall not be filled.

### 10.3 *Executive and USU Committees*

- (a) There shall be an Executive of the Board comprising the President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

- (b) There shall be a Special Meeting of the incoming Board on a working day in June at which the following positions shall be elected from amongst its Eligible Directors:
  - (i) the Executive Officers of President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary provided that the office of President is not held by the same person for more than three years
  - (ii) the chairs of the USU Committees and Directors to USU Committees.

Said elections to be conducted by secret ballot and by a quota preferential method of representation in accordance with the rules published by the Proportional Representation Society of Australia, or its successor body.

- (c) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the positions elected under 10.3(b), the vacancy shall be filled at the next meeting of Board from amongst its Eligible Directors.
- (d) A member of the Executive elected under 10.3(b) or 10.3(c) may be removed from office by Special Resolution of which Notice has been given.

#### 10.4 *Terms of office*

- (a) Subject to article 7.5, Directors shall hold office from the 1 July to the 30 June for two years following election, provided that any candidate whose election is the subject of protest shall hold office provisionally until declared elected or replaced by the next highest polling validly elected candidate.

## **11. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD AND USU COMMITTEES**

### 11.1 *Powers to establish USU Committees etc.*

- (a) The Board may, by Regulation create such committees, working parties and other advisory structures to advise the Board on such issues as the Board shall from time to time see fit to address.
- (b) The Board shall appoint Members (including filling any casual vacancies) to any USU Committee in accordance with the Regulations.

### 11.2 *Conduct of meetings*

- (a) Meetings of the Board and USU Committees shall be conducted in accordance with this article and any Regulations made pursuant to it.
- (b) A schedule of meeting times for the Membership Year shall be set prior to the commencement of that Membership Year and may be amended by the Board, such schedule, and any amendments to be notified in a manner whereby all may access it, including on at the USU website and by email.
- (c) Four Members of the Board or of a USU Committee may requisition a Special Meeting by the delivery of a request to the President signed by

them, such a meeting described in 11.1(c) shall then be called by the CEO at the request of the President.

- (d) No business shall be conducted at meetings of the Board except adjournment unless a quorum of at least seven Directors is present.
- (e) No meeting of the USU shall be held and no business conducted between the hours of midnight and 8.00am.
- (f) A Board or USU Committee meeting shall be validly called when Notice has been given. All Notices of meetings shall specify the day, date, time, and place of the meeting, as well as the business proposed to be transacted at that meeting.
- (g) The Standing Orders shall be created by Regulation from time to time and apply to all meetings of the USU, the Board and its Committees, working parties and other advisory structures.
- (h) All matters shall be decided by the vote of a majority of those present and voting at the meeting, unless otherwise specified by the Constitution or the Regulations made pursuant to it.
- (i) Voting may be decided by a show of hands unless a majority of the Voting Members request that the vote be conducted by a ballot, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.
- (j) A majority of Voting Members or four Voting Members, whichever is the lesser, present at any meeting may require Notice of any matter to be discussed at that meeting.
- (k) The occupant of the Chair shall be bound by the decision of the meeting.

## **12. ADMINISTRATION**

### *12.1 Indemnity*

Every member of the Board and every officer and employee of the USU shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the USU against all liabilities incurred by that person in or about the due execution of the affairs of the USU.

## **13. CEO**

### *13.1 Appointment*

- (a) There shall be a CEO who shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of Board policy.
- (b) The CEO shall be employed on such terms as the Board agrees and shall be answerable to the Board.

### *13.2 Acting CEO*

The Board shall nominate from time to time a person who will be Acting CEO in the absence of the CEO.

