

# **University of Cumbria Students' Union**

## **Bye-Law 1: Membership**

### **1. Types of Membership**

1.1 Further to the University of Cumbria Students' Union Constitution there shall be the following categories of membership:

1.1.1 Full Members (referred to in Policy documents as Members)

1.1.2 Associate Members – further defined in two categories:

- i) Confederate Members
- ii) Honorary Life Members

1.2 Full Membership

Full Members of the Union are:

- i) Students who are registered on a course of study with the University of Cumbria
- ii) Sabbatical Officers of the Union

1.3 Confederate Associate Membership

Associate Members are persons not being current students of the University who are approved by the Board of Trustees upon payment of a fee which may be annual as defined by operational purposes.

1.4 Honorary Life Associate Membership

The Board of Trustees shall have the power to grant the status of Honorary Life Membership on individuals, who shall have the rights of Confederate members for perpetuity and without payment of fees.

1.5 All members, be they Full, Associate or Honorary are bound by the Union Constitution and its Policies.

### **2. Membership: Rights, Privileges and Obligations**

2.1 Full Members of the Union (unless otherwise stated by the No Platform Policy) shall be entitled to:

- i) Attend all Union committees and meetings except the Board of Trustees and participate in all representative functions and systems;

- ii) Vote in, and stand for office in, Union Elections and Referenda;
- iii) Attend, speak and vote at General Meetings of the Union;
- iv) Make use of any services and facilities of the Union upon the production of suitable proof of membership and subject to the outcomes of any disciplinary procedures as detailed in the Student's Union Code of Conduct;
- v) Hold membership of any Union Affiliated Activity Group;
- vi) Hold a committee position in any Union Affiliated Activity Group.

2.2 Associate Members of the Union shall be entitled to:

- i) Attend General Meetings in the capacity of observers, except in such cases as specified elsewhere in this Constitution and its policies;
- ii) Attend General Meetings of the Union as observers;
- iii) Hold membership of any Union Affiliated Activity Group;
- iv) Make use of any services and facilities of the Union upon the production of suitable proof of membership and subject to the outcomes of any disciplinary procedures as detailed in the Student's Union Code of Conduct;
- v) An annual update on behalf of the Executive Committee on the progress of the Union in the twelve months previous.

2.3 Honorary Members of the Union shall also be entitled to:

- i) Formal notice and invitation to attend General Meetings of the Union as observers only;
- ii) An annual update on behalf of the Executive Committee on the progress of the Union in the twelve months previous.

2.4 Honorary Members of the Union are obligated to:

- i) Formally accept conferment of Membership as outlined above before full entitlement of the rights and privileges set out;
- ii) Where accessible be requested to fulfil formal duties commensurate with the privilege as may be reasonably required by the Union.

2.5 Members who have opted out of the Union shall be entitled to:

- i) Attend all Union committees and meetings in the capacity of observers only;
- ii) Attend General Meetings of the Union as observers only;
- iii) Hold membership of any Union Affiliated Activity Group;
- iv) Make use of any services of facilities of the Union upon suitable proof of student status.

### **3. Conduct of Members**

- 3.1 The Union shall have a Code of Conduct which shall be approved and from time to time amended by the Board of Trustees.
- 3.2 The Code of Conduct may include sanctions up to and including the indefinite suspension of any or all the privileges of membership.
- 3.3 All members and their guests shall be required to conform to the Code of Conduct, particularly when on premises administered, or events organised by the Union.
- 3.4 Full, Associate, Honorary Life Members and those who have chosen to opt out of Membership of the Union and their guests shall be bound by the Unions Code of Conduct.

### **4. Opting out of Membership**

- 4.1 Every Student shall be able to relinquish their right of Membership of the Union.
- 4.2 A student who opts out of the Union shall continue to have the right to attend events organised by the Union and participate in Union Affiliated Activities Groups.
- 4.3 A student who opts out of the union shall not be able to participate in the democratic and decision-making functions of the Students' Union. This includes not being able to stand, nominate, or vote for election to any Union officer, representative, official or activist position, including club, society or team committee members.
- 4.4 A student wishing to opt out of membership can do so at any point during their course and must indicate this in writing to the Executive Committee.
- 4.5 The Executive Committee will acknowledge receipt of such a request within 14 days in writing to the student and set out their rights as a user of the Union.
- 4.6 A student who has chosen to opt out may reinstate full membership of the Union by notification in writing to the Executive Committee. If the application falls within 30 days of nominations opening for a Union election, the student will not be eligible to take up the full privileges of membership until the election is concluded.
- 4.7 The Executive Committee shall inform the University annually of the number of students who exercise their right to opt out.

### **5. Special Membership Regulations**

- 5.1 The Union may confer Honorary Life Associate Membership or Confederate Associate Membership upon any person, subject to these Regulations:

## 5.2 Honorary Life Associate Membership

- i) The granting of Honorary Life Membership shall require a unanimous decision by the Board of Trustees;
- ii) Any person who has demonstrated considerable and consistent dedication towards significantly improving the student experience as The University of Cumbria, and or has shown outstanding effort above and beyond the duty of their office, if an office has been held, may be conferred the status of an Honorary Life Membership of the Union;
- iii) Such status shall be held for life, excepting any retraction of such status as laid out in these Regulations;
- iv) There shall be a maximum of ten such awards in any one academic year.

## 5.3 Confederate Associate Membership

- i) The granting of Confederate Associate Membership can be purchased by any former member of the Union on approval of the Board of Trustees;
- ii) Any person that can provide proof of affiliation to other student associate bodies can be granted access to the facilities of the Union at a cost;
- iii) Associate Membership must be reviewed and upon agreement renewed annually;
- iv) Associate Membership shall cost £20 per academic year.

## 5.4 Retraction of Special Memberships

Any Associate Membership status may be retracted with immediate effect by a General Meeting at any time.