

# **Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS)**

## **National Constitution**

### **1. Definition**

The Union is a federative organisation responsible for the coordination of Jewish student activities across Australia and New Zealand, and for the dissemination of information on all topics related to Judaism and Israel.

### **2. Name**

The name of this organisation shall be the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, hereafter called the Union.

2.1. The abbreviated name of the Union shall be AUJS.

2.2. The Hebrew name of the Union shall be התאחדות הסטודנטים היהודים באוסטרלאסיה.

### **3. Mission**

Our mission is to develop and strengthen Jewish identity amongst Jewish tertiary students across Australia and New Zealand.

### **4. Aims**

Our aim is to provide meaningful Jewish experiences through:

Engagement  
Enrichment  
Development  
Action

Thereby strengthening community and enhancing Jewish life.

Engagement shall be defined as the process of outreach within our demographic through which one creates and maintains relationships.

Enrichment shall be defined as the provision of added value to one's experience of tertiary education.

Development shall be defined as the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding, whereby one gains awareness of the internal and external facets of AUJS and the community in order to become a leader.

Action shall be defined as the actualisation and implementation of one's potential by assuming a leadership role.

4.1. The aims and objectives of the Union shall be:

4.1.1. To stand for the four pillars of Judaism, Zionism, Pluralism and Activism.

4.1.2. To represent all Jewish students in Australia and New Zealand to both the Jewish and wider communities.

- 4.1.3. To serve as the roof body for all Jewish tertiary student organisations in Australia and New Zealand, and to aid in the coordination of their activities.
- 4.1.4. To assist members and to encourage the formation of Jewish student organisations wherever there are Jewish students in Australia and New Zealand.
- 4.1.5. To provide activities- educational, cultural, political and social- that will serve to enlighten Jewish students with respect to the Jewish religion, Zionism, tradition and culture.
- 4.1.6. To encourage individual Jewish students' connections to other Jews.
- 4.1.7. To facilitate and promote political activism both on and off campus by:
- A) Steadfastly condemning racism, prejudice and injustice wherever it may be found and responding to anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, Holocaust denial and Holocaust revisionism;
  - B) Actively advancing the interests of Israel, the Jewish people and AUJS;
  - C) Promoting the virtues of harmony, tolerance, co-operation and respect.
- 4.1.8. To educate the wider community about Judaism and Israel.
- 4.1.9. To encourage Jewish student involvement in the Jewish community.
- 4.1.10. To encourage Jewish learning and to make available ideas for conducting a wide program of Jewish education.
- 4.1.11. To liaise with any organisation which is concerned to promote the interests of students in general.
- 4.1.12. To provide active support for the continued survival and well-being of the State of Israel through the promotion of Aliyah, educational tours to Israel and the purchase of Israeli products, where practicable.
- 4.1.13. To promote the principles and activities of the World Union of Jewish Students.
- 4.1.14. To be open to a complete spectrum of Jewish student opinion.
- 4.1.15. To adopt the Jerusalem Programme, which states as the aims of Zionism:
- The unity of the Jewish people, its bond to its historic homeland Eretz Yisrael, and the centrality of the State of Israel and Jerusalem, its capital, in the life of the nation;
  - Aliyah to Israel from all countries and the effective integration of all immigrants into Israeli Society;
  - Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state and shaping it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character, marked by mutual respect for the multi-faceted Jewish people, rooted in the vision of the prophets, striving for peace and contributing to the betterment of the world;
  - Ensuring the future and the distinctiveness of the Jewish people by furthering Jewish, Hebrew and Zionist education, fostering spiritual and cultural values and teaching Hebrew as the national language;
  - Nurturing mutual Jewish responsibility, defending the rights of Jews as individuals and as a nation, representing the national Zionist interests of the Jewish people, and struggling against all manifestations of anti-Semitism;
  - Settling the country as an expression of practical Zionism.

4.1.16. Recognising the importance of the non-exclusion based on religious principles and beliefs, to hold all functions consistent with Halacha, whilst at the same time ensuring there is scope within the Union's activities to accommodate the diversity of denominational affiliations that exists within its membership.

