

The Companies Act 2006

Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital

Articles of Association

of

The Open University Students Association

Company number 12031028

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BACKGROUND

- A. The Open University Students Association (The Association) is a students' union within the meaning of the Education Act. The Association is devoted to the educational interests and welfare of its Student Members.
- B. The Association will seek at all times to:
- (i) act exclusively for and within its charitable objects (at Article 4 of these Articles of Association);
 - (ii) ensure that the diversity of its Student Membership is recognised and that equal access is available to all Student Members of whatever origin or orientation;
 - (iii) pursue its aims and objectives independent of any political party or religious group; and
 - (iv) pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society.
- C. These Articles have been structured to give the Board of Trustees reasonable authority to manage the affairs of The Association in a professional manner. The Student Members enjoy the right, which must be exercised in accordance with charity law, to elect a proportion of the Trustees and, if necessary, to dismiss Trustees. The Board of Trustees will give careful consideration to the views of Student Members.
- D. Under the Education Act, The Open University has a statutory duty to ensure that The Association operates in a fair and democratic manner and is held to proper account for its finances. The Association therefore works alongside The Open University in ensuring that the affairs of The Association are properly conducted and that the educational and welfare needs of The Association's Student Members are met.

- E. For the avoidance of doubt this section “Background” is not part of the Articles and shall not be taken into account in their interpretation.

PART 1

KEY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Definitions and Interpretation

The meanings of any defined terms used in these Articles are set out in Article 49. If any dispute arises in relation to the interpretation of these Articles or any of the Bye-Laws, it shall be resolved by the Board of Trustees.

2. Name

The name of the company is The Open University Students Association. In these Articles it is called “The Association”.

3. Registered Office

The Registered Office of The Association is Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

4. Objects

4.1 The objects of The Association are the advancement of education of Students at the Open University for the public benefit by:

4.1.1 defending the principles of equal opportunity and of open access to the Open University regardless of academic qualifications or financial circumstances;

4.1.2 promoting the interests and welfare of Students at the Open University during their course of study and representing and supporting Students;

4.1.3 being the recognised representative channel between Students and the Open University and any other external bodies;

4.1.4 asserting that all students studying with the Open University have the right to have their views heard and acknowledged by the Open University; and

4.1.5 providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.

4.2 Nothing in these Articles shall authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and/or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

5. Powers

To further its objects, but not to further any other purpose, The Association may:

- 5.1 provide services and facilities for Student Members;
- 5.2 establish, support, promote and operate a network of student activities for Student Members;
- 5.3 support any fundraising activities carried out by Student Members for Open University Student Educational Trust (OUSET), including the provision of administrative support, banking facilities (so far as permitted by law) and acting as a holding trustee of any funds raised;
- 5.4 alone or with other organisations:
 - 5.4.1 carry out campaigning activities;
 - 5.4.2 seek to influence public opinion; and
 - 5.4.3 make representations to and seek to influence governmental and other bodies and institutions regarding the reform, development and implementation of appropriate policies, legislation and regulations, provided that all such activities shall be confined to the activities which an English and Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish charity may properly undertake and provided that The Association complies with the Education Act and any guidance published by the Charity Commission, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI).
- 5.5 provide or procure the provision of advice, counselling and guidance;
- 5.6 write, make, commission, print, publish or distribute materials or information in any medium or assist in these activities;
- 5.7 promote, initiate, develop or carry out education and training and arrange, provide or assist with exhibitions, lectures, meetings, seminars, displays or classes;
- 5.8 promote, encourage, carry out or commission research, surveys, studies or other work, making the useful results available;

- 5.9 provide or appoint others to provide guidance and representation;
- 5.10 enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies;
- 5.11 co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies, statutory authorities and other bodies and exchange information and advice with them;
- 5.12 establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any other organisations and subscribe, lend or guarantee money or property for charitable purposes;
- 5.13 become a member, associate or affiliate of or act as trustee or appoint trustees of any other organisation (including without limitation any charitable trust of permanent endowment property held for any of the charitable purposes included in The Association's objects);
- 5.14 undertake and execute charitable trusts;
- 5.15 support, set up, amalgamate or merge with other charities with objects identical or similar to The Association's objects;
- 5.16 pay out of the funds of The Association the costs of forming and registering The Association;
- 5.17 accept (or disclaim) gifts of money and any other property;
- 5.18 raise funds by way of subscription, donation or otherwise;
- 5.19 acquire or rent any property of any kind and any rights or privileges in and over property and construct, maintain, alter and equip any buildings or facilities;
- 5.20 dispose of or deal with all or any of its property with or without payment and subject to such conditions as the Trustees think fit (in exercising this power The Association must comply as appropriate with the Charities Act);
- 5.21 borrow or raise and secure the payment of money for any purpose including for the purposes of investment or of raising funds, including charging property as security for the repayment of money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation (The Association must comply as appropriate with the Charities Act if it wishes to mortgage land);
- 5.22 make grants or loans of money and give guarantees;

- 5.23 set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure, and impose restrictions, which may be revocable or irrevocable, on the use of any property of The Association, including (without limitation) by creating permanent endowment;
- 5.24 invest and deal with The Association's money not immediately required for its objects in or upon any investments, securities, or property;
- 5.25 delegate the management of investments to an appropriately experienced and qualified Financial Expert provided that:
 - 5.25.1 the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Trustees;
 - 5.25.2 every transaction is reported in a timely manner to the Trustees;
 - 5.25.3 the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly by the Trustees;
 - 5.25.4 the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation at any time;
 - 5.25.5 the investment policy and the delegation arrangements are reviewed regularly;
 - 5.25.6 all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified in a timely manner to the Trustees on receipt; and
 - 5.25.7 the Financial Expert may not do anything outside the powers of the Trustees;
- 5.26 arrange for investments or other property of The Association to be held in the name of a nominee or nominees and pay any reasonable fee required;
- 5.27 lend money and give credit to, take security for such loans or credit and guarantee or give security for the performance of contracts by any person or company;
- 5.28 open and operate bank accounts and other facilities for banking and draw, accept, endorse, negotiate, discount, issue or execute negotiable instruments such as promissory notes or bills of exchange;
- 5.29 trade in the course of carrying out any of its objects and carry on any other trade which is not expected to give rise to taxable profits;
- 5.30 incorporate and acquire Subsidiary Companies to carry on any trade;
- 5.31 make reasonable provision for the payment of pensions and other retirement benefits to or on behalf of employees and former employees of The Association and to their

spouses and dependants, to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Limitation on private benefits);

- 5.32 employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of The Association, including employees, consultants and professional or other advisers. The Association may employ or remunerate a Trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Limitation on private benefits) of these Articles and provided it complies with the conditions of that clause;
- 5.33 insure the property of The Association against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies as are considered necessary by the Trustees to protect The Association;
- 5.34 provide indemnity insurance for the Trustees or any other officer of The Association in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, Section 189 of the Charities Act (provided that in the case of an officer who is not a Trustee, the second and third references to “charity trustees” in the said Section 189 shall be treated as references to officers of the Charity); and
- 5.35 do all such other lawful things as may further The Association’s objects.

