

ANU Sport and Recreation Association Constitution

Background

ANU Sport and Recreation Council established a Governance Working Group to review their governance arrangements. As a priority, the working group focussed on the review of the Constitution, so that key changes could be sanctioned in order to meet ANU Council's deadline (July) as outlined in the updated policy for student organisation constitutional amendments.

It was agreed that given the number of proposed changes to the Constitution, reauthoring as opposed editing the current Constitution would be the favoured way forward.

With this in mind, the overriding objective of the Governance Working Group was to update and simplify the Constitution, removing information that could exist in other documents (i.e. Board Charter) providing a final version of the Constitution that would be nimble, robust and enduring.

Key Changes

1. Objects of the Association

ANU Sport and Recreation has evolved as an Association and now delivers many more programs for the student and broader community than it did 10 years ago. Furthermore, a new four-year strategy was approved by Council in November 2017. As such, it is recommended that the objects reflect this new direction.

Recommendation

The objects of the Association are to:

- further the interests of sport, physical recreation and wellbeing among Members, Clubs and the wider community;
- provide sporting and recreational facilities for Members, Clubs and the wider community; and
- organise and assist sporting and recreational activities for Members, Clubs and the wider community.

2. Association Membership Categories

Currently, there are five categories of membership; ordinary, associate, honorary coach, valued club affiliate and honorary life. Discussion has surrounded how inclusive the Association should be and how the membership categories could be updated to better reflect the audience that engages with the Association. Given the increasing interaction with the local community, primarily through the Association's affiliated Clubs, and further, the financial uncertainty that the establishment of a competitor gym on campus in 2019 brings, it is suggested that extending memberships to a broader community base would benefit the Association.

Recommendation

To simplify membership categories and address the conversation regarding community members and their rights, it is recommended that moving forward, membership categories are updated to:

Ordinary Membership

All persons enrolled as an undergraduate or postgraduate student of the University are Ordinary Members unless they resign their Membership.

Associate Membership

The following persons are eligible for Associate Membership

- Alumni of the University;
- Staff of the University;
- Staff of other organisations whose place of employment is the University campus within the Australian Capital Territory;
- The Community*

Life Membership

A Life Member is a person who has rendered distinguished services to the Association and has been so designated by the Board from time to time.

* Community is defined as:

- a graduate of a registered higher education provider listed on the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency's National Register;
- Club coaches;
- someone whom, or a class of persons whom, in the opinion and at the discretion of the Board would make a significant contribution to the affairs of the Association but is not eligible for admission as Ordinary Member(s).

3. Rights of Members & Board Eligibility

To reflect the updated membership categories and in light of the fact that definitions of 'non-financial' and 'non-voting' members have been removed, clarity around rights of members is required. Specifically, it is suggested that all members retain the ability to vote, but that a higher eligibility should be in place for election to the Board.

Recommendation

Each member of the Association is eligible to attend, speak and is entitled to one vote at any general meeting or in any election of the Association.

To be eligible for election or appointment to the Board, a person must be:

- a) an individual;
- b) at least 18 years old;
- c) not an employee of the Association; and
- d) not otherwise ineligible or disqualified from holding office under the Act,

and to be eligible for election (but not appointment) a person must also be a Member of the Association and a member of at least one of an affiliated Club, the Association's Gym, or a program run by the Association.

4. Board composition and size

To reflect the nature of the Association, and upon recommendation from ANU, we have renamed the Council as the Board.

Given the evolving needs of the Association, a Board that can be dialled up and dialled down when required has multiple benefits. Having the opportunity to appoint members for specific skill sets as well as having flexibility to ensure adequate student representation allows the Board to remain nimble.

Recommendation

Association's Board to consist of the following members, being no less than 6 and no more than 10.

- 6 elected Board members
- Up to 3 members appointed by the Board
- One member appointed to the Board by the University

If at any time there are less than two Ordinary Members (students, by the new definition) the Board must take reasonable measures to appoint up to three Ordinary Members to the Board.

5. Board Tenure

An appropriate limit on Board tenure is necessary to provide the balance in allowing the organisation to grow but also to ensure retention of corporate knowledge.

Recommendation

Elected members serve two-year terms, with three members vacating their position in an even year and three members vacating their position in an odd year.

An elected member is eligible for re-election for two further consecutive terms of two years (to serve a maximum of six years in total).

Appointed Board members shall hold their position from the date of their appointment by the Board until the following annual general meeting.

It is recommended that these Board terms take effect from the 2019 annual general meeting.

(Note, to assist the transition, 3 Board members elected in 2019 will serve a maximum of 5 years (as opposed to 6) to enable us to have half of the board up for election in odd years and half in even years rather than all at the same time).

6. Executive Election

It is suggested that the Board's executive be elected from within.

Recommendation

At the first meeting of the Board following the annual general meeting, the elected members of the Board will elect from among them a President, Vice President and Treasurer

Timeline

27 March – 10 April	Membership consultation
10 May	Special General Meeting
27 June	Papers for ANU Council
20 July	ANU Council Meeting