

FOCUS Constitution

(Last Updated 19/3/15)

Section 1: Name

The official name of the society to which this constitution applies is the “Australian National University Fellowship Of Evangelical Students”. It will henceforth be referred to as ANU FOCUS or simply FOCUS.

Section 2: Type

FOCUS shall be a Christian Society.

Section 3: Interpretation

In this Constitution, unless the contrary intention appears:

1. **Academic day** means a 24 hour period during any day or days that do not fall on a weekend or public holiday, and that fall during a teaching period of The Faculties;
2. **Association** means the Australian National University Students’ Association;
3. **Committee** means the Australian National University Grants and Affiliation Committee;
4. **Executive** means the FOCUS Executive Committee.
5. **General meeting** means a General Meeting, Special General Meeting or Annual General Meeting of FOCUS;
6. **Member** means any full or associate member of FOCUS;
7. **PARSA** means the Australian National University Postgraduate and Research Students’ Association Inc.;
8. **Student** means any student of the University who retains membership of either PARSA or the Students’ Association;
9. **University** means the Australian National University.

Section 4: Affiliation

1. FOCUS is affiliated to the Grants and Affiliation Committee of the Association and PARSA and anything in the Constitution which is inconsistent with the Association’s Grants and Affiliation Regulations is null and void to the extent of inconsistency”.
2. FOCUS must fulfil its obligations under the Association’s Grants and Affiliation Regulations.

Section 5: Aims and Objectives

The aim of FOCUS is:

1. To bear witness in the university to the Lord Jesus Christ and to seek to lead others to a personal faith in Him as Lord and Saviour;
2. To encourage Christians to grow in love, knowledge and obedience to God through the application of Scripture to their lives;
3. To equip Christians for ministry, and encourage them to devote their lives to the service of Christ

Section 6: Doctrinal Basis

FOCUS upholds the fundamental truths of Christianity as contained in the bible including:

- 1) The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 2) The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- 3) The universal guilt and sinfulness of people since the fall, rendering people subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- 4) 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.
- 5) The conception of the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and his birth of the Virgin Mary.
- 6) The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.
- 7) The necessity of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective in the individual sinner, granting him/her repentance before God and trust in the Lord 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 Christ.

Section 7: Membership

A) Conditions of Membership

1. Full membership is open to all ordinary members of the Association and all ordinary members of PARSA who have paid FOCUS' subscription fee.
2. Associate membership is open to all other persons, subject to approval by the FOCUS Executive, who have paid the relevant FOCUS subscription fee.

3. Membership may be suspended or withdrawn by a resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of full members present and voting at a FOCUS General Meeting. Appeals against such a decision may be directed to the Executive, whose decision is final.
4. Associate members are ineligible to vote at any FOCUS General Meeting, may be charged a higher membership fee by FOCUS, and may be charged a higher fee to attend events staged by FOCUS, but otherwise are to have the same rights as full members.
5. A roll recording the name and membership number of all FOCUS members, and the student number of all full members, is to be held and kept up to date by the Executive.

B) Duration of Membership

1. This membership remains valid until the end of the first semester in the following calendar year. If this date passes and the member has not renewed their membership, their membership lapses and they must apply for a new membership.
2. The process for renewal of membership is identical to the process of applying for a new membership as per s7(A).
3. Upon acceptance as a member, a person shall remain a member as long as;
 - 1) They are eligible as per ss7(A) (1) and (2);
 - 2) They are active in supporting the objects of FOCUS; and
 - 3) They renew their membership as specified in s7(B)(3).
4. Every member of FOCUS has full voting rights at any General Meeting of FOCUS, including members nominating for election under section 10.

Section 8: **The Executive Committee**

There shall be an Executive Committee (the Executive), which shall be responsible for working with the AFES staff worker(s) to formulate and co-ordinate programs which fulfil the stated objects of FOCUS, in accordance with the Constitution.