6. Limitation on private benefits

6.1 Application of income and property

6.1.1 The income and property of The Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects save that:

- (a) A Trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of The Association or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by them when acting on behalf of The Association.
- (b) A Trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity cover purchased at The Association’s expense in accordance with, and subject to the provisions of section 189 of the Charities Act.

6.1.2 No part of the income and property of The Association may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any Company Law Member unless the payment is permitted by Article 6.3.

6.1.3 Nothing in this clause shall prevent a Trustee or Connected Person receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by clauses 6.2 – 6.3 of these Articles.

6.2 General provisions

No Trustee or Connected Person may:

6.2.1 buy or receive any goods or services from The Association on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;

6.2.2 sell goods, services or any interest in land to The Association;

6.2.3 be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, The Association, save as specified at clause 6.3; or

6.2.4 receive any other financial benefit from the Association

unless the payment is permitted by Article 6.1.1 or Article 6.3 or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission (and, so far as necessary, the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator or the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland).

6.3 Scope and powers permitting Trustees or Connected persons' benefit

A Trustee may receive the following benefits from The Association, subject to the requirements of Article 39 (Conflicts of Interest), where applicable:

6.3.1 A Trustee or Connected Person may receive a benefit from The Association in the same way as any other beneficiary of The Association.

6.3.2 A Trustee or Connected Person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to The Association where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 185 to 188 of the Charities Act.

6.3.3 A Trustee or Connected Person may receive interest on money lent to The Association at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).

6.3.5 A Trustee or Connected Person may receive rent for premises let by the Trustee or Connected Person to The Association. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The Trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

6.3.6 A Trustee or Connected Person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of The Association on the same terms as members of the public.

6.3.7 The Association may employ Officer Trustees and Connected Persons and provide them with such reasonable remuneration under contracts of employment as the other Trustees unanimously consider to be in the best interests of The Association, provided that:

- a) such employment shall not extend to the provision of services for acting as Trustee;
- b) this provision may not apply to more than half of the Trustees in any financial year (and for these purposes such provision shall be treated as applying to a Trustee if it applies to a person who is a Connected Person in relation to that Trustee);
- c) the restrictions contained in sections 185 to 188 of the Charities Act (remuneration of charity trustees providing services to charity) shall apply to any employment of Trustees and Connected Persons which occurs under this Article as though those sections referred to the employment of Trustees and Connected Persons; and
- d) The Association shall comply at all times with the provisions of the Education Act.

7. Liability of Company Law Members

7.1 The liability of each Company Law Member is limited to £1, being the amount that each Company Law Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of The Association in the event of its being wound up while they are a Company Law Member or within one year after they cease to be a Company Law Member, for:

- 7.1.1 payment of The Association's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a Company Law Member;
- 7.1.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- 7.1.3 adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

8. Dissolution

8.1 At any time before, and in expectation of, the winding up or dissolution of The Association, the Trustees may resolve that any net assets of The Association after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on the dissolution or winding up of The Association be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:

- 8.1.1 directly for the objects of The Association; or

8.1.2 to any charity or charities:

- (a) for purposes similar to the objects of The Association; or
- (b) for use for particular purposes that fall within the objects of The Association.

8.2 In no circumstances shall the net assets of The Association be paid to or distributed among the Company Law Members of The Association under this Article 8.

8.3 If no resolution is passed in accordance with Article 8.1, the net assets of The Association shall be applied for such charitable purposes as are directed by the Charity Commission, OSCR or CCNI as appropriate.

9. Reviewing and Amending the Articles

9.1 The Association Trustees and the Open University shall review the provisions of these Articles in 2022 and at intervals of every four years thereafter.

9.2 No amendment shall be made which would have the effect of The Association ceasing to be a charity.

9.3 Article 4 (Objects) and Article 8 (Dissolution) may not be amended without the prior written consent of the Charity Commission. No provision of these Articles may be amended to permit any benefit to any member, Trustee, or connected person which was not previously permitted without the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.

9.4 All amendments to the Articles shall require

- (a) the approval of at least 75% of the Student Members voting at the Association's Conference; and
- (b) a Special Resolution under the Companies Acts (comprising at least 75% of the Company Law Members),

save that requirement (a) shall be disapplied when an equivalent vote by Student Members has effectively already approved the substance of a proposed amendment to the Articles, for example, when Student Members have approved a change to the Bye-Laws which requires a consequential amendment of the Articles to be effective.

9.5 All amendments to these Articles must also be approved by the Open University Council as required for the purposes of compliance with the Education Act.

PART 2

MEMBERS

10. Members of The Association

10.1 Subject to Articles 10.1.2 and 12, the “Members” of The Association shall be as follows:

10.1.1 the Student Members who shall enjoy the rights and responsibilities of Student Members as subsequently set out in these Articles; and

10.1.2 the Company Law Members, who shall be the sole members of the Association for the purposes of the Companies Acts.

11. Student Members

11.1 The Student Members shall be as follows:

11.1.1 each and every registered student, aged 18 or over, who has not opted out by notifying the Chief Executive of their wish not to be a Member of the Association;

11.1.2 any student holding an elected or appointed position specified in these Articles who was a registered student at the time of such election or appointment;

11.1.3 any student who has achieved their registered qualification and applied for and been granted extended membership to cover a gap in registered student status not exceeding twenty-four months;

11.1.4 any student under the age of 18, who shall have associate membership, the rights and privileges of which shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Trustees;

11.1.5 those granted various types of honorary membership which shall not confer any rights under these Articles;

11.1.6 the Immediate Past President who shall not have any specific rights under these Articles by virtue of holding that title;

11.1.7 Only those students covered by Articles 11.1.1 to 11.1.3 above shall be eligible to hold any elected position within The Association.

