

James Cook University of North Queensland
Christian Union
Constitution

1. NAME

The name of the society shall be the James Cook University Christian Union, hereafter called C.U.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of C.U. shall be:

1. To present to students within the university the Christian gospel as relevant to daily living, and to seek to lead them to a personal faith in Jesus Christ.
2. To strengthen Christians in their faith and witness. Also to encourage them to continually submit every aspect of their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
3. To encourage students to devote their lives to serving Jesus in the vocation that he calls them to. To present them with the challenge of missionary service at home and abroad.

2a. Doctrinal Basis

The doctrinal basis of C.U. shall be:

1. The divine inspiration and infallibility of the holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct.
2. The unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
3. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the Fall, rendering man subject of God's wrath and condemnation.
4. The conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, and his birth by the virgin Mary.
5. 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.
6. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
7. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective in the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
8. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
9. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students at James Cook University of North Queensland. Staff members at James Cook University are not entitled to membership with C.U., and therefore do not

have voting rights, although their participation and involvement with activities of C.U. is welcomed.

1. Each student wishing to join shall affirm that they are a Christian, by signing the membership book.
2. Membership shall be renewed yearly by signing the membership book.
 - a. In accordance with James Cook University policy, members' names shall not be released along with their student numbers, and only the secretary (who shall be responsible for the membership book) shall have access to records containing such information.

3a. Termination of membership

1. Membership shall continue for as long as the member is a student at JCU. After such time their membership shall be forfeited.
2. If a member impedes the objectives of C.U. and/or does not adhere to the doctrinal basis, a unanimous vote by the executive may void their membership. The president and/or staff worker shall notify the member that their membership has been forfeited.
3. A member may discontinue their own membership by providing written notification to the President of the C.U. executive (membership fee shall not refunded). Membership shall be terminated immediately upon receipt of the written notification.

3b. Resignation of a member of the executive

1. The termination of the membership of an executive member shall be carried by a sixty-six per cent (66%) vote of no confidence in that executive member at a special general meeting. Termination of membership may occur in the event that an executive member,
 - a. impedes the objectives of C.U.,
 - b. no longer adheres to the doctrinal basis of C.U., or
 - c. consistently shows ungodly character.The member must also have failed to adhere to the encouragement and/or warnings of other exec members or staff workers to improve their behaviour.

The executive shall motion to hold a special general meeting, at which a new member shall be voted to the executive. If the previous executive member held a position, a general member will fulfil their role and C.U. member new to the executive shall assume a general members position.
2. Any executive member may resign upon a written application to the president, or to the vice-president if the president resigns. A special general meeting (hereafter called SGM, see section 7.2) shall be held to replace the resigning member. If the previous executive member held a position, a general member will fulfil their role and C.U. member new to the executive shall assume a general member's position.

4. GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

1. Joint activities may be arranged with other societies and individuals only when the executive is of the opinion that the objectives of C.U. are not impeded and that it be understood that in such joint situations where applicable [eg, symposia or debate] that normal laws of conduct and fair debate be always adhered to.
2. Official speakers who are invited to address or represent C.U. on its behalf, may only do so if their views are in whole-hearted agreement with the Doctrinal Basis.
3. The principles of C.U. shall be entirely interdenominational and not connected with any sect or denomination.
4. There will be a membership subscription of \$5 required. Only one payment is required for the duration of the member's course.
5. The treasurer shall be required to keep an accurate record of all monies handled by C.U. The books shall be available for examination at any time.
6. As a matter of principle, no expense shall be incurred unless there is sufficient in hand to pay for it.

5. MANAGEMENT

Management of C.U. shall be vested in an executive, which shall be elected annually by the membership at the annual general meeting. The new executive shall take over from the previous executive on the final day of the university's second semester. No person shall hold the same position for more than three years. **All members of the executive must agree with the doctrinal basis.** Where possible, the executive shall be comprised of roughly equal numbers of male and female students.

1. The executive shall have AT LEAST 6 members and NO MORE THAN 8 members, who shall hold the following positions:

- a. President

The president shall be the spokesperson for C.U. and represent C.U. whenever necessary. It is preferable that the president be a male student, wherever reasonably possible. The president shall chair executive meetings where possible, shall facilitate pastoral care within C.U. and shall maintain regular contact with AFES (whether through an AFES staffworker or by other means).

The president shall maintain good working relationships with any staffworkers affiliated with C.U., if applicable. They shall have visible presence within C.U. and should be easily approachable. The president shall be of good Christian character and shall be a Godly role-model.

- b. Vice President

If for any reason the president has to step down, the vice president shall act as president until a SGM can be called and a new president can be elected. The vice president shall maintain a good working relationship with the president. They shall have visible

presence within C.U. and should be easily approachable. The vice president shall be of good Christian character and shall be a Godly role-model.

c. Secretary

The secretary will, where possible, call all executive meetings. When the secretary is unable to call a meeting, another position holder on the executive shall be able to call a meeting.

