

AberCompSoc Constitution 2017/2018

Part I

Constitution of AberCompSoc.

1. General

- (a) The name of the society shall be 'AberCompSoc' and shall be allowed to be abbreviated to 'CompSoc'.
- (b) All previous Constitutions are hereby null and void.

2. The Mission

The mission for AberCompSoc shall be: "To provide an open community for students interested in computer science, and related fields."

3. AberSU and AberSoc rules

The Society shall be up to date, and in compliance with all rules and regulations concerning AberSU and AberSoc.

4. Membership

Only two forms of membership shall be allowed; Standard Membership and Associate Membership.

- (a) Standard Membership of AberCompSoc shall be a Full Member of the Aberystwyth University Students Union, as defined by the AberSU Union Constitution (Section 6), and have paid full current membership fees to AberCompSoc at the set amount of 0.00 Standard. Members must also hold valid AberSoc membership.
- (b) Associate Member
Associate membership of AberCompSoc is available to non-Aberystwyth University students, who are affiliate with an individual society and thereby AberSoc, on the basis of them having:
 - i. Expertise in a relevant area; or
 - ii. Honorary membership as determined by the AberSU Activities Officer; or

iii. Some other ground which the AberSU deems appropriate.

Associate Members are required to have paid full current membership fees to a Abersoc affiliated society.

- (c) Anybody who does not fulfill the above criteria of 'member' will be prohibited from participating in AberSU society events. Societies who do not enforce this practice may be subjected to financial penalties or have AberSU privileges removed.

5. Committee

- (a) The Committee shall be made up of the following positions President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Secretary (x2) and Welfare Officer.
- (b) The general and financial business of AberCompSoc shall be conducted by the committee, subject to this constitution and the view displayed by decisions members make as a whole at General Meetings.
- (c) Upon any vacancy occurring outside of normal election procedure, the Committee can vote on another member of the Committee to temporarily hold the vacant post until a by-election is held and the result is confirmed.

6. Elections of Committee Members and others

- (a) All standard members of AberCompSoc have the right to vote in such an election. Elections shall take place in accordance to this constitution and through the manner of the Alternative Vote System (or any other system that produces a majority) and held by either a secret ballot or a show of hands.
- (b) The election shall take place no less than 14 days after the notification has been sent out to all members of the date, time and place. It shall be held by AberCompSoc usually around Easter time, as this gives outgoing society committees to have a chance of a shadowing/handing over period, also AberSU to offer training on various areas before the end of the academic year.
- (c) The returning officer shall be the outgoing President of the society.
- (d) The term of office for every committee member shall be one whole calendar year, or as appropriate based on the timing of committee elections.
- (e) The committee will organise a by-election should a position become vacant before the annual elections, apply the same procedure used in the annual elections.

7. General Meetings

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the final Friday of March or one week before the Easter Holidays should they fall in March..
- (b) the business of the AGM shall be:
 - i. To receive reports from all of the committee on their activities in the last year;
 - ii. To receive a financial report. This shall include: the accounts of the previous financial year and the budget for the current financial year;
 - iii. To consider any motion, which has been submitted and seconded by any two standard members to the secretary (in time for circulation with the notice of the AGM);
 - iv. To formally handover the elected positions from the outgoing committee to the incoming committee.
 - v. For any constitutional amendments to be ratified, and the constitution to be approved as accurate for the forthcoming academic year;
 - vi. Any other business
- (c) The Secretary shall give all members at least 14 days e-mail notification of the time and place of the AGM.
- (d) Notice and minutes of all Meetings and Committee Meetings shall be kept by the Secretary. They shall be publicly available to all members.

8. Finance

- (a) The finances of AberCompSoc shall be held primarily by the Treasurer and secondly by the President.
- (b) The Treasurer shall manage the accounts in an annual fashion with the accounting year ending in accordance with the handover of responsibilities each year.
- (c) The Treasurer shall keep and maintain all records of AberCompSoc accounts before passing them on to their successor.
- (d) The Treasurer shall submit the accounts of AberCompSoc to the AGM.
- (e) AberCompSoc shall maintain all of its funds within the AberSU Finance Office. All monies received shall be paid into the society account within the Finance Office in accordance with AberSU. All outgoing funds must have the approval of the mandate trained members.
- (f) All financial actions undertaken by the society must be in accordance with the AberSU rules, regulations and constitution.

9. Descriptions of Positions

- (a) The President (or equivalent) shall be the main contact point for external communications with all external groups and individuals. This includes AberSU. They are further responsible for the smooth and effective running of the committee and the society, and shall be the final arbitrage of disputes amongst the committee. They are responsible for creating the best environment for the committee and other members to operate in. They must ensure the general health and direction of the society is in accordance with the views of its members. They must carry out duties that are listed elsewhere in this constitution.
- (b) The Vice President shall assist the President in all duties such that they may carry them out in the event of the President's absence.
- (c) The Secretary is responsible for organising meetings, events, and all aspects to do with the society. They are responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings, and are the main contact for receipt and outgoing administrative details of all events with regards to members and external organisations. This includes the AberSU. The secretary is bound to carry out all other duties stated elsewhere in this constitution.
- (d) The Treasurers roles are described throughout this constitution and needs no further description.
- (e) The Social Secretaries are responsible for organising and running social events, and for seeking sponsorship for the society.
- (f) The Welfare Officer is a signposting position for members of the society who need help or support and shall liaise with the Student Union Opportunities Team and the Wellbeing Officer on behalf of members.

10. Constitution and interpretation

- (a) Amendments to this constitution happen in the following fashion; the proposed Amendment must be submitted to the Committee not within 14 days of the AGM. The Committee will then scrutinize the proposed amendment and then suggest any changes that would be suitable. The proposed amendment is then proposed at the AGM where it must be ratified with a 70% majority.
- (b) Any changes to this constitution shall only come into force after the close of the AGM unless otherwise stated in the amendment.
- (c) This constitution, after any votes on amendments have taken place at the society AGM, must be approved by 70% majority in order to stand as a true and accurate authority of the members of the society for the forthcoming academic year.

- (d) A copy of this constitution shall be kept by the secretary and distributed to members upon request. The AberSU Activities Officer shall also hold a copy. A copy shall also be added to the website.
- (e) In the event of any question of interpretation arising the committee shall have the power to act accordingly to its interpretation of the constitution, or, if it does not cover the issue, then a constitutional amendment should be presented by the President (or equivalent) at the next AGM.