- 11.2 Student Membership shall not be transferable and shall cease on death. A Student Member shall cease to be a Student Member of The Association if:
- 11.2.1 they cease to be in compliance with Article 11;
 - 11.2.2 in the case of Student Members, other than the Officer Trustees, a resolution is passed at a meeting of the Trustees at which at least half of the Trustees are present resolving that the Student Member be expelled on the ground that their continued Student Membership is harmful to, or is likely to become harmful to, the interests of The Association. Such a resolution shall not be passed unless the Student Member has been given at least 14 clear days' notice that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify expulsion, and has been afforded a reasonable opportunity of being heard by or of making written representations to the Trustees.
- 11.3 Student Members' details shall be as held on The Open University database of registered students in the case of the categories specified in Articles 11.1.1 and 11.1.4 and as held on The Association's database in the case of the categories specified in Articles 11.1.2, 11.1.3, 11.1.5 and 11.1.6.
- 11.4 Student Members of The Association shall be entitled to the benefits set out in the Code of Practice.

12. Trustees as Company Law Members

- 12.1 Until and including the Effective Date, the subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of The Association shall be the Company Law Members. Thereafter, the Trustees from time to time shall be the only Company Law Members.
- 12.2 A Trustee shall become a Company Law Member on becoming a Trustee. In agreeing to become a Trustee, each new Trustee is also agreeing to become a Company Law Member.
- 12.3 The names of the Company Law Members must be entered in the register of Company Law Members.

13 Termination of Company Law Membership

- 13.1 A Company Law Member shall cease to be a Company Law Member if they cease to be a Trustee.
- 13.2 Company Law Membership is not transferable and shall cease on death.

14. Code of Conduct

- 14.1 The Board of Trustees will establish and monitor a “code of conduct” that all Student Members shall be required to adhere to, including when Student Members are involved in activities or at events that are administered or organised by The Association.
- 14.2 The code of conduct or disciplinary procedure for Student Members may include a range of sanctions for breach of the code of conduct by a Student Member, including the suspension or removal of membership or some of the rights and privileges of Student Membership, including the holding of office.

15. Conferences

- 15.1 The Association shall hold a biennial Conference which shall be The Association’s General Meeting. Not more than 30 months shall pass between the date of one Conference and the next. The Conference shall be held at such time and place as the Trustees shall think suitable. The Conference shall have the power to refer back any decision made by the Board of Trustees and Student Leadership Team subject to Article 23. For the avoidance of doubt, Conference is not a Company Law Meeting of the Company Law Members.
- 15.2 The Trustees may call an Extraordinary Conference at any time. The Trustees may also call such a meeting on receiving a requisition from the Student Leadership Team or from a petition signed by a number of students as defined in the relevant Bye-Laws.
- 15.3 Biennial and extraordinary meetings of Conference will be carried out by a combination of face to face and online components.
- 15.4 Biennial Conference shall be called by at least ten calendar weeks’ written notice and an extraordinary meeting by at least six calendar weeks’ written notice.
- 15.5 Every notice calling a meeting of Conference shall specify the place, dates and time of the meeting. If the meeting is an extraordinary meeting of Conference the agenda must say so, the only item on the agenda shall be the motion from the Trustees in response to a requisition under Article 15.2. If the meeting is a Biennial Conference, the notice must say so and the business to be transacted shall include:
 - 15.5.1 ratification of minutes of previous biennial Conference;
 - 15.5.2 receiving the report of the Trustees and the Student Leadership Team on The Association’s activities since the previous biennial Conference;
 - 15.5.3 receiving a report on policy statements for ratification;

- 15.5.4 receiving the accounts of The Association for the completed financial years since the previous biennial Conference;
 - 15.5.5 appointment or reappointment of the auditors;
 - 15.5.6 approving the list of affiliations of The Association; and
 - 15.5.7 receiving open questions to the Board of Trustees and Student Leadership Team by the Student Members
- 15.6 The notice shall be given to every active Student Member and shall be openly published and advertised across The Open University community.
- 15.7 No business shall be transacted at any Conference unless a quorum is present. No decision of Conference shall be valid if the number of delegates participating in that decision is less than 40% of registered delegates, the count of delegates will be aggregated across face to face and virtual components.
- 15.8 The President shall preside as Chair of Conference or shall appoint a Chair from amongst The Association's Officers or Immediate Past President.
- 15.9 Neither the Student Leadership Team nor the Board of Trustees shall select Conference delegates.
- 15.10 Trustees and members are expected to attend and participate in all the component parts of Conferences but shall only be entitled to be registered to exercise voting rights at one component of each Conference.
- 15.11 Each registered delegate shall have one vote on all matters determined by Conference.
- 15.12 Every Student Member has the right to register an interest to attend Conference and, where successfully appointed as a delegate member, have the right to vote. A resolution put to the vote of a Conference shall be decided by every delegate member having a single vote.
- 15.13 Every resolution put to the vote of Conference shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast, aggregated across component parts, unless these Articles provide otherwise.

16. Company Law Meetings

- 16.1 The Trustees may call a Company Law Meeting at any time.
- 16.2 Such meetings must be held in accordance with the provisions regarding such meetings in the Companies Acts. Each Company Law Member shall have one vote.

16.3 A Company Law Meeting shall only be required where The Association wishes to pass a company law resolution (other than by way of written resolution) in accordance with the Articles and/or the Companies Acts.

17. Written Resolutions

17.1 Subject to this Article 17 and Article 9.4, a written resolution agreed by:

17.1.1 Company Law Members representing a simple majority of the eligible Company Law Members; or

17.1.2 (in the case of a special resolution) Company Law Members representing not less than 75% of the eligible Company Law Members;

shall be effective.

17.2 On a written resolution each Company Law Member shall have one vote.

17.3 A written resolution is not a special resolution unless it stated that it was proposed as a special resolution.

17.4 A copy of the proposed written resolution must be sent to every eligible Company Law Member together with a statement informing the Company Law Member how to signify their agreement and the date by which the resolution must be passed if it is not to lapse.

