

Annexe 2

SAUT and political and charitable issues

At the SAUT 2001 AGM there was discussion about the handling within the Association of political and charitable issues. SAUT Committee undertook to clarify the constitutional and procedural issues at the next General Meeting. This statement constitutes that clarification, as accepted and amended at the General Meeting held on 8 November 2001.

Political and charitable issues commonly include the following.

1. Affiliation to external bodies.
2. Appeals from external bodies for financial support for their organisation or for activities organised by them.
3. Appeals from external bodies for non-financial support for their organisation or for activities organised by them.
4. Sending representatives to events organised by external bodies.

Problems in the treatment of such issues arise from disagreement over what constitutes a political or charitable matter, and over which political or charitable causes deserve support. Within SAUT such problems are resolved by the practice of democracy, which means that, firstly, we must act within our constitutional framework; secondly, that we act with the democratic consent of SAUT members.

AUT nationally advises that the constitutional framework is as follows.

1. We may not affiliate to, or make donations to, a political party.
2. Otherwise, we are free to affiliate to, make donations to, express support for the activities of, and send representatives to events organised by, external bodies.

SAUT secures democratic consent for any such affiliations, donations, or representation, by conforming to the following principles.

1. SAUT Committee places before a General Meeting any correspondence received that invites affiliation, donation, or representation.
2. SAUT members may bring proposals to General Meetings in respect of such invitations.
3. SAUT members will receive adequate notice by email of any resolutions to General Meetings on political or charitable issues.
4. SAUT members have the opportunity to present arguments and to vote on resolutions at General Meetings.
5. Resolutions are settled by a simple majority vote.
6. Resolutions are effective only if carried in a quorate meeting.
7. In circumstances in which the SAUT Committee deems that there is an urgent need to make a response to an invitation to make a donation or send a representative, it may do so in the period between General Meetings provided that: firstly, it does not exceed expenditure of a maximum amount fixed for

situations of urgent need by resolution of a General Meeting¹; secondly, that any such expenditure is presented for approval by the subsequent General Meeting; and thirdly, that this procedure is not used to affiliate to an external body.

¹ At present the agreed limit is £100.