A) The structure of the Executive

- 1) The Executive consists of four members, of which the FOCUS trustees must be a part.
- 2) The members of the Executive must either be full or associate members of FOCUS, and an absolute majority of the Executive must be full members of FOCUS.
- 3) The Executive is to be elected at each FOCUS Annual General Meeting by a vote involving the full members, but not the associate members, of FOCUS.
- 4) A meeting of the Executive is to be held at least once during each teaching period of the academic year, when and where the Executive sees fit.
- 5) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive is the next whole number above half the number of members of the current Executive.
- 6) The Executive has the power to co-opt other members as it sees fit.

- 7) The Executive has the power to fill any vacancy in the FOCUS Executive that may occur between Annual General Meetings.
- 8) The Executive has the power to do all things it believes to be in the best interests of FOCUS subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Grants and Affiliation Regulations of the Association.
- 9) Individual members of the Executive are bound by a resolution of a quorate Executive meeting to the extent that the resolution directly relates to their activities as a member of the Executive of FOCUS.

B) The Meetings of the Executive

1. The Executive shall meet whenever deemed necessary by the President.
2. Meetings must be held at least once during each teaching period of the academic year.
3. Seven (7) days' notice of the Executive meeting shall be given to all Executive members. The accidental omission to give notice of an Executive meeting to any Executive member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
4. Each meeting shall be chaired by the President, or at the President's discretion or absence, the Vice-President or another member of the Executive.
5. A motion before the Executive shall be deemed carried if passed by a majority of the Executive members present and voting. The chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her deliberative vote.
6. Minutes of all Executive meetings shall be recorded, and shall be available to members on request.

C) Vacancy of Executive members.

1. In accordance with section 8(A)(7), the Executive has the power to fill Executive positions if they are declared vacant.
2. An Executive position shall be declared vacant if that Executive member is:
 1. Absent from two (2) previous committee meetings without apology;
 2. Absent from three (3) previous committee meetings;
 3. No longer in whole-hearted agreement with the objects and doctrinal basis of FOCUS.

Section 9: General Meetings

1. A FOCUS Annual General Meeting is to held at least once each year, not more than 14 months after the previous FOCUS Annual General Meeting, at which the Executive Members of FOCUS are to be elected, and an Annual Report, statements of income and expenditure, and a current balance sheet are to be presented by the outgoing Executive.

2. A FOCUS General Meeting may be convened no more than once each during each teaching period of the academic year at the discretion of the Executive.
3. A Special General Meeting must be called by the Executive within 10 academic days of being presented with a petition signed by at least 10 members of FOCUS setting out the purpose for which such a meeting is requested.
4. The quorum for a FOCUS General Meeting shall be half the total membership of FOCUS or twenty (20) members, whichever is the lesser.
5. Except as set out in section 7(A)(3) and section 15(2) of this Constitution, decisions of a FOCUS General Meeting are by a simple majority of full members present in person who cast a vote.
6. The FOCUS President must, where possible, Chair, or appoint another member of FOCUS to Chair, a General Meeting.
7. Where this is not done, those full members present must elect a member of FOCUS to Chair.
8. The Chair is to conduct the General Meeting in accordance with the Standing Orders Regulations of the Association.
9. The Chair has a deliberative and casting vote.
10. Any resolution of a quorate General Meeting binds all members of the Executive to the extent that the resolution directly relates to their activities as a member of the FOCUS Executive.
11. The minutes of all General Meetings shall be recorded and available from the Secretary to any member of FOCUS on request.

Section 10: Election of Executive Members

- 1) Every member of FOCUS shall be eligible for election or appointment as a member of the Executive.
- 2) Candidates for election as Executive members shall be nominated by two (2) members and shall declare in writing:
 1. Their consent to nomination.
 2. Their unreserved agreement with the objects and doctrinal basis of FOCUS
- 3) Candidates for appointment as Executive members shall declare in writing:
 1. Their consent to appointment.
 2. Their unreserved agreement with the objects and doctrinal basis of FOCUS
- 4) A full election shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5) All nominations shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the Executive at least fourteen (14) days before an election, and a list of nominations and a ballot paper, if necessary, shall be served to all members at least seven (7) days before the election.
- 6) The offices taken up by the elected Executive members shall be decided at the first meeting of the new Executive.
- 7) Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. Executive members shall be elected by preferential voting.
- 8) Members may vote at the meeting or by returning their ballot papers, by post or otherwise, prior to a date specified in the notice of the meeting as the closing date for the reception of postal votes.