17.5 In relation to a resolution proposed as a written resolution of The Association the eligible Company Law Members are the Company Law Members who would have been entitled to vote on the resolution on the Circulation Date of the resolution.

17.6 The required majority of eligible Company Law Members must signify their agreement to the written resolution within the period of 28 days beginning with the Circulation Date.

17.7 Written resolutions must be sent to The Association's auditors in accordance with the Companies Acts.

17.8 A Company Law Member signifies their agreement to a proposed written resolution when The Association receives from them (or from someone acting on their behalf) an authenticated document:

17.8.1 identifying the resolution to which it relates; and

17.8.2 indicating the Company Law Member's agreement to the resolution.

17.9 For the purposes of Article 17:

17.9.1 a document sent or supplied in Hard Copy Form is sufficiently authenticated if it is signed by the person sending or supplying it; and

17.9.2 a document sent or supplied in Electronic Form is sufficiently authenticated if:-

17.9.2.1 the identity of the sender is confirmed in a manner specified by The Association; or

17.9.2.2 where no such manner has been specified by The Association, if the communication contains or is accompanied by a statement of the identity of the sender and The Association has no reason to doubt the truth of that statement.

17.10 If The Association gives an electronic address in any document containing or accompanying a written resolution, it will be deemed to have agreed that any document or information relating to that resolution may be sent by Electronic Means to that address (subject to any conditions or limitations specified in the document).

PART 3

TRUSTEES

APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF TRUSTEES

18. Appointment of Trustees

18.1 Those persons notified to the Registrar of Companies as the first directors of The Association shall be the first Trustees until and including the Effective Date. On the day immediately following the Effective Date, those persons elected and/or appointed by the Unincorporated Charity as its Board of Trustees for the Academic Years 2018–2020 shall be the Trustees of The Association and shall be deemed to be The Officer Trustees, Student Trustees and Lay Trustees as appropriate for the purposes of these Articles. Thereafter, the Trustees shall be made up as set out in Article 18.2.

18.2 The Trustees shall be made up of the following persons:

18.2.1 not more than 3 Officer Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 19;

18.2.2 not more than 6 Student Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 20; and

18.2.3 not more than 3 External Trustees, appointed in accordance with Article 21.

18.3 Trustees may be elected or appointed to serve up to four terms in total. For the avoidance of doubt, these terms may be consecutive or non-consecutive.

19. Officer Trustees

Up to 3 Officer Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot of Student Members as defined in Articles 11.1.1 or 11.1.3 at an election held in accordance with the Bye-Laws. The Officer Trustees shall be elected to posts set out in the Bye-Laws. The Officer Trustees shall remain in office for a term of two years commencing in accordance with the Bye-Laws. Each Officer Trustee must be a Student Member as defined by Articles 11.1.1 or 11.1.3 at the time of their election.

20. Student Trustees

Up to 6 Student Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot of Student Members as defined in Articles 11.1.1 or 11.1.3 at an election held in accordance with the Bye-Laws. The Student Trustees shall remain in office for a term of up to two years commencing in accordance with the Bye-Laws. Each Student Trustee must be a Student Member as defined by Articles 11.1.1 or 11.1.3 at the time of their election.

21. External Trustees

Up to 3 External Trustees may be appointed by a 75% majority vote of the Student Leadership Team Subject to Article 22, External Trustees shall remain in office for a term of up to two years commencing in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

22. Disqualification, Resignation and Removal of Trustees

22.1 The office of a Trustee shall be vacated if:

22.1.1 They cease to be a company director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Acts or are prohibited from being a company director by law;

22.1.2 They are disqualified under the Charities Act from acting as a trustee of a charity;

22.1.3 They resign by notice to The Association (but only if at least four Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect);

22.1.4 They reasonably believe that they are suffering from mental or physical disorder and are incapable of acting as a trustee and they resolve that they be removed from office;

- 22.1.5 They fail to attend two consecutive meetings of the Trustees and in the opinion of the Trustees there are no mitigating circumstances for that failure and the Trustees therefore resolve that they be removed for this reason;
- 22.1.6 They are removed from office under Article 22.3.1, Article 22.3.2 or Article 22.2, except that these powers to remove a Trustee shall not be effective if as a result of the removal the Trustees would no longer be able to achieve a quorum under Article 34.
- 22.2 The office of Trustee shall be vacated if a majority resolution of no confidence is passed by the Trustees. For the avoidance of doubt:
- 22.2.1 the Trustee concerned and any Trustee who has a conflict of interest in relation to the matter shall not vote on this resolution and quorum shall be adjusted accordingly in accordance with Article 39;
- 22.2.2 a resolution to remove a Trustee in accordance with this Article shall not be passed unless the Trustee concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been afforded a reasonable opportunity of being heard by or making written representations to the Trustees; and
- 22.2.3 a Trustee removed from office in accordance with this Article shall be entitled to appeal the decision to remove them to an Appeals Panel within 14 days of the resolution. The Appeals Panel shall be made up of a nominee of The Open University, one independent person and a chief executive/general manager and officer of another students' union. The independent person shall be a Student Member who is not a Trustee or a member of the Student Leadership Team. The selection of the members of the Appeals Panel and its procedures shall be set out in the Bye-Laws.
- 22.3 The office of Trustee shall be vacated if a majority resolution of no confidence is passed by the Student Leadership Team. For the avoidance of doubt:
- 22.3.1 a motion of no confidence in the Trustee is passed by a simple majority of the Student Leadership Team provided that at least two thirds of the Student Leadership Team members in office at the time cast a vote. Such a motion shall only be triggered by a Secure Petition of no confidence signed by at least 100 Student Members;
- 22.3.2 a motion of no confidence in the Trustee is passed by a 66% majority in a vote of the Student Leadership Team.

