

# The Constitution of Ruskin Fellowship

Revised September 2006

## 1. Membership

- i. Membership is open to:
  - a. All past students of Ruskin College;
  - b. Members and past members of Ruskin College;
  - c. Such honorary members as may be elected at the annual general meeting
- ii.
  - a. With the exception of those described in sub-clause b. below, membership of the Fellowship shall be subject to the payment of either an annual subscription or a life membership fee. The level of annual subscription and life membership fees shall be prescribed by the annual general meeting.
  - b. Ex-Ruskin students who have attended the college for a period of not less than one academic year and who, upon leaving the college, are either unemployed or engaged in further full-time study, may be non-paying members of the Fellowship for a period not exceeding three years if they so wish.

## 2. Aims

- a. 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.
- b. The bringing together of members for social and educational purposes.
- c. The advancement of the college and adult education in order that more men and women shall have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.
- d. The encouragement and provision of financial and other means of support for the work of bodies associated with these aims.

## 3. Methods

- a. Publicity by all means especially amongst working class organisations, educational bodies and local authorities.
- b. Drawing the attention of eligible students to scholarships tenable at

- the college.
- c. Promoting and encouraging the circulation of a college magazine and other publications associated with the college.
  - d. Arranging social and educational functions for members and friends.
  - e. Organising regional groups of members for the purpose of furthering the aims of the Fellowship.
  - f. Such other measures as may be appropriate to the aims.

#### **4. Administration**

- a. There shall be an annual general meeting open to all members where policy is decided.
- b. The following officers shall be elected at each annual general meeting:
  - i. A president who shall hold office for not more than two years
  - ii. A secretary
  - iii. A treasurer
  - iv. A deputy president who shall act in the absence of the president, who may hold office as the deputy president for no more than 3 years
  - v. A membership secretary
  - vi. Editor of the newsletter
  - vii. And other officers as are deemed necessary
- c. Administration of the Fellowship's activities shall be the responsibility of an executive committee comprising the following:
  - i. The officers referred to in item 4. b. above;
  - ii. Not more than eleven members elected at the annual general meeting;
  - iii. Such former presidents and or other persons elected to the office of vice-president for life under the provisions of paragraph 5. a. below;
  - iv. The principal and vice-principal, for the time being of the college; one  
representative of the current members of the college staff, nominated by the college staff meeting;
  - v. Two representatives of the current student membership of the college, nominated by the student body.
- d. The president and deputy president will normally represent the Fellowship at the Ruskin council. Should the president or deputy president, at the AGM or a following Fellowship executive meeting declare themselves unable to attend, the Fellowship executive

will elect substitutes from the executive who will represent the Fellowship at the council until the following AGM.

A third member of the Fellowship executive shall be elected to represent the Fellowship at the Ruskin council.

## **5. Vice-presidents**

- a. Subject to the approval of the annual general meeting at the expiry of his/her term of office, a retiring president or other officer may be elected to the office of vice-president for life.
- b. The annual general meeting shall be empowered, at its discretion, to elect to the office of honorary vice-president, such former members of the staff of the college or other persons with appropriate experience

## **6. Finance**

- a. The treasurer shall present to the annual general meeting a financial statement for the preceding year. The financial year shall date from 1st January to 31st December. The financial statement shall be subject to audit by a person appointed as auditor at the annual general meeting.
- b. The Fellowship shall not be responsible for expenditure by regional groups but special grants may be made by the executive committee to regional groups, at its discretion.

## **7. Amendment of the constitution**

Any amendment of the constitution shall be subject to approval at the annual general meeting and shall be subject to a two thirds majority.