Section 11: Finances and Assets

1. The Executive may open, operate and close any bank account in accordance with banking regulations. Each account shall have as signatories the Treasurer and at least two other members of FOCUS as decided by the Executive.
2. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all income and expenditure of FOCUS.
3. All accounts of FOCUS shall be audited annually and after signature by the President and Treasurer shall be presented to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.
4. All assets and property of FOCUS shall be the responsibility of the Executive during the time of their office.

Section 12: Governing Principles

1. The principles of FOCUS shall be entirely non-denominational.
2. Any person who speaks at a FOCUS meeting or leads a FOCUS activity or represents FOCUS shall be in unreserved agreement with the doctrinal basis.
3. No joint arrangements are to be undertaken with societies or individuals, which do not uphold the truths stated in the doctrinal basis except when the Executive has resolved:
 1. That the proposed activity furthers the objects of FOCUS.
 2. That the distinctive evangelical witness of FOCUS to the gospel of Christ is not compromised.
 3. That the participants representing FOCUS both positively uphold the doctrinal basis and are publicly known to represent FOCUS.

Section 13: Affiliation with AFES

FOCUS is an affiliated society with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, and anything in this constitution or any act of FOCUS, which is inconsistent with the Constitution of the AFES, shall be decreed null and void insofar as it is inconsistent.

Section 14: Reporting to AFES

1. The AFES General Secretary shall be notified of any amendment to this constitution within two (2) weeks of such an amendment, and shall be notified of the names and addresses of the Executive within two (2) weeks of election.
2. At each meeting of the AFES General Committee, the President of FOCUS shall table a report of FOCUS activities for the past year, a list of current members of FOCUS, and details of any amendments to FOCUS constitution since the last AFES General Committee meeting.
3. Copies of the documents required in subsections 14(ii) and 9(iii) shall be sent to the AFES Area Committee Secretary.

Section 15: Constitutional Interpretation and Amendment

The Constitution shall not be altered except by resolution passed at a General Meeting in the following manner:

1. The mover of the proposed resolution for alteration must give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary of the Executive. Notice of the intention to amend the constitution and notice of such amendments shall be served to all members no less than three (3) weeks prior to the General Meeting called to deal with such alterations.
2. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Such resolutions shall not be passed unless carried by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the votes received. Members may vote by returning their ballot papers, by post or otherwise, prior to a date specified as the closing date for the reception of postal votes.
3. Two-thirds of the members or thirty (30) members, whichever is the lesser, shall constitute a quorum at such a meeting.

Section 16: Dissolution of FOCUS

1. FOCUS may be dissolved by:
 1. The decision of the current membership at a general meeting;
 2. The cessation of FOCUS operations due to no members being elected to the executive/trustee positions; or
 3. FOCUS ceasing to function through natural attrition.
2. The current membership of FOCUS may decide to dissolve FOCUS if there is a successful and unanimous vote in favour of dissolution.
3. This requires a quorum of twenty (20) or half the members of FOCUS, whichever is greater.
4. A motion for a dissolution vote to be conducted requires three (3) weeks notice to all members of FOCUS.
5. Such a vote shall be conducted by secret ballot.
6. In the case of FOCUS being dissolved, any excess assets, property, funds or money remaining after all debts and liabilities are paid shall not be given to members but shall be given or transferred to the ANU Students' Association.

Section 17: Non-Profit

The assets and income of FOCUS shall be used only for the promotion of FOCUS' objectives and no portion may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to members of FOCUS except as:

1. Bona-fide remuneration for services rendered by the members to FOCUS,

2. Repayment of expenses incurred on behalf of FOCUS,
3. Interest at a rate not exceeding interest at the rate for the time being which is or would be charged by FOCUS' bankers for money lent to FOCUS, and
4. Bona-fide rent for premises let to FOCUS.