

AUJS Ltd. affiliated with:

**Australasian Union of Jewish Students**  
התאחדות הסטודנטים היהודים באוסטרליה ובניו-זילנד



## **Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS)**

### **National Constitution**

#### **1. Definition**

The Union is a federative organisation responsible for the coordination of Jewish Student activities throughout Australasia, and for the dissemination of information on all topics related to Judaism and Israel.

#### **2. Name**

The name of this organisation shall be the Australasian of Jewish Students, hereafter called the Union.

2.1. The abbreviated name of the Union shall be AUJS.

2.2. The Hebrew name of the Union shall be התאחדות הסטודנטים היהודים באוסטרליה ובניו-זילנד.

#### **3. Aims**

Our mission is to unite Jewish Students throughout Australasia, promote Jewish identity, support the needs and interests of all Jewish Students and foster a positive relationship with Israel.

3.1. The aims and objectives of the union shall be:

- 3.1.1. To stand on the four pillars of Judaism, Zionism, Pluralism and Activism
- 3.1.2. To represent all Jewish students in Australia and New Zealand to both the Jewish and wider communities.
- 3.1.3. To serve as the roof body for all Jewish tertiary student organisations in Australia and New Zealand, and to aid in the coordination of their activities
- 3.1.4. To assist members and to encourage the formation of Jewish student organisations wherever there are Jewish students in Australia and New Zealand.
- 3.1.5. 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
- 3.1.6. To encourage individual Jewish students' connections to other Jews
- 3.1.7. 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, anti-Zionism, Holocaust denial and Holocaust revisionism
  - B) Actively advancing the interests of Israel, the Jewish people and AUJS
  - C) Promoting the virtues of harmony, tolerance, co-operation and respect
- 3.1.8. To educate the wider community about Judaism and Israel
- 3.1.9. To encourage Jewish student involvement in the Jewish community

- 3.1.10. To encourage Jewish learning and to make available ideas for conducting a wide program of Jewish education
- 3.1.11. To liaise with any organisation which is concerned to promote the interests of students in general
- 3.1.12. To provide active support for the continued survival and well-being of the State of Israel through the promotion of Aliyah, educational tours to Israel and the purchase of Israeli products, where practicable.
- 3.1.13. To promote the principles and activities of the World Union of Jewish Students
- 3.1.14. To be open to a complete spectrum of Jewish student opinion
- 3.1.15. To adopt the Jerusalem Programme, which states as the aims of Zionism:
  - The unity of the Jewish people, its bond to its historic homeland Eretz Yisrael, and the centrality of the State of Israel and Jerusalem, its capital, in the life of the nation;
  - Aliyah to Israel from all countries and the effective integration of all immigrants into Israeli Society.
  - Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state and shaping it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character, marked by mutual respect for the multi-faceted Jewish people, rooted in the vision of the prophets, striving for peace and contributing to the betterment of the world.
  - Ensuring the future and the distinctiveness of the Jewish people by furthering Jewish, Hebrew and Zionist education, fostering spiritual and cultural values and teaching Hebrew as the national language;
  - Nurturing mutual Jewish responsibility, defending the rights of Jews as individuals and as a nation, representing the national Zionist interests of the Jewish people, and struggling against all manifestations of anti-Semitism;
  - Settling the country as an expression of practical Zionism.
- 3.1.16. Recognising the importance of the non-exclusion on the basis of religious principles and beliefs, to hold all functions consistent with Halacha, whilst at the same time ensuring there is scope within the Unions' activities to accommodate the diversity of denominational affiliations that exists within its membership
- 3.1.17. Recognising the importance of issues such as civil rights and human rights, to encourage its members to be involved in student activities and movements as long as they are not inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the Union
- 3.1.18. Promoting and encouraging the development of leadership skills and qualities in Jewish students

#### **4. Membership**

- 4.1. A member shall be, and shall only be, a member of a constituent organisation or an affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation and shall subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Union as outlined in section 3.
- 4.2. A member can only be a member of either one constituent organisation or an affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation for voting purposes.

