

## ORDINANCE VI

### THE OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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WHEREAS by Statute 13 (28) of the Charter of the University the Council of the University is empowered to make Ordinances in the exercise of the powers expressly set out in Statute 13 and of all other powers vested in the Council:

AND WHEREAS Article 18 of the Charter provides that: There shall be an organisation of the students of the University whose constitution, powers and functions shall be prescribed by Ordinance:

THEREFORE the Council of the University hereby ordain as follows:

1. There shall be an organisation of the students of the University to be known as "The Open University Students' Association" which shall be initiated with the Constitution which follows:

#### CONSTITUTION

##### Objectives of the Associations

1. The objectives of the Open University Students' Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) shall be:
  - (i) to foster a corporate identity for its members as students of the University.
  - (ii) to co-ordinate the organisation of social and welfare activities for its members.
  - (iii) to promote the educational interests of its members as students of the University.

##### Membership of the Association

2. All registered students of the University shall be entitled to Membership of the Association on payment of the annual subscription.<sup>1</sup>

##### Associate Membership of the Association

3. Any branch of the Association may nominate part-time and full-time members of the staff of the University and such other persons, or categories of person, as the Council of the Association may from time to time determine, to be Associate Members of the Association.
4. Associate Members shall pay the annual subscription and shall enjoy such rights and privileges of Membership of the Council of the Association may from time to time determine,

##### Cessation of Membership

5. Any Member or Association Member who fails to pay his subscription within two calendar months of the due date for payment shall thereupon cease to be a member.

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<sup>1</sup> No annual subscription shall be payable for 1972.

### Government of the Association

6. There shall be a Council of the Association which shall be the governing body of the Association and shall exercise a general control over the affairs and finances of the Association.
7. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Council of the Association which shall act on behalf of the Council of the Association in such matters as the Council of the Association may from time to time determine.
8. There shall be branches of the Association. A branch of the Association shall be registered as such by the Council of the Association on submission by the branch of a constitution for the branch acceptable to the Council of the Association. Each branch so registered shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Council of the Association. Such annual report shall include an audited statement of the accounts of the branch. There shall not be an additional subscription for membership of a branch of the Association but a branch may, if it wishes, make charges for specific occasions or services. The constitution of a branch of the Association may only be amended with the approval of the Council of the Association.
9. The Council of the Association may, in consultation with the branches of the Association concerned, establish a regional structure whereby branches of the Association are grouped together for appropriate purposes.

### Conduct of Business in the Association

10. The Council of the Association shall be elected annually by the Members of the Association in each Region of the University in such manner and at such times as the Council of the Association shall determine. There shall be one Member of the Council of the Association to every 1,000 registered students (or part thereof. over 500), within each Region of the University always provided that there shall be at least two members of the Council of the Association from each Region of the University.
11. The Council of the Association shall elect annually from amongst their number a President of the Association who shall take the Chair at meetings of the Council of the Association.
12. The Council of the Association shall meet at least three times in each calendar year. The quorum for meetings shall be 15 members of the Council of the Association. At least six weeks notice must be given of any meeting of the Council of the Association. A special meeting of the Council of the Association may be called at the written request to the President of the Association of:
  - (a) Ten members of the Council of the Association, or
  - (b) The Executive Committee, or
  - (c) Accredited representatives from 10 branches of the Association, or
  - (d) 100 Members of the Association drawn from more than three branches.
13. The Executive Committee shall comprise the President of the Association and the Honorary Treasurer of the Association ex officio and eight members elected annually by the Council of the Association from among their own number. The Executive Committee shall elect a Chairman from among their own number who shall be other than the President or the Honorary Treasurer of the Association.

14. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every two months. The quorum for meetings shall be five members of the Executive Committee. At least two weeks notice must be given of any meeting of the Executive Committee. A special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called at the discretion of the Chairman or at the written request to the Chairman of the Executive committee of four members of the Executive Committee or by resolution of the Council of the Association.
15. A resolution of the Council of the Association or of the Executive Committee shall be validly passed if:
  - (a) Not less than three weeks notice thereof has been give in writing to members of the Council of the Association and it is duly passed by a simple majority of those present and voting, or
  - (b) If no such notice is given and it is duly passed by two-thirds of those present and voting, or
  - (c) Being a resolution of the Council of the Association to recommend alterations to this Constitution it is passed in accordance with Clause 24 of this Constitution.
16. Any casual vacancy occurring in the Council of the Association by resignation, incapacity (including loss of eligibility for membership) or death among the members shall be filled by the Council of the Association by co-option. Any such casual vacancy occurring among the members of the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Council of the Association by election from among their own number. A member co-opted to fill a casual vacancy in the Council of the Association or elected to fill a casual vacancy in the Executive Committee shall hold office for the unexpired term of office of the member in whose place he is co-opted or elected.
17. No official statement may be issued in the name of the Association without prior consultation with the Executive Committee. Only the President of the Association and the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall normally act as the official spokesmen of the Association. A member of the Association may not represent his own private views as being those of the Association,
18. Any publication distributed under the auspices of the Association shall require the general approval of the Council of the Association prior to distribution.

#### Finance of the Association

19. There shall be an Honorary Treasurer of the Association who shall be elected by the Council of the Association from among their own number. The Honorary Treasurer of the Association shall exercise a general responsibility for the accounts of the Association which shall be audited annually and presented to the Council of the Association at such time as the Council of the Association may determine and thereafter submitted to the Council of the University. The Honorary Treasurer of the Association shall ensure that at least one-third of the net annual income of the Association is allocated by the Council of the Association to the branches of the Association having due regard to the comparative size of branch memberships.
20. The annual subscription shall be determined from time to time by the Council of the University on the recommendation of the Council of the Association,<sup>2</sup> such recommendation

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<sup>2</sup> The annual subscription for 1973 shall be one pound and shall be payable by members and Associate Members of the Association.

to have been approved by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council of the Association present and voting at the appropriate meeting of the Council of the Association.

#### Officers of the Association

21. The honorary officers of the Association shall be the President of the Association, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Honorary Treasurer of the Association and such others as the Council of the Association may from time to time determine.
22. There shall be a full-time Secretary of the Association appointed by the Council of the Association whose salary and other expenses shall be determined by the Council of the Association and paid from the funds of the Association. The Secretary of the Association shall ensure the proper conduct of elections in the Association and shall have such other duties as may be assigned by the Council of the Association.
23. The Council of the Association may at any time make representation to the Council of the University on any matter of common concern.
24. This Constitution may be altered at any time and from time to time by the Council of the University on the recommendation of a resolution of the Council of the Association passed as provided below or if it shall appear to the Council of the University after consultation with the Council of the Association to be in the best interests of the University to do so. A resolution of the Council of the Association recommending an alteration to this Constitution shall only be validly passed if:
  - (a) Six weeks prior notice of the substance of the changes has been given to each branch of the Association, and
  - (b) Two weeks like notice has been given to members of the Council of the Association that such resolution is to be proposed at a properly constituted meeting of the Council of the Association, and
  - (c) The resolution is duly passed (after consideration of comments and representations received from branches) by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.

#### Review of this Constitution

The Ordinance establishing the Open University Students' Association provides that there shall be a review of the Constitution of the Association in January 1975 to be initiated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Staff and Student Affairs).

Approved by the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1972 and 30<sup>th</sup> October 1973

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