

**Memorandum  
and  
Articles of Association  
of  
University of Cambridge Students' Union**

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The Companies Act 2006

**Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital**

**Memorandum of Association of University of Cambridge Students' Union**

Each subscriber to this Memorandum of Association wishes to form a company under the Companies Act 2006 and agrees to become a Member of the company.

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*Name of each subscriber*

*Authentication by each subscriber*

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**[*Insert names of subscribers*]**

**[Signature:**

WITNESS to above signature:

Signature:

Name:

Address:]

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Dated: **[*Insert date on which company is established*]**

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## **The Companies Act 2006**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital**

#### **Articles of Association of University of Cambridge Students' union**

##### **BACKGROUND**

- A. University of Cambridge Students' Union (the "Union") is a students' union within the meaning of the Education Act 1994. The Union is devoted to the educational interests and welfare of its Members.
- B. The Union will seek at all times to:
  - (i) ensure that the diversity of its Membership is recognised and that equal access is available to all Members of whatever origin or orientation; It will seek to effectively represent both Undergraduate and Postgraduates sufficiently;
  - (ii) pursue its aims and objectives independent of any political party or religious group; and
  - (iii) pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society.
- C. These Articles have been structured to give the Board of Trustees reasonable authority to manage the affairs of the Union in a professional manner. The Members enjoy the right, which must be exercised in accordance with charity law, to elect a proportion of the Trustees and to dismiss all of the Trustees. The Board of Trustees will give the utmost consideration to the views of Members.
- D. Under the Education Act 1994, the University of Cambridge has a statutory duty to ensure that the Union operates in a fair and democratic manner and is held to proper account for its finances. The Union therefore works alongside the University of Cambridge in ensuring that the affairs of the Union are properly conducted and that the educational and welfare needs of the Union's Members are met.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Cambridge SU was founded through the efforts of two central Students' Unions of the University of Cambridge in 2019. These were the Cambridge University Students' Union and the University of Cambridge Graduate Union. It was founded at a time when Postgraduate and Undergraduate student numbers were equal, and it was felt important that a new organisation be founded that could represent these students, and those that fell into the grey area between them, sufficiently and equally.

The Graduate Union was founded in 1955, by a Grace of the Regent House, to support Postgraduates better, and raise awareness of this growing group. Credit for this founding goes to Margareta "Greta" Burkill, who previously studied at Newnham College. She was born in Germany and became a political refugee due to her father's activities. She helped house many child refugees escaping persecution in the 1930's and 40's. She also helped found New Hall (now Murray Edwards College) to further the Higher Education of women at the University of Cambridge.

From its founding, the Graduate Union acted as a hub for students the colleges struggled to accommodate, such as international postgraduates and their partners, mature students, visiting scholars and, later, postdoctoral researchers. These students were somewhat neglected, and also did not fit in with the paternal culture in the colleges at this time.

CUSU was founded as the Cambridge Students' Union (CSU) in 1971 to represent all higher education students studying in Cambridge, including students attending the University of Cambridge plus undergraduates at CCAT (the then Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology, which in 1993 became Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge). CSU also represented students at Homerton College, then a separate teacher training college in the city.

During its early years from 1971 to 1974, CSU received support from CCAT Students' Union, as CCATSU was from the 1960s the only large NUS-affiliated, and conventionally funded, students' union in Cambridge. CSU in turn supported CCATSU in its campaigns to get more student housing provided for CCAT degree students, a serious issue for the college by the early 1970s. CCATSU and CSU went their separate ways after 1974.

CSU was formally recognised by the Cambridge University authorities on 25 May 1984 and renamed, following a student referendum in March 1985, as CUSU - Cambridge University Students Union.

There had been previous university-wide groups, such as CAMNUS (Cambridge NUS), which was founded in 1964 by Gordon Heald, John Bibby and others. CAMNUS arranged certain university-wide student facilities, such as 'CAMNUS Coaches' (an end-of-term bus service to all parts of the country), and an inter-collegiate mail service.

## **PART 1**

### **KEY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

#### **1. Definitions and Interpretation**

The meanings of any defined terms used in these Articles are set out in Article 64. If any dispute arises in relation to the interpretation of these Articles or any of the by-laws, it shall be resolved by the Board of Trustees.

#### **2. Name**

The name of the company is University of Cambridge Students' Union. In these Articles it is called "the Union" and may also be known as "Cambridge SU".

#### **3. Registered office**

The registered office of the Union is situated in England and Wales.

#### **4. Objects**

The objects of the Union are the advancement of the education of Students at the University of Cambridge for the public benefit by:

- 4.1.1 promoting the interests and welfare of Students at the University of Cambridge during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;
- 4.1.2 being the recognised representative channel between Students and the University of Cambridge and any other external bodies; and
- 4.1.3 providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of Students.

4.2 The promotion of equality of opportunity in education for the public benefit by in particular:

- 4.2.1 promoting access to, and success at, the University of Cambridge and its affiliated institutions; and
- 4.2.2 encouraging access to the University of Cambridge for applicants from backgrounds underrepresented in the University.
- 4.2.3 Ensuring the representation of Postgraduate students, Undergraduate students and students with protected characteristics within the Union and the wider University.

#### **5. Powers**

To further its objects, but not to further any other purpose, the Union may:

- 5.1 provide services and facilities for Members;
- 5.2 establish, support, promote and operate a network of student activities for Members;

- 5.3 support any RAG or similar fundraising activities carried out by its Members for charitable causes, including the provision of administrative support, banking facilities and acting as a holding trustee of any funds raised;
- 5.4 alone or with other organisations:
- (a) carry out campaigning activities;
  - (b) seek to influence public opinion; and
  - (c) make representations to and seek to influence governmental and other bodies and institutions regarding the reform, development and implementation of appropriate policies, legislation and regulations, provided that all such activities shall be confined to the activities which an English and Welsh charity may properly undertake and provided that the Union complies with the Education Act and any guidance published by the Charity Commission;
- 5.5 write, make, commission, print, publish or distribute materials or information or assist in these activities;
- 5.6 promote, initiate, develop or carry out education and training and arrange, provide or assist with exhibitions, lectures, meetings, seminars, displays or classes;
- 5.7 promote, encourage, carry out or commission research, surveys, studies or other work and publish the useful results;
- 5.8 provide or appoint others to provide advice, guidance, representation and advocacy;
- 5.9 co-operate with other charities and bodies and exchange information and advice with them;
- 5.10 become a member, affiliate or associate of other charities and bodies;
- 5.11 support, set up or amalgamate with other charities with objects identical or similar to the Union's objects, and act as or appoint trustees, agents, nominees or delegates to control and manage such charities (including without limitation to act as trustee of any charitable trust of permanent endowment property held for any of the charitable purposes included in the Union's objects);
- 5.12 purchase or acquire all or any of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any charity with objects similar to the Union's objects;
- 5.13 pay out of the funds of the Union the costs of forming and registering the Union;
- 5.14 raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person provided that the Union shall not carry out any taxable trading activities in raising funds;
- 5.15 borrow and raise money on such terms and security as the Union may think suitable including for the purposes of investment or of raising funds (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act 1993);
- 5.16 purchase, lease, hire or receive property of any kind including land, buildings and equipment and maintain and equip it for use;

