



AGENDA

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
UNION at HELD AT 1PM ON WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2019 IN
MANNING BAR, MANNING HOUSE.**

- 1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

- 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**
 - 2.1 AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 5**
 - 2.2 RE-ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2016 AGM AMENDMENTS**

- 3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL MEETING**

- 4. CLOSE OF MEETING**



Rationale for proposed changes to Clause 5 of the USU Constitution

Over recent years there have been practices adopted, that should be clarified in our Constitution. These proposed amendments provide that clarification and remove some lingering confusion around certain classes of membership.

The term **Full Member** was coined in the immediate post VSU era. It is no longer relevant.

There is confusion between Life Members, Honorary Life Members and Honorary Members.

This solution provides clear distinction between the two categories of “award” membership: the award for students (**Life Membership**) and the award for non-students (**Fellows**, currently **Honorary Life Membership**). The word ‘fellow’ has a university connotation suited to our community and was proposed by the USUAF.

Honorary Membership has not been used in recent history (last 30 years) and was, from time to time, conferred upon visiting academics.

Associate Membership is better defined. Associate Membership was a mechanism developed to ensure as many students as possible could vote – even those who could not afford to join the USU. As membership is currently free of charge, the category is redundant. There is an allowance made for its reinstatement should fees be reimposed.

The change to the **membership term** negates the need to renew membership every year. In effect, members will remain members until they cease to be eligible, cease to pay any fee we impose, resign, or are expelled from membership by the Board for some egregious act. This will save time and ensures we maintain a healthy membership data-base: especially valuable as we develop our alumni program. Rewards members will still have to renew. In the event that we again charge for membership, this change will allow us to revert to the current practice.

Proposed changes to Clause 5 of the USU constitution – marked-up

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Eligibility

The following persons shall be eligible for Membership:

- (a) The Visitor of the University
- (b) The Patron of the Union;
- (c) Graduands of the University;
- (d) All Members of Convocation of the University as defined in section 14(1) of the University of Sydney Act;
- (e) Persons appointed by Senate to the USU Board who are not otherwise eligible for membership;
- (f) Students enrolled in a course of study leading to the award of a degree or diploma from the University;
- (g) members of the full-time, part-time or casual staff of the:
 - (i) University;
 - (ii) USU;
 - (iii) Students Representative Council;
 - (iv) Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association
 - (v) Student Association of Sydney College of the Arts; and (vi) Sydney University Sport.
- (h) Persons enrolled in any non-award course conducted by the University, including any course conducted through the University's Centre for Continuing Education;
- (i) Persons enrolled in any course conducted by the USU;
- (j) Persons, who, having been a Member of the USU in the preceding year, have been granted permission to defer their study; and
- (k) Graduates and Graduands of such other universities or educational institutions as the Board may, by Special Resolution from time to time, prescribe after consultation with the University.

5.2 Classes of Membership

There shall be the following classes of membership:

- (i) ~~Full~~ Members
- ~~(ii) Life Members~~
- ~~(iii) Associate Life Members~~
- ~~(iii) Honorary Life Members~~ Fellows; and
- (iv) Associate Members
- ~~(v) Honorary Members~~

5.2.1 ~~Full Membership~~ Membership

- (a) Any person eligible for Membership pursuant to article 5.1(a) to (k) may, upon application and the payment of any fee or fees as determined by Board, become a Member of the USU.
- (b) The Board may permit pre-payment of any fee or fees for Membership for any consecutive future Membership Years.
- (c) The Board may offer varying discounts for pre-paid Membership fees.
- (d) Pre-paid Membership fees are non-refundable.

(e) Membership will remain valid until such time that the member

- (i) Does not pay the relevant membership fee, as proscribed by Board
- (ii) Resigns their membership, in accordance with 5.5 and 9.2(f) of this constitution
- (iii) Ceases to be eligible to be a member
- (iv) Otherwise ceases to be a member

~~(d)~~

5.2.2 Life Membership

~~After 1 January 2006, no person shall be eligible to be conferred with Life Membership of the USU~~

(a) Prior to 1 January 2006 Life Membership was conferred on those members who

- (i) Were graduates;
- (ii) Had paid at least five years' fees; and
- (iii) Completed the Life Membership Application Form

(b) After 2006 Life Membership may be awarded to members who

- (i) Have, in the opinion of the USU Awards Committee, given outstanding service and / or made an outstanding contribution to the USU community;

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- (ii) Are in their final year or have graduated within 12 the last 12 months;
- (iii) Have paid the required fee for least three years; and
- (iv) have been members of good standing for at least three years; and

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~~(b)~~(c) Persons who were Life Members as at 1 January 2006 shall continue to be recognised as Members/Life Members of the USU, and shall remain eligible to

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vote in USU elections and ~~access-enjoy~~ whatever benefits Board may from time to time determine.