4.1.17. Recognising the importance of issues such as civil rights and human rights, to encourage its members to be involved in student activities and movements as long as they are not inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the Union.

4.1.18. Promoting and encouraging the development of leadership skills and qualities in Jewish students.

## **5. Membership**

5.1. A member shall be, and shall only be, a member of a constituent organisation or an affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation and shall subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Union as outlined in section 3. The only other type of recognised member shall be an Honorary Life Member as outlined in section 14.

5.2. A member can only be a member of one constituent organisation or an affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation, or be a recognised Honorary Life Member, for voting purposes.

## **6. Subscriptions**

6.1. Constituent organisations may be charged a subscription which shall be based upon the membership of that organisation. Such a subscription shall be at such a rate as the Executive committee (hereafter called the Executive) may determine from time to time, subject to the overriding authority of a general meeting.

## **7. Constituent and Affiliate Organisations**

7.1. Constituent organisations shall be those organisations that represent Jewish tertiary students in each state/territory of Australia and the principle regions of New Zealand, and have aims which are not conflicting with those of the Union. There may only be one such constituent organisation in each state/territory of Australia or principle region of New Zealand.

7.2. Any constituent organisation may have affiliate organisations representing individual Jewish tertiary student organisations within that constituent organisation's state/territory.

7.3. A list of constituent and affiliate organisations is detailed in Appendices A and B to this Constitution. Appendices A and B shall be subject to amendment in accordance with section 6 and shall be ratified at each Annual General Meeting.

## **8. General Meetings**

8.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held each calendar year, at a location determined by the Executive.

8.2. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include: the election of all Executive members in accordance with section 8, a review of probationary positions set out in section 10.1.1, reports from current Executive members, a vote where it is proposed on candidacy for Honorary Life Membership, ratification of Appendices A and B in accordance with section 6.3, any other business as may be deemed necessary at the discretion of the Executive, and general business.

- 8.3. Any motion passed by a general meeting shall be valid until rescinded by a simple majority vote at a subsequent general meeting, and shall be contained in a policy booklet to be maintained by the Executive.
- 8.4. Any member, and only a member, may move or second a motion at a general meeting.
- 8.5. Any member, and only a member, unless the meeting decides otherwise, may speak to a motion at a general meeting.
- 8.6. At least 21 days' notice of each general meeting shall be given to each constituent organisation and each affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation.
- 8.7. The quorum at general meetings shall be representatives of three constituent organisations and one-third of all available votes.
- 8.8. The Chairperson shall, within 7 days of the receipt of written requisitions to that effect from five parties, each party being either a constituent organisation or an affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation, and at least two different constituent organisations being represented directly amongst those parties, call a general meeting to be held within 30 days of such receipt.
- 8.8.1. If the Chairperson has not within the stipulated time called a duly-requisitioned meeting the parties requesting the meeting may themselves call it.
- 8.8.2. The requisition and the notice of meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.
- 8.9. The Executive can call a general meeting, if so resolved.
- 8.9.1. The notice of the meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.
- 8.10. General meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the standing orders (not inconsistent with this Constitution) adopted by the general meeting from time to time.
- 8.10.1. The standing orders shall form Appendix C to this Constitution.

## **9. Elections**

- 9.1. Elections shall be by secret ballot. Preferential voting shall be used. Any equality following the distribution of preferences in an initial ballot shall be resolved by a further ballot between those nominees which have equal votes. Any further equality in voting shall be resolved by lot.
- 9.1.1. Nominees shall be members of the Union. Nominees shall be nominated and seconded by members of the Union. Notice of the deadline for nominations shall be given with notice of each general meeting in accordance with section 8.6.
- 9.1.2. The ballot paper shall show candidate's names in an order determined by lot, without any indication as to which are retiring Executive members. There shall be an option on the ballot to re-open nominations. Should this option win the ballot then the position shall be declared vacant and shall be filled in accordance with the provision of this Constitution governing casual vacancies.
- 9.2. Each constituent organisation which does not have affiliate organisations and each affiliate organisation of a constituent organisation shall be entitled to votes as follows:

Financial Membership	Votes
10-49	1
50-99	2
100-149	3
150-199	4
200-249	5
250-349	6
350-449	7
450-549	8
550-649	9
650+	10

9.2.1. For the purpose of allocating votes at a General Meeting, an affiliate organisation shall be recognised if, and only if, it has operated throughout the previous year with a fully functional Executive. In the event of a dispute as to the existence of an affiliate organisation, the Executive shall have authority to determine the matter.

9.2.2. In the event that, within a constituent organisation, affiliate organisations have not individually operated as per 9.2.1, the Executive may allow the constituent organisation, or a collective of affiliate organisations that reside within a single state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, to exercise collective voting rights in accordance with the voting entitlements set out in 9.2.

9.2.3. Each affiliate or constituent organisation, or collective of affiliate organisations, shall authorise delegates to exercise its votes.

9.2.3.1. A delegate may hold either one or two votes.

9.3 Executive members are entitled to one vote each.

9.4 Regional Vice Presidents are entitled to one vote each.

## 10. Executive Committee

10.1. The Executive shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Political Affairs Director, Conferences Convenor, Campaigns Co-ordinator, Leadership and Development Officer, Jewish Engagement Officer, the presiding officer of the NSW constituent organisation, presiding officer of the Victorian constituent organisation, the presiding officer of the Western Australian constituent organisation, the presiding officer of the New Zealand constituent, the presiding officer of the ACT constituent and the presiding officer of the Queensland constituent.

10.1.1. The executive may also consist of one-year probationary positions proposed by amendment during a general meeting. These positions shall be reviewed at the following general meeting for either a further probationary period or constitutional recognition in section 10.1. The position holder will be determined by election, as set out in section 9. Notice of nominations will take place at the conclusion of constitutional amendments. Elections will take place at the conclusion of elections of all other positions. Probationary positions will be listed below and in section 10.1.

A) Probationary positions: Jewish Engagement Officer.

10.2. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer shall reside in either Sydney or Melbourne.

10.2.1. Pending the urgency of a need for a Treasurer, which shall be decided on by the AUJS Ltd. Board (hereafter called the Board) and Executive, a Treasurer from

outside of Sydney or Melbourne may be co-opted if the position remains vacant following elections.

10.3. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may not reside in the same city.

10.4. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may be paid.

10.4.1. The Chairperson may receive the federal minimum wage, for up to 38 hours per week as a stipend, at his/her discretion, subject to the approval of the AUJS Ltd Board.

10.4.2. The Vice Chairperson may receive the federal minimum wage, for up to 30 hours per week as a stipend, at his/her discretion, subject to the approval of the AUJS Ltd Board.

10.4.3. The Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson may receive a higher wage should the Board resolve to do so by a two-thirds majority decision.

10.4.4. The intention to accept such a stipend may not be declared prior to the election of Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson.

10.4.5. A Special General Meeting convened with 21 days' notice may, at its discretion, provide financial assistance in the case of extenuating circumstances experienced by any national Executive member, except the Chairperson.

10.5. The Executive shall have the power to co-opt members to the Executive to fill casual vacancies.

10.6. The position of any Executive members absent for three consecutive general or Executive meetings without leave of absence shall be deemed vacant by a simple majority vote of the Executive. Acceptance of an apology shall be deemed grant of such leave.

10.7. Subject to this Constitution and to any directions of a general meeting or a Board meeting (the Board may only provide direction on financial matters), the Executive may regulate its own affairs as it sees fit.

10.8. The Executive shall be responsible to the Union and shall present an annual report, including a Treasurer's report, to each Annual General Meeting.

10.9. The Union or the Board may appoint sub-committees or non-executive portfolio holders with such powers and authority as they specify (the Board may only appoint sub-committees with regard to financial matters). The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all such sub-committees.