- 5.17 sell, manage, lease, mortgage, exchange, dispose of or deal with all or any of its property (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act 1993);
- 5.18 make grants or loans of money and give guarantees;
- 5.19 set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
- 5.20 invest and deal with the Union's money not immediately required for its objects in or upon any investments, securities, or property;
- 5.21 delegate the management of investments to an appropriately experienced and qualified financial expert provided that:
  - (a) the investment policy is set down in writing for the financial expert by the Trustees;
  - (b) every transaction is reported promptly to the Trustees;
  - (c) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly by the Trustees;
  - (d) the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation at any time;
  - (e) the investment policy and the delegation arrangements are reviewed at least once a year;
  - (f) all payments due to the financial expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and
  - (g) the financial expert may not do anything outside the powers of the Trustees;
- 5.22 arrange for investments or other property of the Union to be held in the name of a nominee (being a company or a limited liability partnership registered or having an established place of business in England and Wales) under the control of the Trustees or a financial expert acting under their instructions and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 5.23 lend money and give credit to, take security for such loans or credit and guarantee or give security for the performance of contracts by any person or company;
- 5.24 open and operate banking accounts and other facilities for banking and draw, accept, endorse, negotiate, discount, issue or execute negotiable instruments such as promissory notes or bills of exchange;
- 5.25 trade in the course of carrying out any of its objects and carry on any other trade which is not expected to give rise to taxable profits;
- 5.26 establish or acquire subsidiary companies to carry on any trade;
- 5.27 subject to Article 6 (Limitation on private benefits), employ and pay employees and professionals or other advisors;
- 5.28 grant pensions and retirement benefits to employees of the Union and to their dependants and subscribe to funds or schemes for providing pensions and retirement benefits for employees of the Union and their dependants;

- 5.29 pay out of the funds of the Union the cost of any premium in respect of any indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Trustees (or any of them) which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Union, including without limitation any liability to make a contribution to the Union's assets as specified in section 214 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (wrongful trading), provided that no such insurance shall extend to:
- (a) any claim arising from any liability incurred by the Trustees to pay a fine imposed in criminal proceedings or a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (however arising);
  - (b) any liability incurred by the Trustees in defending any criminal proceedings in which the Trustees are convicted of an offence arising out of any fraud or dishonesty, or wilful or reckless misconduct;
  - (c) any liability incurred by the Trustees to the Union that arises out of any conduct which the Trustees knew (or must reasonably be assumed to have known) was not in the interests of the Union or in the case of which they did not care whether it was in the best interests of the Union or not; or
  - (d) in relation to any liability to make a contribution to the Union's assets as specified in section 214 of the Insolvency Act 1986, any liability to make such a contribution where the basis of the Trustee's liability is their knowledge prior to the insolvent liquidation of the Union (or reckless failure to acquire that knowledge) that there was no reasonable prospect that the Union would avoid going into insolvent liquidation; and
- 5.30 do all such other lawful things as shall further the Union's objects.

## **6. Limitation on private benefits**

- 6.1 The income and property of the Union shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects.
- 6.2 Except as provided below, no part of the income and property of the Union may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit, to any Member of the Union. This shall not prevent any payment in good faith by the Union of:
- 6.2.1 any payments made to any Member in their capacity as a beneficiary of the Union;
  - 6.2.2 reasonable and proper remuneration to any Member for any goods or services supplied to the Union provided that if such Member is a Trustee Article 6.3 shall apply;
  - 6.2.3 interest on money lent by any Member to the Union at a reasonable and proper rate; and
  - 6.2.4 any reasonable and proper rent for premises let by any Member to the Union.

- 6.3 Except as provided below no Trustee may sell goods, services or any interest in land to the Union; be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the Union; or receive any other financial benefit from the Union. This shall not prevent any payment in good faith by the Union of:
- 6.3.1 any payments made to any Trustee or Connected Person in their capacity as a beneficiary of the Union;
  - 6.3.2 reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses of the Trustees;
  - 6.3.3 reasonable and proper remuneration to any Sabbatical Trustee or Connected Person for any goods or services supplied to the Union on the instructions of the Trustees provided that:
    - (a) for the avoidance of doubt, the authorisation under this provision shall extend to the remuneration of Sabbatical Trustees and Connected Persons under contracts of employment with the Union;
    - (b) subject to Article 6.3.3(a), the authorisation under this provision shall not extend to the service of acting as Trustee;
    - (c) if the person being remunerated is a Trustee the procedure described in Article 51 (Conflicts of Interest) must be followed in considering the appointment of the Trustee and in relation to any other decisions regarding the remuneration authorised by this provision;
    - (d) if the person being remunerated is a Connected Person the procedure described in Article 51(Conflicts of Interest) must be followed by the relevant Trustee in relation to any decisions regarding such Connected Person;
    - (e) subject to Article 6.6, this provision may not apply to more than half of the Trustees in any financial year (and for these purposes such provision shall be treated as applying to a Trustee if it applies to a person who is a Connected Person in relation to that Trustee); and
    - (f) at all times the provisions of the Education Act are complied with;
  - 6.3.4 interest on money lent by any Trustee or Connected Person to the Union at a reasonable and proper rate;
  - 6.3.5 any reasonable and proper rent for premises let by any Trustee or Connected Person to the Union;
  - 6.3.6 reasonable and proper premiums in respect of indemnity insurance effected in accordance with Article 5.29;
  - 6.3.7 any payments made to any Trustee or officer under the indemnity provisions set out at Article 63; and
  - 6.3.8 any payments authorised in writing by the Charity Commission.

- 6.4 In Articles 6.2 and 6.3, references to the Union shall be read as references to the Union and/or any Subsidiary Company.
- 6.5 For any transaction authorised by Article 6.3 or Article 6.4, the Trustee's duty (arising under the Companies Act 2006) to avoid a conflict of interest with the Union shall be disapplied provided the relevant provisions of Article 6.3 or Article 6.4 have been complied with.
- 6.6 Where a vacancy arises on the Board of Trustees with the result that Article 6.3.3 applies to more than half of the Trustees, the Union may continue to pay remuneration to its Sabbatical Trustees and any Connected Persons receiving remuneration in accordance with Article 6.3.3 provided that the Union uses all reasonable endeavours to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

## **7. Liability of Company Members**

The liability of each Company Member is limited to £1, being the amount that each Company Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Union in the event of its being wound up while they are a Company Member or within one year after they cease to be a Company Member, for:

- 7.1 payment of the Union's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a Member;
- 7.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- 7.3 adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.
- 7.4 The members of the Board of Trustees shall be the Company Members.

## **8. Dissolution**

If any property remains after the Union has been wound up or dissolved and all debts and liabilities have been satisfied, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Union. It shall instead be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to those of the Union and which prohibits the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as these Articles impose upon the Union. The institution or institutions which are to benefit shall be chosen by the Trustees of the Union at or before the time of winding up or dissolution.

## **9. Reviewing and Amending the Articles**

- 9.1 The Trustees and the University of Cambridge shall be required to review the provisions of the Union's Articles of Association at intervals of not more than five years.
- 9.2 The approval of the University of Cambridge shall be required for any amendments to the Union's Articles of Association.
- 9.3 No amendment of the Union's Articles of Association shall be made which would have the effect of the Union ceasing to be a charity.
- 9.4 Article 4 (Objects) may not be amended without the prior consent of the University, such consent to have been signified by a change to the Ordinances of the University.

- 9.5 Article 6 (Limitation on private benefits) may not be amended without the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- 9.6 Save where the amendment to the Union's Articles of Association is a consequential amendment due to a change in the by-laws (for example, the number or heading names of Articles), the Union's Articles of Association may be amended by a resolution passed by a simple majority of the Members voting in a Referendum, provided that at least a simple majority of Undergraduate Members and a simple majority of Postgraduate Members vote in favour, and where the total number of votes cast in such a Referendum is equal to or more than 10% of the number of matriculated members.

