

# Constitution of The Melbourne University Christian Union

Ratified, 15 August 2015

## 1. Name

- 1.1. The name of the society will be "The Melbourne University Christian Union", herein referred to as the MUCU.

## 2. Affiliation

- 2.1. This club is affiliated with UMSU Inc (UMSU) and anything in this constitution that conflicts with the constitution of UMSU or with the Clubs & Societies Regulations shall be null and void. In all matters not specifically dealt with herein, the constitution of UMSU and the Clubs & Societies Regulations shall apply.
- 2.2. During the course of affiliation with UMSU this club shall comply with any requirements of the Clubs and Societies Committee of UMSU for provision of records and documents and shall be under a duty to apply any grant monies received from the Clubs and Societies Committee in accordance with any conditions imposed by such body.
- 2.3. The MUCU is affiliated with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (Incorporated), herein after referred to as the AFES.
- 2.4. The MUCU shall take steps to encourage Christians in other tertiary institutions with whom its members may have close contact, and to maintain contact with other affiliates of the AFES.

## 3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1. The overall concern of the MUCU shall be to glorify God by encouraging members, under the enablement of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, to demonstrate Christian love. Therefore the objectives shall be:
- 3.2. To bear witness in the university to the Lord Jesus Christ and to seek to lead others to a personal faith in Him as Saviour and Lord.
- 3.3. To deepen and strengthen the spiritual lives of members and others by prayer and the study of the Bible.
- 3.4. To encourage Christian students to explore and to demonstrate to the university the relevance of the Christian faith to every area of private life and public concern.
- 3.5. To stimulate an informed and active interest in the work of God's people throughout the world, and to challenge all members to consider the implications of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for their vocations.
- 3.6. To uphold the fundamental truths of the Christian faith as contained in the Bible.

## 4. Doctrinal Basis

- 4.1. The doctrinal basis of the MUCU contains the fundamental truths of the Christian faith, including:
- 4.2. The divine inspiration and infallibility of the Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 4.3. The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- 4.4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering humanity subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- 4.5. The conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and his birth by the Virgin Mary.
- 4.6. Redemption from guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute, of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God.
- 4.7. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- 4.8. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective in individual sinners, granting them repentance towards God, and faith in Jesus Christ.
- 4.9. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
- 4.10. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 5. Governing Principles

- 5.1. The MUCU shall be an entirely interdenominational group.
- 5.2. The activities of the MUCU shall further its aims (Clause 3) and shall not compromise the distinctive evangelical witness of the MUCU to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5.3. Any persons may be asked to take formal responsibility for leading any MUCU meeting or activity or to represent the MUCU only if their views are known to be in whole-hearted agreement with the Aims, Objectives and Doctrinal Basis of the MUCU.

## **6. Relations with Individuals and Other Societies**

- 6.1. Activities may be arranged with societies with a Doctrinal Basis equal to that of the MUCU; and with individuals and other societies when the committee has resolved:
- 6.1.1. That the proposed activity furthers the objectives of the MUCU;
  - 6.1.2. That the distinctive evangelical witness of the MUCU to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not compromised; and,
  - 6.1.3. That the participants representing the MUCU both positively uphold the Doctrinal Basis and are publicly known to represent the MUCU.
- 6.2. Other than activities of this kind, no joint arrangements are to be undertaken with societies who do not uphold the truths stated in the Doctrinal Basis.

## **7. Membership**

- 7.1. Membership shall be open to all students of the University of Melbourne.
- 7.2. Membership shall also be open to other persons who support the aims of the society.
- 7.3. A person shall be considered a member having:
- 7.3.1. Paid a membership fee according to Clause 7.4, if required by that clause, and
  - 7.3.2. Completed a membership form as prepared by the committee, and
  - 7.3.3. Signed the following declaration: "In joining the Melbourne University Christian Union, I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord and my God".
- 7.4. A membership fee shall be required if and only if required by the Clubs & Societies Regulations. If required, the membership fee shall be the minimum required by the Clubs & Societies Regulations.
- 7.5. By a motion of the committee or a petition bearing the name of at least fifteen voting members, any member of the MUCU can be expelled. The procedure is that for impeachment and the result is the voiding of a person's membership. No person can be expelled on the grounds of: race; religious, political, moral or sexual views. At the next general meeting or Annual General Meeting, a motion shall be put to impeach the person concerned, providing that at least five academic days notice has been given in writing to the voting membership and the member concerned. The motion is carried if it is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority. The member will be given five minutes to speak before the vote is taken.