10.10. The Executive shall meet at least every month.

10.10.1. 7 days' notice shall be given to all Executive members of all Executive meetings.

10.11. The quorum at Executive meetings shall be one-half (to the nearest whole number) of the Executive, and shall include members from Sydney and Melbourne.

10.11.1. If quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time of the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed to a fixed date by the Chairperson.

10.12. All present Executive members shall have one vote each at any Executive meeting. In the event of equality of votes the chair shall make a casting vote.

10.13. The Chairperson shall take the chair at all Executive meetings. If the Chairperson is absent, or is unwilling to act, the chair shall be taken by the Vice Chairperson or (in the absence or unwillingness to act of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) by some other Executive member chosen by the meeting as the first item on the meeting's agenda.

- 10.14. All agendas and minutes of the Executive shall be distributed to all members of the Executive and Board, to national project coordinators and the presiding officers of all the constituent organisations.
- 10.15. The Board shall be responsible for all financial management of the Union and the Executive shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Union.
- 10.16. The position of any Executive member may be declared vacant by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting, provided that at least 10 days' written notice of a proposed resolution is given and provided also that the member concerned is given an opportunity to be heard before the resolution is voted upon. The vacancy so arising must be filled in accordance with the provision of this Constitution governing casual vacancies, unless the general meeting resolves by a simple majority of delegates present:
- A) not to fill the vacant position until the next Annual General Meeting;
  - B) to appoint some specific person to the vacant position to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting;
  - C) to hold an election in respect of this and any other vacant positions.
- 10.17. The position of any Executive member shall automatically become vacant if the member:
- A) becomes an insolvent under administration;
  - B) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
  - C) is convicted of an offence punishable on conviction and is imprisoned for more than one month;
  - D) resigns by notice in writing to the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson;
  - E) dies.
- 10.18. The National Campaign Co-ordinator, with the support of the National Executive, shall develop and run a minimum of two campaigns per year. The campaigns may run on campuses and/or across regions in Australia and New Zealand. The subject matter of at least one of the campaigns must be Israel Advocacy, Holocaust Awareness or Jewish Awareness. Any subsequent campaigns may be on any subject matter that the National Executive deems to align with the AUJS pillars.
- 10.19. Pursuant to the specifications laid down in the Constitution, all positions are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, except the presiding officers of the regional constituents.

## **11. Finance**

- 11.1. All matters of finance shall be dealt with by AUJS Ltd (ABN 68 058 740 024).
- 11.2. Should the Union acquire any assets they shall be given to AUJS Ltd (ABN 68 058 740 024).
- 11.3. The Union may not incur any debts or liabilities.

## **12. Dissolution**

- 12.1. The Union shall be dissolved if a resolution to this effect is carried by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting, 21 days' notice of the proposed resolution having been given to all

members, constituent organisations and affiliate organisations of any constituent organisation.

12.2. In the event of dissolution all assets (after satisfying all debts and liabilities) and all records, shall, subject to clause 11.3, be dealt with in such manner (if any) as the general meeting resolving on the dissolution shall determine, by a simple majority vote of delegates present. Failing such determination, the assets and records shall be transferred to the Zionist Federation of Australia.

12.3. In event of the dissolution no payments or distribution shall be made to members of the Union, or to any profit-making body.

### **13. Interpretation**

13.1. The Chairperson shall interpret this Constitution, in the first instance.

13.2. Any dissent from the Chairperson's interpretation can be resolved by a general meeting by way of a simple majority vote of the delegates present. This decision shall be final and conclusive.

### **14. Miscellaneous**

14.1. No statements on behalf of, or in the name of, the Union shall be made except by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson or by the authority of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, that of the Executive or by direction of a general meeting.

14.2. Where any invitation is received by the Union to participate in a conference or meeting, the Union delegate(s) shall be appointed by the Executive.

### **15. Honorary Life Membership**

15.1. Honorary Life Membership of the Union may be conferred on an individual who has made a substantial contribution over many years to AUJS, Jewish student life and the empowerment of Jewish youth.

