

Sydney University International House Alumni Association Constitution

Approved Version from 16 September 2023 AGM

Preamble: This version of the constitution is for the period of time that International House (IH) is closed. It will need to be revised once IH is redeveloped and open again.

1. Name

The Association shall be named the Sydney University International House Alumni Association. The abbreviation SUIHAA may be used to refer to the Association wherever appropriate.

2. Aims

- (a) To foster and maintain communication between all members.
- (b) To promote engagement by SUIHAA with IH Council and the University of Sydney Infrastructure Division that will be involved in the redevelopment of IH.
- (c) To advocate for a redeveloped IH that optimizes the ability for IH to serve its mission (e.g., common dining room and large program space).
- (d) To work with the University of Sydney, IH alumni and other members of the community to promote the aims and ideals of international understanding within the University of Sydney and the wider community.

3. Ordinary Membership

Ordinary Membership is extended to all persons who:

- (a) were Ordinary Members prior to March 29th, 2014, or
- (b) have lived at International House as a signatory to a residential contract with the House. Such membership starts at the commencement of residence.

4. Honorary Membership

Honorary membership is extended to persons:

- (a) who were Honorary Members prior to March 29th, 2014.
- (b) who are former staff, Council members/former Council members or Fellows of International House and who wish to participate in SUIHAA activities. The request for Honorary membership shall be addressed in writing to the Secretary and approved by a majority vote of members present at any Committee Meeting or General Meeting.
- (c) who support the aims of the Association, are proposed in writing to the Secretary by three members, and approved by a majority vote of members present at any Committee Meeting or General Meeting.
- (d) who have ordinarily resided at International House as the partner, spouse or relative of an Ordinary Member during the time of that Ordinary Member's residence at the House. The request for Honorary membership shall be addressed in writing to the Secretary.

5. SUIHAA Committee

All positions on the SUIHAA Committee (the Committee) may be held by Ordinary and Honorary members of SUIHAA.

- (a) SUIHAA shall have an Executive consisting of three officers, President, Secretary and Treasurer. The three office bearers shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) In addition to the Executive, SUIHAA shall have a minimum of four and up to ten committee members, which may include Newsletter Editors, Functions Officers, Communications Officers and

General Committee Members. These committee members shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Without limiting the eligibility of any member to be nominated for, or be elected to the Committee, the Association shall, in electing members to the Committee, endeavour to comprise as wide a representation as possible of members who have resided at the House at different times throughout its history.

- (c) The members of the SUIHAA Committee shall hold office from the date of their election or appointment until the next Annual General Meeting. Any member of the SUIHAA Committee may at any time retire therefrom by giving written notice to the Secretary, or may be dismissed from office by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those members voting at a Special General Meeting of SUIHAA.
- (d) The President shall convene a meeting of the SUIHAA Committee within three months of the Annual General Meeting and subsequently at periods not exceeding three months. Four members shall constitute a quorum of the SUIHAA Committee. The committee members shall be given at least two weeks notice of each meeting.
- (e) The President, or in his/her absence, the Secretary or Treasurer shall preside at committee meetings. The chairperson shall have a casting vote in the event of an equal division of votes on any question.
- (f) Any vacancies on the SUIHAA Committee may be elected by the majority vote of those present at any subsequent meeting of the SUIHAA Committee. The Executive may appoint any member of SUIHAA to fill any casual vacancy that may occur in the committee until such an election should take place.
- (g) In the event that no Executive members exist, the SUIHAA Committee may act by a majority of its members to elect new Executive members at a committee meeting.

6. Duties and Responsibilities of Office Bearers

- (a) The President or President's delegate shall:
 - i) Supervise the general functioning of the SUIHAA Committee.
 - ii) Preside at meetings of the SUIHAA Committee.
 - iii) Be the SUIHAA-nominated representative on, and present a report to, the International House Council, and attend meetings convened by the Council as required (including meetings of the House and Finance Committee).
 - iv) Carry out other duties normally associated with the work of President.
- (b) The Secretary shall:
 - i) Keep minutes of the proceedings of General and SUIHAA Committee meetings and maintain the minutes record as both hard and soft copy.
 - ii) Receive and report on relevant correspondence to the SUIHAA Committee and disseminate such information to the appropriate recipients.
 - iii) Issue due notice of the date and agenda of the above meetings.
 - iv) Receive and respond to correspondence sent to the SUIHAA.
 - v) Submit information for publication in relevant University publications.
 - vi) Maintain a database of membership e-mail contact addresses.
- (c) The Treasurer shall:
 - i) Issue receipts of all money paid to SUIHAA (other than membership subscriptions collected by IH).
 - ii) Pay all money received to SUIHAA bank accounts.
 - iii) Report to each Committee Meeting on all transactions over the amount of twenty-five (25) dollars and obtain the approval of the Committee for all transactions over the amount of five hundred (500) dollars.
 - iv) Keep a record showing details of receipts, expenditure and balance.
 - v) Compile and present an audited financial statement to each Annual General Meeting, plus a projected five-year budget associated with future SUIHAA activities.

In consultation with the Committee, determine the future membership fees for the Association after IH redevelopment, and present these to the Finance Committee of the Council of International House for its approval.

(d) The Communications Officer(s) shall:

- i) Organise the creation of newsletters and other publications, including social media communication.
- ii) Organise the distribution of the SUIHAA newsletter and other publications, including social media communication.
- iii) Receive and share any information coming from members and other sources.
- iv) Liaise with the Committee and other organisations to communicate upcoming programs and functions to the SUIHAA community and other interested stakeholders.

(f) The Functions Officer(s) shall:

- i) Work with others as needed to organise functions including (but not limited to) the Graeme de Graaff and Lauris Elms Roundtable, Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition and Walter Westman Lecture.

(g) The General Committee members shall:

- i) Promote the aims of SUIHAA and assist as delegated.
- ii) Assist the Executive in endeavouring to achieve the aims of SUIHAA.
- iii) Act as liaison personnel between the SUIHAA Committee and members.

7. General Meetings

(a) The Annual General Meeting of SUIHAA shall be convened in September each year to:

- i) Receive a President's Report and the Treasurer's audited statement of accounts for the preceding financial year
- ii) Elect Office Bearers and the General Committee members for the ensuing year
- iii) Transact any other business

(b) Notice of all General Meetings must be sent to all members at least twenty-one (21) days before the proposed date.

(c) Ten members shall constitute a quorum of a General Meeting. A member is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of the member. The chairperson or another member of SUIHAA can be appointed as a proxy. Ordinary and Honorary members are entitled to vote.

(d) The proxy form shall be included in the notice of a General Meeting. The completed form shall be emailed (from a pre-registered email address) and accepted until the commencement of the Meeting.

(e) The Secretary may at any time for any special purpose call a Special General Meeting and shall do so forthwith on the written request of any eleven members stating the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called. The business at such Special General Meetings shall be confined to the purpose(s) stated in the notices.

(f) The President shall preside at a General Meeting. In the absence of the President, the members present shall elect one of their number as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in the event of an equal division of votes on any question.

(g) The office of President shall be transferred to the new President after the election of the Executive and Committee has been completed at the Annual General Meeting.

8. Amendment to Constitution

These rules may be repealed or amended, or new rules made, by a two-thirds majority of those members voting at any General Meeting. Notice of such proposed repeal, amendment or new rule must be given to the Secretary in writing and included in the notice of the meeting given pursuant to paragraph 7(b). Any changes to the Constitution voted at a General Meeting shall be presented to the International House Council for approval.

9. Property

(a) The Association shall conduct its activities on a not for profit basis. All assets and property of SUIHAA shall be vested in the Executive and Committee who shall administer them in such a manner as considered to be in the interests of SUIHAA. No portion of these assets and property may be allocated to members of SUIHAA except as fair compensation for services or expenses incurred on behalf of SUIHAA.

(b) In compiling its financial statements SUIHAA shall adopt a financial year concluding on the 30th of June each year.

(c) If in any year there has been no Annual General Meeting with the required quorum at which at least four members of the SUIHAA Committee, including at least one of the offices of President, Treasurer or Secretary has been filled, then the Treasurer of the previous year shall hold the funds and assets of SUIHAA until a new Executive of SUIHAA is formed under the terms of this Constitution.

(d) If the Association should be dissolved or cease to operate all assets and property of SUIHAA shall be held by International House Council to be applied as far as practicable for purposes that reflect the aims of the Association.