## **8. MUCU General Committee**

- 8.1. The administration of the MUCU shall be in the hands of the Governing Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, which shall:
- 8.1.1. Be responsible for formulating and co-ordinating a programme to fulfil all the stated aims of the MUCU, and
  - 8.1.2. Control the finances of the MUCU.
- 8.2. The committee is at all times bound by the decisions of a club general meeting. Any committee decision may be overturned by a club general meeting.
- 8.3. The Secretary shall, at the conclusion of the committee's term in office, forward to the incoming committee a "Motions of recommendation" file. Motions contained therein shall be put to the next committee for approval by a simple majority.
- 8.4. The committee shall have the following members:
- 8.4.1. An executive consisting of:
  - 8.4.2. The President, who shall be a student;
  - 8.4.3. Two Vice-Presidents, who shall be students;
  - 8.4.4. The Secretary, who shall be a student;
  - 8.4.5. The Treasurer, who shall be a student.
  - 8.4.6. Two General Executive Members, who shall be students;
- 8.5. Non-executive members consisting of two Representatives for each Faculty Group.
- 8.5.1. The majority of the committee shall be students.

- 8.6. The quorum of the committee shall be three committee members, at least one of whom must be a member of the executive. There shall be no provision for proxy votes.
- 8.7. Meetings of the committee shall be held as deemed necessary by the President, or at the written request of at least five (5) voting members of the MUCU who state clearly in writing the business to be discussed. The committee shall meet within fourteen (14) days of such a request. Office bearers shall be given at least seven (7) days notice of any committee meeting. The accidental omission to give notice of any committee meeting to any office bearer shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.
- 8.8. A committee position may, at the committee's discretion, be declared vacant by a motion of the committee if that office bearer is
- 8.9. absent from the three (3) previous meetings without an apology.
- 8.10. absent from the five (5) previous committee meeting.
- 8.11. No longer in whole-hearted agreement with the Aims, Objectives and Doctrinal Basis of the MUCU.
- 8.12. Vacant committee positions may be filled by:
- 8.13. Election only for the executive positions;
- 8.14. Either election or appointment for the non-executive positions.
  - 8.14.1. If, at any time, the number of elected office bearers does not exceed the number of appointed office bearers by at least three (3), the committee shall convene a General Meeting to carry out a full election within four (4) academic weeks.
- 8.15. By a motion of the committee or a petition bearing names of at least fifteen (15) voting members, any committee member of the society can be expelled. The procedure is that for impeachment and the result is the voiding of a person's office and/or membership. No person can be expelled on the grounds of: race; religious, political, moral or sexual views. At the next general meeting or Annual General Meeting, a motion shall be put to impeach the person concerned, providing that at least five (5) academic days notice has been given in writing to the voting membership and the member concerned. If this is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, that committee position will become vacant and a new election held immediately. The committee member to be impeached will be given five (5) minutes to speak before the vote is taken.

## 9. Election of Office Bearers

- 9.1. Every member of the MUCU shall be eligible for election or appointment, except that a person being elected or appointed to a position shall be ineligible for further positions. Every member of the MUCU shall be eligible to vote in elections. Outgoing committee members shall be eligible for re-election.
- 9.2. Candidates for an election shall be nominated by two (2) members, and shall declare in writing:
  - 9.2.1. Their consent to nomination.
  - 9.2.2. Their agreement with the Aims, Objectives and Doctrinal Basis of the MUCU.
    - 9.2.2.1. A member may not be a candidate for more than one Faculty Group in the same election.
    - 9.2.2.2. A full election shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.
    - 9.2.2.3. All nominations shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen (14) days before any election, and a list of nominations shall be served to all members at least seven (7) days before the election.
    - 9.2.2.4. Office bearers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members by secret ballot. There shall be no provision for proxy votes.

## 10. Faculty Groups

- 10.1. The MUCU is organised into subgroups named "Faculty Groups" in order to better fulfil its aims.
- 10.2. The MUCU is nevertheless a single club. In particular:
  - 10.2.1. It interacts with its affiliates as a single club.
  - 10.2.2. There is no formal membership of Faculty Groups. The only MUCU membership is that defined in section 7 of this constitution.

