

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHRISTIAN UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Name

1. The full name of CU is “The University of Western Australia Christian Union” hereinafter called CU.

Objects

2. The Objects of CU are:

Among Students

- 2.1 To promote the following among students of the University of Western Australia:
 1. Stimulating personal faith in and love for the Lord Jesus Christ among individual students.
 2. To equip Christians for a lifetime of serving God and to present the challenge of missionary, full-time and other forms of service.
 3. Actively witnessing Christ to the students of the University of Western Australia.

Doctrinal Basis

- 2.2 To uphold and teach the basic truths of Christianity as contained in the Bible, specifically those in the doctrinal basis below which shall be that of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES).
 1. The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
 2. The unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
 3. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man [all people] subject to God’s wrath and condemnation.
 4. The conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and his birth of the virgin Mary
 5. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute, of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God.
 6. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 7. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective in the individual sinner, granting him [or her] repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
 8. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
 9. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Relations with Other Bodies

- 2.3 To engage in activities, provided that:
 1. The proposed activity furthers the Objects of CU.

2. The distinctive evangelical witness of CU to the Gospel of Christ is not compromised.
3. The participants representing CU both positively uphold the Objects of CU and are publicly known to represent CU.
4. Other than provided for in 1, 2 and 3 not to engage in any arrangement with any individual, body or society which does not uphold the truths stated in paragraph 2.2 of the Objects.
- 2.4 To establish and maintain affiliation with the AFES.
- 2.5 To become and remain affiliated to the Societies Council and Public Affairs Council, excepting where such bodies' regulations or by-laws directly contravene the Objects of CU.
- 2.6 To promote cooperation between CU and other Affiliated Societies, the Guild and its Departments and Sub-Councils.

Speakers

- 2.7 To invite persons to speak at, and/or take part in, any meetings and the conferences or to represent the association only if their views are known to be wholeheartedly in agreement with these Objects.

The Interdenominational Principle

- 2.8 To carry out the Objects in accordance with principles which are entirely interdenominational.

Membership

3. The provisions of Membership shall be:

- 3.1 Normal Membership shall be restricted to current students of the University of Western Australia.
- 3.2 Associate Membership shall be open to those wishing to be involved who are not current students of the University of Western Australia.
- 3.3 Membership expires seven days prior to the commencement of the following academic year and may be renewed immediately upon expiry.
- 3.4 The Membership roll shall be closed seven days prior to the any General Meeting and be reopened fifteen minutes after the close of the same meeting.
- 3.5 The charge for CU Membership shall be the minimum requirement for affiliates of the Societies Council, or as otherwise determined by the Committee.

Expulsion of Members

- 3.6 The Committee may by unanimous vote request a Normal Member of CU to resign their Membership, and in that event shall cause written notification of such a request to be served upon the Member concerned.

Should such a request prove ineffectual after fourteen days written notice, the Committee may serve written notice of the intended expulsion on the Member concerned, and should she/he not resign seven days thereafter, the Committee may by unanimous vote expel him / her from CU; but such expulsion shall be subject to review by the next General Meeting, at which she/he shall have the right to be present and to be heard.

Meetings

4. The meetings of CU shall follow the forms and procedures below:

Annual General Meeting

4.1 The Annual General (AGM) meeting must be held within each academic year.

4.2 The business of the AGM shall include:

1. President's report.
2. Treasurer's report.
3. Election of new Committee.
4. Time of next AGM.
5. General Business.

Special General Meeting

4.3 Upon receipt of a written requisition from ten Normal Members or fifteen percent of the current Membership, whichever is the greater, the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting (SGM) within twenty one days. If the Secretary fails to call a SGM within that period, any one of the Members signing the requisition may do so. Any business set out in the requisition shall take priority over all other business.

4.4 Upon receipt of a written requisition from at least three Committee Members the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting to be held within seven days of receipt of the requisition. If the Secretary fails to call a SGM within that period, any one of the Committee Members signing the requisition may do so. Any business set out in the requisition shall take priority over all other business.

