



The Constitution of the Chinese Studies

Postgraduate Group

NAME

1. a. That the name of the group shall be the **Chinese Studies Postgraduate Group**.
- b. The **Chinese Studies Postgraduate Group** is affiliated to **UMPA** and anything contained in this constitution that conflicts with the Constitution of **UMPA** or with any regulations shall be null and void. In all matters not specifically provided for herein, the Constitution of **UMPA** and any regulations shall apply.

AIMS

2. The aims of the **Chinese Studies Postgraduate Group (CSPG)** are:
 1. To encourage both academic and social interaction of postgraduate researchers working in the area of Chinese Studies;
 2. To promote the resources and accessibility of the University's East Asian Collection to all postgraduate students;
 3. To provide academic support to fellow postgraduates and thus foster communication of research ideas and collaborations;
 4. To transcend traditional departmental, school and faculty boundaries to provide a forum to meet, discuss and learn about the experiences and opportunities of researching in and about China;
 5. To represent Chinese Studies researchers from across the university, regardless of department, school or faculty, to promote the interests of Chinese Studies at the University of Melbourne;
 6. To enhance the academic and professional life of postgraduate students across the University of Melbourne;

MEMBERSHIP

3. There must be a minimum of 6 postgraduate members to constitute the **CSPG**. Of these, 70% must be postgraduates of the Department.

Membership shall be open to:

- a. All postgraduate students of the University of Melbourne who subscribe to the aims of the group;
- b. Other persons who subscribe to the aims of the group.

4. A person shall be considered a member on having:
 - a. Paid a membership fee as exacted at the committee's discretion;
 - b. Completed a membership form as prepared by the committee;

CHAIRING OF MEETINGS

5. A Chair shall be appointed for all meetings.

THE COMMITTEE

6. The committee shall have the following members:
 - a. An executive consisting of;
 - (i) the President/Chair, who shall be a postgraduate student, is the representative of **CSPG** who shall liaise with **UMPA**.
 - (ii) the Secretary, who shall be a postgraduate student, is responsible for maintaining a current membership list, constitution and minutes of any meetings held.
 - (iii) the Treasurer, who shall be a postgraduate student, is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the **CSPG**
 - b. Non executive members consisting of three general representatives.
7. The committee shall meet at least twice a semester and have the following powers:
 - a. Control over the finances of group; and
 - b. Control over the activities of the group.
8. A committee meeting may be called by any member of the Committee, with a minimum of five days notice.
9. The committee is at all times bound by the decisions of a group general meeting. Any committee decision may be overturned by a **CSPG** general meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10. There shall be one Annual General Meeting every calendar year, which shall be held during term time in either first or second semester. **Ten Academic days** notice must be given on the department's Postgraduate Students Notice Board, in postgraduate pigeon holes and any other means that the Groups sees fit.

At this meeting:

- a. Reports shall be presented by the President, Treasurer and any other reports that are deemed necessary.
- b. Full financial reports shall be presented and adopted. They will report on finances from the previous AGM to the present AGM.
- c. Elections will be held for a new committee, with the new committee to take charge of the group once the elections have concluded. The term of office for a committee will be from AGM at the time of their election to the following AGM.
- d. Other motions on notice may be discussed and voted upon.
- e. General business may discuss motions that are not on notice and vote on them.

GENERAL MEETINGS

11. The committee may call general meetings as it sees fit or if they are petitioned. The form and procedure of general meetings will be consistent with the Annual General Meeting except that committee elections will not be held unless notice is given specifically calling for them.
12. If ten members, or one third of the membership, whichever is the smaller, should petition the committee for a general meeting, such meeting must take place within **twenty Academic days**. **Ten Academic days** notice must be given on the department's Postgraduate Students Notice Board, in postgraduate pigeon holes and by any other means that the Group sees fit.

QUORUM FOR MEETINGS

13. The quorum for meetings shall be:
 1. At a committee meeting, three committee members of which at least one must be an executive member.
 2. At the Annual General Meeting, ten members, seven of whom are not committee members, or one third of the group, whichever is the lesser.
 3. At a general meeting, ten members or one third of the group, whichever is the lesser.
14. The committee shall be required to give **ten Academic days** notice of a general meeting or Annual General Meeting.