### 13.3 *Role and responsibilities of CEO*

- (a) Subject to this Constitution the CEO shall have the Board's power to engage and dismiss nonexecutive staff in the course of USU affairs.
- (b) The CEO may, subject to the ratification of the Board, from time to time appoint executive staff or create new executive staff positions who shall be responsible to the CEO.
- (c) No member of the executive staff of the USU shall be dismissed without prior approval of the Board and without reasons being provided in writing to such staff member.
- (d) The CEO shall:
  - (i) prepare for the Board and the Board Executive the information required by them in relation to the finances and administration of the USU;
  - (ii) consult with and advise the Board and all other USU Committees;
  - (iii) have authority to incur expenditure as authorised by the Regulations;
  - (iv) exercise a general supervision over all persons in the service of the USU;
  - (v) have authority to give and countermand orders for the supply of goods and materials necessary for the maintenance of the current services of the USU on behalf of the Board. Such authority may be delegated by the CEO to a deputy;
  - (vi) apportion administrative authority;
  - (vii) exercise supervision over the conduct of the USU;
  - (viii) give within reasonable time effect to the Constitution and to any resolution or report passed or adopted by the Board;
  - (ix) act as secretary of the USU; and
  - (x) perform such other duties as may from time to time be allocated by the Board.

## **14. CONDUCT OF ADMINISTRATION**

### 14.1 *Register of Members*

The CEO shall keep a register of all Members.

### 14.2 *Auditors*

The Board shall appoint auditors who shall be members of CPA Australia or the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the conditions of their appointment to be determined in accordance with the Regulations.

### 14.3 *Finances*

- (a) All moneys payable to the USU and all negotiable instruments payable to the USU or its order shall as soon as possible after their receipt be paid to the credit of the USU.
- (b) All negotiable instruments payable to the USU which require endorsement shall be endorsed for collection by a person authorised to do so by the Board.
- (c) The endorsement may be made by a facsimile of the usual signature of the person authorised by the Board.
- (d) Approval for expenditure shall be in accordance with appropriate delegations in place from time to time.
- (e) Receipts for any moneys paid to the USU in respect of any charges made for or in respect of the services of the USU shall be signed off by the CEO or their nominee.
- (f) Cheque signatories shall be subject to Board approval. For the purposes of this provision, cheque signatory covers electronic payment authorisation.

### 14.4 *Legal documents and property*

With the authority of the Board, any two of the President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall sign contracts, releases or discharges, and documents dealing with the property of the USU on behalf of the Board, provided that this power may be delegated by the Board to the CEO, or a member of staff nominated by the CEO.

### 14.5 *Reporting obligations*

Each year the Board shall:

- (a) Prepare for the Members and for the Senate a report upon the USU and a statement of its accounts for the year ending on 31 December; and
- (b) Forward such report and statement, duly audited, together with any annexures thereto, to the Registrar prior to the Annual General Meeting of the subsequent year.

## **15. GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE USU**

### 15.1 *General requirements*

- (a) Subject to this article the CEO shall give Notice of a General Meeting of the USU within seven days after receipt of a requisition, stating the business to be transacted:
  - (i) passed by Special Resolution of the Board; or
  - (ii) signed by not less than two hundred Members.

- (b) A General Meeting shall not be validly called unless Notice is given at least fourteen days in advance, said notice being given in a manner whereby all may access it, including on the USU website and by email.
- (c) No General Meeting of the USU shall be held during vacation or on Saturday, Sunday or any Public or University holiday or commenced between the hours of 11.00 pm and 11.00 am the following day, or held on any premises other than the USU.
- (d) For the purpose of reckoning the period of Notice under Sub-article (b), the last two weeks of any University vacation, shall not be included.
- (e) Wherever practicable Notice of a General Meeting shall also appear by an advertisement in such publications as prescribed in the Regulations.
- (f) Each such Notice shall exhibit:
  - (i) a list of Members of the Board and Chair of USU Committees
  - (ii) a Notice to the effect that copies of the Constitution and of any Regulations made under it are available to any Member at the USU Website
  - (iii) from time to time all Notices required to be given under the Constitution.
- (g) General Meetings of the USU and referenda shall be competent:
  - (i) to discuss such matters of which Due Notice has been given to the CEO in accordance with article 15.1(b)
  - (ii) to comment on the actions of the Board in relation to USU matters
  - (iii) to advise the Board on any matters in regard to future Board policy
  - (iv) to propose a motion for consideration at the next ordinary Board meeting.