Provisions Concerning All General Meetings

4.5 The Secretary shall cause written notice of any General Meeting, together with the agenda thereof to be posted on the Guild Notice Boards at least seven days before the date appointed for that meeting.

4.6 Only Normal Members are eligible to vote in any General Meetings. Associate Members have the right to be present and heard at any General Meeting, but not to vote.

4.6 The quorum of a General Meeting shall consist of one quarter of the Normal Members of CU at the time of meeting.

4.7 If the meeting is to elect Committee Members (see 4.2.3, 5.2 , 5.4 and 5.16) the procedure below shall be followed:

1. The Nominations shall be displayed in the order shown in article 5.1 with any additional positions following those listed.
2. The Nominee's (in the same order as for point 1.) may make any statements relevant to their election and answer questions.
3. The positions shall be elected by secret preferential ballot in the same order.
4. Unopposed candidates shall be elected by a simple majority.
5. Where a position is opposed and no candidate achieves a majority, a revote shall be taken and that result stand. If after the revote a majority is not achieved, the Committee shall determine which candidate shall be elected. If the Committee is evenly split on which candidate shall be elected, the President shall make the determination. If neither the Committee nor the President can make a decision, the election shall be decided by lot.

6. A candidate may nominate for more than one position but once elected to a position shall be deemed no longer eligible for any positions lower on the list.

7. Up to three days after an election, any Normal Member who ran for a position on the Committee at that election may appeal the outcome of the election to the Guild Governance Committee on the grounds that there was an error in the procedure when a vote was conducted or there was a contravention of any applicable rule, regulation, or standing order in respect of the election. If the Governance Committee rules that the election was not conducted in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations, or standing orders, another election must be called. The outcome of an election may only be appealed once.

Committee

5.1 The outgoing Committee shall determine the structure of the following Committee provided the positions listed below are included:

1. President.

2. Vice-President.

3. Secretary.

4. Treasurer.

5. General Committee Member.

5.2 The Committee shall consist of the Members elected by the procedure outlined in “Provisions Concerning All General Meetings” article 4.7.

5.3 At the date requested by the new Committee the previous Committee shall surrender office by meeting with the new Committee at an official changeover, provided that this occurs within the calendar year. Otherwise the new Committee shall automatically assume office on January first of the year following its election.

5.4 In the event the Committee, for any reason, ceases to exist, any two Members of CU may call a Special General Meeting for the express purpose of electing a new Committee. Provided every Member of CU is informed of the meeting’s details, no quorum is required to elect a new Committee.

Nominations

5.5 Before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall call for nominations for committee positions to be elected and shall include the same in the written notice of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations shall close seven days before the date appointed for the Annual General Meeting, by which time all the nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary in writing, bearing the signatures of the nominee, nominator and seconder. The Secretary shall cause written notice to be posted at least five days before the date appointed for this meeting, (except as provided for in article 5.16).

5.6 Only Normal Members are eligible to be nominated, nominate or second nominations for the offices of the CU Committee.

5.7 All nominees must sign in good faith the following declaration: “In nominating for the Committee of the Christian Union at UWA, I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord and my God”, as well

as the Aims and the Doctrinal Basis of the AFES on the nomination form.

Meetings of Committee

- 5.8 The Committee shall meet at such times and places as it shall itself determine, or otherwise as the President shall determine.
- 5.9 The Secretary shall cause all Members of the Committee to receive written notice of any meeting of the Committee at least two days before the date fixed for the holding thereof, together with the agenda.
- 5.10 The quorum of the Committee shall be four Committee Members or two thirds of the Committee whichever is the greater.

The President shall have the right to take the chair at any meeting of CU or its Committee. If the President is absent or does not wish to exercise that right at any meeting, that right shall be given to the Vice-President (that nominated by the President if there is more than one Vice-President). In the event that both the President and the Vice-President are absent or do not wish to exercise that right at any meeting, that meeting shall select its own Chairperson.