#### **5. Subscriptions**

- 5.1. Constituent 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.

#### **6. Constituent and Affiliate Organisations**

- 6.1. Constituent organisations shall be those organisations that represent Jewish tertiary students in each state/territory of Australia and the principle regions of New Zealand, and have aims which are not conflicting with those of the Union. There may only be one such constituent organisation in each state/territory of Australia or principle region of New Zealand.
- 6.2. Any constituent organisation may have affiliate organisations representing individual Jewish tertiary student organisations within that constituent organisation's state/territory.
- 6.3. A list of constituent and affiliate organisations is detailed in Appendices A and B to this constitution. Appendices A and B shall be subject to amendment in accordance with section 6 and shall be ratified at each Annual General Meeting.

## **7. General Meetings**

- 7.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held each calendar year, at a location determined by the Executive.
- 7.2. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include: the election of all Executive members in accordance with section 8, reports from current Executive members, any other business as may be deemed necessary at the discretion of the Executive and general business.
- 7.3. Any motion passed by a general meeting shall be valid until rescinded by a simple majority vote at a subsequent general meeting, and shall be contained in a policy booklet to be maintained by the Executive.
- 7.4. Any member, and only a member, may move or second a motion at a general meeting.
- 7.5. Any member, and only a member, unless the meeting decides otherwise, may speak to a motion at a general meeting.
- 7.6. At least 21 days notice of each general meeting shall be given to each constituent organisation and each affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation.
- 7.7. The quorum at general meetings shall be representatives of three constituent organisations and one-third (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) of all available votes.
- 7.8. The President shall, within 7 days of the receipt of written requisitions to that effect from five parties, each party being either a constituent organisation or an affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation, and at least two different constituent organisations being represented directly amongst those parties, call a general meeting to be held within 30 days of such receipt.
  - 7.8.1. If the President has not within the stipulated time called a duly-requisitioned meeting the parties requesting the meeting may themselves call it.
  - 7.8.2. The requisition and the notice of meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.
- 7.9. The Executive can call a general meeting, if so resolved.
  - 7.9.1. The notice of the meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.
- 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.
  - 7.10.1. The standing orders shall form Appendix C to this constitution.

## **8. Elections**

- 8.1. Elections shall be by secret ballot. Preferential voting shall be used. Any equality following the distribution of preferences in an initial ballot shall be resolved by a further ballot between those nominees which have equal votes. Any further equality in voting shall be resolved by lot.

- 8.1.1. Nominees shall be members of the Union. Nominees shall be nominated and seconded by members of the Union. Notice of the deadline for nominations shall be given with notice of each general meeting in accordance with section 7.6.
  - 8.1.2. The ballot paper shall show candidate's 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.
- 8.2. Each constituent organisation which does not have affiliate organisations and each affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation shall be entitled to votes as follows:

Financial Membership	Votes
10-49	1
50-99	2
100-149	3
150-199	4
200-249	5
250-349	6
350-449	7
450-549	8
550-649	9
650+	10

- 8.2.1. 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.
  - 8.2.2. Each organisation shall authorise delegates to exercise its votes.
    - 8.2.2.1. A delegate may hold either one or two votes.
- 8.3 Executive members are entitled to one vote each.

## 9. Executive Committee

- 9.1. The Executive shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Education Officer, Political Affairs Director, the presiding officer of the NSW constituent organisation, presiding officer of the Victorian constituent organisation, the presiding officer of the Western Australian constituent organisation, the presiding officer of the New Zealand constituent organisation and the Chair of the Small Regions Committee.
- 9.2. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall reside in either Sydney or Melbourne.
  - 9.2.1. Pending the urgency of a need for a Treasurer, which shall be decided on by the AUJS Ltd. Board (hereafter called the Board) and Executive, a Treasurer from outside of Sydney or Melbourne may be co-opted if the position remains vacant following elections.
- 9.3. The President and Vice-President may not reside in the same city.
- 9.4. The President and Vice-President may be paid.
  - 9.4.1. The President may receive the award wage for a clerk (grade 3), for 15 hours per week as a stipend, at his/her discretion.
  - 9.4.2. The Vice-President may receive the award wage for a clerk (grade 3), for 10 hours per week, as a stipend, at his/her discretion.