## **PART 2**

### **MEMBERS**

#### ***BECOMING AND CEASING TO BE A STUDENT MEMBER***

#### **10. Becoming a Student Member**

10.1 Until and including the Effective Date, the subscribers to the Memorandum shall be the Members of the Union. Thereafter, the Members of the Union shall be as follows:

10.1.1 each and every Student of the University of Cambridge who has not opted out by notifying the University of Cambridge or the Union of their wish not to be a Member of the Union; and

10.1.2 all non-matriculated students at the University of Cambridge studying for a credit bearing award, who are not staff attending professional development training as a University employee. For the avoidance of doubt this will include students studying to award-bearing courses at the Institute of Continuing Education and the Judge Business School or their successor institutes; and

10.1.3 the Sabbatical Officers of the Union.

10.2 The names of the Members of the Union shall be entered in the register of Members.

10.3 Members of the Union shall be entitled to the benefits set out in the Code of Practice.

10.4 There shall be two classes of Member; Undergraduate Member and Postgraduate Member, who are defined as follows:

10.4.1 An Undergraduate member shall be any student who does not have a Level 6 qualification (normally called a Bachelors and/or a first degree) or below, and will be classed as an Undergraduate student, unless they are attending a course for which a first degree is a requirement, and this has been waived.

10.4.2 A Postgraduate member shall be any student member who is studying a course where a prior Level 6 qualification is normally required. For avoidance of doubt, a student would be considered a postgraduate if they were attending a course where a first-degree requirement has been waived. This includes, but is not limited to, Clinical courses, Postgraduate Certificates in Education (PGCE), and other postgraduate or graduate courses.

10.4.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the University will be requested to provide a list of names of the members who satisfy the above criteria.

10.4.4 A student may appeal their membership status, as set out in the by-laws.

10.4.5 The Sabbatical Officers of the Union shall be classified as either Undergraduate Members or Postgraduate Members according to which class of Member they were at the point of their election to Sabbatical office. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Sabbatical Officer were an Undergraduate Member at the point of their election, they shall be considered an Undergraduate Member for the duration of the term as

a Sabbatical Officer. If a Sabbatical Officer were a Postgraduate member at the point of their election, they shall be considered a Postgraduate Member for the duration of their term as a Sabbatical Officer.

## **11. Termination of Membership**

Membership shall not be transferable and shall cease on death. A Member shall cease to be a Member of the Union if:

- 11.1 they cease to be a Student. For the avoidance of doubt, this will include the situation where a Member's Student status with the University of Cambridge is revoked by the University of Cambridge;
- 11.2 they cease to be a Sabbatical Officer, and do not return to student status with the University of Cambridge;
- 11.3 they opt out of membership by giving written notice to the Union in accordance with the by-laws; or
- 11.4 a decision is made to remove them from membership of the Union in accordance with the Union's code of conduct.

## **12. Associate Members and Affiliate Members**

- 12.1 The Trustees may elect to and remove from associate membership of the Union such persons as they consider to be fit. The Trustees shall determine the form of application for associate membership, and associate membership shall be subject to such rights and obligations as the Trustees consider appropriate. Further details regarding who shall be deemed associate members shall be outlined in the by-laws.
- 12.2 The Trustees may appoint and remove any individual(s) as patron(s) of the Union and on such terms as they shall think fit. A patron shall have the right to be given notice of, to attend and speak (but not vote) at any general meeting of the Union as if a Member and shall also have the right to receive accounts of the Union when available to Members.
- 12.3 The Student Council may elect to and remove from affiliate membership of the Union such organisations as they consider to be fit. The procedure for applying for affiliate membership, and the rights and obligations of affiliate membership, shall be set out in the by-laws.
- 12.4 Associate members and affiliate members shall not be Members for the purposes of this Constitution and shall not be entitled to vote on any matter.

## **13. Code of Conduct**

- 13.1 The Board of Trustees will establish and monitor a "code of conduct" which shall be outlined in the by-laws, that all Members shall be required to adhere to, including when Members are involved in activities or at events that are administered or organised by the Union.

- 13.2 The code of conduct may include a range of sanctions for breach of the code of conduct by a Member, including the suspension or removal of any or all of the rights and privileges of membership, including the holding of office.

## ***REFERENDA***

### **14. Referenda**

- 14.1 A Referendum may be called on any issue by:
- 14.1.1 a resolution of the Trustees;
  - 14.1.2 a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the Student Council; or
  - 14.1.3 a Secure Petition signed by at least 2% of Members.
- 14.2 Subject to Articles 30.2.2 and 34.3, a resolution to create or amend Class A By-Laws may be passed by Referendum where:
- 14.2.1 The number of votes cast in such a Referendum is equal to or more than 10% of the number of matriculated Members, and a simple majority of Undergraduate voters, and a simple majority of Postgraduate voters cast a vote in favour of the resolution. A voter is defined as a Member who has taken part in the relevant referendum[1]. [2]
- 14.3 Subject to Articles 30.2.2 and 34.3, a resolution to create or amend Class B or C By-Laws may be passed by Referendum where:
- 14.3.1 The number of votes cast in such a Referendum is equal to or more than 10% of the number of matriculated Members, and a simple majority of votes cast are in favour of the resolution. A voter is defined as a Member who has taken part in the relevant referendum[3]. [4]
- 14.4 Referenda shall be conducted in accordance with these Articles and the by-laws.
- 14.5 Subject to Article 34.3, the Members may set Policy by Referenda. Policy set by Referenda shall overturn Policy set by the Student Council.

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

### **15. Annual General Meeting**

The Union shall hold an annual general meeting within 18 months of incorporation and afterwards once in each Academic Year. It shall be held at such time and place as the Trustees shall think suitable to allow the maximum number of Members to attend. An annual general meeting shall be run in accordance with these Articles and the by-laws.

## ***ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS***

### **16. General meetings**

General meetings shall be run in accordance with these Articles and the by-laws. The Trustees may call a general meeting at any time. The Trustees must call a general meeting if:

- 16.1 requested to do so by the Members provided such request is signed by at least 100 Members having the right to attend and vote at general meetings; or
- 16.2 requested to do so by the Student Council provided such request has been approved by a majority vote of the Student Council.

### **17. Location of meetings**

All general meetings may be carried out at one single venue or simultaneously at a maximum of three separate venues with a video, audio or other real-time link between all of the venues. At the start of such meetings, each venue must indicate by majority vote that they are satisfied with the meeting set-up and technology.

### **18. Length of notice**

All general meetings shall be called by at least 14 clear days' written notice.

### **19. Contents of notice**

- 19.1 Every notice calling a general meeting shall specify the place, day and time of the meeting, whether it is a general or an annual general meeting, and the general nature of the business to be transacted.
- 19.2 If the meeting is an annual general meeting, the notice must say so and the business to be transacted shall include:
  - 19.2.1 ratification of minutes of the previous annual general meeting;
  - 19.2.2 receiving the report of the Trustees on the Union's activities since the previous annual general meeting;
  - 19.2.3 receiving the accounts of the Union for the previous financial year;
  - 19.2.4 open questions to the Trustees by the Members.

### **20. Service of notice**

Notice of general meetings shall be given to every Member, to the Trustees, to any patron(s) and to the auditors of the Union where practically possible.

### **21. Quorum**

- 21.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.