- 5.11 The Staff Team Leader shall have the equivalent of one vote of a Committee Member. Other staffworkers may be present at any Committee meeting but have no voting powers.
- 5.12 Sub-Committees must include at least one Committee Member.

Powers and Responsibilities of Committee

- 5.13 Subject to this constitution, the Committee shall be responsible to CU in the General Meeting for giving effect to the Objects of the CU as set forth in this constitution and for carrying on its everyday business.
- 5.14 The Committee shall have the power to dispose of any property, monies, open banking accounts and to enter into contracts. However, the Committee shall not incur financial commitments in excess of the liquid assets of CU, neither shall it organise functions for the express purpose of raising funds.
- 5.15 To make regulations for the orderly and proper management of the affairs of CU, but so that no such regulation is repugnant to this constitution.
- 5.16 Should a Committee Member resign or cease to hold office for any reason the Committee may co-opt a Normal Member of CU to fill that position, provided that the Committee has served at least one half of its term. Otherwise a Special General Meeting shall be called for the purpose of electing that position (see article 4.7).

Any appointment to Committee by co-option of a Normal Member shall be subject to review at the next General Meeting.

- 5.17 Members of the Committee must attend training as required by the Guild or Societies Council Committee, including but not limited to Guild Student Leadership Training.
- 5.18 If the Committee reasonably suspects a member, including a member of the Committee, may have engaged in Guild Misconduct or a criminal act, the Committee must report the suspected Guild Misconduct, in accordance with applicable Guild policies and the Student Guild Regulations, and must not take disciplinary action against a Financial Member on its own accord.

5.18.1. The Committee must immediately refer —

5.18.1.1. criminal matters to the police; and

5.18.1.2. Guild Misconduct matters to the Guild and the University.

Positions of Committee

President

- 5.19 In addition to those provisions already stated in the constitution or any regulations made hereunder it shall be the duty of the President:
1. To co-ordinate and facilitate the work of the Committee, subject to the authority of CU in General Meeting
 2. Generally carry out the policy of CU
 3. To be the official spokesperson of CU.
 4. To table at the Annual General Meeting of the AFES (the General Committee) a report of the activities of the affiliate for the past year and a list of its current Members.

Vice-President

- 5.20 In addition to those provisions already stated in the constitution or any regulations made hereunder it shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:
1. Fulfil the duties of the President when the President is unable to do so.

Secretary

- 5.21 In addition to those provisions already stated in the constitution or any regulations made hereunder it shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
1. Fulfil the duties of the President when the President and Vice-President are unable to do so.
 2. To supply the Secretary of the Guild the information required to be recorded in the register of the university societies.
 3. To notify the Secretary of the Guild within fourteen days of any alteration of the foregoing information.
 4. To notify the Societies Council, the Public Affairs Council and the AFES within fourteen days of any alteration of this constitution.
 5. To notify the Secretary of the Societies Council of the names of the Delegate and Deputy Delegate to the Societies Council, at least fourteen days before the first meeting of the Societies Council each year.
 6. In the event of the CU being de-registered, to present to the Secretary of the Guild within thirty days a duly audited statement of the financial position of CU together with a copy of any resolutions that may have been passed by the CU as to the disposition of its funds.
 7. To notify the General Secretary of the AFES of the names and addresses of the Committee Members of CU within fourteen days of the election of such Committee Members.
 8. To advise the General Secretary of the AFES in writing of any change in this constitution.

