

## **U3A Sapphire Coast Policies on Courses and Events**

### (1) General principles:

- (a) Courses and Events should cover as wide a range of topics and activities as members mutually desire.
- (b) Courses and Events should be offered by members for members, excepting where the Committee has decided that there is sufficient benefit to members for a Course that is open to the public to be included in the U3A Program.
- (c) In accordance with Principle 1(d) of the Constitution no U3A member may personally profit from the offering of a Course or Event, nor receive payment from members or U3A for tuition or services rendered.

### (2) Funding and Costs

- (a) All the unavoidable costs of running a Course or Event, including but not limited to venue hire, equipment costs, consumables, subscriptions, text books, printing, venue admission charges, guest speaker costs, internet use etc. should be recouped by the Course Leader or Event Organiser through a charge payable by all members attending that Course or Event. The payment of any other requests for money or non-essential fees (for example donations or the purchase of products and/or services for individual use) over and above the recouping of actual costs cannot be a condition of attending a Course or Event.
- (b) Course Leaders are not required to account for receipts and expenditures attributable to the running of Courses and Events except in the following circumstances:
  - Members attending the Course or Event request that the Course Leader account for monies collected and/or expended
  - The Committee requires accounts be kept; or
  - Funding has been granted or will be sought from U3A to assist with the costs of the Course or Event (an Application for Funding must also be completed)

### (3) Content

- (a) A Course or Event cannot have the primary objective of advancing or promoting a particular ideology, platform or belief as being preferable to any other, in accordance with the principle that U3A should at all times be non-political and non-sectarian.
- (b) A Course or Event cannot have as its primary purpose the financial advancement and/or exclusive advertising of any specific business, organisation (whether run for profit or otherwise) or individual.

### (4) Non-members offering Courses or Events

- (a) A non-member may offer a Course or Event provided that no tuition fee is charged, nor any other personal financial benefit (such as the purchase of a book authored by the non-member) is made a condition of attending.

(b) Non-members do not receive any of the rights or benefits of U3A membership.

(c) For a Course or Event offered other than by a member of U3A to be included as part of the U3A Program there should be a significant benefit to members that cannot otherwise be accessed in a private capacity (for example a greatly reduced admission charge or an opportunity, including a social opportunity, specifically tailored for U3A members).

#### (5) Who may attend Courses and Events

(a) Only current financial members of U3A may attend Courses offered by U3A, excepting that a non-member may attend up to two sessions without joining in order to assess whether they wish to join, or as a casual guest of a member attending that session

(b) Events (but not Courses) may be opened to non-members provided anticipated demand from members does not equal or exceed the total number of spaces available. Non-members must pay the member charge plus a loading of 30%, rounded up to the nearest dollar.

#### (6) Policy Exceptions

Any Course or Event proposal or any organisational detail that falls outside existing policies can be approved by the Committee provided it does not conflict with the Constitution of U3A Sapphire Coast.

### **U3A Principles**

The general principles of U3A are based on the philosophy of the UK founder of U3A, Dr Peter Laslett, espoused below. As each U3A is independent and therefore free to decide its own policies these principles should not be considered prescriptive; however U3A Sapphire Coast's policies are informed by them.

- To provide affordable learning opportunities for older people, using the skills and abilities of the members themselves;
- Those who learn shall teach and those who teach shall learn, and there shall be no distinction between the two;
- There shall be no qualification for membership, and no awards, degrees and diplomas shall be given;
- The emphasis shall be on learning for the love of it, and shall include an emphasis on the values of making things and improving skills of all kinds;
- Learning shall take place in a friendly, supportive and social environment;
- Those joining U3A shall pay for its upkeep;
- There shall be no payment to any person (member or non-member) for teaching or providing a service to members except in the case of reimbursement for such expenses as travel, photocopying, etc.;
- The curriculum of a U3A shall be determined by the needs/preferences of members and according to the resources available to it; and
- To be at all times, non-political and non-sectarian in our approach.