#### 15.2 *Quorum for General Meetings*

The quorum for a General Meeting of the USU is 60 Members.

#### 15.3 *Voting*

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution questions arising at any General Meeting of the USU shall be determined by the votes of a majority of the Members present and voting thereon.

#### 15.4 *Chairing general meetings*

- (a) The President shall chair General Meetings of the USU provided that the President shall not retain the chair during motions of dissent from the President's ruling.

- (b) The Vice President shall chair General Meetings in the absence of the President provided that the Vice President shall not retain the chair during motions of dissent from the Vice President's ruling.
- (c) If the President and Vice President are absent after fifteen minutes from the appointed time of commencement the meeting may elect a Chairperson from amongst its number provided that the Chairperson shall not retain the chair during motions of dissent from the Chairperson's ruling, and the President or Vice President shall take the chair on arrival at that General Meeting.
- (d) At any General Meeting of the USU, a resolution put to the vote may be decided on the voices, but if any two Members ask for a show of hands, or any 30 Members ask for a ballot, the vote shall be so taken.

#### *15.5 Special provisions for Annual General Meeting*

- (a) A General Meeting of the USU, to be called the Annual General Meeting, shall be held no later than 31 May each year on a date as set by the Board.
- (b) All motions on Notice, including constitutional amendments, shall be received by the USU no less than four weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) This meeting shall receive and consider the report and statement prepared for the Members and the Senate by the Board pursuant to article 14.5 of this Constitution.
- (d) It shall not be competent for the Annual General Meeting to alter the Report or Statements mentioned in article 14.5 but it shall be competent for such meeting by resolution to comment on the same or to recommend that any alterations or amendments be made by the Board.
- (e) If the Board does not see fit to give effect to any such resolution a copy of the same shall be annexed to such Report or Statement when forwarded to the Registrar.

## **16. ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION**

### *16.1 Method*

- (a) The Constitution shall not be altered except by one of the following methods:
  - (i) Resolution passed by a two thirds majority of Members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting;
  - (ii) Resolution passed by a two thirds majority of Members present and voting at a General Meeting called in accordance with the provisions of article 15.1; or

- (iii) Resolution passed by a simple majority of at least 4,000 Members voting in a referendum held in accordance with article 17 of this Constitution;

in the following manner:

- (iv) The mover of the proposed resolution under the terms of this Constitution shall give Notice thereof in writing to the CEO who shall set out such proposed resolution in full in the Notice covering such meeting or such referendum.
- (v) A copy of such resolution shall forthwith be left with the Registrar to be placed before the Senate.
- (vi) The Senate may allow or veto any alteration that relates to the Senate's powers or functions under this Constitution which, if allowed, shall take effect from the date determined by the Senate.

## **17. REFERENDA**

### *17.1 Proposals*

- (a) Notwithstanding anything this Constitution contains, the membership may propose any referendum motion in connection with the affairs of the USU in the following manner:
- (b) The full text of the proposed referendum motion shall be put either by:
  - (i) a Special Resolution of the Board; or
  - (ii) a petition of initiation signed by at least four hundred Members, lodged with the CEO. This petition must include the name, student identification number and signature of each Member so signing it. Each page of the petition of initiation shall include the full text of the referendum motion.
- (c) Such proposed motion shall be put by the close of nominations for the election of Board.
- (d) The full text of the proposed referendum motion, put either by means (i) or (ii) above shall:
  - (i) not be ambiguous in meaning if ambiguity is apparent on a reasonable reading of the proposed text, the USU may seek legal opinion to clarify this issue
  - (ii) in the event that the motion covers a constitutional amendment, the motion shall be headed by the words "Referendum Motion for Constitutional Change"
  - (iii) not contain references to, including the name of any Member.



- (e) Upon receipt of such petition or Board resolution, the CEO shall submit the referendum motion proposed to a referendum by ballot in conjunction with the next election of Board Directors.
- (f) In all organisational respects, the referendum shall be run as part of the election process in particular, Notice of any upcoming referenda shall be given alongside that for the election with which it coincides.

