

The Constitution

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- 1. Name:**

Southampton University Christian Union (SUCU)
Hereinafter referred to as the society.
- 2. Society type:**

Religious.
- 3. Objects/Aims:**
 - a. To give all the students in Southampton University the chance to hear and respond to the Good News and Love of Jesus Christ.
- 4. Membership:**
 - a. *Full membership* is open to any full member of the Students' Union.
 - b. *Associate members* of the Union may become associate members of the society. Associate members shall be entitled to full rights and privileges as members except that they may not vote or be a member of the society committee.
- 5. Officers of the Society:**
 - a. The President shall be the figurehead of the society to all external interests. S/he is responsible for overseeing the committee and chairing its meetings.
 - b. The Treasurer shall maintain the accounts of the society, which shall be available for examination at the AGM. Any funds spent by the society must follow Union regulations and be authorised by an officer of the society.
 - c. The Secretary shall keep minutes of society meetings. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to deal with all communications on behalf of the society and its committee. The Secretary shall produce and maintain a list of all members, including up to date contact details, which shall be available to the committee of the society.
- 6. The Committee:**
 - a. The administration and management of the society shall be the responsibility of the committee.
 - b. Composition of the committee
 - i. The committee shall consist of the Officers of the Society and 7 committee members who shall be:
 - Hall Group Coordinator
 - Follow Up Coordinator
 - Events Week Coordinator
 - Freshers' Week Coordinator
 - International Coordinator
 - Prayer and Praise Coordinator
 - Vice-President
 1. At the discretion of the committee up to, and including, five of the above listed positions may remain unfilled.
 2. The committee shall at no time consist of fewer than 5 persons with the exception of d. below and 9.e.
 - ii. Should a member of the committee stand down or be removed the committee may, at their discretion, call an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) to elect a new committee member. With the exception of:
 1. Should an officer of the society resign their position or be removed an EGM must be called.
 2. If the removal of a member of the committee would leave fewer than 5 persons forming the committee an EGM must be called to comply with i.2. above.
 - c. The removal of any members of the committee
 - i. May be effected on a resolution carried at a meeting of the society.
 - ii. The resolution, in accordance with 8.b.i., can be called by an officer of the society or by written application to the President by at least 6 members of the society.
 - iii. At the discretion of the committee, a member may be elected in accordance with 9. to replace a removed committee member.
 - d. Should the entire committee wish to resign, they shall call an EGM as outlined in 8.b., and in accordance with 9.e. a secretary shall be elected as the committee chairman. The election of a new committee, in accordance with 9. will begin from that point.
- 7. The Committee hand-over:**
 - a. Upon election of a new committee, the outgoing committee is responsible for overseeing the handover of responsibilities for a minimum of 2 weeks following the elections. The responsibilities of each outgoing officer are:

- i. The President must ensure the incoming president is fully aware of all relevant activities of the society and correct assignment of responsibility across the new committee.
- ii. The Treasurer must ensure that the details, and ownership, of all society accounts and relevant documentation is transferred.
- iii. The Secretary will transfer all minutes and relevant documentation to the new officer.

8. Meetings:

- a. Annual General Meeting (AGM)
 - i. The society AGM shall be held in the spring term.
 - ii. Notice of the AGM shall be issued at least 14 clear days in advance and advertised to all society members.
 - iii. Officers of the society and committee members shall be elected at the AGM.
 - iv. Each member of the committee may be invited by the Chairperson to make a short speech concerning his or her activities during the previous year. This speech is compulsory for the Treasurer, who must also present the year's accounts for examination if requested.
 - v. Minutes of the AGM shall be made available as required in d.iii.
- b. Emergency General Meeting (EGM)
 - i. An EGM can be called by an officer of the society, or by written application to the society president of at least 6 members of the society, together with a written statement of the objects for which the meeting is being called.
 - ii. At the EGM no business other than that specified in the written statement shall be discussed.
 - iii. At least 24 hours' notice of an EGM shall be given to all society members. The meeting must be held within 7 term days of the request being given to the society president.
- c. Conduct of committee meetings
 - i. Meetings shall be chaired by the president of the society, or a member of the committee as appointed by the president.
 - ii. The committee shall meet a minimum of twice per academic term.
 - iii. As an exception to d. below the conduct of a committee meeting shall be such that:
 1. Voting: Proxy votes shall be accepted for matters voted on by the committee.
 2. Quorum: The quorum shall be 85% for voting matters, including proxy votes.
 3. Minutes: The secretary of the society shall keep minutes of all meetings, which shall be available to the committee upon request.
 - iv. At the discretion of the committee, any member of the society or Honorary Vice President, may be invited to attend all or part of a committee meeting.
- d. Conduct of General meetings
 - i. Voting
 1. Every full member of the society present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote upon every voting matter.
 2. Only full members are entitled to vote.
 3. No proxy votes shall be accepted for any purpose.
 4. The chairperson may vote if there is a tied result.
 - ii. Quorum: The quorum at all meetings shall be either 15% of the full members, or 100 persons, whichever is fewer.
 - iii. Minutes: The secretary of the society shall keep minutes of all society meetings, which shall be available to the society members upon request.