- 21.2 100 persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted (each being a Member or a proxy for a Member) or a higher number in the by-laws (represented in person or by proxy if allowed in the by-laws), whichever is greater, shall be a quorum.
- 21.3 If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day, time and place as the Trustees may determine and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting those present and entitled to vote shall be a quorum.
22. **Chairing general meetings**
- The chair of Student Council, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, shall preside as chair of the meeting. In the absence of the chair of Student Council and the Deputy Chair, the Members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be Chair of the meeting.
23. **Attendance and speaking by Trustees and non-Members**
- 23.1 A Trustee may, even if not a Member, attend and speak at any general meeting.
- 23.2 A patron may, even if not a Member, attend and speak at any general meeting.
- 23.3 The chair of the meeting may permit other persons who are not Members of the Union to attend and speak at any general meeting.
24. **Adjournment**
- 24.1 The chair of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:
- 24.1.1 the meeting consents to an adjournment; or
- 24.1.2 it appears to the chair of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or to ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- 24.2 The chair of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.
- 24.3 When adjourning a general meeting, the chair of the meeting must:
- 24.3.1 either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the Trustees; and
- 24.3.2 have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
- 24.4 If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the Union must give at least seven clear days' notice of it:
- 24.4.1 to the same persons to whom notice of the Union's general meetings is required to be given; and

24.4.2 containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.

24.5 No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

## **PART 3**

### **TRUSTEES**

#### ***APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF TRUSTEES***

##### **25. Appointment of Trustees**

Those persons notified to the Registrar of Companies as the first directors of the Union shall be the first Trustees until and including the Effective Date. Thereafter, the Trustees shall be made up of the following persons:

- 25.1 not more than five Sabbatical Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 26;
- 25.2 not more than three Student Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 27;
- 25.3 not more than four External Trustees, appointed in accordance with Article 28.

##### **26. Sabbatical Trustees and Officers**

- 26.1 There shall be two Presidents of the Union, one of which shall be an Undergraduate Member at the time other their election, and will continue to be considered an Undergraduate Member according to these Articles, unless they start a new course of study after the end of their term in office or cease to be a Member. The other President shall be a Postgraduate Member at the time of their election and will continue to be considered a Postgraduate Member according to this constitution unless they start a new course of study after the end of their term in office, or cease to be a Member.
- 26.2 The two Presidents of the union shall be deemed to be “major union office holders” for the purposes of Section 22 of the Education Act.
- 26.3 Other Sabbatical Officers may be elected in accordance with the by-laws.
- 26.4 The two Presidents shall be the only ex-officio Sabbatical Trustees, subject to the provisions of Articles 29 and 30. The remaining 3 Sabbatical Trustees shall be elected from the remaining Sabbatical Officers of the Union following a process outlined in the By-laws. At any point there should be a minimum of 2 Undergraduate Member Sabbatical Trustees and a minimum of 2 Postgraduate Member Sabbatical Trustees. Except where otherwise indicated, references in these Articles to Sabbatical Trustees are to individuals acting solely in their capacity as Sabbatical Trustees.
- 26.5 A fifth Sabbatical Trustee may be appointed, providing that a third Student Trustee is also appointed. Therefore there should either be in total six or eight Student and Sabbatical Trustees, of which half are Undergraduate members, and half are Postgraduate members.
- 26.6 The Sabbatical Officers shall remain in office for a term of one year commencing in accordance with the by-laws. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with an alteration of the year start or end. Subject to a transitional change in the year of office, a Sabbatical Officer may be re-elected for a maximum further term of one year by the Members of the Union at an election to be held in accordance with the by-laws. A Sabbatical Officer’s terms of office may be either consecutive or non-consecutive.

26.7 Each Sabbatical Officer must be a Student or a Sabbatical Officer at the time of their election. In accordance with Article 10, each Sabbatical Officer shall become a Member of the Union on commencement of their appointment or re-appointment as a Sabbatical Officer. Such membership shall cease when the Sabbatical Officer ceases to be a Sabbatical Officer, unless they re-enrol as a student.

26.8 At the same time as commencing the term of office as a Sabbatical Officer, the Sabbatical Officer will enter into a contract of employment with the Union for a term to be determined by the By-Laws. The duties and method of remuneration of each Sabbatical Trustee shall be as set out in the By-Laws.

## **27. Student Trustees**

27.1 Subject to Article 27.3 below, up to 3 Student Trustees shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Council from such persons as have been nominated by the Appointments Committee. There should be a minimum of one Undergraduate Member and one Postgraduate Member elected to the office of Student Trustee. The third Student Trustee must be an Undergraduate member if there are three Postgraduate Sabbatical Trustees-elect at the time of their appointment. If there are three Sabbatical Trustees-elect that are Undergraduates Members, then the Student trustee must be a Postgraduate at the time of their appointment.

27.2 If a Sabbatical or Student Trustee resigns during this time, this will not affect any trustee appointed subject to clause 27.1

27.3 Each Student Trustee must be a Student at the time of their election (and shall continue to be a Student for the duration of their term as a Student Trustee).

27.4 Student Trustees shall remain in office for a term of one year commencing in accordance with the by-laws. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with the alteration of the year start or end.

27.5 A Student Trustee may serve a maximum of two consecutive or non-consecutive terms.

## **28. External Trustees**

28.1 Up to Four External Trustees shall be appointed by a simple majority vote of the Appointments Committee provided that the appointment of each External Trustee is ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Council. For the avoidance of doubt, such appointment shall not take effect until it has been ratified by the Student Council.

28.2 Unless their appointment is terminated in accordance with Articles 29, 30 or 31, External Trustees shall remain in office for a term of up to three years commencing in accordance with the by-laws. Care should be taken to ensure that when these terms are offered, they are done so for a duration that ensures continuity between External Trustees.

28.3 External Trustees may serve for a maximum of two terms which may either be consecutive or non-consecutive.

## **29. Disqualification, Resignation and Removal of Trustees**

The office of a Trustee shall be vacated if:

- 29.1 that person ceases to be a Trustee by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a company director by law;
- 29.2 that person become prohibited by law from being a charity trustee;
- 29.3 in the case of a Sabbatical Trustee, they cease to be a Sabbatical Officer or resign as an employee of the Union;
- 29.4 in the case of a Student Trustee, they cease to be a Student;
- 29.5 in the case of a Sabbatical Trustee or a Student Trustee, they are removed from membership of the Union in accordance with the Union's code of conduct;
- 29.6 they resign by notice to the Union (but only if at least four Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect);
- 29.7 the Trustees reasonably believe they are suffering from mental or physical disorder, and are incapable of acting as a trustee, and they resolve that they be removed from office;
- 29.8 they fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the Trustees and in the opinion of the Trustees there are no mitigating circumstances for that failure and the Trustees therefore resolve that they be removed for this reason; or
- 29.9 they are removed from office under Article 30 or 31.

### **30. Removal of Trustees by the Members or the Student Council**

The office of a Trustee shall be vacated if:

- 30.1 a motion of no confidence in the Trustee is passed by a simple majority of the Members voting in a Referendum, provided that at least 10% Members cast a vote in the Referendum. Such a motion shall only be triggered by a Secure Petition of no confidence signed by at least 2% of Members; or
- 30.2 a motion of no confidence in the Trustee is passed by a two-thirds majority in a vote of the Student Council, except in the case of the Presidents, who are ex-officio Trustees, who will be removed under clause 32.

### **31. Removal of External Trustees by the Board**

The office of External Trustee shall be vacated if a majority resolution of no confidence is passed by the Trustees. For the avoidance of doubt, the Trustee concerned, and any Trustee who has a Conflict of Interest in relation to the matter, shall not vote on this resolution and the quorum shall be adjusted accordingly in accordance with Article 46.