15.2. The Executive may, at its sole discretion, propose one candidate for Honorary Life Membership to be included in the business of the Annual General Meeting held each calendar year.

15.3. Honorary Life Membership shall be conferred by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting.

15.4. For the purpose of membership in this Constitution, an Honorary Life Member will be deemed to be a member of the constituent organisation in the state/territory of Australia or the principle region of New Zealand in which he or she lives. Honorary Life Members will be entitled to all rights and privileges enjoyed by a member in accordance with this Constitution.

15.5. Not more than one Honorary Life Membership may be conferred in any calendar year.

15.6. A list of Honorary Life Members will be kept and updated in Appendix D to this Constitution.

## **16. Amendments**

- 16.1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting, provided 14 days' written notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to constituent organisations and affiliate organisations of any constituent organization.

*As amended at AUJS National Annual General Meeting 2018, held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018. Appendices updated September 18th 2018.*

## **Appendix A:**

### **Constituent organisations**

AUJS Victoria

AUJS NSW

AUJS Western Australia

AUJS New Zealand

AUJS ACT

AUJS Queensland

AUJS Tasmania

## **Appendix B:**

### **Affiliate organisations**

Monash Jewish Students' Society (MonJSS)  
Melbourne Jewish Students' Society (MUJSS)  
AUJS Monash Caulfield  
RMIT University Jewish Students' Society (RUJSS)  
AUJS Deakin  
AUJS La Trobe  
Swinburne Union of Jewish Students (SwUJS)  
AUJS University of Sydney  
AUJS University of NSW (UNSW)  
AUJS Macquarie  
AUJS University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)  
AUJS Wollongong  
Curtin University  
Edith Cowan University  
University of Western Australia (UWA)  
Otago University  
University of Auckland  
Victoria University  
University of South Australia  
Adelaide University  
Flinders University  
Bond University  
University of Queensland  
Griffith University  
James Cook University  
Australian National University  
University of Canberra  
AUJS in the City (Melbourne)  
AUJS TAFE (Melbourne)

## Appendix C:

### Standing Orders

1. Once standing orders have been accepted by the AGM, the AGM will elect a Secretary. The Chair shall be the Chairperson, the Returning Officer has been appointed.
2. Any member desiring to speak at the AGM shall raise his or her hand and when called upon by the Chair and shall address the Chair. If two or more members raise their hands simultaneously, the Chair shall call upon the person who first caught the eye of the Chair.
3. When the Chair rises to speak, any member standing shall sit down and be silent.
4. No member other than the proposer of a motion or an amendment shall speak to it until it has been seconded. A motion or amendment lapsing for want of a seconder shall not be recorded in the minutes.
5. A motion or amendment before the Chair shall not be withdrawn except by its mover and by leave of the meeting. No motion shall be withdrawn while any amendment is under discussion after any amendment has been adopted.
6. All motions and amendments must be submitted in writing to the Returning Officer.
7. A motion or amendment before the Chair may be reworded by the mover subject to leave of the meeting.
8. No member shall speak more than once on any motion or amendment, except for the proposer of the motion or amendment who shall have a right of reply, which reply shall close the debate. An amendment shall constitute a separate question from the original motion and from any other amendment.
9. A member moving a motion or amendment shall be deemed to have spoken to it. A member seconding a motion or amendment without speaking may reserve the right to speak to it subsequently.
10. When an amendment is before the Chair, discussion shall be confined to that amendment. No further amendment shall be proposed until the amendment before the Chair has been disposed of.
11. The Chair shall, as far as practicable, call on speaker for and against a motion or amendment alternatively, subject to the right of the seconder to speak immediately, after the mover. If two consecutive speakers have both argued for or against a motion or amendment, and there is no member wishing to argue the opposite view or, in the case of a motion, to move an amendment, the motion or amendment shall, subject, in the case of a motion, to the mover's right of reply, be put without further debate.
12. Any member may raise a point of order, which shall take precedence over all other business, and which shall be open to discussion. The point must be raised at the time the alleged irregularity occurred. Any explanation or contradiction shall not constitute a point of order.
13. Any member disagreeing with the Chair's ruling on a point of order may move dissent. The Chair shall then vacate the chair and such motion shall be put forthwith without debate.
14. Any member may raise a point of clarification, which shall take precedence over all other business, and which shall be open to discussion. The point must be raised in order to address a question to the proposer of the motion or amendment in order to seek clarification as to the substance of the motion or amendment. The proposer of the motion or amendment will be given time to address the question posed. Neither the member invoking the point of the clarification or the proposer of the motion use this to further their arguments.

