

Constitution of The National Federation of Atheist, Humanist and Secular Student Societies

Name, Status, Aims and Objectives

1. Name

- 1.1. The name of the association shall be 'The National Federation of Atheist, Humanist and Secular Student Societies'.
- 1.2. The association shall be referred to as 'The AHS'.

2. Status

- 2.1. The AHS shall be a confederal association of atheist, Humanist and secular societies consisting of student members.

3. Aims

- 3.1. The AHS shall have as its primary aims:
 - 3.1.1. To represent its members locally, nationally and internationally.
 - 3.1.2. To promote the philosophies, aims and objectives of its members.
 - 3.1.3. To support and advise its members.
 - 3.1.4. To support and facilitate the creation of new societies and groups aimed at representing atheist, Humanist and secular students.
 - 3.1.5. To create, maintain and promote co-operation with like minded organizations.
- 3.2. The AHS shall have as its secondary aims:
 - 3.2.1. To discuss, act upon and promote awareness of all primary aims in all contexts.
 - 3.2.2. To promote the primary aims as a single voice and in liaison and co-operation with other like minded organizations.
 - 3.2.3. To ensure that the primary aims remain relevant and appropriate to its members.
- 3.3. These aims shall be pursued without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, religion, age or creed, independent of any party political organization.
- 3.4. Each of the primary aims shall receive fair, large and liberal interpretation within the spirit of the AHS.

Membership

4. Membership

- 4.1. 'Full Membership' shall be open to all societies, groups or collections of students based primarily in the United Kingdom that specifically cater to some or all of the following individuals:
 - 4.1.1. Agnostics, atheists, freethinkers, Humanists, non-theists, rationalists, secularists, skeptics or any individual that subscribes in part the principles of

any listed group.

- 4.2. 'Associate Membership' shall be open to:
 - 4.2.1. Any group that subscribes to any of the philosophies listed in 4.1.1 but who do not meet the other Full Membership criteria.
- 4.3. 'External Membership' shall be open to:
 - 4.3.1. Any organization, corporation or charity that cannot be categorized under clauses 4.1 or 4.2 but that support or sympathize with the primary or secondary aims of the AHS.
 - 4.3.2. Any organization, corporation or charity that cannot be categorized under clauses 4.1 or 4.2 but who represent individuals who subscribe to any of the philosophies in clause 4.1.1.
 - 4.3.3. Any individual that cannot be categorized under clause 4.2 but who supports the primary or secondary aims of the AHS or who subscribes to any of the philosophies in clause 4.1.1.
- 4.4. Applications for membership shall be made to the Executive. The Executive shall make enquiries and investigations as it thinks fit and may accept such application or reject it subject to the following:
 - 4.4.1. Applications made by organizations under clause 4.1 may only be rejected if they do not fulfill the criteria laid down.
 - 4.4.2. Applications made by organizations under clause 4.2 may only be rejected if they do not fulfill the criteria laid down or by simple majority of the Committee.
 - 4.4.3. All applications that are accepted by the Executive shall be subject to ratification by simple majority of the Committee.
- 4.5. Rights and Obligations of Full Membership shall be as follows:
 - 4.5.1. Full members are obliged to abide by the Constitution of the AHS and are requested to contribute to the fulfillment of the primary and secondary aims.
 - 4.5.2. Full members are obliged to pay the annual subscription and any other dues more explicitly stated in the Schedules.
 - 4.5.3. Full members are obliged to inform the AHS of their status and membership details.
 - 4.5.4. Full members shall have rights in the property or assets of the AHS in the event of a dissolution or otherwise.

Expulsion from Membership and Change of Membership Status

5. Expulsion

- 5.1. Expulsion from Membership shall occur by a resolution of the Committee by a two thirds majority and only after all other options have been explored

6. Suspension

- 6.1. Suspension of Membership shall occur if any Member contravenes their Rights and Obligations under clause 4.5 and is subject to a resolution by the Committee with a simple majority.

7. Change of Membership Status

- 7.1. Change of Membership Status shall occur if the Member's status no longer conforms to the criteria as defined by their Membership Status.

8. Withdrawal from Membership

- 8.1. Withdrawal from Membership shall occur if the Member submits in writing their request for withdrawal. The membership shall cease on receipt of the request and the Member shall forfeit any subscriptions or other dues.

Organization

9. The Executive

- 9.1. The Executive shall exist and consist of the following Officers:
 - 9.1.1. The President, who shall be chief executive officer of the AHS and shall chair the Executive and the Committee.
 - 9.1.2. The Treasurer, who shall be the chief financial officer of the AHS and shall be responsible for presenting the financial situation of the AHS to any Full Member and at meetings of the Executive, Committee and Members.
 - 9.1.3. The Secretary, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the AHS and be responsible for recording the happenings at any meeting of the Executive, Committee or the Members.
 - 9.1.4. Any other officer as laid down more specifically in the Schedules.
- 9.2. The Powers and Duties of the Executive shall be as follows:
 - 9.2.1. The Executive shall be responsible for carrying out the aims and objectives of the AHS.
 - 9.2.2. The Executive shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the AHS, except where otherwise stated.
 - 9.2.3. The Executive shall authorize all expenditure and income of the AHS and shall have control over the financial interests of the AHS.
 - 9.2.4. The Executive shall act upon resolutions passed by the Committee and at the Annual General Meeting.
 - 9.2.5. The Executive shall sit on the Committee and shall attend all meetings of the Committee.
 - 9.2.6. The Executive shall attend the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.3. Election of the Executive shall be made by simple majority at the Annual General Meeting or any Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 9.4. Removal of any member of the Executive shall occur by unanimous resolution of the Committee, the Officer in question being ineligible to vote.