- 22.3.3 a resolution to remove a Trustee in accordance with this Article shall not be passed unless the Trustee concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been afforded a reasonable opportunity of being heard by or making written representations to the Student Leadership Team; and
- 22.3.4 a Trustee removed from office in accordance with this Article shall be entitled to appeal the decision to remove them to an Appeals Panel within 14 days of the resolution. The Appeals Panel shall be made up of a nominee of The Open University, one independent person and a chief executive/general manager and officer of another students' union. The independent person shall be a Student Member who is not a Trustee or a member of the Student Leadership Team. The selection of the members of the Appeals Panel and its procedures shall be set out in the Bye-Laws.
- 22.4 If an Officer Trustee resigns, is disqualified or removed from office at any time prior to the commencement of their term of office, the vacancy that results on the Board of Trustees shall be filled in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
- 22.5 If an Officer Trustee resigns, is disqualified or removed from office after the commencement of their term of office the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the Bye-Laws. Any person elected under this Article may be required to assume the responsibilities of the Officer Trustee.
- 22.6 If a Student Trustee resigns, is disqualified or removed from office at any time the vacancy that results on the Board of Trustees shall be filled in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
- 22.7 If an External Trustee resigns, is disqualified or removed from office at any time the vacancy that results on the Board of Trustees shall be filled in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
- 22.8 The continuing Trustees, or a sole remaining Trustee, may act notwithstanding any vacancies on their number. However, if and so long as the number of Trustees is less than the number fixed by Article 34, the Trustees may only act to increase the number of Trustees (including arranging an election) so that there is a quorum.

TRUSTEES' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

23. Trustees' general authority

23.1 The Board of Trustees is responsible for the management and administration of The Association and (subject to the relevant legislation at the time, these Articles and the Bye-Laws) may exercise all the powers of The Association.

23.2 No alteration of these Articles or the Bye-Laws shall invalidate any prior act of the Trustees which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made.

23.3 The Board's powers under Article 23 shall include but not be limited to responsibility for:

23.3.1 the governance of The Association;

23.3.2 the budget of The Association; and

23.3.3 the strategy of The Association.

23.4 The Board of Trustees may override any decision or Policy made by the Student Members at Conference or by the Student Leadership Team which the Trustees consider (in their absolute discretion):

23.4.1 has or may have any financial implications for The Association;

23.4.2 is or may be in breach of, contrary to or otherwise inconsistent with the Charities Act or Companies Acts or any other legal requirements (including ultra vires);

23.4.3 is not or may not be in the best interests of The Association or all or any of its charitable objects; or

23.4.4 will or may otherwise affect the discharge of any or all of the Board's duties or responsibilities referred to in Article 23.3.

23.5 All acts done by a meeting of Trustees, or of a committee of the Trustees, shall be valid, even if it is later discovered that any Trustee who participated in the vote:

23.5.1 was not properly appointed;

23.5.2 was disqualified from holding office;

23.5.3 had vacated office; or

23.5.4 was not entitled to vote.

24. Delegation of Trustees' Powers and Functions

- 24.1 Subject to the Articles, charity law, company law and the education act, or any other relevant legislation, the Trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to any committee.
- 24.2 Subject to the Articles, the Trustees may delegate the implementation of their decisions or day to day management of the affairs of The Association to any person or committee.
- 24.3 Any delegation by the Trustees may be:
- 24.3.1 by such means;
 - 24.3.2 to such an extent;
 - 24.3.3 in relation to such matters or territories; and
 - 24.3.4 on such terms and conditions as they think fit.
- 24.4 The Trustees may authorise further delegation of the relevant powers, functions, implementation of decisions or day to day management by any person or committee to whom they are delegated.
- 24.5 The Trustees may revoke any delegation in whole or part or alter its terms and conditions.
- 24.6 The Trustees may by power of attorney or otherwise appoint any person to be the agent of The Association for such purposes and on such conditions as they determine.
- 24.7 Such delegations of powers or functions will be captured in the Association's Scheme of Delegation, which will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

25. Committees

- 25.1 In the case of delegation to committees:
- 25.1.1 the resolution making the delegation must specify the terms of reference for the committee, including but not limited to those who shall serve or be asked to serve on such committee (although the resolution may allow the committee to make co-options up to a specified number);

- 25.1.2. subject to Article 25.3, the composition of any committee shall be entirely in the discretion of the Trustees and may include such of their number (if any) as the resolution may specify;
 - 25.1.3 the deliberations of any committee must be reported regularly to the Trustees and any resolution passed or decision taken by any committee must be reported promptly to the Trustees and every committee must appoint a secretary for that purpose;
 - 25.1.4 no committee shall knowingly incur expenditure or liability on behalf of The Association except where authorised by the Trustees or in accordance with a budget which has been approved by the Trustees;
 - 25.1.5 the delegation will be included in the next revision of the Scheme of Delegation and the Board of Trustees will always retain responsibility for oversight of the committee, including agreeing any revision to the terms of reference of that committee and ensuring the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the entire governance structure.
- 25.2 The Trustees must establish the following committees (which is a non-exhaustive list) in accordance with their powers under Articles 24 and 25.1:
- 25.2.1 Appointments Committee;
 - 25.2.2 Finance, Resources and Risk Committee;
 - 25.2.3 Safeguarding Panel;
- 25.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the Trustees may (in accordance with Articles 24 and 25.1) delegate all financial matters to any committee provided that such committee shall include at least one Trustee. The Trustees may empower such committee to resolve upon the operation of any bank account according to such mandate as it shall think fit provided that the signature or agreement of at least one Trustee shall be required for payments above a certain amount as set out in the Bye-Laws and provided always that no committee shall incur expenditure on behalf of The Association except in accordance with a budget which has been approved by the Trustees.
- 25.4 The meetings and proceedings of any committee shall be governed by the Articles regulating the meetings and proceedings of the Trustees so far as they apply and are not superseded by any Bye-Laws.