### **32. Removal of Elected Officers**

Unless stated otherwise in the by-laws, a Full-Time Elected Officer shall be removed from office if they:

- 32.1 resign; or
- 32.2 are removed from office by a motion of no confidence in the Elected Officer passed by a simple majority of the Members voting in a Referendum, provided that at least 10% of Members cast a vote in the Referendum. Such a motion shall be triggered by one of the following methods:
- (a) a Secure Petition of no confidence signed by at least 2% of Members; or
  - (b) a simple majority vote of the Student Council; or
  - (c) a motion submitted to the Student Council by a student representative of the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Board of Trustees.
  - (d) the above shall be true provided that, in the case of a Sabbatical Officer, such removal shall be subject to the Union having first carried out any steps it is required to take under the Sabbatical Officer's contract of employment and/or the applicable disciplinary procedure and otherwise in accordance with good employment practice.
  - (e) an Automatic Vote of No Confidence arising in accordance with the by-laws;

**33. Replacement of Trustees**

- 33.1 If a Sabbatical Trustee resigns, is disqualified or is removed from office at any time prior to or after the commencement of the Academic Year, the vacancy that results on the Board of Trustees shall be filled in accordance with the By-laws. Any person elected under this Article may be required to assume the responsibilities of the Sabbatical Trustee.
- 33.2 If a Student Trustee resigns, is disqualified from office, or is removed from office, a Student Trustee may be elected to the vacancy in accordance with Article 27.1.
- 33.3 If an External Trustee resigns, is disqualified or is removed from office, an External Trustee shall be appointed to the vacancy in accordance with Article 28.1.

***TRUSTEES' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

**34. Trustees' general authority**

- 34.1 The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Union and (subject to the Education Act, these Articles and the by-laws) may exercise all the powers of the Union.
- 34.2 The Board's powers under Article 34.1 shall include but not be limited to responsibility for:
- 34.2.1 The governance of the Union;
  - 34.2.2 The budget of the Union; and
  - 34.2.3 The strategy of the Union.

- 34.3 The Board of Trustees may override any decision or Policy made by the Members at an annual Members' meeting, or by ordinary resolution in general meeting, or by Referendum, or by the Student Council, which the Trustees consider (in their absolute discretion):
- 34.3.1 has or may have any financial implications for the Union;
  - 34.3.2 is or may be in breach of, contrary to or otherwise inconsistent with charity or education law or any other legal requirements (including ultra vires);
  - 34.3.3 is not or may not be in the best interests of the Union or all or any of its charitable objects; or
  - 34.3.4 will or may otherwise affect the discharge of any or all of the responsibilities referred to in Article 34.2.
- 34.4 No alteration of these Articles or the by-laws shall invalidate any prior act of the Trustees which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made.
- 34.5 All acts done by a meeting of Trustees, or of a committee of the Trustees, shall be valid, even if it is later discovered that any Trustee who participated in the vote:
- 34.5.1 was not properly appointed;
  - 34.5.2 was disqualified from holding office;
  - 34.5.3 had vacated office; or
  - 34.5.4 was not entitled to vote.
35. **Trustees may delegate**
- 35.1 Subject to the Articles, the Trustees may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the Articles:
- 35.1.1 to such person or committee;
  - 35.1.2 by such means (including by power of attorney);
  - 35.1.3 to such an extent;
  - 35.1.4 in relation to such matters or territories; and
  - 35.1.5 on such terms and conditions
- as they think fit.
- 35.2 If the Trustees so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the Trustees' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.
- 35.3 The Trustees may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.
36. **Committees**

- 36.1 In the case of delegation to committees:
- 36.1.1 the resolution making the delegation shall specify those who shall serve or be asked to serve on such committee (although the resolution may allow the committee to make co-options up to a specified number);
  - 36.1.2 subject to Article 36.3, the composition of any such committee shall be entirely at the discretion of the Trustees and may comprise such of their number (if any) as the resolution may specify;
  - 36.1.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the Trustees may appoint, or create a process to appoint individuals who are neither students nor trustees, providing the majority of voting members are students and/or trustees
  - 36.1.4 the deliberations of any such committee shall be reported regularly to the Trustees and any resolution passed or decision taken by any such committee shall be reported promptly to the Trustees and for that purpose every committee shall appoint a secretary;
  - 36.1.5 no committee shall knowingly incur expenditure or liability on behalf of the Union except where authorised by the Trustees or in accordance with a budget which has been approved by the Trustees.
- 36.2 The Trustees shall establish the following committees (which is a non-exhaustive list) in accordance with their powers under Articles 34 and 35.1:
- 36.2.1 Executive Committee (as further described in Article 38);
  - 36.2.2 Appointments Committee;
  - 36.2.3 Finance Committee; and
  - 36.2.4 Remuneration and HR Committee.
- 36.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the Trustees may (in accordance with Articles 34 and 35.1) delegate all financial matters to any committee provided that such committee shall include at least one Trustee. The Trustees may empower such committee to resolve upon the operation of any bank account according to such mandate as it shall think fit provided that the signature of at least one Trustee shall be required for cheques above a certain amount as set out in the by-laws and provided always that no committee shall incur expenditure on behalf of the Union except in accordance with a budget which has been approved by the Trustees.
- 36.4 The meetings and proceedings of any committee shall be governed by the Articles regulating the meetings and proceedings of the Trustees so far as applicable and not superseded by any by-laws.

**37. Delegation of day-to-day management powers to the Chief Executive**

In the case of delegation of the day-to-day management of the Union to the Chief Executive:

- 37.1 the delegated power shall be to manage the Union by implementing the policy and strategy adopted by and within a budget approved by the Trustees and, if applicable, to advise the Trustees in relation to such policy, strategy and budget;
- 37.2 the Trustees shall provide the Chief Executive with a description of their role and the extent of their authority;
- 37.3 the Chief Executive shall report regularly to the Trustees on the activities undertaken in managing the Union and provide them regularly with management accounts sufficient to explain the financial position of the Union; and
- 37.4 the Trustees shall provide the Chief Executive with a performance management structure to aid their work plan and development.

### **38. The Executive Committee**

- 38.1 The By-laws shall determine the composition of the Executive Committee, which shall include the Sabbatical Officers.
- 38.2 The Executive Committee's responsibility shall not include the duties of the Trustees as set out in Article 34 but shall include representation and campaigning work and the implementation of Policy, save in so far as these responsibilities have not been delegated to another committee.
- 38.3 The Chief Executive and the Union's senior management team may attend meetings of the Executive Committee at the request of the Executive Committee.
- 38.4 The Executive Committee shall meet in accordance with the By-laws.
- 38.5 The Executive Committee will seek to have a balanced representation of Undergraduate and Postgraduate members

## ***DECISION-MAKING BY TRUSTEES***

### **39. Trustees to take decisions collectively**

Any decision of the Trustees must be either a majority decision at a meeting or a decision taken in accordance with Article 50 (Majority decisions without Trustees' meeting).

### **40. Trustees' meetings**

- 40.1 The Trustees shall hold a minimum of six meetings in any Academic Year.
- 40.2 Guests or observers can attend meetings of the Trustees at the discretion of the chair of the meeting.

### **41. Calling a Trustees' meeting**

Three Trustees may, and the Chief Executive at the request of three Trustees shall, call a Trustees' meeting.

### **42. Length of Notice**

A Trustees' meeting shall be called by at least seven clear days' notice unless either:

- 42.1 all the Trustees agree; or
- 42.2 urgent circumstances require shorter notice.

