



**Australasian Union of Jewish Students
New South Wales Region**

(AUJS NSW)

Constitution

2005

1. The name of this organisation shall be the “Australasian Union of Jewish Students - New South Wales Region”, hereafter called the “Union”.

1.1 The abbreviated name of the Union shall be AUJS NSW.

2. The goal of the Union shall be to promote the unity and positive expression of Judaism by providing an opportunity for the exploration of the Jewish identity of tertiary Jewish students so as to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people.

2.1 The aims and objectives of the Union shall be:

2.1.1 To stand on the four pillars of Judaism, Zionism, Pluralism and Activism.

2.1.2 To serve as the roof body for all Jewish tertiary student organisations in New South Wales, and to aid in the coordination of their activities.

2.1.3 To provide activities - educational, cultural, political and social - that will serve to enlighten Jewish students with respect to the Jewish religion, Zionism, tradition and culture.

2.1.4 To encourage individual Jewish students' connections to other Jews.

2.1.5 To represent all Jewish students in New South Wales.

2.1.6 To facilitate and promote political activism both on and off campus by:

- (a) Steadfastly condemning racism, prejudice and injustice wherever it may be found and responding to anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.
 - (b) Actively advancing the interests of Israel, the Jewish people and the Union.
- 2.1.7 To educate the wider community about Judaism and Israel.
- 2.1.8 To encourage Jewish student involvement in the Jewish community.
- 2.1.9 To encourage Jewish learning and to make available ideas for conducting a wide program of Jewish education.
- 2.1.10 To liaise with any organisation which is concerned with promoting the interests of students in general.
- 2.1.11 To provide active support for the continued survival and well-being of the State of Israel through the promotion of Aliyah and educational tours to Israel.
- 2.1.12 To promote the principles and activities of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students.
- 2.1.13 To be open to a complete spectrum of Jewish student opinion.
- 2.1.14 To adopt the Jerusalem Program, which states as the aims of Zionism:
- (a) The unity of the Jewish People and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life
 - (b) The ingathering of the Jewish People in its historical homeland, Eretz Yisrael, through Aliyah from all lands
 - (c) The strengthening of the State of Israel, founded on the prophetic ideas of justice and peace
 - (d) The preservation of the identity of the Jewish People through the fostering of Jewish and Hebrew education and of Jewish spiritual and cultural values.
 - (e) The protection of Jewish rights everywhere.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 A member shall be, and shall only be, a member of an affiliate organisation and shall subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Union as outlined in section 2.

4. SUBSCRIPTION

- 4.1 Affiliate organisations may be charged a subscription which shall be based upon the membership of that organisation. Such a subscription shall be at such a rate as the executive committee (hereafter called the “executive”) may determine from time to time, subject to the overriding authority of a general meeting.

5. AFFILIATE ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 Affiliate organisations shall be those organisations that represent Jewish tertiary students at each campus of each tertiary institution in New South Wales. There may only be one such affiliate organisation at each campus of each tertiary institution.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Union shall be held in October each year.
- 6.2 The business of this meeting shall include: the election of all executive members for the forthcoming year, reports from current executive members, any other business as may be deemed necessary at the discretion of the executive and general business.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 7.1 Elections shall be by secret ballot. Preferential voting shall be used. Any equality following an initial ballot shall be resolved by a further ballot between those two nominees which have equal votes. Any further equality in voting shall be resolved by lot. Nominees shall be financial members of the Union. The ballot paper shall show candidates’ names in an order determined by lot, without any indication as to which are retiring executive members. There shall be an option on the ballot to re-open nominations. Should this option win the ballot then the position shall be declared vacant and shall be filled in accordance with the provision of this Constitution governing casual vacancies.
- 7.2 At least 21 days notice of each general meeting shall be given to each member and affiliate organisation.

7.3 The quorum at general meetings shall be representatives of two affiliate organisations, two executive members and one-third (1/3rd) of all available votes.

7.3.1 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time of the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed to a date not more than 27 days later.