26 The Student Leadership Team

- 26.1 The Student Leadership Team will consist of the following elected members:
- 26.1.1 Between 6 and 10 officers with defined remits as agreed by the Student Leadership Team and Board of Trustees;
 - 26.1.2 One representative for each Nation and Europe not exceeding 6 in total;
 - 26.1.3 Representation from each of the Faculties but not more than one representative per Faculty;
 - 26.1.4 Other representatives as defined in the Bye-Laws but not to exceed 2 extra members;
 - 26.1.5 The Student Member of The Open University Council will also be a member of the Student Leadership Team.
 - 26.1.6 Between three and five representatives with defined remits as agreed in the Bye-Laws to support underrepresented students.
- 26.2 The Student Leadership Team shall meet in accordance with the Bye-Laws. The Student Leadership Team's responsibility shall not include the duties of the Trustees as set out in Article 23 but shall include representation and campaigning work and the implementation of Policy save in so far as these responsibilities have not been delegated to another committee.
- 26.3 The Chief Executive and The Association's senior management team may attend meetings of the Student Leadership Team at the request of the Student Leadership Team.
- 26.4 The Officers and the second Student Member of the Open University Council may meet formally as a team from time to time to discuss such matters as they may deem appropriate but shall make no decision binding upon the Student Leadership Team and will make minutes of such meetings available to the Student Leadership Team.
- 26.5 The Student Leadership Team shall have the authority to:
- 26.5.1 represent the voice of the Students;
 - 26.5.2 subject to Article 23, set the Policy of the Association;

26.5.3 make, repeal and amend the Bye-Laws jointly with the Trustees in accordance with Article 23;

26.5.4 receive a quarterly report from the Trustees; and

26.5.5 appoint honorary members in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

26.6 The composition and proceedings of the Student Leadership Team shall be set out in the Bye-Laws. No Member may hold more than one seat on the Student Leadership Team at any one time.

27. Delegation of day-to-day management powers to the Chief Executive

In the case of delegation of the day-to-day management of The Association to the Chief Executive:

27.1 the delegated power shall be to manage The Association by implementing the policy and strategy adopted by and within a budget approved by the Trustees and if applicable to advise the Trustees in relation to such policy, strategy and budget;

27.2 the Trustees shall provide the Chief Executive with a description of their role and the extent of their authority;

27.3 the Chief Executive shall report regularly to the Trustees on the activities undertaken in managing The Association and provide them regularly with management accounts which are sufficient to explain the financial position of The Association; and

27.4 the Trustees shall provide the Chief Executive with a performance management structure to aid their work plan and development.

DECISION-MAKING BY TRUSTEES

28. Proceedings of Trustees

Subject to the provisions of these Articles and the Bye-Laws, the Trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit.

29. Trustees' meetings

29.1 The Trustees shall hold a minimum of four meetings in any twelve-month period.

- 29.2 Three Trustees may call a meeting of the Trustees.
- 29.3 Guests or observers can attend meetings of the Trustees at the discretion of the Chair.

30. Length of notice

A Trustees' meeting shall be called by at least 14 clear days' notice unless either:

- 31.1 all the Trustees agree to shorter notice; or
- 31.2 urgent circumstances require shorter notice.

31. Contents of notice

Every notice calling a Trustees' meeting shall specify the place, date and time of the meeting and the general particulars of all business to be considered at such meeting.

32. Service of notice

Notice of Trustees' meetings shall be sent to each Trustee by post or by Electronic Means.

33. Quorum

The quorum for Trustees' meetings shall be five. This should include at least one Officer Trustee, one Student Trustee and one Lay Trustee. Where the resolution or issue under discussion concerns a matter in respect of which some or all of the Trustees have a conflict of interest, the quorum shall be five.

34. Chair and Deputy Chair

- 34.1 The Trustees shall appoint the Chair with the President acting ex officio as Deputy Chair. The appointment would require ratification by a majority of the Student Leadership Team.
- 34.2 In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, another Trustee appointed by the Trustees present shall preside as Chair of the Meeting.

35. Decision making by Trustees at meetings

Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have.

36. Virtual meetings

A Trustees' meeting may be held by electronic means within an agreed timeframe provided that all Trustees have access to full participation in the meeting.

37. Trustee decisions without a meeting

37.1 The Trustees may take a majority decision without a Trustees' meeting by indicating to each other by any means, including without limitation by Electronic Means, that they share a common view on a matter. Such a decision may, but need not, take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which have been signed by each Trustee or to which each Trustee has otherwise indicated agreement in writing. A quorum as defined in Article 33 shall apply.

37.2 A Trustees' resolution which is made in accordance with Article 37 shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Trustees duly convened and held, provided the following conditions are complied with:

37.2.1. approval from each Trustee must be received by one person being either such person as all the Trustees shall have nominated in advance for that purpose or such other person as volunteers if necessary ("the Recipient"), which person should be confirmed by prior agreement of the Trustees and may, for the avoidance of doubt, be one of the Trustees;

37.2.2 following receipt of response from all of the Trustees, the Recipient shall communicate to all of the Trustees by any means whether the resolution has been formally approved by the Trustees in accordance with these Articles;

38.2.3 the date of the decision shall be the date of the communication from the Recipient confirming formal approval; and

38.2.4 the Recipient prepares a minute of the decision in accordance with Article 42.

38. Conflicts of Interest

38.1 Whenever a matter is to be discussed at a meeting or decided in accordance with Article 38 and a Trustee has a Personal Interest in respect of that matter then they must:

38.1.1 declare their interest to the Trustees;

- 38.1.2 remain only for such part of the meeting as in the view of the other Trustees is necessary to inform the debate;
 - 38.1.3 not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting (or decision-making process); and
 - 38.1.4 withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter.
- 38.2 If any question arises as to whether a Trustee has a Personal Interest, the question shall be decided by a majority decision of the other Trustees.

PART 4

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

39. Bye-Laws

The Trustees and the Student Leadership Team shall have the power from time to time to jointly make, repeal or amend Bye-Laws as to the management of The Association and its working practices provided that such Bye-Laws shall not be inconsistent with these Articles.

40. Communications by and to The Association

Methods of communication

- 40.1 Subject to the Articles and the Companies Acts, any document or information (including any notice, report or accounts) sent or supplied by The Association under the Articles or the Companies Acts may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by The Association, including without limitation:
- 40.1.1 in Hard Copy Form;
 - 40.1.2 in Electronic Form; or
 - 40.1.3 by making it available on a website.
- 40.2 Where a document or information which is required or authorised to be sent or supplied by The Association under the Companies Acts is sent or supplied in Electronic Form or by making it available on a website, the recipient must have agreed that it may be sent or supplied in that form or manner or be deemed to have so agreed under the Companies Acts (and not revoked that agreement). Where any other document or

information is sent or supplied in Electronic Form or made available on a website the Trustees may decide what agreement (if any) is required from the recipient.

