

# **U3A LEEDS A.G.M. 2020 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES**



## **Resolution 1**

Proposed: to change the financial year, such that the financial current year will continue until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and each financial year thereafter will run from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Add clause 11.e “The financial year shall commence on April 1<sup>st</sup>”

Notes:

- a) The national Third Age Trust has a financial year that runs from April to March; this will therefore bring us in line. Having a different year causes numerous problems for both the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary
- b) COVID has reduced activities this year; it seems a sensible time to give members a longer ‘year’ for their subscription

## **Resolution 2**

Proposed: to add a new clause 11.f “The Executive Committee shall annually fix the subscriptions to be paid by members, which shall be payable on April 1<sup>st</sup>, giving at least 2 months notice of any change”

Note: There is nothing about subscription setting in the current constitution; there should be guidance, and warning of increases for members. This clause records what is existing practice.

## **Resolution 3**

Proposed: to change Clause 13.a, regarding the timing of the A.G.M., from “the month of July” to “either in the month of September or of October”.

Note: this is to bring the AGM in line with the new financial year (as outlined in resolution 1)

## **Resolution 4**

Proposed: to change Clause 6.c, regarding the Executive Committee, from “not more than 10 members” to “not more than 12 members”

Note: a larger committee allows members to join without being required to take on responsibilities until they have become familiar with the work involved, and allows for succession planning and training.

## **Resolution 5**

Proposed: to change Clause 6.d, regarding the Executive Committee, from “not more than 5 additional co-opted members” to “not more than 6 additional co-opted members”

Note: as per previous resolution.

## **Resolution 6**

Proposed: to change Clause 5.c, regarding membership, from

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“Committee may, and for good reason, terminate the membership of any individual if annual membership or any other fees or charges are unpaid for one calendar month after the due date”

to

“Committee may terminate the membership of any individual if annual membership or any other fees or charges are unpaid three months after the due date”

Note: phrase “and for good reason” is superfluous. Current practice is already to allow members three months to renew.

## **Resolution 7**

Proposed: to delete existing clauses 7.c and 7.d, regarding the Executive Committee, which currently read

“7.c. Officers and Committee members shall normally serve for a period of three years”

“7.d, Retiring officers and committee members may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairperson for more than three years without an intervening break of at least one year and that other officers and members may not serve for more than six years in total without an intervening break of one year”

And replace with the following clauses:

“7.c No-one may hold the office of Chairperson for more than three years without an intervening break of at least one year”

“7.d No-one may serve on the Executive Committee for more than six years in total: thereafter there must be an intervening break of at least one year before seeking re-election”

Note: this is just a simpler way of saying what the original tried to express in one long sentence. It should be noted there is separate provision for Executive Committee to ask Retiring Officer(s) to stay if no substitutes can be found (clause 7.f).

Also the existing clause 7.c does not actually provide any direction; it is merely a suggestion

## **Resolution 8**

Proposed: to change clause 8.a, regarding Executive Committee meetings, from “at least three ordinary meetings a year” to “at least six ordinary meetings a year”

Note: the Executive Committee, in order to be effective, should meet at least six times a year.

All the above resolutions, having been reviewed by the Executive Committee, are:

Proposed By Robert Collins

Seconded By Susannah Buchan