



The Constitution of the Birmingham University Evangelical Christian Union – December 2005

1. Designation

- 1.1. The name of the Society or Standing Society shall be “Birmingham University Evangelical Christian Union” which shall herein after be referred to as the “Society”.
- 1.2. The name of the Society shall be prefixed with “The University of Birmingham”.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1. This Constitution must be interpreted in good faith, at all times, in order to be in agreement with the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Guild of Students. Queries regarding interpretation should be referred to the Constitution Committee or Independent Chairs of Guild Council, who shall refer the matter to the Guild Executive Committee or Guild Council if appropriate.

3. Objectives of the Society

- 3.1. The objectives of the Society shall be:
 - 3.1.1. To proclaim Jesus Christ as God Incarnate, Saviour and Lord to all students at The University of Birmingham, and to seek to lead them to a personal faith in Him
 - 3.1.2. For members to grow in their spiritual life by Bible teaching, Bible study, prayer and fellowship
 - 3.1.3. To obey God’s commission to make disciples of all nations, by praying, giving financially and going out to proclaim the gospel in all the world, in the short and long term
 - 3.1.4. To help members and other students to explore, assert and apply biblical truth to every issue of private and working life and public concern
- 3.2. All activities of the Society must be related to these objectives.

4. Doctrinal Basis

- 4.1. The doctrinal basis of BUECU shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, including:
- 4.1.1. There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - 4.1.2. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
 - 4.1.3. The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.
 - 4.1.4. Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
 - 4.1.5. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
 - 4.1.6. Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.
 - 4.1.7. Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
 - 4.1.8. The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
 - 4.1.9. The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christlike in character and behaviour and gives them power for their witness in the world.
 - 4.1.10. The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.
 - 4.1.11. The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

5. Membership

- 5.1. Membership of a Society shall be open to all Guild Members subject to:
- 5.1.1. Subscription to the following declaration; "In joining the Christian Union I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, Lord and God. I understand and commit to the four aims of the CU."

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- 5.1.2. Specific exemptions as provided in the Guild Constitution and By-laws.
 - 5.1.3. The discretion of the BUECU Executive Committee where it is believed that admission to membership may result in the Society's disrepute. Such a decision is subject to appeal at Guild Council.
 - 5.2. Membership of the Society shall itself not be deemed to confirm membership of the Guild or any of the privileges pertaining thereto.
 - 5.3. Membership is to be renewed annually.

6. External Membership

- 6.1. Ex-members of BUECU and staff of the University may become non-voting external members by subscribing to the usual conditions of membership (Clause 5.1.1). This shall be done by sending a written declaration of this desire to the secretary.

7. Subscriptions

- 7.1. That on becoming a member there should be no subscription but that each member should carefully consider his or her regular contribution to the financial needs of the Union.

8. Activities

- 8.1. These shall include:
 - 8.1.1. A weekly teaching meeting involving all members
 - 8.1.2. Evangelistic meetings and activities (NB Evangelistic being defined as: Where people have the opportunity to hear all or part of the gospel message as outlined in the Doctrinal Basis), including where possible talks/presentations, lectures, surveys, question and answer sessions, bible studies, Christianity Explored course, Carol Service, debates and other activities decided by the executive committee.
 - 8.1.3. A weekly prayer meeting involving all members.
 - 8.1.4. BUECU Executive and General Committee business, planning and training meetings.
 - 8.1.5. Group Bible study, prayer and evangelism groups in halls, houses and departments.
 - 8.1.6. A Weekend Away of bible teaching, prayer, socialising and training.
 - 8.1.7. A Christians in Sport prayer, bible study and evangelism group and other groups focused on specific areas outside of academic study and residential locations.
 - 8.1.8. A Gospel Choir including practice meetings and performance meetings.

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- 8.1.9. International student social, prayer, bible study and evangelistic meetings.

9. Magazine

- 9.1. A magazine may be produced by BUECU as a Christian magazine. A member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed to receive manuscript copy and shall have the right to make the final editorial decision.