- 40.3 Where a document or information which is required or authorised to be sent or supplied by The Association under the Companies Acts is sent or supplied by making it available on a website, The Association must notify the recipient that the document or information is available on the website in accordance with the Companies Acts.
- 40.4 Subject to the Articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a Trustee in connection with the taking of decisions by Trustees may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that Trustee has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

Deemed delivery

- 40.5 A Company Law Member present in person or by proxy at a meeting of The Association shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and the purposes for which it was called.
- 40.6 Where any document or information is sent or supplied by The Association to the Company Law Members:
- 40.6.1 where it is sent by post it is deemed to have been received 48 hours (including Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays) after it was posted;
 - 40.6.2 where it is sent or supplied by Electronic Means, it is deemed to have been received on the same day that it was sent;
 - 40.6.3 where it is sent or supplied by means of a website, it is deemed to have been received:
 - 40.6.3.1 when the material was first made available on the website; or
 - 40.6.3.2 if later, when the recipient received (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material was available on the website.
- 40.7 Subject to the Companies Acts, a Trustee or any other person (other than in their capacity as a Company Law Member) may agree with The Association that notices or documents sent to that person in a particular way are deemed to have been received within a specified time, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

Failed delivery

40.8 Where any document or information has been sent or supplied by The Association by Electronic Means and The Association receives notice that the message is undeliverable:

40.8.1 if the document or information has been sent to a Company Law Member or Trustee and is notice of a Company Law Meeting of The Association, The Association is under no obligation to send a Hard Copy of the document or information to the Company Law Member's or Trustee's postal address as shown in The Association's register of Company Law Members or Trustees, but may in its discretion choose to do so;

40.8.2 in all other cases, The Association shall send a Hard Copy of the document or information to the Company Law Member's postal address as shown in The Association's register of Company Law Members (if any), or in the case of a recipient who is not a Company Law Member, to the last known postal address for that person (if any); and

40.8.3 the date of service or delivery of the documents or information shall be the date on which the original electronic communication was sent, notwithstanding the subsequent sending of Hard Copies.

Exceptions

40.9 Copies of The Association's annual accounts and reports need not be sent to a person for whom The Association does not have a current address.

40.10 Notices of Company Law Meetings need not be sent to a Company Law Member who does not register an address with The Association, or who registers only a postal address outside the United Kingdom, or to a Company Law Member for whom The Association does not have a current address.

Communications to The Association

40.11 The provisions of the Companies Acts shall apply to communications to The Association.

Communications with Student Members

40.12 Notwithstanding anything in this Article 40, The Association may send or supply any document or information to Student Members (whether under the Articles or otherwise) in such manner as The Association thinks fit. In particular (but without limitation) if The Association is aware of a Student Member's email address, The

Association may communicate with the Student Member using that address, and The Association may communicate with Student Members via website.

40.13 Further provisions governing The Association's communications with its Student Members may be set out in the Bye-Laws.

41. Company Secretary

41.1 A Company Secretary may be appointed by the Trustees for such term at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and may be removed by them. If there is no Secretary:

41.1.1 anything authorised or required to be given or sent to, or served on, The Association by being sent to its Company Secretary may be given or sent to, or served on, The Association itself, and if addressed to the Company Secretary shall be treated as addressed to The Association; and

41.1.2 anything else required or authorised to be done by or to the Company Secretary of The Association may be done by or to a Trustee, or a person authorised generally or specifically in that behalf by the Trustees.

42. Minutes

42.1 The Trustees shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:

42.1.1 of all appointments of officers made by the Trustees;

42.1.2 of all resolutions of The Association and of the Trustees (including, without limitation, decisions of the Trustees made without a meeting); and

42.1.3 of all proceedings at meetings of The Association and of the Trustees, and of committees of Trustees, including the names of the Trustees participating in each such meeting

and any such minute, if purported to be signed (or in the case of minutes of Trustees' meetings signed or authenticated) by the Chair of the Meeting at which the proceedings were had, or by the Chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall, as against any Member or Trustee of The Association, be sufficient evidence of the proceedings.

42.2 The minutes referred to in Article 42.1 above must be kept for at least ten years from the date of the meeting, resolution or decision.

42.3 The minutes of the meetings referred to in Article 42.1 above shall normally be considered open and shall be available to the Student Members on The Association's

website, except where those minutes relate to any reserved or confidential matters, including without limitation staff-related or disciplinary matters. Copies of the minutes shall also be kept in The Association's offices.

43. Records and accounts

43.1 The Trustees shall comply with the requirements of the applicable Charity, Education and Company legislation as to maintaining a Company Law Members' register, keeping financial records, the audit or examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies, the Charity Commission and OSCR of:

43.1.1 annual reports;

43.1.2 annual returns; and

43.1.3 annual statements of account.

43.2 The Student Members have the right to ask the Trustees questions in writing about the content of any documents referred to in Article 43.1.

44. Irregularities

The proceedings at any meeting or on the taking of any poll or the passing of a written resolution or the making of any decision shall not be invalidated by reason of any accidental informality or irregularity (including any accidental omission to give or any non-receipt of notice) or any want of qualification in any of the persons present or voting or by reason of any business being considered which is not specified in the notice.

45. Honorary Life Members

The Student Leadership Team may appoint and remove any individual(s) as Honorary Life Members(s) of The Association and on such terms as set out in the Bye Laws. An Honorary Life Member shall have the right to be given notice of, to attend and speak (but not vote) at Conference as if a Student Member and shall also have the right to receive accounts of The Association when available to Student Members. For the avoidance of doubt, Honorary Life Members will not be Company Law Members.

46. Exclusion of model articles

The relevant model articles for a company limited by guarantee are hereby expressly excluded.

