

# **FLINDERS EVANGELICAL STUDENTS – CONSTITUTION**

**August 2002, October 2004, October 2007**

## **1. NAME:**

- 1.1 There shall be a FLINDERS EVANGELICAL STUDENTS hereinafter known as the FLINDERS E.S.

## **2. DEFINITIONS:**

- 2.1 In this Constitution unless the contrary opinion appears:
  - The Association means the FLINDERS E.S.
  - Committee means the Committee of Management of the FLINDERS E.S.;
  - General Meeting means a general meeting of members of the FLINDERS E.S. convened in accordance with this Constitution;
  - Member means a member of the FLINDERS E.S.;
  - The University means Flinders University, South Australia;
  - The Act means the Associations Incorporation Act, 1985; and
  - AFES means the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

## **3. AIMS AND CORE BELIEFS**

- 3.1 The aims of the FLINDERS E.S. shall be:
  - a) to present students with the Christian Gospel and to lead them to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by both corporate and personal witness;
  - b) to help students understand the Christian faith in order to strengthen their relationships with God and fellowship with one another;
  - c) to stimulate an informed interest in the work of the gospel world-wide and to encourage each member to view their life with a missionary perspective whatever their vocation;
  - d) to strengthen Christian students to make them more effective members of their own churches; and
  - e) to pray for God's work amongst students.
- 3.2 The core beliefs of the FLINDERS E.S. Are:
  - (i) The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
  - (ii) The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
  - (iii) The universal sinfulness and guilt of the human nature since the fall, rendering humanity subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
  - (iv) The conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, and His birth by the Virgin Mary.
  - (v) Redemption from the guilt, penalty, and power of sin only through the sacrificial death as our representative and substitute, of Jesus Christ the Incarnate Son of God.
  - (vi) The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
  - (vii) The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective in the individual sinner, granting him/her repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus.
  - (viii) The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
  - (ix) The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 3.3 In order to achieve these aims and to promote these core beliefs, the Association shall hold at least two activities in each semester apart from the Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings.
- 3.4 The assets and income of the Association shall be applied solely in furtherance of the abovementioned aims, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Association except as bona fide compensation or honoraria for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Association.

**4. POWERS:**

- 4.1 The Association shall have all the powers conferred by section 25 of the Act.

**5. MEMBERSHIP:**

- 5.1 All enrolled students at Flinders University are eligible for membership of the Association upon signing the membership declaration and paying the Association membership fee.
- 5.2 The Association Membership Fee shall be payable annually, and shall be determined by the Committee.
- 5.3 The membership declaration shall:
- (i) State the objectives of the FLINDERS E.S.; and
  - (ii) Contain the statement “By joining Flinders Evangelical Students, I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord and my God and my belief in the Bible as the authoritative Word of God, and I affirm that I agree with the aims and core beliefs of Flinders Evangelical Students, and agree to uphold the work of Flinders Evangelical Students on campus.”
- 5.4 Any member may resign from the FLINDERS E.S. by giving notice of his/her resignation in writing to the Secretary.
- 5.5 A person who is not a student at Flinders University may become an associate member upon signing the membership declaration and paying the Association membership fee.
- 5.6 Expulsion of a member
- 5.6.1 Subject to giving a member an opportunity to be heard or to make a written submission, the Committee may resolve to expel a member upon a charge of misconduct detrimental to the interests of the FLINDERS E.S.
  - 5.6.2 Particulars of the charge shall be communicated to the member at least one calendar month before the meeting of the Committee at which the matter will be determined.
  - 5.6.3 It shall be open to a member to appeal to the FLINDERS E.S. in general meeting against the expulsion. The intention to appeal shall be communicated to the secretary or public officer in writing within 14 days after the determination of the Committee has been communicated to the member.
  - 5.6.4 In the event of an appeal under the subsection 5.6.3 the appellant’s membership of the FLINDERS E.S. shall not be terminated unless the determination of the Committee to expel the member is upheld by the

members of the FLINDERS E.S. in general meeting after the appellant has been heard by the members of the FLINDERS E.S., and in such event membership will be terminated at the date of the general meeting at which the determination of the Committee was upheld.

5.6.5 These provision apply also to the expulsion of an associate member.

## 6. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The affairs of the FLINDERS E.S. shall be managed and controlled by a Committee of Management which in addition to any powers and authorities conferred by this Constitution, may exercise all such powers and do all such things as are within the aims of the FLINDERS E.S., and are not by the Act or by this constitution required to be done by the FLINDERS E.S. in general meeting. The committee shall have authority to interpret the meaning of this Constitution and any other matters relating to the affairs of the FLINDERS E.S. on which this Constitution is silent.
- 6.2 The Committee shall comprise of:
- (i) President
  - (ii) One (1) or Two (2) Vice President(s)
  - (iii) Honorary Secretary
  - (iv) Honorary Treasurer
  - (v) Up to six (6) Other Members (up to seven (7) if there is only one (1) Vice President.)
  - (vi) The AFES Senior Staffworker for Flinders University (if any) as an ex officio member. Other AFES staffworkers at Flinders University may be invited to attend Committee meetings. Staffworkers have the right to speak but not to vote nor to move or second motions at Committee meetings.
- 6.3 The Committee shall appoint a public officer as required by the Act.
- 6.4 The Committee shall meet at least once each calendar month during the academic year.
- 6.5 A member of the Committee shall cease to be a member of the same in the event of any of the following:
- (i) He/she submits in writing his/her resignation to the Secretary;
  - (ii) He/she is absent from three consecutive Committee Meetings without leave of absence being granted by the Committee;
  - (iii) He/she ceases to be a student at Flinders University or.
  - (iv) He/she ceases to be a member of the FLINDERS E.S..
- 6.6 The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring on the Committee and shall notify the membership of such appointment within seven (7) days of the appointment. Any member may object in writing to the secretary within fourteen (14) days of the notification being sent. If any objection is received in that time, the appointment in question shall only proceed if ratified by a special General Meeting of the Association that shall be called as soon as possible. The process for objection to the appointment shall be made clear in the notification of the appointment.