VOTING AT MEETINGS

15. a. Voting for all meetings will be conducted democratically. A simple majority of members present will see any motion passed. All tied motions are lost.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

16. a. Constitutional changes require a simple majority of members present voting at a general meeting or Annual General Meeting, and take effect from the conclusion of the meeting.
- b. Constitutional motions must be presented in writing to the committee at least **fifteen Academic days** before the meeting and notice of these should be sent by mail to the membership **ten academic days** before the general meeting to change them.

ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS

17. Any committee member absent from three consecutive committee meetings without apology or due cause may, at the committee's discretion, be deemed to have resigned their position, and a general meeting must be called to elect a successor.

IMPEACHMENT

18. By a motion of the committee, or a petition bearing the names of at least 75% of members, impeachment proceedings will take place against the nominated committee member.

At the next general meeting or Annual General Meeting, a motion shall be put to impeach the committee member, provided that at least **ten Academic days** notice has been given to the membership and to the member concerned in writing.

If this is passed by a two thirds majority, that committee position will become vacant and a new election held immediately. The committee member to be impeached will be given at least five minutes to speak before a vote is taken.

No member may be expelled on the grounds of race, religious, moral, political or sexual views.
19. By a motion of the committee, or a petition bearing the names of at least 75% of members, any member of the group can be expelled. The procedure is the same for impeachment except that the result is the voiding of the person's membership. No member may be expelled on the grounds of race, religious, moral, political or sexual views.

REAFFILIATION

20. Reaffiliation to **UMPA** shall take place on the 31st March of each year. The **CSPG** shall provide to **UMPA no later than the 31st of March each year** the following:
 - a. a current copy of the constitution;
 - b. a membership list (showing faculty, students and non students);
 - c. the minutes of the most recent Annual General Meeting with an attendance list;
 - d. a financial statement for the previous affiliation period;
 - e. Office bearers details which includes names, addresses, phone numbers (business and home) and email addresses.
20. During any stage of affiliation to **UMPA** the **CSPG** shall comply with any requirements by **UMPA** to provide the appropriate records and documents to maintain affiliation. Any grant money received by the group must be appropriated in accordance with the manner in which the **UMPA** originally granted the money.
21. Once all the affiliation material has been checked by **UMPA** and is assessed as correct; retrospective reaffiliation shall be granted by the **UMPA** council from April 1st of that year.

WINDING UP

21. A motion to wind up the **CSPG** must be written and notice of the motion is to be given in the agenda for the General Meeting at which the winding up motion is to be decided. A winding up motion is carried by a simple majority.
22. If the **CSPG** has not been able to organize a quorate meeting within a 12 month period, **UMPA** may wind up the group by passing a motion under its own regulations. Any member of the group who opposes the winding up may make a submission to the **UMPA** Council. The decision of Council is final.
23. In the event of the group being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, shall be transferred to any association with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

NON-PROFIT CLAUSE

24. The assets and income of the group shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned aims and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the group except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the group.

DISPUTES

25. Any disputes that arise that cannot be resolved internally by the group will be presented to **UMPA** Council to be resolved. Any decision of the UMPA council is final.

DEFINITIONS

26. **Group** refers to the Postgraduate Group.
27. **UMPA** means the University of Melbourne Postgraduate Association Incorporated.
28. An **Academic day** is a day on which teaching occurs during first or second semester of the University's **academic year** that is not a Saturday, Sunday or University holiday.
29. **Academic Year** means the period commencing on and including the Monday falling on or closest to the first day of March of each calendar year and concluding at the end of the annual examination period.

Chinese Studies Postgraduate Group

Membership List

Aims:

1. To encourage both academic and social interaction of postgraduate researchers working in the area of Chinese Studies;
2. To promote the resources and accessibility of the University's East Asian Collection to all postgraduate students;
3. To provide academic support to fellow postgraduates and thus foster communication of research ideas and collaborations;
4. To transcend traditional departmental, school and faculty boundaries to provide a forum to meet, discuss and learn about the experiences and opportunities of researching in and about China;
5. To represent Chinese Studies researchers from across the university, regardless of department, school or faculty, to promote the interests of Chinese Studies at the University of Melbourne;
6. To enhance the academic and professional life of postgraduate students across the University of Melbourne;

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