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| Edinburgh university students association |
| Constitution |
| Edinburgh University Philosophy Society |
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| **Adopted at the Annual General Meeting** |
| **3/28/2013** |

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**Constitution**

**1) PREAMBLE**

The Edinburgh University Philosophy Society, instituted in 1871 for the prosecution of Philosophical Criticism and Discussion, enacts the following laws, which supersede all previous laws. The society shall abide by any applicable laws, bye-laws and guidelines of the Edinburgh University Students’ Association in relation to recognised societies.

**2) AIMS, BENEFITS, AND OBJECTIVES**

2.1. To promote the study and enjoyment of Philosophy within Edinburgh University, and outwith the community.

2.2. To engage renowned speakers to give talks to the Society on varying topics within the domain of Philosophy.

2.3. To provide and promote a link between Edinburgh University Philosophy Staff and Students.

2.4. To provide academic and moral support for all Edinburgh University Philosophy Students.

2.5. To provide a social forum for all Edinburgh University Philosophy Students.

**3) MEMBERSHIP**

3.1. The Society shall consist of Ordinary Members and Honorary Members.

3.2. Any present or past staff and matriculated students of Edinburgh University or any other person at the discretion of the Committee may, on subscription to the Laws, be admitted as an Ordinary Member of the Society.

3.3. Membership shall be at least 75% matriculated students of Edinburgh University.

3.4. All members who are not matriculated students of Edinburgh University shall pay at least twice the annual subscription of that paid by matriculated students or staff, and shall be admitted at the Society's discretion.

3.5. The society believes that discrimination or harassment, direct or indirect, based on a person’s gender, age (except where it relates to licensing laws), race, skin colour, nationality, religious belief, socio-economic background, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, family situation, domestic responsibilities or any other irrelevant distinction, is detrimental to the society, the university and wider society, and will not be tolerated.

3.6. Honorary Members shall be admitted at the discretion of the society, subject to a vote at an AGM or EGM.

**4) FINANCE**

4.1. Admission as an Ordinary Member shall require payment of an annual subscription fee.

4.2. The annual subscription fee will be determined at the close of the financial year in preparation for the new academic year.

4.3. The annual subscription fee shall be due at the opening meeting of each academic year or at the time of admission to the Society.

4.4. The Society's financial year shall correspond to the academic year.

4.5. All Subscriptions must be paid to the Treasurer within one month of their being due, on the penalty of suspension and ultimately expulsion.

**4.6. FUNDRAISING:**

4.6.1. Non Members shall be charged a higher rate for attendance of events run by the Society than members.

4.6.2. The Society shall raise money through any activities approved by the Committee.

4.6.3. If required, the Society shall request Edinburgh University to fund some of its activities and programmes.

**5) MEETINGS**

5.1. The Society shall meet at least five times, as convenient, throughout each Semester.

5.2. Executive Committee meetings between the President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be called by the Committee as and when necessary.

5.3. The Executive Committee shall meet no less than once a fortnight.

5.4. The Committee shall meet no less than six times per academic year.

5.5. The society has taken and will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that meetings, events and socials are accessible to all.

**5.6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

5.6.1. The Annual General Meeting shall take place between Week 7 and Week 11 of Semester 2.

5.6.2. All members must receive at least 14 days notification by email or by written letter of the Annual General Meeting and of elections not held at the AGM.

5.6.3. All members shall have full voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.

5.6.4. Motions for consideration must be submitted in advance of the AGM.

**5.7. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

5.7.1. The President may call an Extraordinary General Meeting for matters arising in the course of the year which require consideration by members.

5.7.2. Any six members may request that an Extraordinary General Meeting be convened by writing to any member.

5.7.3. EGM procedure shall follow the form of AGM procedure

5.7.4. All members must receive at least 14 days written/email notification of the EGM

5.8. The quorum of an AGM and EGM shall be 10 members in order to validate any decisions/votes made

**6) EVENTS**

6.1. The society will aim to have at least three events a week – a reading group, a discussion group, and a guest lecture.

**7) THE COMMITTEE**

7.1. The Committee shall consist of all Office Bearers.

7.2. The Office Bearers of the Society shall consist of at least a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Reading Group Organiser, a Discussion Group Organiser, a Social Secretary, a Publicity Officer, and a Journal Editor.

