

MINOR AMENDMENTS

We have received feedback concerning the draft Constitution. Thank you to those who contributed and provided valuable insight.

We have accordingly amended some obvious typographical errors, and glaring contradictions and repetitions. In each case the correction has erred on the side of conservative caution.

RATIONALE FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Classes of Membership

In their interactions with other alumni associations, members of the Committee have appreciated the contributions that "non-traditional" membership can make, not only to the bottom line, but also to the business, affairs and atmosphere of an alumni organisation.

As ODs, we are jealous of our traditions, colours, customs and peculiarities. We would certainly not want to dilute any of these qualities for the sake of expedience. That said, we appreciate that there are members of the Bishops community who would dearly love to participate in and become closer to the Union.

For this reason, we have proposed amendments to the Constitution such that the Committee may create classes of Associate Membership, available to persons who would not otherwise be eligible.

We understood that it may be beneficial to create a class of Associate Membership open to "exchange students", who might bring valuable resources, insights and skills to the Union. Similarly, many of the parents of Bishops boys never attended Bishops, for a multitude of reasons. Some of these relate to lack of opportunity, and other factors which may have been applicable some 20 years ago.

The question of Associate Membership is a hot topic, but your Committee is certain that whatever classes may be created, the right to wear our Colours, take appointment as a member of the Committee, and to vote at Meetings will be limited to ODs.

Your Committee believes that the ancillary benefits of being an Associate Member might be shares more widely that is presently the case.

Officers of the Union

There are a number of Offices of the Union that have been created. The roles, responsibilities and duties of each of these Offices have never been delineated. For this reason, your Committee has proposed that the Constitution give substance and content to the various Offices.

In particular, the ambit of the responsibility of the President and the Patron, required clarification. It was also unclear what the role and purpose of Vice Presidents were. Your Committee believes that the skills, experience and insights of our Vice Presidents constitutes a remarkable resource which, until now, the Union has been slow to exploit. For this reason, this Constitution proposes that the President, the Patron and the Vice Presidents, sitting in Committee, shall constitute an Appeal Committee.

We envisage that the Appeal Committee shall function as the equivalent of a supervisory board, common the company law of European jurisdictions, that exercises a measure of oversight over the Committee by fulfilling appellate functions. Moreover, the Committee would want to consult with the Vice Presidents time to time in matters executive, strategic and existential.

Funds

A strict reading of the Constitution in its present form may be interpreted such that the Union shall only be authorised to establish and administer the Bursary Fund only. One of the initiatives undertaken by your Committee has been to constitute a Benevolent Society, within the Union.

The proposal is that the Committee will raise and support a Benevolent Fund, perhaps falling under the Hamilton Mvelase Fund, which will have as its object and mission the assistance of ODs for purposes other than ensuring that their descendants are able to attend Bishops.

Meetings

We have taken the opportunity to clarify the manner in which Meetings are called, conducted, and the specific business that may be transacted at Meetings.

Dispute Resolution

Finally, we have included a dispute resolution clause which provides a mechanism to Members for the resolution of any disputes if any should arise.