- 10.2.3. The General Committee of Section 8 is responsible for the governance of the entirety of MUCU, including its Faculty Groups.
  - 10.2.3.1. The number and names of the Faculty Groups are set by "The MUCU Faculty Group Charter" (the FG Charter).
- 10.2.4. The FG Charter may be amended only by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the members present at a general meeting.
- 10.2.5. Notice of intention to amend the FG Charter and notice of such amendments shall be served no less than two academic weeks prior to the general meeting which will deal with such alterations.
- 10.2.6. Amendments to the FG Charter may only be considered before the commencement of any elections taking place at the same general meeting.
- 10.2.7. Changes to the FG Charter take effect immediately. In the case that such changes take place at the Annual General Meeting:
- 10.2.8. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for the representative positions for Faculty Groups modified or added by the changes.
- 10.2.9. Nominees for the representative positions for Faculty Groups modified or deleted by the changes may change the Faculty Group they are nominating for.
  - 10.2.9.1. In the case that such a change does not take place at the Annual General Meeting:
- 10.2.10. Representatives of Faculty Groups which have been modified or deleted shall not be removed from committee by the change. With the approval of the general meeting, they may change which Faculty Group they represent. Otherwise a representative of a modified Faculty Group shall continue to represent it, and a representative of a deleted Faculty Group shall be a committee member without a portfolio.
- 10.2.11. Elections shall take place during that same meeting for any remaining vacancies created by the changes. This includes vacancies created by a representative changing which Faculty Group they represent.
  - 10.2.11.1.1. The FG Charter can allow the Committee to split particular Faculty Groups without amendment. The effect of such a split is that the number of Faculty Groups is increased by one, and the representatives of the split Faculty Group must choose which of the two new Faculty Groups they shall represent. The Committee vacancies created by a split may not be filled by appointment. The Committee may only make one such split in the period between Annual General Meetings. It may revoke the split but if it does then it may not make another or make the same split again. The split is temporary and shall last only until the next General Meeting or Annual General Meeting, at which the Committee may attempt to make it permanent by putting forward an amendment to the FG Charter.
- 10.2.12. The number of Faculty Groups must be no less than four (4) and no more than seven (7).

## 11. Meetings of the MUCU

- 11.1. There shall be one Annual General Meeting (AGM) every calendar year, which shall be held during the academic period, but no later than the end of September. The AGM shall be convened by the secretary acting under the direction of the committee. At this meeting:
  - 11.1.1. Written reports shall be presented by the President and Treasurer and any other pertinent persons;
  - 11.1.2. Ratification of the club's current constitution;
  - 11.1.3. If notice has been given, amendments to the FG Charter will be considered and voted upon.
  - 11.1.4. Full financial report will be presented and adopted for the financial period from AGM to AGM;

- 11.1.5. Elections will be held for a new committee, to take charge of the club from the close of the meeting;
- 11.1.6. Other moved motions may be discussed and voted upon, with preference going to motions of which notice was given before the meeting;
- 11.1.7. Any Other MUCU Business shall be conducted as the meeting deems appropriate.
  - 11.1.7.1. The club shall submit all the AGM documents to the C&S Administrator within two weeks of the AGM;
  - 11.1.7.2. General Meetings (GM) of the MUCU shall be convened by the Secretary acting under the direction of the committee.
  - 11.1.7.3. Special General Meetings (SGM) of the MUCU shall be convened by the Secretary at the written request of at least ten (10) voting members of the MUCU who state the nature of the business they wish discussed, within four (4) academic weeks of such a request.
  - 11.1.7.4. All members of the MUCU and the Clubs and societies Administrator shall be served notice before the meeting of at least:
    - 11.1.8. Three weeks in the case of an AGM;
    - 11.1.9. One week in the case of a GM or SGM.
      - 11.1.9.1. The accidental omission to give notice of any general meeting to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.
  - 11.1.10. At any general meeting of the MUCU, a quorum shall be a minimum of twenty members whom are:
    - 11.1.11. University of Melbourne students and
    - 11.1.12. not committee members.
  - 11.1.13. The chairperson of any general meeting of the MUCU shall be the President. If he/she is absent the meeting shall elect a chairperson.
  - 11.1.14. At any general meeting of the MUCU, except in the case of a proposed amendment to the constitution/the FG charter or impeachment, all voting shall require a simple majority to pass a motion. All tied votes shall be lost. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