15. The Chair may declare a point of clarification or the response to be argumentative. The Chair must consider the use of each individual's speaking time.
16. On an equality of voting, the Chair shall declare the question resolved so as to retain the *status quo*.
17. A member who has not already participated in the debate may at any time, whether another speaker had the floor or not, move 'That the motion now be put,' which motion, if accepted by the Chair, shall be put without further amendment or debate. The Chair shall have absolute discretion to accept or refuse the motion. If an amendment is before the Chair, the closure motion shall be deemed to close the debate on the amendment only.
18. A member at any time may move "That the speaker no longer be heard". Such motions shall be put without amendment or debate. No other motion, except the closure motion or one dealing with the speaker's time, shall be moved while a speaker has the floor.
19. Unless otherwise resolved:
  - (a) The proposer of a motion shall be allowed 4 minutes to introduce it and 3 minute to reply to the debate.
  - (b) All other speakers shall be allowed 2 minutes
20.
  - (a) Voting shall be decided by a show of hands unless the Chair or at least three delegates request a division or a poll before a declaration of the result.
  - (b) In the case of a division, the Chair shall appoint two tellers, representatives of the opposing viewpoints, to take the count.
  - (c) A poll shall be taken in such a manner as the Chair thinks fit.
21. The Chair may remove any person from the meeting at their discretion, subject to a motion carried against such a decision moved immediately following such a decision.
22. Any motions recommended by a Commission of Workshop convened by the Executive Committee shall be put to the next AGM. Such motions shall be deemed moved and seconded by such members as nominated by the Commission Workshop.
23. All motions shall be forwarded in writing to the returning officer at least 14 days before each meeting, and shall be included on the agenda except those motion referred to in Clause 24.
24. The Chair may elect at anytime during the AGM to open the AGM up to motions for the floor. For this to happen they must outline a specific limited time period for this to happen.
25. Discussion relating to, including speakers for and against, candidates' nomination for election may take place subject to the decision of the Steering Committee.
26. All mention of motions in the standing orders includes but is not exclusively amendments of the constitution of the Union
27. All motions, except for amendments to the Constitution of the Union, are passed in the affirmative if 50% plus one votes in the room at the time vote in favour of it. Amendments to the Constitution are passed in the affirmative if a two-thirds majority of the general meeting vote in favour of it.
28. Standing orders 1-25 or any of them may be suspended by a majority of those delegates voting and present. A motion to this effect shall be open to debate.
29. The Steering Committee governing the Meeting shall be composed as follows: (a) Chairperson;  
(b) Vice Chairperson

- (c) One representative of each Large Constituent Organisation; and
- (d) One representative of the Small Constituent Organisations.

No member of the steering committee may stand for election, except where the meeting specifically permits so. Members of the Steering Committee may hold votes as delegates would normally.

- 30. Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, any decision made by a validly-constituted meeting shall not be void for reason only of a departure from these standing orders which was not detected until after the decision had been made.
- 31. Alterations to the standing orders shall be made only by an AGM, after 14 days' notice has been given.
- 32. Any matters not dealt with in the above standing orders shall be governed by the discretion of the Chair and the Steering Committee.

**Appendix D:**

**Honorary Life Membership**

2012: Dr Joachim Schneeweiss AM (NSW)

2018: Dave Burnett Z"L (NSW)