7.3.2 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time of the reconvened meeting the quorum shall then be a minimum of representatives of two affiliate organisations.

7.4 The President shall, within 7 days of the receipt of written requisitions to that effect from two affiliate organisations, call a general meeting to be held within 30 days of such receipt.

7.4.1 If the President has not within the stipulated time called a duly requisitioned meeting, the affiliate organisations requesting the meeting may themselves call it.

7.4.2 The requisition and the notice of meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.

7.5 The executive can call a general meeting, if so resolved.

7.5.1 The notice of the meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.

7.6 Each affiliate organisation shall be entitled to votes as follows:

Financial Membership	Votes
1-9	1
10-49	2
50-99	4
100-149	6
150-199	8
200-249	10
250-349	12
350-449	14
450-549	16
550-649	18
650+	20

7.7 For purpose of allocating votes at a General Meeting, an affiliate organisation shall be recognised if, and only if, it has operated throughout the previous year with a fully functional executive. In the event of a dispute as to the existence of an affiliate

organisation, the executive shall have authority to determine the matter.

7.8 Executive members, excluding affiliate organisation representatives, shall be entitled to one vote each.

7.9 Each organisation shall authorise delegates to exercise its votes.

7.9.1 A delegate may hold either one or two votes.

7.10 General Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the standing orders (not inconsistent with this constitution) adopted by the general meeting from time to time.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8.1 The Executive shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Education Officer, Political Officer, Social Coordinator and the presiding officers of each affiliate organisation.

8.1.1. The Social Coordinator will be in charge of organising NSW Orientation Camp (O-Camp).

8.1.2. The larger committee shall also consist of a Secretary, Publicity Officer, International Students' Liaison Officer and up to two general positions (GPs).

8.1.3. The larger committee shall also consist of a Ball Coordinator.

8.1.4. The larger committee shall also consist of a Tzedakah Officer.

8.1.5. The larger committee shall also consist of an Interfaith Officer.

8.2 The executive members elected by the Annual General Meeting shall hold office for a period of one year from the 1st of January of the year after their election.

8.3 The executive shall have the power to co-opt members to the executive to fill casual vacancies (excluding presiding officers of affiliate organisations).

8.4 In the case of a casual vacancy of a presiding officer of an affiliate organisation, the affiliate organisation shall be required to elect a different representative to sit on the executive committee. In the case where an affiliate organisation does not elect a different representative the organisation may be disaffiliated by a simple majority vote of the committee.

- 8.5 The position of any committee member (excluding representatives from affiliate organisations) absent for three consecutive general or executive meetings without leave of absence shall be deemed vacant by a simple majority vote of the executive. Acceptance of an apology shall be deemed grant of such leave.
- 8.6 If a representative from an affiliate organisation is absent for five consecutive general or executive meetings, without leave of absence, that affiliate organisation may be deemed disaffiliated by a simple majority vote of the executive. Acceptance of an apology shall be deemed grant of such leave.
- 8.7 The immediate past President may ex officio be a member of the executive.
- 8.8 Subject to this Constitution and to any directions of a general meeting the executive may regulate its own affairs as it sees fit.
- 8.9 The executive shall be responsible to the Union and shall present an annual report, including a Treasurer's report, to each Annual General Meeting.
- 8.10 The Union or the Executive may appoint sub-committees with such powers and authority as they specify. The President shall be an ex officio member of all such sub-committees.
- 8.11 The executive shall meet at least every 4 weeks, during normal university session.
 - 8.11.1 7 days notice shall be given to all executive members of all executive meetings.
- 8.12 The quorum at executive meetings shall be one-half (to the next highest whole number) of the executive, and shall include the representatives of at least two affiliate organisations and two non-representative executive members.
 - 8.12.1 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time of the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed to a date fixed by the President.
- 8.13 All present executive members shall have one vote each at any executive meeting. In the event of equality of votes the chair shall make a casting vote.
- 8.14 The President shall take the chair at all executive meetings. If the President is absent, or is unwilling to act, the chair shall be taken by the Vice President or (in the absence or unwillingness to act of the President and Vice President) by some other executive

member chosen by the meeting as the first item on the meeting's agenda.