10. Annual General Meeting

- 10.1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting at which the Senior Officers shall be elected for the forthcoming year. At least four working days' notice of such a meeting shall be given to all members of the Society, the Vice-President (Student Activities) and the Vice-President (Internal Affairs).
- 10.2. The Senior Officers of the Society must be Members of the Guild.
- 10.3. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of October or February each year, the actual date of which shall be decided by the incumbent committee.

11. Conduct of the Annual General Meeting

- 11.1. The Annual General Meeting shall follow the following format:
- 11.1.1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
 - 11.1.2. Matters arising from the last minutes
 - 11.1.3. Report from the Chair
 - 11.1.4. Report from the Treasurer
 - 11.1.5. Other reports as required
 - 11.1.6. Elections to Committee for the following year
 - 11.1.7. Motions and amendments to the Constitution
 - 11.1.8. Changes in subscription
 - 11.1.9. Any Other Business

12. Executive Committee selection

- 12.1. The BUECU Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to propose people for the positions on the new Committee, and pray for them.
- 12.2. Between the end of week 6 and the end of week 8 of the Autumn term nominations for the BUECU Executive Committee may be invited from members of BUECU if the Executive Committee wishes to do so. Each nomination should be seconded by another BUECU member, with the nominee's permission. Alternatively, the executive committee may invite

members of BUECU to suggest suitable candidates without the candidate's knowledge.

- 12.3. At least 4 weeks before the AGM the list of proposed people shall then be communicated to all BUECU members and displayed on the BUECU notice board.
- 12.4. BUECU members who are not proposed by the BUECU Executive Committee and wish to be considered may have their name displayed under the title 'Independent Proposals'.
- 12.5. Up to 2 weeks before the AGM members who have any difficulties concerning the people proposed should approach any BUECU Executive Committee member. The Executive Committee has responsibility to deal with these problems as and when they arise.
- 12.6. A ballot will be held at the AGM in the Spring term to determine the new Executive Committee members. A simple majority of the members voting will be required for each position.

13. General Meetings

- 13.1. A general meeting may be called by the BUECU Executive Committee or 12 members of BUECU. They shall notify the President of the business they want to discuss and the President must arrange a general meeting at the earliest convenient date, giving 10 days notice of the meeting and the business. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman for the meeting.

14. Non-Constitutional Business Meeting

- 14.1. All who are associated with the work of BUECU may attend
- 14.2. At least 10 days notice and a provisional agenda shall be given to each Member
- 14.3. The president or his/her delegate shall chair the meeting.

15. Procedure

- 15.1. The Society President shall call a Committee meeting at the request of any two members of the Committee.
- 15.2. Every Society Committee member shall be given at least four days' notice of an ordinary meeting.
- 15.3. In case of emergency, an emergency meeting may be held provided that reasonable notice has been given to every member of the Committee.
- 15.4. Quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be 1/3rd of the total membership or 10 members; whichever is the greatest.
- 15.5. The only exception to the right of a member to attend and speak at Society meetings shall be when the meeting is discussing reserved business, in

which case only voting members of the Society Committee may be present unless the meeting decides otherwise, and a member of the Guild Committee of Independent Chairpersons must also be present.

- 15.6. Members ex officio of a Society Committee shall be entitled to send a nominee to any Society meeting, who shall have the same voting rights as the member ex officio would have been entitled to.
- 15.7. Members of a Society Committee who are not members ex officio may not send a nominee on their behalf.

16. Executive Officers of the Society

16.1. The Senior Officers of the Society shall be:

- 16.1.1. President
- 16.1.2. Vice President (Who shall be of opposite sex to that of the President)
- 16.1.3. Treasurer
- 16.1.4. Secretary

16.2. Other Officers shall be, when possible:

- 16.2.1. Prayer secretary
- 16.2.2. International Students secretary
- 16.2.3. Small groups secretary(s)
- 16.2.4. Evangelism secretary
- 16.2.5. World mission secretary
- 16.2.6. Mission Secretary

- 16.3. All members of the BUECU Executive Committee shall understand and wholeheartedly uphold the fundamental truths revealed in scripture, including those stated in the doctrinal basis (clause 4). They shall sign a copy of the doctrinal basis to demonstrate this.
- 16.4. They shall wholeheartedly commit to the four aims of BUECU, by attending corporate weekly teaching, and prayer meetings when possible, and by making the most of Bible training arranged by UCCF.
- 16.5. The BUECU Executive Committee shall meet during Easter, then weekly during term time, chaired by either the President or Vice President, to pray, study the Bible, evaluate recent events, and plan future activities. Ultimate responsibility for the election of all BUECU leaders and the organisation of all BUECU teaching and evangelistic events lies with the Executive Committee.
- 16.6. Guild Members who are not Society members may participate in the activities of the Society but not hold office in the Society.
- 16.7. Each member shall have one vote. The Chair, or nominee, shall have an additional deciding vote in the case of a hung decision.

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- 16.8. Quorum for the Committee shall be half plus one of all Committee members.
 - 16.9. The Committee shall be responsible for the running and the proper management of the Society. Upon election to office, its Officers will assume responsibility for all matters relevant to their elected post and Officer status, including all business undertaken by their respective predecessors.
 - 16.10. The Society Committee may, by an absolute majority, remove an internally elected member from the Society Committee for good cause.
 - 16.11. If any vacancies occur in the membership of a Society Committee Senior Officers during its term of office, they shall be filled as soon as is convenient.

17. Duties of the Executive Officers

- 17.1. To be responsible for the financial affairs of the Society.
- 17.2. To uphold the articles contained in this Constitution.
- 17.3. To uphold the articles contained in the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Guild of Students where they are not in conflict with the Doctrinal Basis or aims of the society.

18. Responsibilities of the Chair

- 18.1. To chair and co-ordinate the Committee.
- 18.2. To represent the Society at General Meetings.
- 18.3. To chair the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings.
- 18.4. To liaise with the Vice President (Student Activities), other Societies, and other relevant internal and external bodies where appropriate.
- 18.5. To consent to alterations in the Authorised Signatories.
- 18.6. To attend any compulsory meetings as decided by the Guild Executive Committee.

19. Responsibilities of the Treasurer

- 19.1. To ensure that the Student Activities Department receives full details of the Society's Senior Officers within 10 days of the Annual General Meeting or any Bye-Election. These officers shall be by default Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and, optionally, Vice Chair/Co-Chair. Other Authorised Signatories may be applied or substituted at the discretion of the Vice President (Student Activities).
- 19.2. To provide the committee with regular reports on the Society's financial status.

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- 19.3. To liaise directly with the Student Activities Department so as to maintain and update the Society's accounts.
 - 19.4. To liaise with the Advisory group and associated duties (see clause 25).
 - 19.5. To keep full records of every transaction independently from the Guild Finance Office.
 - 19.6. To advise the Committee on the financial implications of all decisions taken.
 - 19.7. To prepare grant applications requesting financial assistance from the Guild, and to submit this application by the required deadline.
 - 19.8. To attend Treasurers' training as provided by the Student Activities Department.

20. Responsibilities of the Secretary

- 20.1. To advise the Committee on the provisions and interpretation of the Society Constitution and the Guild Constitution and Bye-Laws.
- 20.2. To take minutes of the Annual General Meeting, and if required, Committee meetings.
- 20.3. To maintain and update membership lists for the Society.
- 20.4. To provide the Vice President (Student Activities) and the Student Activities Department such information about the Society as may be required from time to time.
- 20.5. To deputise in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair/Co-Chair.
- 20.6. To notify the Vice President (Student Activities) of the names of Senior Officers elected within 10 days of the beginning of the academic session and within 10 days of the Annual General Meeting.

21. Responsibilities of the Vice Chair

- 21.1. To deputise in the absence of the Chair.
- 21.2. To assist the Chair where required.
- 21.3. To chair the Committee in the event of the Chair being called to order.
- 21.4. To maintain an inventory of, and to ensure that safety checks are regularly carried out on, all Society equipment.

22. General Officers of the Society

- 22.1. The General Committee, as approved by the Executive Committee, shall consist of the following:
 - 22.1.1. Group leaders from halls, flats, and residence areas
 - 22.1.2. Group leaders from department and faculty groups

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- 22.1.3. Team Leaders (including Mission, Evangelism, Prayer, International, Publicity, PA, Website, Music, Bookstall, One to one and Conference teams where appropriate) and Executive Committee Associates
 - 22.1.4. Group leaders of Gospel Choir
 - 22.1.5. Group leaders of Christians in Sport
 - 22.1.6. Any other persons as the Executive Committee may determine.
 - 22.2. All members of the General Committee shall understand and wholeheartedly uphold the fundamental truths revealed in scripture, including those stated in the doctrinal basis (clause 3). They shall sign a copy of the doctrinal basis to demonstrate this.
 - 22.3. They shall wholeheartedly commit to the four aims of the CU, by attending corporate weekly teaching and prayer meetings when possible, and by making the most of Bible training such as SLOBS (Student Leaders Of Bible Studies) and the UCCF training weekend.
 - 22.4. They shall respect the leadership of the Executive Committee on matters of teaching and leading within the CU.
 - 22.5. The BUECU Executive Committee shall meet with the General Committee at least once a term where the aims for the term shall be discussed. This can be done committee to committee or on a more individual basis.
 - 22.6. The General Committee will advise the Executive Committee on matters of policy, but the final responsibility for all decisions shall rest with the Executive Committee.

23. Authorised Signatories of the Society

- 23.1. The Executive Officers of the Society also act as the Authorised Signatories of the Society, of which there must be a minimum of three and a maximum of four.

24. Responsibilities of the Authorised Signatories

- 24.1. To ensure their correct contact details are held by the Student Activities Counter.
- 24.2. To ensure the Society accounts do not become overdrawn without written authorisation from the Vice President (Student Activities).
- 24.3. To be personally liable to the Guild for any debts owed by the Society to the Guild.
- 24.4. To attend meetings called by the Guild in connection with the Society and all compulsory training sessions.
- 24.5. To ensure no other bank account exists for the Society outside of the Guild Finance Office and that none will be opened.

25. The Advisory Committee

- 25.1. An Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than eight and not less than two non-students. They shall be men and women with some experience of non-denominational evangelical witness in university Christian unions, who will actively further the aims BUECU. The members of the said committee shall be of such status that they command the respect of the undergraduates, graduates and post-graduates of the university.
- 25.2. They shall each be elected, on the nomination of the Executive Committee. Each member shall be elected for three years, and shall be eligible for re-election once, before taking at least one year off so that appointment does not become merely routine, and shall only hold office so long as their religious beliefs are in accordance with the doctrinal basis, which they should demonstrate each January by signing the doctrinal basis.
- 25.3. The Advisory Committee shall meet with the Executive Committee at least once a term, or as the Executive Committee deems necessary, to advise the Executive Committee on issues relating to BUECU or their personal life. The treasurer shall send an agenda for this meeting to the Advisory Committee at least a week in advance. The treasurer or president of the Executive Committee shall be empowered, if the Executive Committee deems it necessary, to chair the meetings of the Advisory Committee.

