

**MINUTES OF THE AUSA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018 AT 3.42PM IN THE SHADOWS**

1. PRESENT:

PRESIDENT (CHAIR), AVP, WVP, TREASURER, MSO, EAO, GRAFTON REP, PEO, PISO, QRO, SEO, WRO AND OVER 200 MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

2. APOLOGIES:

EVP, CCO, ISO

3. ABSENT:

4. MEETING OPENED: 3.42pm

5. LEAVE:

CHAIR

G 1/18 THAT the EVP be granted leave from this meeting as she is at a moot in Prague.
Carried

CHAIR

G 2/18 THAT the CCO be granted leave from this meeting as she is at work.
Carried

CHAIR

G 3/18 THAT the ISO be granted leave from this meeting as it clashes with a compulsory tutorial.
Carried

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

CHAIR

G 4/18 THAT the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 July 2017 be received and adopted as a true and accurate record.
Carried

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES:

REFERENDA CHANGES

CHAIR

G 5/18 THAT the following changes be made to the Constitution:

THAT Rule 23 be amended to read:

“23. The Executive, or any member of the Association, may put forward a motion to be voted on by Referendum.

23A. A referendum may amend these Rules, without needing recourse to General Meetings.

23B. Any referendum at which fewer than 400 students cast valid votes will be indicative only and not binding on the Association.

Process for conducting Referenda

23C. The Association must hold two referenda each year, one per Semester. Members of the Association may submit questions over a two-week submission period.

Questions from the Association Members

23D. Questions will be submitted to the Student Engagement Officer. The Student Engagement Officer must seek legal advice within five working days, where practicable, of the end of the submissions period. Once legal advice has been received, questions are determined by the Executive to be binding, non-binding or disqualified. A written explanation must be provided for the reason associated with each decision.

23E. The Executive may disqualify questions:

- a. where the question is:
 - i. Frivolous
 - ii. Contrary to the Constitution;
 - iii. Unfair in their effect on individual persons;
 - iv. Biased or leading;
 - v. Contrary to the Association's charitable objects;
 - vi. Substantially similar to another question that has been received or asked in the previous referendum;
 - vii. Unable to be clearly answered with a "yes" or "no" response;
 - viii. Made in relation to the recognition of any student group not in accordance with the AUSA policy on this; or
 - ix. Otherwise not in alignment with the Association's values or interests in serving students inclusively, proactively and positively.

and

- b. where a motion to disqualify a question is passed with at least an 80% majority at an Executive meeting.

23F. Questions will be binding, unless they are concerned with governance, financial, constitutional or human resources matters. If a question concerns these areas, the Executive may choose to make them binding prior to the referendum opening. Non-binding results will be indicative only, and must be approved, amended or rejected by the Executive.

23G. The Association must remain impartial in relation to referendum motions submitted by Association member, and no person or body may seek to represent the views of the Association in campaigning.

Questions from the Executive

23H. The Executive may submit binding amendments to these Rules, if the relevant motion has been passed with an 80% majority at an Executive meeting.

23I. In accordance with Rule 5.1, these Rules may only be repealed, altered, added to, or amended if carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of valid votes.

Student Engagement Officer to Conduct Referenda

23I. If the Student Engagement Officer calls for a referendum to take place, the Student Engagement Officer becomes charged with conducting the referendum in an open, transparent, and integral manner in accordance with these Rules and any policy the Executive in its exclusive jurisdiction adopts governing the conduct of referenda, and must:

- (a) remain strictly impartial in relation to the referendum;
- (b) encourage Craccum to engage in coverage of the referendum and the issues to be considered at the referendum, and must take all reasonable steps to publicise the occurrence of the referendum, the question to be put to

the membership, the voting period, and the means of voting through media controlled by the Association in a fair and impartial manner;
(c) following the conclusion of the election, in their capacity as Returning Officer, promptly announce the results of the referendum to all members and direct any person or body to give effect to the result of the referendum, if the referendum is binding on the Association.

Question to be Answered in the Negative if Voting in Referendum Tied
23J. Where the valid votes cast in a referendum are tied, the question put to the membership will be answered in the negative.

Executive to Adopt Policy Governing the Conduct of Referenda
23K. The Executive must adopt policy governing the conduct of referenda before the beginning of the next submissions period that occurs after this Rule comes into effect in order to, in addition to any other matter the Executive considers fit:

(a) establish the means by which voting is to be conducted, ensuring that whatever method is adopted offers all members a reasonable chance to participate and vote; and
(b) provide for a reasonable appeals procedure against decisions made by any person under these Rules or under any policy made by the Executive under these Rules that may affect the outcome of any referendum;
(c) regulate the conduct of campaigns by members in relation to referenda and provide for a complaints procedure to allow for alleged breaches of campaign regulations to be brought to the attention of the Student Engagement Officer in their capacity as Returning Officer and to allow them to:

(i) investigate complaints; and
(ii) impose penalties on members, but only of a financial nature, for proven breaches of campaign regulations.”

THAT Rule 5(i) be amended to read:

“These Rules may be repealed, altered, added to, or amended, at any General Meeting or by Referenda motion submitted by the Executive in accordance with Rules 23-34. Two weeks’ notice must be given of any proposed alteration, addition or amendment, and the wording of any changes must be approved by the Honorary Solicitor prior to registration.”

THAT Rule 15(vi) be amended to read:

“Any decision made by a General Meeting, or a binding Referendum, will be binding on the Association and the Executive, in accordance with Rule 23.”

Carried

MANAGEMENT OF CLUBS

CHAIR

G 6/18 THAT the following changes be made to the Constitution:

THAT Rules 49-52 be deleted.

THAT Rule 47 be amended to read:

“47. Official Recognition of Student Groups

The recognition of a student group will be conducted by the Clubs Support Committee. Any underlying policies, procedures, terms of reference or similar documents must be approved and passed by an Executive motion. Any such policy or procedure, however described, must be consistent with the Rules and objects of the Association”

THAT Rule 48 be amended to read:

“48. Association Will Not Support Student Bodies and Groups that Are Not Officially Recognised

No body or group of students may receive a grant from Association funds, and the Association will not support the granting of any funds intended for the improvement of students' experiences and the furthering of students' interests unless that body or group is recognised by the Association.”

THAT the content of the Fifth Schedule be deleted.

Carried

- ***It was brought up from the floor that people were not given due opportunity to ask questions before this motion (G6/18) was put, so it has been put forward again to the Autumn General Meeting to be held on 28 March 2018.***

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

9. MEETING CLOSED: 3.55pm

Signed as a true and correct record

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Anna Cusack, President, CHAIR