6.7 The Committee shall have the power to appoint from time to time such officers and sub-committees as it deems necessary. The Committee shall define the duties of such officers and sub-committees. The said officers and sub-committees shall be responsible to the Committee.

**7. AUDIT:**

7.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall appoint an auditor as required by the Act.

**8. FINANCE:**

8.1 All monies held by the FLINDERS E.S. shall be held in an account or accounts as determined by the Committee.

8.2 There shall be five signatories to any account, of whom:

- (i) at least four are members of the Committee, and
- (ii) at most one is an AFES Flinders staffworker.

8.3 Any monies of FLINDERS E.S. shall be appropriated only with the approval of the Committee.

8.4 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper books of account for the FLINDERS E.S. and shall prepare such statements of the FLINDERS E.S. financial affairs as the Committee directs. FLINDERS E.S. books shall be kept in the FLINDERS E.S. filing cabinet and will be accessed only by those persons nominated by the Committee.

8.5 The financial year of the FLINDERS E.S. shall be from the beginning of the University term four to the day immediately before the beginning of term four in the following year.

8.6 The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare at the close of each financial year a statement of the FLINDERS E.S. financial affairs which shall be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

**9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

9.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the FLINDERS E.S. to be held during Term 4 each year to:

- (i) receive a report from the Committee;
- (ii) receive the statements of the financial affairs of the FLINDERS E.S. for the previous financial year;
- (iii) elect the Committee; and
- (iv) conduct such other business as is properly brought before the meeting.

9.2 The Honorary Secretary shall give fourteen days notice of the Annual General Meeting by means of a notice sent to all members of the FLINDERS E.S. and an advertisement placed on the FLINDERS E.S. web site. This notification will state the date, time, and place of the meeting.

## **10. GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 10.1 The Honorary Secretary shall convene a General Meeting of the FLINDERS E.S.:
- (i) at the direction of the Committee, or
  - (ii) within fourteen (14) days of receiving a petition signed by one-third of the total membership or ten (10) members of the FLINDERS E.S., whichever is the least; provided that such a petition shall state the business to be discussed at the General Meeting.
- 10.2 The Honorary Secretary shall give seven (7) days notice of a General Meeting by means of a notice sent to all members of the FLINDERS E.S. and an advertisement placed on the FLINDERS E.S. web site
- 10.3 No other business than that which is stated in the notification of a general meeting shall be discussed.

## **11. AFFILIATION**

- 11.1 The FLINDERS E.S. shall be affiliated with the AFES. The representative of the FLINDERS E.S. on the General Committee of the AFES shall be the President. In the event of the inability of the President to attend a meeting of the General Committee of the AFES, the Committee of the Flinders University FLINDERS E.S. may appoint a substitute representative. The AFES will provide, where possible, staff to partner and assist the FLINDERS E.S..

## **12. VOTING**

- 12.1 The Chairperson at each meeting of the FLINDERS E.S. where business is to be presented shall be the President or a person eligible to vote elected by the meeting.
- 12.2 Persons eligible to vote shall be:
- a) at Committee meetings, members of the Committee present, but not the ex officio AFES Senior Staffworker; and
  - b) at General and Annual General Meetings, those members of the Association present who are enrolled students at Flinders University.
- 12.3 The Chairperson of each meeting of the FLINDERS E.S. shall have a deliberative vote only.
- 12.4 Associate members have the right to speak but not to vote or to propose or second motions at any meeting of the FLINDERS E.S.. They are not eligible for appointment to any position on the Committee.
- 12.5 All business before meetings of the FLINDERS E.S. shall be determined by a simple majority of those voting, except where otherwise stated in this Constitution.

### **13. QUORUMS**

13.1 The quorum for a Committee meeting shall be half plus one of the Committee.

13.2 The quorum for General or Annual General Meetings shall be one-third of the total membership or a minimum of ten members if the membership of the FLINDERS E.S. is 30 or less; provided that for a General Meeting called under clause 10.1 (ii) of this Constitution, the quorum shall include at least fifty percent (50%) of the petitioning members.

### **14. ALTERATIONS TO THIS CONSTITUTION**

14.1 The procedure for altering this Constitution shall be:

- (i) The proposed amendments shall be set out in full and posted, at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting in a notice sent to members of the FLINDERS E.S. and on the FLINDERS E.S. web site.
- (ii) The amendments shall be agreed to by at least two-thirds of the members of the Association present at the Annual/General Meeting at which they are discussed.

### **15. THE SEAL**

15.1 The FLINDERS E.S. shall have a common seal upon which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.

15.2 The seal shall not be used without the express authorisation of the Committee and every use of the seal shall be recorded in the minutes of the FLINDERS E.S.

15.3 The affixing of the seal shall be witnessed by either:

- (i) the President;
- (ii) the Vice President;
- (iii) the Secretary; or
- (iv) the Treasurer.

### **16. WINDING UP**

16.1 The FLINDERS E.S. may be wound up in the manner provided for in the Act.

16.2 Application of surplus assets:

If, after the winding up of the FLINDERS E.S., there remains 'surplus assets' as defined in the Act, such surplus assets shall be distributed to the general funds of the AFES in South Australia.