- 9.4.3. The President and/or Vice-President may receive a higher wage should the Board resolve to do so by a 2/3rds majority decision.
- 9.4.4. The intention to accept such a stipend may not be declared prior to the election of President and/or Vice President.
- 9.4.5. A Special General Meeting convened with 21 days notice may, at its discretion, provide financial assistance in the case of extenuating circumstances experienced by any national Executive member, except the President.
- 9.5. The Executive shall have the power to co-opt members to the Executive to fill casual vacancies..
- 9.6. The position of any Executive members 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.
- 9.7. Subject to this Constitution and to any directions of a general meeting or an Board meeting (the Board may only provide direction on financial matters), the Executive may regulate its own affairs as it sees fit.
- 9.8. The Executive shall be responsible to the Union and shall present an annual report, including a treasurers report, to each Annual General Meeting.
- 9.9. The Union or the Board may appoint sub-committees with such powers and authority as they specify (the Board may only appoint subcommittees with regard to financial matters). The President shall be an ex-officio member of all such subcommittees.
- 9.10. The Executive shall meet at least every month.
  - 9.10.1. 7 days notice shall be given to all Executive members of all Executive meetings.
- 9.11. The quorum at Executive meetings shall be one-half (to the nearest whole number) of the Executive, and shall include members from Sydney and Melbourne.
  - 9.11.1. If quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time of the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed to a fixed date by the President.
- 9.12. 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.
- 9.13. 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.
- 9.14. All agendas and minutes of the Executive shall be distributed to all members of the Executive and Board, to national project coordinators and the presiding officers of all the constituent organisations.
- 9.15. The Board shall be responsible for all financial management of the Union and the Executive shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Union.
- 9.16. The position of any Executive member may be declared vacant by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting, provided that at least 21 days written notice of a 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

9.17. The position of any Executive member 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 and is imprisoned for more than one month

D) resigns by notice in writing to the President or Vice-President

E) dies

9.18. There shall be a Publications Officer, who shall compile and produce the national magazine and other publications, the make-up of which is at the discretion of the Publications Officer in consultation with the national Executive.

9.19. There shall be a Holocaust Awareness Co-ordinator.

9.20. There shall be a Winter Conference Co-ordinator.

9.21. Pursuant to the specifications laid down in the Constitution, all positions are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, except:

A) The Holocaust Awareness Co-ordinator and the Winter Conference Co-ordinator, who shall be appointed by the Executive, chosen from members nominated by any member of the Union.

B) The chair of the Small Regions Committee, who shall be appointed by the Executive, and shall be a member of the Small Regions Committee which shall consist of the presiding officers of the constituent organizations not being either the NSW, Victorian, Western Australian or New Zealand constituent organisations.

## **10. Finance**

10.1. All matters of finance shall be dealt with by AUJS Ltd (CAN 058 740 024).

10.2. Should the Union acquire any assets they shall be given to AUJS Ltd (CAN 058 740 024).

10.3. The Union may not incur any debts or liabilities.

## **11. Dissolution**

11.1. 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, constituent organisations and affiliate organisations of any constituent organisation.

11.2. In the event of dissolution all assets (after satisfying all debts and liabilities) and all records, shall, subject to clause 11.3, be dealt with in such manner (if any) as the general meeting resolving on the dissolution shall determine, by a simple majority vote of delegates present. Failing such determination, the assets and records shall be transferred to the Zionist Federation of Australia.

11.3. In event of the dissolution no payments or distribution shall be made to members of the Union, or to any profit-making body.

## **12. Interpretation**

12.1. The President shall interpret this Constitution, in the first instance.

12.2. 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.

### **13. Miscellaneous**

13.1. 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.

13.2. 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.

### **14. Amendments**

14.1. 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 constituent organisations and affiliate organisations of any constituent organisation.