- 8.15 The position of any executive member may be declared vacant by a resolution passed by a three-quarters majority at a general meeting, provided that at least 21 days written notice of the proposed resolution is given and provided also that the member concerned is given an opportunity to be heard before the resolution is voted upon. The vacancy so arising must be filled in accordance with the provision of this Constitution governing casual vacancies, unless the general meeting resolves by a simple majority of delegates present:
- (a) not to fill the vacant position until the next Annual General Meeting
 - (b) to appoint some specific person to the vacant position to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting
 - (c) to hold an election in respect of this and any other vacant positions
- 8.16 The position of any executive members shall automatically become vacant if the member:
- (a) becomes an insolvent under administration
 - (b) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health
 - (c) is convicted of an offence punishable on conviction with imprisonment for more than one month
 - (d) resigns by notice in writing to the President or Vice President
 - (e) dies
 - (f) ceases to be a financial member of the affiliated organisation, to which the member is a member
- 8.17 The executive may at its discretion delegate any of its powers (save this power of delegation) to any sub-committee or affiliate organisation and may impose restrictions to be observed in the exercise of such powers.
- 8.18 Any members of the executive who have a financial interest in any contract or arrangement made, or proposed to be made, with the Union shall disclose their interest to the meeting of the executive at which that contract or arrangement is made or entered into.

They shall disclose their interest at the first meeting held after they become so interested. No members of the executive shall vote as members of the executive in respect of any contract or arrangement in which they are so interested as aforesaid. If members do so vote then their votes shall be disregarded. All declarations of interest under this clause shall be recorded in the minutes.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1 All monies received shall be deposited in the Union's bank account. All cheques are to be signed by the Treasurer and the President.
- 9.2 The income and assets of the Union shall be applied exclusively to the promotion of its objectives and no portion thereof shall be paid or applied to the members (except by way of bona fide remuneration for services actually rendered to the Union or by way of reimbursement for authorised expenses incurred on its behalf).
- 9.3 The funds of the Union may be invested in any bank, savings bank, cash management trust or building society, as determined by the executive from time to time, by a simple majority vote of the executive.
- 9.4 No member or affiliate organisation shall be required to contribute towards the payment of any liabilities of the Union (whether on dissolution or otherwise) beyond meeting the obligations to pay the subscription laid down by this Constitution and any other personal liabilities to the Union arising in the normal way.

10. DISSOLUTION

- 10.1 The Union shall be dissolved if a resolution to this effect is carried by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting, 21 days' notice of the proposed resolution having been given to all members and affiliate organisations.
- 10.2 In the event of dissolution all assets (after satisfying all debts and liabilities) and all records shall, subject to clause 10.3, be dealt with in such manner (if any) as the general meeting resolving on the dissolution shall determine, by a simple majority vote of the delegates present. Failing such determination, the assets and records shall be transferred to the Hillel Foundation of New South Wales.
- 10.3 In the event of dissolution no payments or distribution shall be made to members of the Union, or to any profit making body.

Payments or distribution may, however, be made to affiliate organisations, if that is the wish of the general meeting resolving on the dissolution.

11. INTERPRETATION

- 11.1 The President shall interpret this constitution, in the first instance.
- 11.2 Any dissent from the President's interpretation can be resolved by a general meeting by way of a simple majority vote of the delegates present. This decision shall be final and conclusive.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1 The President shall simultaneously be the NSW Regional Chair of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students.
- 12.2 The President or their nominee will represent the Union at an official level at meetings of all bodies to which the Union is affiliated.
- 12.3 No statements on behalf of, or in the name of, the Union shall be made except by the President or Vice President or by the authority of the President or Vice President, that of the executive or by direction of a general meeting.
- 12.4 Where any invitation is received by the Union to participate in a conference or meeting, the Union delegate(s) shall be appointed by the executive.

13. AMENDMENTS

- 13.1 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting, provided 21 days written notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to members and affiliate organisations.