Secretary, who shall keep accurate typed records as required by C.U. or by the Union Council from time to time. The secretary shall make available all minutes. The signing and annual re-signing of the membership book shall also be the responsibility of the secretary.

d. Treasurer

The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and payments made by C.U. such as will permit of an unqualified audit of C.U.'s accounts for presentation to the annual general meeting, and shall present regular financial statements and accounts to the executive (a minimum of twice a semester). They shall also organise preparation of an annual budget.

All monies received by C.U. shall be paid in full into the C.U. account set up for that purpose. All disbursements shall be paid by non-negotiable cheque drawn on C.U.'s account except those amounts which may be made by the treasurer in the case of petty cash disbursements. The treasurer shall encourage C.U. to support (financially) C.U. and/or staff-workers with C.U.

e. Prayer secretary

The prayer secretary shall stimulate other members to pray and shall deal with the sending and receiving of prayer letters to AFES groups on other campuses. They shall assume the role of a general member during voting

f. General members

The executive shall also include at least one general member with a maximum of three general members. The general members may liaise between any sub-committees or groups and the executive, and shall aid in the executive's decision making process.

5a. Process for organising a new executive

1. Information regarding upcoming elections shall be made available to all members of C.U., and the executive shall gather expressions of interest. The executive shall recommend members for positions on the new executive.
2. Members of the current executive and staff workers (where applicable) shall present possible candidates to the executive as a whole before approaching those candidates.
3. Executive members and staff workers shall consider all nominations and approve those nominations which they deem suitable.
4. Non-executive members may contribute to the decision making process by presenting their suggestions for nomination to a current exec member

6. FINANCE

1. C.U. shall open a Bank, Building Society, or Credit Union account, to be operated upon by the signatures of any two members of the executive.
2. The executive shall prepare an annual budget for the proper ordering of the financial affairs of C.U., and for presentation to the Union Finance Committee in support of each annual application for a Union grant.
3. The executive shall ensure that the Union regulations in respect of Club and Society finances and reporting are satisfied.
4. The financial year of C.U. shall end on 31 December each year.
5. When donations are received for the Staffworker fund or any charitable activity they shall be properly receipted and entered into the books.
6. All financial records shall be forwarded regularly to the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) national office for keeping of national consolidated accounts.

7. MEETINGS

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be held during second semester each year. Fourteen days notice of the AGM shall be given to the membership and the Union by notice placed on the official Union notice boards and by such other methods, as the executive may deem appropriate.

A quorum for an AGM shall be at least twice the number of members of the executive. In the event of a quorum not being present within thirty minutes of the scheduled time for the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to the same place and time in the following week at which those members present shall constitute a quorum.

The secretary shall convene all meetings. In their absence another member of the executive nominated by the secretary shall convene.

At the AGM the secretary shall present a **typed** report of C.U.'s activities for the preceding year. The treasurer shall present audited financial statements and accounts for the preceding year.

Motions will be carried by a majority vote [51%] of members present.

2. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS may be called by the executive or by petition to the secretary from ordinary members equalling twice the number of the executive members. Special General Meetings shall be called within fourteen days of the secretary receiving a request of the executive or of the membership as outlined above. Seven days notice shall be given of a Special General Meeting.
3. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS. The executive shall meet at least twice a semester. Quorum for a meeting shall be three quarters of the executive membership. This will include the president or vice-president, treasurer, and at least three other members. All members shall endeavour to attend executive meetings. The secretary shall give notice of all executive meetings to all executive members.

Motions will be carried by a majority vote [51%] of members present.

Non-executive members may attend executive meetings, however are not permitted to participate unless they are invited to give a report to the executive by the president. If a non-executive member of C.U. has an issue they would like the executive to discuss, they may present it to a current member of the executive. That member will present the issue at the next executive meeting where it will be discussed in the absence of the petitioner.

The president (or vice president, in the president's absence) shall organise the agenda prior to the executive meeting. Once the meeting has begun, the agenda shall not be changed.

8. PROPERTY

All property of C.U. shall be held in trust for C.U. purposes. In the event of the dissolution of C.U. the property of C.U. shall go to AFES. In the event of the dissolution of AFES all property shall go to IFES [International Fellowship of Evangelical Students].

9. POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE

The executive shall be empowered to do all things conducive and incidental to the attainment of the objectives of C.U. consistent with this constitution and the constitution of the James Cook University of North Queensland Union and the regulations made thereunder.

10. LIABILITY

Neither the Union, C.U., its officers, nor the membership shall be liable or responsible for the actions of any member of C.U., or for an injury suffered by any member of C.U. while such member is participating in C.U. activities.

11. GENERAL

In any matters not specified in this constitution or in the regulations enacted by the executive under this constitution, the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations of the James Cook University of North Queensland Union shall apply.

12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution may be amended at a general meeting of C.U. by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, provided that fourteen days notice of the proposed amendment has been given. Proposed amendments shall be displayed on the official Union notice boards, and provided that it is approved by the Union Council.

Amendments to the governing principles and doctrinal basis cannot be amended even with a majority vote except where changes are approved by AFES.

ALL amendments to the constitution of C.U. must be approved at a meeting of the general Council of AFES.

13. DISSOLUTION

C.U. shall be dissolved should it fail to holds its AGM, or on the decision to do so on a two thirds majority of members present and voting at a general meeting for which due notice has been given.