## 12. Finances

- 12.1. The committee may open, operate and close any savings or cheque account, provided that no such account have an overdrawn balance at any time. There shall be two (2) types of account operated by the MUCU, these being a general and special account.
- 12.2. A general account shall have signatories, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the MUCCN Representative and the General Executive Members, of whom the Treasurer and one other shall sign to withdraw monies from any such accounts. Monies shall be withdrawn from a general account only on the authority of the committee.
- 12.3. A special account shall have as signatories, the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and at most three (3) other members of the MUCU, of whom any two (2) may sign to withdraw monies.
- 12.4. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all the income and expenditure of the MUCU, however he/she may co-opt another signatory to keep records for Special Accounts, provided that such records are submitted to the Treasurer at least once each semester.
- 12.5. All accounts of the MUCU shall be verified annually by a senior voting member of the MUCU and, after signature by the President and the Treasurer, shall be presented to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.

## 13. Reporting

- 13.1. The AFES General Secretary shall be notified of any substantial amendment to this constitution within ten (10) academic days of such an amendment, and this amendment must be tabled by the President at the next AFES General Committee following such amendment.
- 13.2. The AFES General Secretary shall be notified of names and addresses of the Committee within ten (10) academic day of election.

- 13.3. The MUCU President shall table a report at each meeting of the AFES General Committee of MUCU activities for the past year, and a list of current members of the MUCU.
- 13.4. Copies of the documents required in Clauses 13.2 and 13.3 shall be sent to the AFES Area Committee Secretary.
- 13.5. Any grievance that arises between a club and UMSU, a club member and another club member, or a club member and another University of Melbourne student is subject to the grievance procedure outlined in the UMSU Clubs & Societies Regulations. If the parties subject to a grievance are unable to meet and discuss the grievance and determine a resolution within 21 academic days, the UMSU Clubs & Societies Officer/s or their nominated representative shall appoint a mediator to facilitate mediation. Parties subject to mediation will have certain rights as members of the club suspended until mediation is completed.

#### **14. Amendments to the Constitution**

- 14.1. No amendments shall be made to this constitution except by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the members present at a general meeting.
- 14.2. Constitutional changes take effect from the end of the meeting. Notice of intention to amend the constitution and notice of such amendments shall be served no less than two academic weeks prior to the general meeting called to deal with such alterations. Constitutional changes shall be approved by the UMSU Clubs & Societies Office Bearer(s) before they are presented to a general meeting.

#### **15. Windup of the club**

- 15.1. A motion to wind up the club must be written and notice of the motion is to be given in the agenda for the general meeting at which the winding up motion is to be decided. A winding up motion must be carried by an absolute majority.
- 15.2. In the event that the club is wound up, or ceases to be affiliated to UMSU the control of assets which have been 50% or more funded by UMSU Clubs & Societies Committee grants and which are less than 3 years old will revert to UMSU and be held in trust by UMSU Clubs & Societies Committee until such time that a club with the same aims is affiliated or a period of 18 months lapses.
- 15.3. In the event that a club has not been able to organise a quorate meeting within the 12 month period, the UMSU Clubs & Societies Committee may wind up the club by passing a motion to do so under the rules of UMSU. Any member of the club who wished to oppose the winding up of the club should make submissions to the committee. The decision of the committee is final subject only to appeal under the UMSU rules.
- 15.4. If the club is wound up, any money remaining after the payment of all debts, liabilities and expenses must not be paid or distributed to members but must be transferred to the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (Incorporated).

#### **16. Not for Profit**

- 16.1. The profits (if any) or other income and property of the club must be applied solely towards the promotion of the aims of the club as set out in this Constitution and no portion of it may be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, to any member of the club whether by way of dividend, bonus or other profits. This does not prevent any payment in good faith by the club for the payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by a member of the club on behalf of the club.

#### **17. Other**

- 17.1. For all purposes herein, an academic day will be considered as a day in the academic calendar of the University of Melbourne.