9. Elections:

- a. Nominations
 - i. All members of the society shall have the opportunity to submit nominations for any full member of the society to be a member of the committee.
 - ii. The committee as a whole may submit nominations for any full member of the society to be a member of the committee.
 - iii. To be a candidate for election, a person must receive three unique nominations.
 - iv. All nominations must be position specific, and nominations must include a statement in support of their nomination for their suitability.
 - v. No member of the society may stand for election for more than one position on the committee.
 - vi. No member of the society may be elected for more than two consecutive terms of office.
- b. Election process
 - i. The society will have at least two full weeks to consider the candidates before the AGM.
 1. The committee may recommend to the society one candidate for each position.

2. At the Annual General Meeting of the society, in accordance with 8., the society will elect the new committee.
 - I. The voting will include the option to Re-Open Nominations.
 - c. The elections will be advertised to all society members.
 - d. The elections shall be carried out by show of hands or secret ballot, to be decided by the Chair at the start of the meeting. Should there be a tied result, the Chairperson may vote in favour of one of the candidates or may declare the post re-open nominations (RON).
 - e. If a valid committee (as detailed in 6.b.i.) is not elected for any reason, a secretary shall be elected and s/he will be responsible for ensuring that elections for the remaining positions are held by the end of the summer term.
 - i. If a member of the society is elected for another committee position, they may be co-opted as secretary until the position is filled.
 - f. The committee must update their committee information on the Student Groups Hub provided by the Students' Union at www.susu.org (or failing that inform the Students' Union Student Groups Officer) within seven days.
- 10. Financial matters:**
- a. The treasurer of the society shall be responsible for maintaining the accounts of the Society, which shall be available to the Students' Union upon request.
 - b. An annual statement of the society accounts must be presented to the AGM by the society treasurer.
 - c. The officers of the society are jointly liable for the proper management of the society's finances and ensuring that Union regulations are applied.
- 11. Expulsion of members:**
- a. The committee shall have the power to expel any member from the society, after discussion with the Student Groups Officer, on the grounds of misconduct, or for conduct of a nature opposed to the objects of the society and the Students' Union.
 - b. Before a member is expelled from the society the committee maintains the right to first serve two private written warnings to the member.
 - c. Where any member of the society is expelled by the committee, a report of the matter shall be made to the next General Meeting of the society.
 - d. Students who are expelled from any Society have the right of appeal to the Student Groups Committee.
- 12. Affiliations:**
- a. The society will be affiliated to The Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF).
 - b. The society may affiliate to additional external organisations which are in line with the aims of the society and which provides a direct benefit to its members. All external affiliations must first be approved by a majority vote at a meeting of the society, in accordance with 8., and then reported to the Student Groups Committee within seven days.
- 13. Honorary Vice Presidents (HVPs):**
- a. There shall be several HVPs of the society who shall act in an advisory capacity.
 - b. The HVPs will agree with the 'SUCU Statement and Agreement of Faith' as laid out in Appendix A.
 - c. Appointment of a HVP
 - i. Any member of the society may propose a person for the position of HVP by written application to the society president.
 - ii. The President shall put forward proposals to the committee, to which a majority must agree the proposal.
 - iii. The President shall invite them to serve for a minimum period of three years.
 - d. A HVP shall continue until:
 - i. They resign their position.
 - ii. The committee passes a motion, at a meeting of the committee, asking them to tender their resignation.
 - iii. They cease to agree with the society's doctrinal basis as agreed in b. above.
- 14. Doctrinal Basis:**
- a. The society will follow the 'SUCU Statement and Agreement of Faith' as laid out in Appendix A.
 - b. The committee will agree to and sign the 'SUCU Statement and Agreement of Faith', as laid out in Appendix A, within 14 days of taking office.
 - c. Copies of completed 'SUCU Statement and Agreement of Faith' for the committee are to be held by the society secretary for the duration of their time in office.
- 15. Relationship with other organisations:**
- a. The society may co-operate officially in religious activities only with other organisations which, at the discretion of the committee, substantially uphold the doctrinal basis set out in Appendix A.

16. Constitution Amendments:

- a. The society shall hold a vote to pass any constitutional changes. This shall be done by ballot or a show of hands, at the discretion of the chairperson. Should there be a tie, the chairperson may vote.
- b. Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the Students' Union in writing within seven days of them being passed, for ratification by the Student Groups Committee.
- c. The secretary of the society and the Students' Union shall both keep a copy of the constitution.

The committee approved the above constitution on:

Date: **16/02/2016**

Signed: **Charlie Main**

President

Timothy Furlong

Secretary

The Student Groups Committee approved the above constitution on:

Date: **17/03/2016**

Signed: **Catriona Philip**

Student Groups Officer

17. Appendix A: SUCU Statement and Agreement of Faith

The doctrinal basis of UCCF shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed by the Holy Scripture, including:

1. There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
3. The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.
4. Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
6. Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.
7. Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
8. The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
9. The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christ like in character and behaviour and gives them power for their witness in the world.
10. The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.
11. The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

I stand for these truths and want to make them known.

I believe them and strive to live by them, so that all my activities will be consistent with them.

I hereby affirm my trust in Christ and declare that my beliefs are in accordance with the doctrinal basis set out as above.

Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____