**43. Contents of Notice**

Every notice calling a Trustees' meeting shall specify:

- 43.1 the place, day and time of the meeting;
- 43.2 the general particulars of all business to be considered at such meeting; and
- 43.3 if it is anticipated that Trustees participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.

**44. Service of Notice**

Notice of Trustees' meetings shall be given to each Trustee, but need not be in writing. Notice of Trustees' meeting may be sent by electronic means to an address provided by the Trustee for the purpose.

**45. Participation in Trustees' meetings**

- 45.1 Subject to the Articles, Trustees participate in a Trustees' meeting, or part of a Trustees' meeting, when:
  - (a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the Articles; and
  - (b) they can each communicate one another any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- 45.2 In determining whether Trustees are participating in a Trustees' meeting, it is irrelevant where any Trustee is or how they communicate with each other.
- 45.3 If all the Trustees participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

**46. Quorum for Trustees' meetings**

- 46.1 At a Trustees' meeting, unless a quorum is present, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- 46.2 The quorum for Trustees' meetings until and including the Effective Date shall be two. Thereafter, the quorum for Trustees' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the Trustees, but it must never be less than four. Unless otherwise fixed, the quorum shall be four and such quorum must include at least two Sabbatical Trustees. Where the resolution or issue under discussion concerns a matter in respect of which some or all of the Trustees have a Conflict of Interest, the quorum shall be four.
- 46.3 If the total number of Trustees for the time being is less than the quorum required, the Trustees must not take any decision other than a decision to increase the number of Trustees

including by calling a Student Council or election so as to enable the Members to elect further Trustees.

**47. Chair and Deputy Chair**

- 47.1 The by-laws shall state how the chair of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed, and may at any time be removed from office.
- 47.2 The role of the Deputy Chair will be to support the Chair.
- 47.3 In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair, another Trustee appointed by the Trustees present shall preside as chair of the meeting.

**48. Decision making by Trustees at meetings**

- 48.1 Questions arising at a meeting of the Trustees must be decided either:
  - 48.1.1 by unanimous consensus in accordance with Article 49; or
  - 48.1.2 by a majority of votes.
- 48.2 The Trustees will normally make their decisions by consensus. Only in relation to exceptional matters will the Trustees make a decision by a majority of votes. The Chair in their discretion shall decide whether a matter is exceptional and should be decided by a majority of votes. The by-laws may set out matters that are to be considered exceptional by the Trustees.
- 48.3 If a question at a meeting of the Trustees is being decided by a majority of votes and there is an equality of votes, the Chair shall not initially be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have. Instead, the casting vote shall be decided by the majority of votes of the Sabbatical Trustees present. If a casting vote cannot be decided due to equality of votes of the Sabbatical Trustees, the Chair shall then have a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have.

**49. Unanimous consensus decision making by the Trustees at a meeting**

- 49.1 A decision is taken in accordance with this Article 49.1 when all the Trustees have indicated to each other that they share a common view on a matter. The Trustees indicate that they are in favour of the matter by not raising any objections. A decision shall have been taken once there are no outstanding objections against the matter and the decision has been minuted by the person who is taking minutes of the meeting. The Trustees cannot rely on this Article to make a decision if one or more of the Trustees has a conflict of interest or duty which, under Article 51, results in them not being entitled to take part in the decision-making process.

**50. Majority decisions without Trustees' meeting**

- 50.1 The Trustees may, in the circumstances outlined in this Article, make a two-thirds majority decision without holding a Trustees' meeting.
- 50.2 If:

- 50.2.1 a Trustee has become aware of a matter on which the Trustees need to take a decision;
  - 50.2.2 that Trustee has taken all reasonable steps to make all the other Trustees aware of the matter and the decision;
  - 50.2.3 the Trustees have had a reasonable opportunity to communicate their views on the matter and the decision to each other; and
  - 50.2.4 a two thirds majority of the Trustees vote in favour of a particular decision on that matter
- a decision of the Trustees may be taken by a two-thirds majority and shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been taken at a Trustees' meeting duly convened and held.
- 50.3 Trustees participating in the taking of a majority decision otherwise than at a Trustees' meeting in accordance with this Article:
    - 50.3.1 may be in different places, and may participate at different times; and
    - 50.3.2 may communicate with each other by any means.
  - 50.4 No decision shall be taken by the Trustees in accordance with this Article unless a quorum participates in the decision-making process. The quorum for Trustees' decision-making in accordance with this Article shall be the same as the quorum for Trustees' meetings as set out in Article 46.
  - 50.5 The Chair or such other Trustee as shall be appointed by the Trustees shall be the chair of the process of decision-making in accordance with this Article. The process shall include:
    - 50.5.1 circulation of the proposed decision with an indication of the time period for discussion and the date by which Trustees are asked to cast their votes;
    - 50.5.2 the nomination of a person to whom all Trustees' votes must be communicated;
    - 50.5.3 if a majority of the Trustees vote in favour of the decision, the nominated person shall communicate the decision to all the Trustees and the date of the decision shall be the date of the communication from the nominated person confirming formal approval; and
    - 50.5.4 the nominated person must prepare a minute of the decision in accordance with Article 58.
  - 50.6 In the case of an equality of votes in any decision-making process in accordance with this Article, the chair shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have but this does not apply if, in accordance with the Articles, the chair or specified Trustee is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum, voting or agreement purposes.

## 51. **Conflicts of interest**

- 51.1 Whenever a Trustee finds themselves in a situation that is reasonably likely to give rise to a Conflict of Interest, they must declare their interest to the Trustees unless, or except to the extent that, the other Trustees are or ought reasonably to be aware of it already.
- 51.2 Whenever a matter is to be discussed at a meeting or decided in accordance with Article 50 (Majority decisions without Trustees' meeting) and a Trustee has a Conflict of Interest in respect of that matter then, subject to Article 51, they must:
- 51.2.1 remain only for such part of the meeting as in the view of the other Trustees is necessary to inform the debate;
  - 51.2.2 not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting or decision-making process; and
  - 51.2.3 withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter.
- 51.3 If any question arises as to whether a Trustee has a Conflict of Interest, the question shall be decided by a majority decision of the other Trustees.
- 51.4 When a Trustee has a Conflict of Interest which they have declared to the Trustees, they shall not be in breach of their duties to the Union by withholding confidential information from the Union if to disclose it would result in a breach of any other duty or obligation of confidence owed by them.

**52. Trustees' power to authorise a conflict of interest**

- 52.1 The Trustees may (subject to such terms as they may impose from time to time, and subject always to their right to vary or terminate such authorisation) authorise, to the fullest extent permitted by law:
- 52.1.1 any matter which would otherwise result in a Trustee infringing their duty to avoid a situation in which they have a Conflict of Interest; and
  - 52.1.2 the manner in which a Conflict of Interest arising out of any Trustee's office, employment or position may be dealt with and, for the avoidance of doubt, they can decide that the Trustee with a Conflict of Interest can participate in a vote on the matter and can be counted in the quorum

provided that when deciding to give such authorisation the provisions of Article 52 shall be complied with and provided that nothing in this Article shall have the effect of allowing the Trustees to authorise a benefit that is not permitted in accordance with the Articles.

- 52.2 If a matter, or office, employment or position, has been authorised by the Trustees in accordance with this Article then, even if they have been authorised to remain at the meeting by the other Trustees, the Trustee may absent themselves from meetings of the Trustees at which anything relating to that matter, or that office, employment or position, will or may be discussed.
- 52.3 A Trustee shall not be accountable to the Union for any benefit which they derive from any matter, or from any office, employment or position, which has been authorised by the Trustees in accordance with this Article (subject to any limits or conditions to which such approval was subject).