7.3. All Office Bearers must be fully paid up members of the society and matriculated Students of Edinburgh University.

**7.4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

7.4.1. Shall comprise of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Society.

7.4.2. THE PRESIDENT;

7.4.2.1. Shall convene all meetings,

7.4.2.2. Shall have a casting vote at all meetings,

7.4.2.3. Shall organise the weekly guest lecture series.

7.4.2.4. The President shall ultimately be responsible for the conduct of the society.

7.4.3. THE SECRETARY;

7.4.3.1. Shall convene all meetings if the President is unable to do so,

7.4.3.2. Shall record and circulate all proceedings of the Society,

7.4.3.3. Shall coordinate the meetings of the Society and its Committee,

7.4.3.4. Shall conduct the correspondence of the Society,

7.4.3.5. Shall be responsible for room bookings,

7.4.3.6. Shall keep an up to date record of all members of the Society.

7.4.3.7. The Secretary shall ultimately be responsible for the administration of the society.

7.4.4. THE TREASURER;

7.4.4.1. Shall collect all sums due to the Society and dispose of them by its direction,

7.4.4.2. Shall be responsible for all fundraising and grant applications,

7.4.4.3. Shall organise speakers’ accommodation and the reimbursements of speakers' costs.

7.4.4.4. The Treasurer shall ultimately be responsible for the finances of the society.

**7.5 THE GENERAL COMMITTEE:**

7.5.1. Shall comprise of the Executive and all other Office Bearers.

7.5.2. The Discussion Group Organiser shall be responsible for organising all weekly discussion groups.

7.5.3. The Reading Group Organiser shall be responsible for organising all weekly reading groups.

7.5.4. The Social Secretary shall be responsible for the organisation of all Social Events of the Society.

7.5.5. The Publicity Officer shall be responsible for promoting all Society events both within Edinburgh University and outwith the community.

7.5.6. The Journal Editor shall be responsible for producing a high quality Philosophical Journal as and when he/she sees fit but no less than once per Semester.

7.5.7. The Ordinary Member shall be responsible for assisting the Committee with whatever and whenever they see fit.

7.6. Ad-hoc Committees comprising of paid up Members may be compiled to organise specific events when necessary.

7.7. If any of the Executive Committee are to be absent of a period of over one week, a member of the General Committee shall be appointed Acting President/Secretary/Treasurer for the duration of their absence.

7.8. Society Office Bearers will attend annual society training as outlined by the Societies’ Team

7.9. Current Office Bearers must be assigned to the Society Profile immediately upon election

**8) ELECTIONS**

8.1. All Office Bearers shall be annually elected at an Annual General Meeting at the end of the second Semester and will enter into office during that meeting.

8.2. Any returning Office Bearer shall be nominated for the purpose of election.

8.3. A simple majority will be required to win an election.

8.4. In the event of a tie, the election should be repeated after each candidate has answered questions from the voting Members.

8.5. Voting shall be by an open show of hands.

8.6. In the event of a contest, voting by secret ballot shall be permitted.

8.7. Candidates are allowed to vote for themselves if they wish.

8.8. Any vacancy that may occur shall be filled at the next meeting.

8.9. The Outgoing President shall conduct the election unless he/she is standing for re-election, in which case the Committee shall nominate the returning officer.

8.10. There will be an agreement as to a changeover period during the exam block after Semester 2.

8.11. All members who are matriculated students of Edinburgh University shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections.

8.12. In the event of an Executive position becoming vacant, the President will call an EGM to elect a replacement.

8.14 Re-registration of the society must be submitted prior to re-registration deadline set by EUSA, prior to Week 12 of Semester 2.

**8.15. IMPEACHMENT**

8.15.1. A motion for the impeachment of any or all Office Bearers may take place at an EGM.

8.15.2. Grounds for the impeachment of any or all Office Bearers are restricted to failure to comply with the Laws or behaviour contrary to the aims of the society.

8.15.3. Two-thirds of the vote is needed for a motion of impeachment.

**9) CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

**9.1 AMENDMENTS:**

9.1.1. Constitutional Amendments shall require a two-thirds majority at an AGM or EGM open to all members.

9.1.2. Constitutional Amendments may be proposed by any six members of the Society or by a member of the Executive Committee and must be submitted to the Secretary in writing.

**9.2.1 MOTIONS:**

9.2.1 All such motions shall be laid in writing with the Secretary.

9.2.2 All such motions require three proposers who must be paid up members of the Society.

9.2.3 The Secretary shall convey these motions to the Committee no later than fifteen days after their submission.

9.2.4 All such motions will be dealt ten days after the Secretary's receipt of said motion.

9.3. EUSA considers the ruling society constitution to be that which is displayed on the Society Profile

9.4. The society has ensured and will continue to ensure that it complies with any relevant data protection legislation