## **18. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION**

### *18.1 Continuation and transition*

Any act, matter or thing that was in effect immediately before the amendment of this Constitution is taken to have effect under this Constitution, as amended.

## **19. TRANSFER OF ASSETS**

### *19.1 Dissolution*

Subject to sub-article 19.2, if upon the winding up or dissolution of the USU there remains, upon satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the USU, namely that of serving members of the University of Sydney community whose memorandum or constitution shall prohibit the distribution of its common property among its Members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the USU by virtue of this Constitution, and being a charity registered or exempted from registration under the Charitable Fundraising Act, 1991, as amended and being a public benevolent institution which meets the requirements of, and which is exempt from income tax under, the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) such institution or institutions to be determined by the Members of the USU at or before the time of dissolution and if in so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision, then to some charitable object that shall benefit primarily the community of the University of Sydney.

### *19.2 Reconstitution of the USU as body corporate*

If the USU at any time becomes reconstituted as a body corporate (including without limitation an incorporated association) with identical or substantially the same objects as those specified in article 3 then upon satisfaction of its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever shall be transferred to the Union as reconstituted.

## **20. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS**

### *20.1 Requirements*

The income and property of the USU, whencesoever derived, shall:

- (a) be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the USU as set forth in this Constitution of the USU

- (b) have no portion thereof paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise, to the Members of the USU provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officers or employees of the USU or to any Members in return for any services actually rendered to the USU nor for goods supplied in the ordinary and usual way of business, nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding the rate for the time being fixed for the purpose of this paragraph by the Regulations of the USU on money borrowed from any Member of the USU or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any Member.

## **21. RESERVE POWERS OF THE SENATE**

### *21.1 Constitution subject to Senate resolution*

This Constitution is subject to the following Senate Resolution for Reserve Powers for Certain Student Organisations:

1. Each of the following student organisations is a student organisation ('Student Organisation') to which this Resolution applies: the University of Sydney Union ("USU"), Sydney University Sport & Fitness ("SUSF") and Cumberland Student Guild ("CSG").
2. The Vice Chancellor may recommend to Senate that the internal auditor of the University or an appropriately qualified external expert with experience in the not for profit or community sector ('Investigator') carry out an investigation ('Investigation') into alleged financial, electoral, or other governance irregularities concerning a Student Organisation of which the Vice Chancellor becomes aware and which the Vice Chancellor believes may be of a serious nature.
3. Before making any such recommendation to Senate, the Vice Chancellor will consult with the governing body of the relevant Student Organisation.
4. Senate will consider any such recommendation by the Vice Chancellor and may, if it believes it is appropriate to do so, authorise an Investigation.
5. Any authorisation by Senate of an Investigation must be reported by the Registrar of the University to the governing body of the relevant Student Organisation and, unless the Registrar believes there is good reason not to do so, to the members of the relevant Student Organisation.
6. Members of the governing body, staff and members of the relevant Student Organisation must provide the Investigator with all such information and documentation as the Investigator may reasonably require.
7. Upon completion of the Investigation, the Investigator must report findings and any recommendations to the Vice Chancellor or the Vice Chancellor's nominee, who may take any one or more of the following actions having regard to that report and/or recommendations:

- (a) appoint, for a specified temporary period, an administrator with power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with or incidental to the management of the affairs of the relevant Student Organisation
  - (b) direct the carrying out of a fresh election of all or any office bearers under the supervision of the University and/or an independent firm of accountants or lawyers or other appropriately qualified expert
  - (c) appoint, for a specified temporary period, an external auditor for ongoing monitoring and appraisal of the relevant Student Organisation.
  - (d) implement such other steps which take account of the findings or recommendation of the Investigation.
8. The Vice Chancellor will report, in a timely way as required by Senate, on any action taken or proposed to be taken pursuant to this Resolution to Senate and will recommend how and to whom further reports will be made.

**Note:** It is not intended that the administrator, the Vice Chancellor, or the Vice Chancellor's nominee have the capacity to determine the outcome of decisions about a Student Organisation's financial and operating policies.