

Rule 1 – The Constitutional Framework

The Union is governed by the Articles of Association for the University of Southampton Students' Union. Clause 33 determines that the Trustees may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the Union. It further determines that Union Senate has the power to alter, add to or repeal the Rules.

This first Rule establishes arrangement for membership, rules and by-laws and other general constitutional matters.

1. Membership

1.1 Full Membership is defined in accordance with this section.

- (a) A student is a Full Member if they are a full-time or part-time student of the University, and are either:
 - (i) enrolled on a credit-bearing course (undergraduate and postgraduate taught students), or
 - (ii) enrolled to study a higher degree by research (postgraduate research students);including all enrolled visiting and exchange students of the University.
- (b) An undergraduate who is absent from the University in fulfilment of the year abroad requirement, or undertaking an industrial or placement year, shall continue to be a Full Member.
- (c) A Full Member who:
 - (i) has been elected as a Student Leader, Voluntary Officer, Student Trustee, or Chair of Senate for a period commencing 1 July in any year, but
 - (ii) would, after that day, cease to be a Full Member by virtue of the ending of their course;

shall remain a Full Member until the day on which they enrol (whether on a credit-bearing course, or to study a higher degree by research), or until 1 November in that year, whichever is sooner.

- (d) A Full Member who, in any academic year, is suspended by the University (including a Member who self-suspends) shall continue to be a Full Member for the remainder of that academic year.
- (e) A Sabbatical Officer of the Union is a Full Member for the whole of

their term of office specified at the time of their election.

- (f) A student who has exercised their right to opt-out of membership shall not be a member.
- 1.2 The following persons may be admitted as Associate Members on payment of the appropriate membership fee, as determined by the Trustees:
- (a) all other registered students of the University.
 - (b) all members of staff of the Union.
 - (c) all members of staff of the University.
- 1.3 The following persons may be admitted as Temporary Members on payment of the appropriate membership fee, as determined by the Trustees:
- (a) the carer, spouse or partner of current student.
 - (b) a person who has a significant input to the Union or an affiliated student group and are recommended by that group.
 - (c) a person who is already a member of a Students' Union in another institution of higher or further education.
- 1.4 The following persons may be admitted as Temporary (Life) Members on payment of the appropriate membership fee, as determined by the Trustees:
- (a) a person who has at some time held full membership of the Union, but no longer holds this membership.
- 1.5 The following persons may be awarded Temporary (Honorary Life) Membership by Union Senate:
- (a) a Full Member who has made a significant contribution during their time in full membership. These will be recommended to Union Senate by the President.
 - (b) a person who is a Sabbatical Officer of the Union, and will not hold that position in the academic year following (but such membership shall not have effect until the person ceases to be a Full Member).
- 1.6 Membership is not transferable.
- 1.7 Any student may exercise their right to opt out of membership of the Students' Union, in accordance with the University Council's agreed code of practice.

2. Rights and obligations of Membership

2.1 All Full Members of the Union shall enjoy the following rights:

- (a) To exercise the rights and privileges that this constitution confers.
- (b) The use of such amenities, facilities and premises as are decided by the Union in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws.
- (c) To enter into membership of all bodies recognised by the Union as affiliated student groups.
- (d) To attend and speak at all meetings of the Union and its committees, except where the provisions of Rules specifically exclude this.
- (e) Standing as a candidate and voting in such elections as are stipulated by the Rules, and voting at Union Meetings, except where the provisions of the Rules specifically exclude this.
- (f) All Full Members have the right to represent the Union internally or externally, through the appropriate structures.

2.2 All other members of the Union shall enjoy the rights specified in sections 2.1 (a) to (c) of this clause and 2.1 (d) by invitation.

2.3 All Union members are obliged to act in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of the Union, and revocation of membership in whole or in part without reimbursement of fees may ensue from any contravention of this, in accordance with the provision for discipline in the Rules.

3. Annual Subscription

3.1 No subscription shall be payable by Full Members. Membership fees shall be payable by associate and temporary members at a level decided by the Trustees.

4. Honorary Officers

4.1 Honorary Vice-President

- (a) Union Senate may bestow this honour to such persons as the Union decides as recognition of outstanding service to the Union or its members.

4.2 Honorary Presidents

The following shall be Honorary Presidents of the Union:

- (a) George Clegg, who retired from SUSU in 2009 after 30 years of outstanding service to the Union.
- (b) SUSU the Cat, longstanding Mouser to the Union and comforter-in-chief to generations of students.

5. Amendments to the Articles of Association

- 5.1 The Articles of Association can only be amended by Special Resolution in a General Meeting and approved by University Council before they take effect.

6. The Rules

- 6.1 Union Senate may make any Rules subject to the Articles of Association, which shall determine questions of structure and procedure relating to the Union.
- 6.2 Any member or committee seeking to amend the Rules shall inform the Democracy Zone. The Democracy Zone will attempt to draft a suitable option or options with the member/committee, for consideration by Union Senate.
- 6.3 The Democracy Zone will present these options to Union Senate, who may decide to accept, amend or reject any amendment so submitted, by simple majority.
- 6.4 Once approved (by Senate), the amendment will stand with effect from the end of the meeting at which it was decided, unless otherwise specified in the proposal.

7. The By-Laws

- 7.1 Zones are responsible for ensuring they have sufficient By-Laws to guide their day to day activities.
- 7.2 These By-Laws should include the creation of Voluntary Officer roles, sub committees and working groups as relevant along with specific rules to guide their work.
- 7.3 Any committee seeking to amend or create By-Laws shall inform the Democracy Zone. The Democracy Zone will work with appropriate officers to draft a suitable option or options.
- 7.4 Once the Zone has accepted a proposed By-Law, it must be approved by the Democracy Zone prior to the changes taking effect.

8. Interpretation

8.1 The interpretation of the Articles, Rules and By-Laws shall be with the President, During a General Meeting and Union Senate the Chair shall have this responsibility, on matters relating to the running of the meeting. Union Senate or a General Meeting may revise any interpretation so made, in the event of this leading to dispute it shall be resolved by the President.

9. Definitions

9.1 Throughout the Rules and By-Laws the definitions and descriptions contained in the Articles shall be applied, except where the context requires otherwise.

10. Staff

10.1 The Union shall employ such staff as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

11. Indemnity

11.1 Every officer of the Union, appointee or member of staff of the Union shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the Union against all losses or liability which he/she may sustain or incur in or about the execution of the duties of his/her office or otherwise in relation thereto.