10. The Committee

- 10.1. The Committee shall exist and consist of the following:
 - 10.1.1. The President of each Full Member.
 - 10.1.2. An elected representative of each Full Member.
 - 10.1.3. Any other Officers as laid down more explicitly in the Schedules.
- 10.2. The Powers and Duties of the Committee shall be as follows:
 - 10.2.1. The Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the aims and objectives of the AHS

- 10.2.2. The Committee shall be responsible for the organization of the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 10.2.3. The Committee shall meet at least twice in each financial year (as defined in the Schedules) with no quorum. The meeting shall be announced at least fourteen days in advance and shall be called by the President. Each member shall have one vote except for the Chairperson who shall have a casting vote only.
- 10.2.4. A resolution in writing signed or approved by letter, telex or cable by every member shall be deemed to be as effective as if such a resolution had been passed at a meeting of the Committee.
- 10.2.5. Each member of the Committee shall be a permanent student at a UK institution of higher education (as defined in the Schedules).¹

11. The Board of Trustees

- 11.1. A Board of Trustees shall exist and consist of a minimum of two members, appointed by the Committee.
- 11.2. The Board of Trustees shall have final liability for the financial and legal state of the AHS.
- 11.3. The Board of Trustees shall hold in trust all bank accounts, assets and other financial property of the AHS and shall release these as required by resolution of the Executive, with the following exceptions:
 - 11.3.1. The nature of the resolution is in breach of the laws of the United Kingdom.
 - 11.3.2. The request exceeds the maximum request as laid down in the Schedules and is not supported by resolution of the Committee.
 - 11.3.3. The nature of the request does not serve the best interest of the AHS, whereby a resolution by the Committee shall be required.

12. Other Officers

- 12.1. The Committee shall appoint other officers as necessary.
- 12.2. These officers shall carry out duties as defined by the Committee for a period of time as defined by a resolution of the Committee.

Annual General Meeting

13. The Annual General Meeting

- 13.1. The Annual General Meeting, hereafter referred to as AGM, shall be held once per financial year (as defined in the Schedules).
- 13.2. The AGM shall be hosted by a Full Member.
- 13.3. Any Extraordinary General Meeting, hereafter EGM, shall follow the regulations of the AGM except where explicitly stated.
- 13.4. The AGM shall form the sovereign decision making body of the AHS and shall have the following powers:
 - 13.4.1. To be one of the meetings of the Committee.
 - 13.4.2. To elect members to the Executive.

- 13.4.3. To pass resolutions.
- 13.4.4. To ratify policy set down by the Executive.
- 13.4.5. To amend the Constitution.
- 13.4.6. To dissolve the AHS (not at EGM).

- 13.5. Speaking and voting rights shall be as follows:
 - 13.5.1. The Committee shall have rights as defined in clause 10.2.3.
 - 13.5.2. All other Members shall have speaking rights at the discretion of the chairperson.

- 13.6. The Election of Officers shall occur as laid down with the following additions:
 - 13.6.1. Each candidate shall be entered into the minutes.
 - 13.6.2. The candidates may speak for no longer than five minutes regarding their election.
 - 13.6.3. The election shall then take place by show of hands.

- 13.7. Elected officers shall take office during the assigned handover period as defined in the Schedules.

- 13.8. Minutes of the AGM shall be taken by the Secretary and must be ratified by simple majority at the next AGM.

- 13.9. Giving notice of the AGM to all members shall be given by the President and the period of notice shall be as follows:
 - 13.9.1. Notice of the AGM shall be 28 days.
 - 13.9.2. Notice of the EGM shall be 14 days.

Affiliation

14. Affiliation

- 14.1. The AHS shall be affiliated with any organization, corporation or individual that furthers the primary or secondary aims of the AHS by resolution of the Committee

Financial Reporting

15. Financial Report

- 15.1. The Treasurer shall report the financial situation of the AHS to the AGM and shall include the following information:
 - 15.1.1. A summary of the financial situation of the AHS.
 - 15.1.2. An account and balance sheet for the AHS from the proceeding year.
 - 15.1.3. An estimate of the income and expenditure of the AHS for the upcoming year.

Schedules to the Constitution

Schedule One – Subscription Fees (2008/9)

1. Subscription Fees

- 1.1. The annual subscription to the AHS shall be paid by 30th October of the current financial year and shall be set as follows:
 - 1.1.1. XXXXXXXX
- 1.2. There shall be provision for other dues to be included in this schedule.

Schedule Two – Dates

2. Dates

- 2.1. The financial year of the AHS shall run from 1st June to 30th May.
- 2.2. The period for Officers shall be 1st August – 31st July.
- 2.3. The handover period for Officers shall run from the end of the Annual General Meeting to the 31st July.

Schedule Three – Members

3. Membership

- 3.1. The current Full Members of the AHS shall be as follows:
 - 3.1.1. Leeds Atheist Society
 - 3.1.2. Warwick Atheists
 - 3.1.3. Humanist Society of The University of Edinburgh
 - 3.1.4. Durham Humanist Society
 - 3.1.5. Oxford Secular Society
 - 3.1.6. Keele Humanist Group
- 3.2. The current Associate Members of the AHS shall be as follows.
- 3.3. The current External Members shall be as follows.

Schedule Four – Affiliation

4. Affiliates

- 4.1. The current affiliates of the AHS shall be as follows: