

**RUSKIN COLLEGE, OXFORD  
FELLOWSHIP OF EX-STUDENTS**

**CONSTITUTION – 18 SEPTEMBER 2011**

1. **Introduction:** This Constitution replaces the one revised in September 2006. It was developed over the period between 2008 and 2011. Revisions to this Constitution can be made at any Annual General Meeting in line with the requirements outlined below ie that a two thirds vote of members present at an Annual General Meeting will secure an amendment.
- 1.1 The purpose of this Constitution is to ensure the effective and efficient running of the Ruskin Fellowship and thereby provide for Ruskin College students past, present and future an organisation which they want to join and in whose activities they want to participate.
- 1.2 The Constitution consists of three parts – i) this Constitution; ii) Guidance Notes and commentary on the development of the Constitution and the application of the rules; iii) Standing Orders. Parts ii) and iii) will be developed in 2011/2012. Role descriptors are also available for Executive roles.
2. **The Aims of the Fellowship:** The broad aims of the Ruskin Fellowship are:
  - 2.1 The furtherance of the work of Ruskin College by making it more widely known and by helping the college and its students by providing or obtaining financial support
  - 2.2 The bringing together of members for social and educational purposes
  - 2.3 The advancement of the college and adult education in order that more people shall have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.
  - 2.4 The encouragement and provision of financial and other means of support for the work of bodies associated with these aims.
3. **Methods that may be used to achieve the Aims:** To achieve the aims outlined above the Ruskin Fellowship is empowered to:
  - 3.1 Use publicity of various kinds especially amongst working class organisations, educational bodies and local authorities.
  - 3.2 Draw the attention of eligible students to scholarships tenable at the college.
  - 3.3 Participate in the production of the College Newsletter, promote the Newsletter and other publications associated with the college.
  - 3.4 Arrange social and educational functions for members and friends
  - 3.5 Organise regional groups of members for the purpose of furthering the aims of the Fellowship
  - 3.6 Adopt such other measures as may be appropriate to the aims.

4. **The Membership of the Fellowship:** The membership of the Fellowship is open to:

4.1 All ex-Ruskin students who accept the Constitution of the Fellowship and agree with the objects of the College

4.2 Members and past members of Ruskin College staff

4.3 Other persons not meeting the above criteria may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, join as Associate members. Associate members shall be granted speaking rights during debates, but shall not be eligible to stand for election to the Executive Committee, hold any Fellowship office or have voting rights

Associate membership of the Fellowship shall be subject to either an annual fee or five yearly fee. The level of associate member annual or five yearly fee shall be prescribed by the Annual General Meeting.

5. **Administration of the Fellowship**

5.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting open to all members where policy is decided.

5.2 The following officers shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting:

- A President who will hold office for not more than 5 years (but elected annually).
- One Deputy President who will act in the absence of the President and who may hold office for no more than three years (but elected annually)
- A Secretary
- A Membership Secretary
- A Newsletter Co-Editor
- A Treasurer
- Any other specific task officer(s) the AGM deems appropriate to identify

5.3 All officers shall present a report to the Annual General Meeting that covers activities over the preceding year. The Secretary will collate this report.

The Treasurer, in particular, shall present a financial statement for the preceding year. The financial year shall date from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July. The financial statement shall be subject to audit by an external auditor. That report should be made available to the Annual General Meeting.

5.4 Between Annual General Meetings the administration of the Fellowship's activities shall be the responsibility of an Executive Committee comprising the following

- The officers referred to in 5.2 above
- 11 ordinary members elected at the AGM
- Such former presidents and/or other persons elected to the office of vice – president for life.
- The current Principal and Vice Principal of the College
- One representative of the current members of college staff, nominated by the college staff meeting
- Two representatives of the current student membership of the college, nominated by the student body.
- Such co-optees as are considered appropriate. Co-optees will not have a vote at Executive meetings.

5.5 The Ruskin College Council: The president and the deputy president will normally represent the Fellowship at the Ruskin College Council. A third member of the Fellowship Executive shall be elected to represent the Fellowship at the Ruskin Council.

6. **Amendment of the constitution**

6.1 Any amendment of the constitution shall be subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting and shall be subject to a two thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Signed Fellowship President .....

Date .....

**NOTES:**

- This Constitution was amended at the Fellowship AGM held on 18 September 2011.
- The voting for the amended Constitution was as follows:
  - Recorded number present = 27
  - For the amended Constitution = 18
  - Against = 4
  - Abstentions = 1
- The result of 18 votes in favour out of 27 members in attendance provides an outcome of exactly two thirds. This is what is required by the Constitutional rules (see 6.1 above) and the Constitution is, therefore, amended.