

## **Newman Students' Union**

### **Bye Law A: MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Overview**

This Bye Law outlines the different types of membership of Newman Students' Union, the benefits associated with membership, and the process of opting out of membership.

#### **Types of Membership**

- 1) There shall be the following types of membership:
  - a) Full Membership (referred to in the Constitution as Members)
  - b) Associate Membership
  - c) Honorary Membership

#### **Full Membership**

- 2) As outlined in Clause 12 of Newman Students' Union Constitution, all enrolled students registered at Birmingham Newman University shall be full members of the Union, unless they choose to opt out of their membership, as is their right as stated in the Education Act 1994.
- 3) Full members shall be entitled to:
  - a) Participate in the activities of the Union
  - b) Use of the services and facilities of the Union
  - c) Hold one or more representative post in the Union
  - d) Vote and stand for office in the Union's Officer and Society elections.
  - e) Attend and vote at a Union General Meeting or Annual general Meeting.
- 4) Full membership shall be valid for the period of time the student is enrolled at Birmingham Newman University.

#### **Opting Out**

- 5) Every student has the option to opt out of membership of Newman Students' Union by writing to the President or the University Academic Registrar in accordance with Clause 13.3 of the Constitution.
- 6) A Member of the Union can opt out at any time during their period of membership.
- 7) A student who has opted out of Union membership will remain opted out for the duration of their enrolment at the University, or until they request to re-join the Union in writing to the President/University Academic Registrar.
  - a) If a student requests to re-join the Union during, or within 20 days of the opening of nominations for Union elections then they will not be entitled to stand in those elections.
- 8) A student who opts out of the Union shall continue to be able to:
  - a) Attend Union Events.
  - b) Participate in the activities of Union affiliated societies.
  - c) Access Union premises, services and facilities, such as the Advice Service.
- 9) A student who has opted out of Union membership shall not be able to:
  - a) Participate in the democratic and decision-making function of the Union.
  - b) Vote in any Union meetings, Union elections or referenda.
  - c) Stand for any elected or appointed representative role as defined in the Constitution or Bye Laws.

- d) Serve as a Student Trustee.

### **Associate & Honorary Membership**

10) Associate Membership may be granted to:

- Students who are not enrolled Birmingham Newman University students but who are studying an accredited Birmingham Newman University course at a partner institution.
- Carers of Full Members of the Union.
- Students visiting the University for a short period of time e.g. exchange students.
- Staff members of the Union.
- Birmingham Newman University staff.
- University alumni.

11) The Community & Wellbeing Committee shall have delegated responsibility from the Trustees to approve all applications for Associate Membership.

- a) On an annual basis the Community & Wellbeing Committee will set the fee for Associate Membership.
- b) Associate Membership shall be granted until the end of the current academic year.
- c) The Community & Wellbeing Committee reserves the right to set variable fees for each category of Associate Membership.
- d) The Community & Wellbeing Committee reserves the right to eject an application for Associate Membership. The decision of the Community & Wellbeing Committee is final.

12) Honorary Life Membership of the Union may be conferred by Student Council, subject to approval by the Trustee Board.

- a) Any full member may nominate someone for Honorary Life Membership. Outgoing Officer Trustees will automatically be nominated.
- b) Honorary Life Membership will normally be given to people or students who have done great work or given exceptional commitment to the Union.
- c) The maximum number of Honorary Life Memberships available each year will be four, in addition to the Officer Trustees at the end of their term of office. Student Council must consider the merits of each nomination based on the nominees' contribution to the Union.

13) Associate and Honorary members are entitled to:

- a) Access the Union's premises, services and facilities.
- b) Hold membership of Union affiliated societies. Note that Associate or Honorary members may not make up more than 15% of any affiliated society.
- c) Attend general and all student meetings as observers
- d) Access other services at the discretion of the Community & Wellbeing Committee

14) Associate and Honorary members are not entitled to:

- a) Vote in any Union meetings, Union elections or referenda.
- b) Stand in the Union's elections, or for any appointed representative role as defined in the Constitution or Bye Laws.

- c) Participate in any other democratic processes including taking up a committee position in any society.
- d) Compete, take part in performances by or represent externally any affiliated society of which they are a member.

15) Associate and Honorary Life Memberships shall terminate:

- a) If the Associate or Honorary Member opts out by giving written notice to the President.
- b) If it is resolved by the Board of Trustees that, for good reason, it is in the best interests of the Union that their membership is terminated. In this case, the Trustee Board must give at least 14 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Trustees at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is being proposed. The Member (or their representative who does not need to be a member) will be allowed to make representations to the meeting.
- c) Upon death
- d) In the case of Associate Members, at the end of the academic year that the membership is granted, unless a further application is made and granted as per Point 11 above.