26. Affiliations

- 26.1. The Society shall affiliate to the following bodies:
 - 26.1.1. UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship)
 - 26.1.1.1. BUECU is an evangelical Union as defined in the constitution of the UCCF of Evangelical Unions. The Executive shall therefore have the power to select two delegates annually to represent BUECU on the General Committee of UCCF.
 - 26.1.1.2. BUECU shall be led by the student Executive Committee, and supported and advised by UCCF Staff and Relay workers, as available, and as long as they are willing to sign the Doctrinal Basis.
 - 26.1.1.3. In view of this relationship with UCCF the following articles are adopted in accordance with the UCCF constitution:
 - 26.1.1.3.1. No joint activity, other than for social reasons, shall be arranged with any religious body that does not wholeheartedly uphold every truth stated in the Doctrinal Basis of BUECU (see clause 3). A copy of the Doctrinal Basis should be signed by that body to demonstrate this.
 - 26.1.1.3.2. Only those speakers whose beliefs are known to be in accordance with the doctrinal basis of BUECU shall be invited to address meetings. This shall not preclude the election of delegates to such bodies as the St. Francis Hall Committee, as such needs arise, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

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- 26.2. In regards to the following bodies the CU reserves the right to make use of any teaching and training materials or conferences produced by that body and any support or advice from full or part time staff by discretion of the BUECU executive committee in compliance with the aims of the society and its beliefs as laid out in its doctrinal basis:
- 26.2.1. IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students),
 - 26.2.2. Agape
 - 26.2.3. Christians in Sport
 - 26.2.4. CMF (Christian Medical Fellowship)
 - 26.2.5. CDF (Christian Dental Fellowship)
 - 26.2.6. Friends International
 - 26.2.7. LCF (Lawyers Christian Fellowship)
 - 26.2.8. Any other national or international body seeking to uphold the beliefs (as outlined in the Doctrinal Basis) and to support and further the aims of Christian Unions.”
- 26.3. It is recognised that the Society is a constituent part of the University of Birmingham Guild of Students and must therefore fulfil all stipulations and regulations contained within the Constitution thereof where this does not conflict with the beliefs as laid out in the doctrinal basis and aims of the society.
- 26.4. The Society may apply to the Guild Executive Committee for financial assistance in paying for affiliations.
- 26.5. The Guild Executive Committee must approve amendments to the above list (clauses 26.1 and 26.2).

27. Finance

- 27.1. The Society may apply for a grant to support some or all of the activities listed in this Constitution as being the principle aims and objectives of the Society. Such applications must be received by the published deadline and will be subject to appeal to the Guild Executive Committee.
- 27.2. Eligibility for grant application is subject to the Society having provided the Vice President (Student Activities) with the appropriate information regarding the running and management of the Society.
- 27.3. No financial responsibility shall in any circumstance fall upon the Guild of Students.
- 27.4. The Treasurer has overall responsibility for all financial matters.
- 27.5. The financial year shall run from 1st Sept to 30th Aug. The accounts shall be presented to the AGM.
- 27.6. All financial transactions relating to the Society must be dealt with through the Student Activities Department.

28. Conduct

- 28.1. The Society shall take all reasonable steps to uphold Guild Policy and to comply with all directions and regulations relating to Guild Societies as set by Guild Council, the Guild Executive Committee and Guild Senior Management where this does not conflict with the beliefs as laid out in its doctrinal basis and aims of the society.
- 28.2. The Society shall conduct its activities in accordance with the Guild Constitution and Bye-Laws where this does not conflict with the beliefs as laid out in its doctrinal basis and aims of the society.
- 28.3. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in the enforcement of the disciplinary procedure as specified in the Guild Constitution and Bye-Laws.

29. Amendments to the Constitution

- 29.1. No alteration shall be made to this constitution unless 75% of members present at a General Meeting convened for that purpose agree on the said amendment. However, no change shall be made to the constitution that deviates from the main aim of BUECU, which is: Christian students uniting in the fundamental truths of the Bible for the purpose of growing to be more like Christ through Bible study, Bible teaching, prayer and fellowship, whilst proclaiming the gospel to non-Christians, primarily at The University of Birmingham, and also to the ends of the Earth.

Constitution voted in at a General Meeting on Thursday 8th December 2005.