TRUSTEES' INDEMNITY

47. Indemnity

Without prejudice to any indemnity to which a Trustee may otherwise be entitled, every Trustee of The Association shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Association in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Acts; and every other officer of The Association may be indemnified out of the assets of The Association in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity, but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Acts.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

48. Defined terms

48.1 In these Articles, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Term	Meaning
48.1.1 "Academic Year"	the period between 1 August in one year to 31 July in the next year as determined by The Open University
48.1.2 "address"	includes a postal or physical address and a number or address used for the purpose of sending or receiving documents by Electronic Means;
48.1.3 "Appeals Panel"	the Appeals Panel constituted as set out in the Bye-Laws
48.1.4 "Appointments Committee"	a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees having the role as set out in their terms of reference;;
48.1.5 "Articles"	these Articles of Association of The Association;
48.1.6 "Association Officer"	the student representatives (including the Officer Trustees) elected to such posts further to a secret ballot of Student Members;
48.1.7 "Board of Trustees" or "Board"	the Board of Trustees of The Association;

48.1.8 “Bye-Laws”	the Bye-laws setting out the working practices of The Association made from time to time in accordance with Article 39;
48.1.9 “Student Leadership Teamthe Student Leadership Team” or “SLT”	the committee including the Officers as further described in Article 26;
48.1.10 “Chair”	the chair of the Board of Trustees;
48.1.11 “Chair of the Meeting”	in the case of Trustees’ meetings means the person chairing the meeting in accordance with Article 35.2;
48.1.12 “Chief Executive”	the chief executive of The Association who is appointed by the Board of Trustees;
48.1.13 “Charities Act”	the Charities Act 2011 or any subsequent Act;
48.1.14 “Circulation Date”	in relation to a written resolution, has the meaning given to it in the Companies Acts;
48.1.15 “clear days”	in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
48.1.16 “Code of Practice”	the Relationship Agreement of practice relating to the Open University’s obligations under Section 22 of the Education Act;
48.1.17 “Companies Acts”	the Companies Acts (as defined in Section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to The Association (and including associated company case law);
48.1.18 “Company Law Meeting”	a general meeting of the Company Law Members for the purposes of the Companies Acts;
48.1.19 “Company Law Members”	members of The Association for the purposes of the Companies Acts, as defined in Article 12;
48.1.20 “Conference”	the Business Section of The Association’s Biennial Conference;

48.1.21 “Connected Person”	in relation to a Trustee means any person falling within any of the following categories: (a) any spouse, civil partner, parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent or grandchild of a Trustee; or (b) the spouse or civil partner of any person in (a); or (c) any other person in a relationship with the Trustee which may reasonably be regarded as equivalent to such a relationship as is mentioned at (a) or (b); or (d) any company, partnership or firm of which a Trustee is a paid director, member, partner or employee, or shareholder holding more than 1% of the capital;
48.1.22 “Deputy Chair”	the deputy chair of the Board of Trustees, who shall be appointed in accordance with Article 35;
48.1.23 “Deputy President”	the person appointed as such in accordance with the Bye-Laws;
48.1.24 “document”	includes summons, notice, order or other legal process and includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in Electronic Form;
48.1.25 “Education Act”	the Education Act 1994 or any subsequent Act;
48.1.26 “Effective Date”	the date on which the undertaking previously carried on by the Unincorporated Charity is transferred to The Association;
48.1.27 “Electronic Form” and “Electronic Means”	have the meanings respectively given to them in Section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
48.1.28 “External Trustee”	a Trustee appointed in accordance with Article 21 who for the avoidance of doubt shall not be deemed to be either a major The Association office holder or a sabbatical The Association office holder for the purposes of Section 22 of the Education Act;
48.1.29 “ Faculty” or Faculties”	a recognised academic unit within the Open University;
48.1.30 “Finance, Resources and Risk Committee”	a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees having the role as set out in their terms of reference.
48.1.31 “Financial Expert”	an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;

48.1.32 “General Meeting”	The biennial Conference or any extraordinary Conference of the Association;
48.1.33 “Hard Copy” and “Hard Copy Form”	have the meanings respectively given to them in the Companies Act 2006;
48.1.34 “Honorary Life Member”	An individual appointed as an Honorary Life Member of the Association in accordance with Article 46.
48.1.35 “Immediate Past President”	the immediate past holder of the office of President;
48.1.36 “Members” or “Member”	the Student Members and the Company Law Members;
48.1.37 “Nation and Europe”	as defined in the Association’s Bye-laws;
48.1.38 “Officer Trustee”	an Association Officer elected as an Officer Trustee in accordance with Article 19 and therefore being a Trustee;
48.1.39 “The Open University”	the Open University, incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England & Wales and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302);
48.1.40 “Open University Council”	the Open University Council is the governing body of the Open University;
48.1.41 “Open University Students Educational Trust”	Open University Student Educational Trust (OUSET) is a Charity operated by the Association and is registered with the Charity Commission with Registration Number 285189 and SCO 38300;
48.1.42 “Personal Interest”	a financial interest or an interest that does not arise in the ordinary course of being a Member or a Trustee (for example, being a member of a club or society);
48.1.43 “Policy”	representative and campaigning policy set by Conference or the Student Leadership Team in accordance with Article 15 and Article 16 respectively;
48.1.44 “President”	the holder of the office of President, an Association Officer role
48.1.45 “The Recipient”	the person selected as set out in Article 37.2.1 and should be confirmed by prior agreement of the Trustees;

48.1.46 “Safeguarding Panel”	a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees having the role as set out in their terms of reference.
48.1.47 “Scheme of Delegation”	The scheme of delegation approved by the Board of Trustees, recording the delegation of powers and functions.
48.1.48 “Secure Petition”	the petition as set out in the Bye-Laws for this purpose;
48.1.49 “Student” “or Students”	any individual who is formally registered for an approved programme of study provided by the Open University. For the avoidance of doubt, the Open University shall determine whether or not an individual has student status;
48.1.50 “Student Members” or “Student Membership”	student members of The Association being Students at The Open University as further defined in Article 11 and the Association Officers;
48.1.51 “Student Trustee”	a Trustee elected in accordance with Article 20 or Article 19 who is a Student and who, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not be a The Association office holder for the purposes of Section 22 of the Education Act;
48.1.52 “Subsidiary Companies”	any company in which The Association holds more than 50% of the shares, controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares or has the right to appoint a majority of the board of the company;
48.1.53 “Trustees”	the directors of The Association as defined in Article 18;
48.1.54 “The Association”	The Open University Students Association;
48.1.59 “Unincorporated Charity”	the unincorporated charity known as The Open University Students Association;
48.1.60 “Vice President”	the person appointed as such in accordance with the Bye-Laws; and
48.1.61 “writing”	the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in Electronic Form or otherwise.

48.2 Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

- 48.3 Subject to Article 48.4, any reference in these Articles to an enactment includes a reference to that enactment as re-enacted or amended from time to time and to any subordinate legislation made under it.
- 48.4 Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when these Articles become binding on The Association.