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5.2.3 Associate Membership

~~(a) Persons, eligible for Membership by virtue of article 5.1(f), and who are not already financial members of the USU, may, upon application, become Associate Members of the USU.~~

~~(b) Associate Membership confers only the right to vote at an election of directors to the Board.~~

5.2.4 Honorary Life Membership USU Fellowships

(a) The Board may confer a USU Fellowship ~~Honorary Life Membership~~ by Special Resolution upon any person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the USU or the University community.

~~(b) The Visitor of the University shall be entitled to Honorary Life Membership.~~

~~(c)~~(b) The Patron of the Union shall be entitled to Honorary Life Membership USU Fellowship.

~~(d)~~(c) USU Fellows will enjoy whatever benefits Board may from time to time determine saving that unless they are otherwise members in accordance with 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, Honorary Life Members USU Fellows cannot may not:

- (i) nominate for election to the Board; or
- (ii) vote at any elections or meetings of the USU

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~~(d)~~(d) Persons holding the former membership status of Honorary Life Member will, as of September 2019, be deemed USU Fellows.

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5.2.5 Honorary Membership

~~(a) The Board may grant by Special Resolution, Honorary Membership to any person whose special association with the USU is deemed worthy of such recognition, providing that that the duration of such Honorary membership shall be tied to the period of the special association.~~

~~(b) Honorary Members cannot:~~

- ~~(i) nominate for election to the Board; or~~
- ~~(ii) vote at any elections or meetings of the USU.~~

5.2.3 Associate Membership

- ~~(a) In the event that the annual membership fee proscribed in accordance with article 6, is greater than \$1, Associate Membership may, upon application, be conferred on persons who are:
 - ~~(i) eligible for Membership by virtue of article 5.1(f); and~~
 - ~~(ii) who are not already financial members of the USU~~~~

~~(b) Associate Membership confers only the right to vote at an election of directors to the Board.~~

5.3 Membership Year and Membership Term

- (a) The Membership Year of the USU begins on 1 January and ends on the last day of December in the same year.
- ~~(b) All Members shall hold Membership until such time as they are no longer eligible for Membership as provided for in this Constitution, notably at 5.2.1 for one Membership Year, except:
 - ~~(i)(b) Life Members, Honorary Members and Honorary Life Members, whose Membership is continuous until such time as they are no longer eligible for Membership as provided for in this Constitution;~~
 - ~~(ii)(i) Students enrolling for the first time at the University may become Members before or after 1 March of that year, in which case they will be taken to be Members from the date on which they become Members until the end of that current Membership Year.~~~~
- (c) Nothing in this article 5.3 prevents or prohibits pre-payment of Membership fees fixed by the Board under article 5.2.1.

5.4 Membership Privileges

- (a) Other than those provided for in this Constitution, different classes of membership will be eligible to enjoy certain rights and privileges, as determined by Board, from time to time.

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5.5 Cessation of or Ineligibility for Membership

- (a) Persons eligible for Membership in accordance with article 5.1 ~~(d), (f), (i) or (j)~~ shall cease to be Members if they cease to be so eligible. |
- (b) ~~a~~A Member may resign by presenting a letter of resignation signed by that Member to the CEO. |
- (c) Membership may be terminated in accordance with article 9.2(f) of this Constitution.
- (d) Any Graduate or Graduand who is a member of the Board, but who has not yet been granted ~~Honorary Life Membership or Honorary Membership~~, shall be deemed to be a Member until the expiration of their term on Board, subject to payment of any Fee prescribed by article 6. |

Proposed changes to Clause 5 of the USU constitution

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- (c) Persons who were Life Members as at 1 January 2006 shall continue to be recognised as Members/Life Members of the USU, and shall remain eligible to vote in USU elections and enjoy whatever benefits Board may from time to time determine.

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