**53. Register of Trustees' interests**

The Trustees shall cause a register of Trustees' interests to be kept. A Trustee must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which they have in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Union or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Union which has not previously been declared.

**PART 4**  
**STUDENT COUNCIL**

**54. Student Council**

54.1 The Student Council shall have the authority to:

54.1.1 represent the voice of the Students;

54.1.2 subject to Article 34.3 and 14, set the Policy of the Union and refer Policy to Referenda of the Members;

54.1.3 make, repeal and amend the by-laws jointly with the Trustees in accordance with Article 55;

54.1.4 receive a quarterly report from the Trustees; and

54.1.5 appoint associate members in accordance with Article 12 and the by-laws.

54.2 The composition and proceedings of the Student Council shall be set out in the by-laws. No Member may hold more than one seat on the Student Council at any one time.

54.3 The Union was founded to ensure balanced representation of Undergraduates and Postgraduates, as such, there shall be fair and balanced representation of both at the Student Council. Any amendment to the By-laws concerning the Student Council should take heed of this principle.

54.4 Quoracy for the meeting will be  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Undergraduate members of Council entitled to vote and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Postgraduate members of Council entitled to vote.

54.5 The Council may amend the By-Laws, following the procedures set out in the Articles and By-Laws. When such an amendment is proposed, it shall require the approval of a majority of the Undergraduate members of Council present and voting, as well as a majority of the Postgraduate members of Council present and voting in order to take effect.

## **PART 5**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **55. By-laws**

The Trustees and the Student Council, or the Trustees and a Referendum, shall have the power from time to time to jointly make, repeal or amend by-laws as to the management of the Union and its working practices provided that such by-laws shall not be inconsistent with these Articles.

55.1 That by-laws shall be classed by order of precedence as either Class A, B or C, and may be amended as described below:

55.1.1 Class A: By-laws which can only be amended by a majority of Postgraduate voters and a majority of Undergraduate voters, and a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of all votes at Student Council, or via referendum in accordance with Article 14.2, and which must be reported to the University.

55.1.2 Class B: By-laws which can only be amended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of all votes at Student Council, or via referendum in accordance with Article 14.3, and which must be reported to the University.

55.1.3 Class C: By-laws which can only be amended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of all votes at Student Council, or via referendum in accordance with Article 14.3.

55.2 The class of a By-law will be decided at the time of its creation.

55.3 For the avoidance of doubt, Class B by-laws shall not be inconsistent with Class A by-laws, nor Class C by-laws with Class A and B by-laws.

#### **56. Communications by and to the Union**

56.1 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts and these Articles a document or information (including any notice) to be given, sent or supplied to any person may be given, sent or supplied in hard copy form, in electronic form or (in the case of communications by the Union) by making it available on a website, provided that:

56.1.1 a document or information (including any notice) may only be given, sent or supplied in electronic form where the recipient has agreed (generally or specifically) that the document or information may be sent in that form and has not revoked that agreement; and

56.1.2 a document or information (including any notice) may only be given, sent or supplied by being made available on a website if:

- (a) the recipient has agreed (generally or specifically) that the document or information may be sent or supplied in that manner; or
- (b) the recipient is deemed to have so agreed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

- 56.2 Any document or information (including any notice) sent to a Member under the Articles may be sent to the Member's postal address as shown in the Union's register of Members or (in the case of documents or information sent by electronic means) to an address specified for the purpose by the Member, provided that:
- 56.2.1 a Member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Union an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to them, or an address to which notices may be sent by electronic means, shall be entitled to have notices given to them at that address, but otherwise no such Member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Union; and
  - 56.2.2 the Union is not required to send notice of a general meeting or a copy of its annual report and accounts to a Member for whom it no longer has a valid address.
- 56.3 Any document to be served on the Union by a Member under the Articles may be served:
- 56.3.1 in the case of documents in hard copy form, by sending or delivering them to the Union's registered office or delivering them personally to an officer or Trustee of the Union; or
  - 56.3.2 in the case of documents in electronic form, by sending them by electronic means to an address notified to the Members for that purpose provided that the Trustees are satisfied as to the identity of the Member (and the Trustees have discretion to specify how such identity should be confirmed).
- 56.4 A Member present in person or by proxy at any meeting of the Union shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purpose for which it was called.
- 56.5 Where any document or information is sent or supplied:
- 56.5.1 by post, service or delivery shall be deemed to be effected at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted. In proving such service or delivery it shall be sufficient to prove that such envelope was properly addressed and posted;
  - 56.5.2 by electronic means to an address specified for the purpose by the intended recipient, service or delivery shall be deemed to be effected on the same day on which it is sent or supplied. In proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that it was properly addressed; and
  - 56.5.3 by means of a website, service or delivery shall be deemed to be effected when:
    - (a) the material is first made available on the website; or
    - (b) (if later) when the recipient received or is deemed to have received notification of the fact that the material was available on the website.
- 56.6 Where any document or information has been sent or supplied by the Union by electronic means and the Union receives notice that the message is undeliverable:

- 56.6.1 if the document or information has been sent to a Member and is notice of a general meeting of the Union or a copy of the annual report and accounts of the Union, the Union is under no obligation to send a hard copy of the document or information to the Member's postal address as shown in the Union's register of Members, but may in its discretion choose to do so; and
- 56.6.2 in all other cases, the Union will send a hard copy of the document or information to the Member's postal address as shown in the Union's register of Members, or in the case of a recipient who is not a Member, to the last known postal address for that person.
- 56.6.3 The date of service or delivery of the documents or information shall be the date on which the original electronic communication was sent, notwithstanding the subsequent sending of hard copies.

## 57. **Secretary**

- 57.1 A Secretary may be appointed by the Trustees for such term at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and may be removed by them. If there is no Secretary:
  - 57.1.1 anything authorised or required to be given or sent to, or served on, the Union by being sent to its Secretary may be given or sent to, or served on, the Union itself, and if addressed to the Secretary shall be treated as addressed to the Union; and
  - 57.1.2 anything else required or authorised to be done by or to the Secretary of the Union may be done by or to a Trustee, or a person authorised generally or specifically in that behalf by the Trustees.

## 58. **Minutes**

- 58.1 The Trustees shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:
  - 58.1.1 of all appointments of officers made by the Trustees;
  - 58.1.2 of all resolutions of the Union and of the Trustees; and
  - 58.1.3 of all proceedings at meetings of the Union and of the Trustees, and of committees of Trustees, including the names of the Trustees present at each such meeting
 and any such minute, if purported to be signed (or in the case of minutes of Trustees' meetings signed or authenticated) by the chair of the meeting at which the proceedings were had, or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall, as against any Member or Trustee of the Union, be sufficient evidence of the proceedings.
- 58.2 The minutes referred to in Article 58.1 above must be kept for at least ten years from the date of the meeting, resolution or decision.
- 58.3 The minutes of the meetings referred to in Article 58.1 above shall normally be considered open and shall be available to the Members on the Union's website, except where those minutes relate to any reserved or confidential matters, including without limitation staff-

related or disciplinary matters. Copies of the minutes shall also be kept in the Union's offices.

**59. Records and accounts**

59.1 The Trustees shall comply with the requirements of the Companies Acts and of the Charities Act 1993 as to maintaining a Members' register, keeping financial records, the audit or examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission of:

59.1.1 annual reports;

59.1.2 annual returns; and

59.1.3 annual statements of account.

59.2 The Members of the Union have the right to ask the Trustees questions in writing about the content of any documents referred to in Article 59.1.