Treasurer

- 5.22 In addition to those provisions already stated in the constitution or any regulations made hereunder it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:
1. Keep the books of account dealing with the property of CU, and to supply the Committee with accounts and information pertaining to the finances and property of the CU as the Committee may from time to time require.
 2. To arrange and be responsible for the handling of petty cash and to render an account of all petty cash to the Committee as it may from time to time require.
 3. To prepare a Financial Statement showing all receipts and payments during their term of office, for presentation with the Treasurer's Report to the AGM.
 4. To produce and deliver all necessary books, vouchers and other documents to the persons appointed to the Guild Finance Committee for the purpose of an audit, in so far as such persons may so require.

All Committee Members

- 5.23 In addition to those provisions already stated in the constitution or any regulations made hereunder it shall be the duty of all the Committee Members to:
1. Together with the other Committee Members make decisions with regard to the running of CU which uphold and fulfil the Objects as stated in this constitution.
 2. To vote according to conscience when a unanimous decision cannot be reached.

General

Staffworkers

- 6.1 Staffworkers are those persons appointed by the AFES to assist the Members of CU in the fulfillment of the Objects of this constitution.
- 6.2 The Staff Team Leader is that person appointed by the AFES to lead the staffworkers and assist the members of CU in the Objects of this constitution.

Withdrawal Deposits of Monies and Payments

- 6.3 All monies and due payments shall be received by the Treasurer, who shall without undue delay lodge them in the Central account of the Guild Council for the credit of CU. The President, Vice-President(s), Treasurer, Secretary and General Committee Member shall be empowered to sign cheques and forms of authority for the withdrawal of monies standing to the credit of CU in the same account.
- 6.4 No payment shall be made on behalf of CU, or in the name of CU, unless it has been authorised by the Committee.
- 6.5 No monies or grants may be transmitted by way of gift to any person or body by way of gift, excepting bodies to which CU is affiliated.

Dispute Resolution

- 6.6 The dispute resolution procedure in the Societies Council Rules shall govern any dispute between CU and any other party to the extent that those rules apply.

Obligations to Guild

- 6.7 CU shall comply with all regulations of the Guild, the by-laws of the council(s) to which it is affiliated, and all other provisions of the Guild Statutes Book. The officers of CU shall jointly and severally be responsible for such compliance, excepting where the aforementioned provisions, regulations and by-laws directly contravene the Objects of CU.
- 6.8 CU and persons thereunder must take no action which represses any student's implied right to academic freedom and freedom of speech.

Availability

- 6.9 The Committee shall make available to all Members of CU copies of this constitution.

Interpretation

- 6.10 Subject to any provisions enrolled upon the Guild Statute Book, and to any resolution passed by the Guild Council, the Committee shall be empowered to interpret the meaning of the provisions contained in this Constitution, but the determining decision in case of doubt shall rest with the General Meeting.

Alterations to the Constitution

- 6.11 The constitution may be altered by the following procedure:
1. Any three Members of CU may, not less than seven days before the date of the next General Meeting, submit to the Secretary a notice of motion signed by them proposing alteration to this constitution. The Secretary shall cause written notice of the motion to be posted on the Guild Notice Boards.
 2. The motion shall then be considered at the next General Meeting and amendments which are relevant thereof shall be moved without notice.
 3. The motion thereto shall not be deemed adopted unless it receives a two thirds majority of the Members present and voting, provided that quorum is met.
 4. The motion, with any amendments, shall come into force upon receiving the approval of the Societies Council, the Public Affairs Council and the General Committee of the AFES.

Dissolution

- 6.12 If upon the dissolution of CU there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it must not be paid to, transferred, or distributed amongst the members of CU. It must be given to the AFES, or a club affiliated with the AFES. If any property cannot be given to the AFES or a club affiliated with the AFES, it must be given to a church that wholly agrees with the CU doctrinal basis, or to some charitable body determined by the members of CU at or before the time of dissolution. In default of any such resolution, such payment, transfer, or distribution shall be determined by the AFES.
- 6.13 If CU disaffiliates from or is disaffiliated by the Societies Council, the Public Affairs Council or any other body of the Guild or other organisation and continues to conduct activities, all property of CU prior to disaffiliation shall remain the property of CU.