

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The Association shall be called "GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION".

2. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association shall be:

- a) The prevention and relief of poverty of students.
- b) The advancement of citizenship and community development.
- c) The advancement of education.
- d) The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science.
- e) The advancement of health among students.
- f) The organisation of recreational activities for students who have need of them by reason of financial hardship or other disadvantage.
- g) The promotion of religious and racial harmony.
- h) The promotion of equality and diversity.
- i) The promotion of charitable fundraising activities.

In pursuance of its purposes (but not otherwise), the Association shall:

- a) Provide welfare and advice services for students.
- b) Provide a recognised means of communication between students and the Court of the University and other relevant local and national bodies.
- c) Promote volunteering activities, with volunteers being involved with the Association itself and the wider community.
- d) Provide training and student support services.
- e) Provide facilities and support for clubs and societies for the advancement of arts, heritage, culture and science.
- f) Promote general health issues to students.
- g) Promote equality of opportunity among students and challenge all forms of discrimination whether based on sex, age, race, ethnicity, sexuality, ability, religion, cultural background or other such status.
- h) Carry on any other activities which may be advantageously carried on in connection with and which further any of its purposes.

3. POWERS

The Association through its Trustee Board shall have the same powers as Trustees under the Law of Scotland. In addition, but without prejudice to the generality, they shall have the following powers:

- a) To be responsible for the day to day operation as an Association within the premises under its control.
- b) To pay all Association expenses out of the funds of the Association.
- c) To invest the funds of the Association when not immediately required in a manner determined by the Trustee Board.
- d) To suspend or remove trustees through a two thirds majority vote by the Trustee Board.
- e) To exercise discipline over members of the Association in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Constitution.
- f) To employ such staff as believed necessary in order to implement Association Strategy and to determine the terms and conditions of employment. Office Bearers may not hold paid employment with the Association with the exception of the Sabbaticals.
- g) To become members of any corporate body which has objects compatible with those of the Association.
- h) To make agreements with the student organisation of other education institutions for reciprocal membership.
- i) To sell, dispose or transfer any part of the property of the Association for any consideration, which the Trustee Board may see fit to accept.
- j) To establish a Hardship Fund for the giving of loans or grants in cases of hardship. The maximum amount that may be issued in any year is determined by the Trustee Board.
- k) To offer Temporary Membership in accordance with Schedule 1 to the Constitution.
- l) To borrow money upon such security as may be thought proper or without giving security thereon.
- m) To lend money on such security as may be thought proper or without obtaining any security thereon.
- n) To lease, purchase, feu or otherwise acquire premises for the use of students and to maintain, reconstruct, and adapt these premises for the purpose of the Association.
- o) To purchase or otherwise acquire all or part of the business, properties and liabilities of any individual company, society or partnership as long as their purposes are within the objects of the Association and to form, conduct, carry on, liquidate or wind up any such business.
- p) To enter into and to carry into effect any arrangements for joint working in business or for sharing of profits for amalgamation with any other Association carrying on business with like objects as this Association.
- q) To accept stock or shares in, or the debentures of other securities of, any sale made to, or debt owing from any such company.
- r) To remunerate full-time sabbaticals in line with Scottish Charity Law.

4. **CALEDONIAN STUDENT VOICE AND OFFICE BEARERS**

There shall be a Caledonian Student Voice, consisting of Ordinary Members and Office Bearers, elected in accordance with Schedule 4 to the Constitution, and other members as set out in the By-Laws. Any person so elected who ceases to meet the conditions for election shall cease to be a member of the Student Voice and to hold office.

Student Voice exists to represent the interest of students from across all programmes of study within the University and all forms of involvement within the Association. Student Voice has the power to scrutinise the work of the Executive Committee and informs debate over policies made on behalf of the student body.

5. **REFERENDUM**

A referendum will be held under either of the following circumstances:

- a) A motion stating the question to be asked is passed by two thirds of the members present at a meeting of the Student Voice.
- b) The Student President is presented a petition stating the question to be asked that has the names, signatures and matriculation numbers of 100 students.
- c) Unless otherwise stated alongside the question, the possible choices in a referendum will be "Yes" and "No".
- d) The result of a referendum will take precedence over all decisions made by the Student Voice and Student Voice Sub Committees if the turnout is at least 500 valid votes cast.

6. **MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The classes of membership of the Association shall be Ordinary, Associate, Life, Honorary and Reciprocal, as determined in accordance with Schedule 1 to the Constitution.

7. **CONTRACTS AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

Subject to its purposes, the Association will enter into, carry out, vary or cancel any contracts, agreements and undertakings as required. All contracts and legal documents must be signed on behalf of the Association by the President and the Chief Executive. One of the Vice Presidents may act as a substitute signatory for the President where the President is not available. Where the Chief Executive is absent they, or the University Secretary, may appoint another member of Association staff as a substitute signatory, subject to such conditions as appropriate.

8. **FINANCE**

- a) A bank account(s) shall be kept in the name of the Association.
- b) All cheques shall be signed by any two of the Sabbatical Officers or one Sabbatical Officer and the Chief Executive.
- c) The financial year shall be from 1st August to 31st July. The accounts of the Association shall be kept by the President and shall be audited immediately after 31st July by Auditors approved by the University Court. The accounts will be approved by the Trustee Board and ratified by Student Voice and shall be submitted to the University Court.
- d) The University Court shall appoint a member of the University staff (normally the Depute Director of Finance) with appropriate financial expertise as its Financial Appointee in respect of the Association. The Financial Appointee will be a member of the Student Officer/University Liaison Group.

- e) The Association shall submit not later than a date determined by the University Court its estimates of income and expenditure for a period of twelve months in advance for the approval of the University Court.
- f) If, for any reason, the Association shall cease to exist, any surplus trading income and recurrent Grant shall be returned to the University Court and all other funds and property shall be held in trust by the University Court for student welfare. Those funds and properties may be reclaimed by a reformed Students' Association.
- g) Adherence to current Financial Regulations as set by Trustee Board or as required under the Education Act 1994 shall apply to all areas of the Association. Copies of regulations and reports shall be accessible by all members.

9. **INDEMNITY**

Every officer, appointee or member of staff of the Association shall be entitled to being indemnified out of the assets of the Association against all losses or liability which may be validly sustained or incurred in or about the execution of that person's office or in relation thereto and no officer, appointee or member of staff shall be liable for any loss, damage or misfortune which may happen to or be incurred by the Association in the execution of the duties of that office or in relation thereto, provided that nothing in this clause shall remove their liability for the consequences of any negligent act on their part.

10. **AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution and Schedules may be altered by a two thirds decision of the Trustee Board. Changes may also be proposed by the University for consideration by the Trustee Board.

A change to the Constitution or Schedules shall be made in the following way:

- a) Approved by the Trustee Board
- b) Ratified by Student Voice
- c) Approved by University Court

Changes to the By-laws may be made through a motion receiving the backing of two thirds of the members present at any duly convened meeting of the Student Voice.

11. **EDUCATION ACT 1994**

The Association is accepted as a Students' Association under the terms of the Act. The Association will comply with the requirements of the Act. For the purpose on interpretation of the Act with regard to Glasgow Caledonian University a Code of Practice will be agreed between the Association and the University which will be available to all members. This may be altered by agreement of the University Court. This code contains details of, amongst other things, opting out of membership, affiliations of the Association, raising a grievance, financial procedures.

12. **INTERPRETATION**

In the event of a dispute within the Association as to the interpretation of any part of this Constitution or related documents governing the Association the majority decision of the Trustee Board shall be final.