**60. Irregularities**

The proceedings at any meeting or on the taking of any poll or the passing of a written resolution or the making of any decision shall not be invalidated by reason of any accidental informality or irregularity (including any accidental omission to give or any non-receipt of notice) or any want of qualification in any of the persons present or voting or by reason of any business being considered which is not specified in the notice unless a provision of the Companies Acts specifies that such informality, irregularity or want of qualification shall invalidate it.

**61. Exclusion of model articles**

The relevant model articles for a company limited by guarantee are hereby expressly excluded.

***TRUSTEES' INDEMNITY***

**62. Indemnity**

Without prejudice to any indemnity to which a Trustee may otherwise be entitled, every Trustee shall and every other officer or auditor of the Union may be indemnified out of the assets of the Union against any liability incurred by them in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in their favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Union, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by them in the execution and discharge of their duties or in relation thereto.

## ***DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION***

### **63. Defined terms**

63.1 In these Articles, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

<b>• Term</b>	<b>• Meaning</b>
63.1.1 “ <b>Academic Year</b> ”	• the period between the 1 <sup>st</sup> of October in one year to the 30 <sup>th</sup> of September in the next year.
63.1.2 “ <b>address</b> ”	• includes a number or address used for the purpose of sending or receiving documents by electronic means;
63.1.3 “ <b>Appointments Committee</b> ”	• the committee set up in accordance with the by-laws
63.1.4 “ <b>Articles</b> ”	• these articles of association of the Union;
63.1.5 “ <b>Board of Trustees</b> ” or “ <b>Board</b> ”	• the board of Trustees of the Union;
63.1.6 “ <b>By-laws</b> ”	• the by-laws setting out the working practices of the Union made from time to time in accordance with Article 55;
63.1.7 “ <b>Chair</b> ”	• the chair of the Board of Trustees, who shall be in accordance with Article 47.1;
63.1.8 “ <b>chair of the meeting</b> ”	• in the case of general meetings means the person chairing the meeting in accordance with Article 22 and in the case of Trustees’ meetings means the person chairing the meeting in accordance with Article 47;
63.1.9 “ <b>Chief Executive</b> ”	• the chief executive of the Union who is appointed by the Board of Trustees;
63.1.10 “ <b>circulation date</b> ”	• in relation to a written resolution, has the meaning given to it in the Companies Acts;
63.1.11 “ <b>clear days</b> ”	• in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
63.1.12 “ <b>Code of Practice</b> ”	• the code of practice relating to the University of Cambridge’s obligations under Section 22 of the Education Act;

63.1.13“ <b>Companies Acts</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● means the Companies Acts (as defined in Section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the Union;</li> </ul>
63.1.14“ <b>Conflict of Interest</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● any direct or indirect interest of a Trustee (whether personal, by virtue of a duty of loyalty to another organisation or otherwise) that conflicts, or might conflict with the interests of the Union;</li> </ul>
63.1.15“ <b>Connected Person</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● any person falling within one of the following categories and where payment to that person might result in the Trustee obtaining benefit: (a) any spouse, civil partner, parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent or grandchild of a Trustee; or (b) the spouse or civil partner of any person in (a); or (c) any person living with a Trustee or their partner; or (d) any company or LLP or firm of which a Trustee is a paid director, member, partner or employee, or shareholder holding more than 1% of the capital;</li> </ul>
63.1.16“ <b>Deputy Chair</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the deputy chair of the Board of Trustees, who shall be appointed in accordance with Article 47.2;</li> </ul>
63.1.17“ <b>document</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;</li> </ul>
63.1.18“ <b>Education Act</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Education Act 1994;</li> </ul>
63.1.19“ <b>Elected Officers</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Sabbatical Officers and the Part-Time Officers;</li> </ul>
63.1.20“ <b>Effective Date</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the date on which the undertaking previously carried on by the unincorporated charities known as Cambridge University Students’ Union and Cambridge University Graduate Union is transferred to the Union;</li> </ul>
63.1.21“ <b>electronic form</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● has the meaning given in Section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;</li> </ul>
63.1.22“ <b>the Executive Committee</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● means the committee as further described in Article 38;</li> </ul>
63.1.23“ <b>External Trustee</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a Trustee appointed in accordance with Article 28.1 who for the avoidance of doubt shall not be deemed to be either a major union office holder or a sabbatical union office</li> </ul>

	holder for the purposes of Section 22 of the Education Act;
63.1.24“ <b>financial expert</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;</li> </ul>
63.1.25“ <b>hard copy</b> ” and “ <b>hard copy form</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● have the meanings respectively given to them in the Companies Act 2006;</li> </ul>
63.1.26“ <b>Hour</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● any full period of an hour but not including any part of a day that is a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday in England;</li> </ul>
63.1.27“ <b>Members</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● members of the Union as defined in Article 10 and being from the Effective Date Students at the University of Cambridge as further defined in Article 10.1 and the Sabbatical Officers;</li> </ul>
63.1.28“ <b>NUS</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Union of Students;</li> </ul>
63.1.29“ <b>Policy</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● representative and campaigning policy set by Referenda or the Student Council in accordance with Article 14 and Article 54 respectively;</li> </ul>
63.1.30“ <b>President(s)</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the presidents of the Union, as elected by the Members in accordance with the by-laws;</li> </ul>
63.1.31“ <b>RAG</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Raising and Giving society which develops students by providing them with an opportunity to raise funds for charitable causes;</li> </ul>
63.1.32“ <b>Referendum</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a ballot in which all Members of the Union are entitled to cast a vote, the protocol for which shall be set out in the by-laws;</li> </ul>
63.1.33“ <b>Sabbatical Officers</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the individuals elected to Sabbatical Offices in accordance with Article 26;</li> </ul>
63.1.34“ <b>Sabbatical Trustee</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a Trustee elected in accordance with Article 26;</li> </ul>
63.1.35“ <b>Secure Petition</b> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a written request to the Union which shall be fixed in a pre-arranged place or places or held securely on-line;</li> </ul>

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| 63.1.36“ <b>Student</b> ”                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● any individual who is formally registered for an approved programme of study provided by the University of Cambridge. For the avoidance of doubt, the University of Cambridge shall determine whether or not an individual has student status;</li> </ul>   |
| 63.1.37“ <b>Student Council</b> ”                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Student body elected by and from Students constituted in accordance with these Articles and the by-laws of the Union;</li> </ul>  |
| 63.1.38“ <b>Student Trustee</b> ”                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a Trustee elected in accordance with Article 27.1 who is a Student and who, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not be a major union office holder for the purposes of Section 22 of the Education Act;</li> </ul>  |
| 63.1.39“ <b>Subsidiary Company</b> ”             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● any company in which the Union holds more than 50% of the shares, controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares or has the right to appoint a majority of the board of the company;</li> </ul>   |
| 63.1.40“ <b>Trustee</b> ”<br>“ <b>Trustees</b> ” | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"><b>and</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the directors of the Union as defined in Article 25 and being from the Effective Date the Sabbatical Trustees, the Student Trustees, the</li> </ul> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and the External Trustees;</li> </ul> </div> |
| 63.1.41“ <b>Union</b> ”                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● University of Cambridge Students’ Union;</li> </ul>   |
| 63.1.42“ <b>writing</b> ”                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise; and</li> </ul>   |
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- 63.2 Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa.
- 63.3 Subject to Article 64.4, any reference in these Articles to an enactment includes a reference to that enactment as re-enacted or amended from time to time and to any subordinate legislation made under it.
- 63.4 Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when these Articles become binding on the Union.