



The Constitution of the William Petre Society

EXETER COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The William Petre Society is an association affiliated with Exeter College that aims to facilitate fruitful interaction between its members, promote the academic interests and the welfare and wellbeing of its members, represent the interests of Exeter graduate students to the Governing Body of the College, and adhere to the principles of democracy, transparency and non-discrimination in its functioning.

Ratified by the Governing Body of Exeter College on 09MAR2022

1. INTRODUCTION

Article 1

In this Constitution, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- (a) “AGM” means annual general meeting;
- (b) “College” means Exeter College, Oxford;
- (c) “Executive Committee” means the executive committee of the William Petre Society;
- (d) “Full term” means the eight weeks comprising first to eighth week of any term;
- (e) “Hustings” means a forum at which candidates for election to the Executive Committee may explain their manifestos to members of the Society;
- (f) “Member” includes ordinary, honorary and associate members of the William Petre Society;
- (g) “MCR” means the middle common room of Exeter College;
- (h) “NUS” means National Union of Students;
- (i) “Oxford SU” means Oxford University Students Union;
- (j) “Part two students” means students in the fourth year of a Bachelors degree who are primarily concerned with research;
- (k) “Returning officer” means the person responsible for overseeing elections to the Executive Committee of the Society;
- (l) “Society” means the William Petre Society;
- (m) “University” means the University of Oxford.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Article 2 ORDINARY MEMBERS

The following members of the College are qualified to be Ordinary Members of the Society:

- (a) Persons reading for a higher degree, diploma, certificate or second BM;
- (b) Graduates of the University reading for a further degree at the University;
- (c) Persons reading for a first degree at the University having Senior Student status as defined in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. This includes students reading for a second BA;
- (d) Visiting students who are graduates of another university or are certified by the Sub-Rector as of equivalent standing.

Article 3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

3.1 The following persons may be elected to associate membership of the Society:

- (a) Graduate research workers in the University, who are not members of any other college of the University;
- (b) Recognised students who are not qualified for ordinary membership of any other MCR of the University;
- (c) Spouses and long-term partners of ordinary members.
- (d) Undergraduate students at Exeter College who are in the final year of an integrated Masters degree course.
- (e) Undergraduate students at Exeter College who, being aged 21 or over at the start of their course, are classified as ‘mature undergraduate students’.
- (f) Employees of the College or persons certified by the Sub-Rector as having a substantive connection to the college.

- (g) Former members of the William Petre Society.
- (h) Residents of Exeter House or Cohen Quad, for more than one month, who do not fit the above criteria. However, this does not include Undergraduates who do not fulfil (3.1d) or are members of another MCR within Oxford University.

- 3.2 Associate members may be elected for a period of up to three years, to be reviewed annually, after which they shall be re-elected.
- 3.3 Associate members shall have all the rights of ordinary members, except as otherwise provided for in this constitution.

Article 4 HONORARY MEMBERS

- 4.1 The Rector, Fellows and Lecturers shall be honorary members of the Society;
- 4.2 Other persons may be elected to honorary membership for a period not exceeding three years, after which they shall be re-eligible for election.

Article 5 WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 All persons who qualify for Ordinary Membership of the Society may withdraw from membership by writing to the Sub-Rector. Withdrawal shall take effect from the beginning of Michaelmas term, except if notice of withdrawal is received by the Sub-Rector by Saturday of the second week of Michaelmas term, in which case it shall take effect immediately.
- 5.2 Any person who withdraws from Ordinary Membership of the Society cannot exercise any right that attaches to an ordinary member, including the rights to stand for office, vote at elections or attend meetings.
- 5.3 The Education Act (1994) provides that those persons who exercise the right of withdrawal from membership “should not be unfairly disadvantaged, with regard to the provision of services and otherwise, by reason of their having done so.”

Article 6 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF ASSOCIATE AND HONORARY MEMBERS

- 6.1 Nomination for Associate or Honorary Membership can be made by at least two ordinary members of the Society by requesting the Vice-President, in writing, one week before the general meeting of any term.
- 6.2 The Vice-President shall determine the validity of the nomination and communicate the nomination to the entire Society.
- 6.3 Elections for such membership shall take place at the general meeting of any term, and shall be determined by a simple majority of those present, via a secret ballot. In the case of short-term visiting students or researchers, an online vote may be held in lieu of an election at a general meeting.
- 6.4 There shall be an interview between the applicant and members of the Society at the general meeting, prior to the election. Where the applicant is unable to attend, a written statement of motivation from the applicant shall replace the interview, to be read out by the Vice-President at the meeting.

Article 7 MANAGEMENT OF MCR SOCIAL MEDIA

- 7.1 The MCR social media pages will be jointly administrated by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Social Secretaries and Freshers' Representative.
- 7.2 Posts must follow the Data Protection act of 1998, and all photographs must be uploaded with permission of those included. The MCR should not be brought into disrepute by the posting of copyrighted material.
- 7.3 Members of social media groups must treat each other with respect, professionalism and courtesy. All views are those of the individual posting, and not of the MCR itself. This should be made clear in sensitive posts.
- 7.4 Any material which is intended to, or does, harass other members is a breach of University Harassment policy and will be communicated to the Sub-Rector.
- 7.5 The moderators may remove any material that infringes on the above, including posts reported by other members or that could make members of the MCR uncomfortable. Posts should adhere to the University Social Media Guidelines.
- 7.6 Media groups should be for exclusive use by members of the MCR and relevant parties, such as Catering. As such, measures should be taken to ensure the group is secure.

3. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Article 8

- 8.1 The College shall allocate from the fee income received from all those qualified for ordinary membership (whether they are members or not) a termly sum, and make an equivalent charge to associate members, which shall be paid into the account of the Society.
- 8.2 Associate members are to pay the equivalent annual amount during the term of election and every year thereafter while their membership remains valid. Half year payments can also be taken. In the case of full members who complete their course in June, associate member status is granted free of charge from the completion of their course until Week 0 of the following Michaelmas term.
- 8.3 The Society shall act as an agent of the Governing Body in the management of the money for the corporate benefit of all junior members of the college who are qualified for ordinary membership (whether they are members or not) and all associate members.
- 8.4 The Society may levy a subscription on its ordinary members, but not on any person who has withdrawn from ordinary membership, for any purpose promoting the welfare, interests and social activities of its members.
- 8.5 The use, maintenance, disposition and replacement of facilities available in the MCR shall be subject to agreement between the Domestic Bursar and the Society.
- 8.6 The Executive Committee shall propose an annual budget at the beginning of Michaelmas Term to be passed by a two-thirds majority.

4. OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 9 THE OFFICERS

- 9.1 The officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Social Secretaries, Welfare Officers and Exeter House President. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Society, where only ordinary members are eligible for nomination. There shall also be the additional offices of Sports Officer, IT Officer, Equalities Officer, Domestic Officer, Oxford SU Representative, College Events Officer, Environment and Ethics Officer, Appliance Officer and Library Representative; where Associate members may be eligible for nomination with exception of the Library representative.
- 9.2 All officers shall fulfill their duties, so as to further the aims and interests of the Society and its members.
- 9.3 All officers are responsible for working together so as to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of all members.
- 9.4 All officers are accountable and responsible to the Society in relation to the fulfillment of their duties.
- 9.5 All officers shall regularly attend meetings called by the President and shall have the power to vote on any issues that arise within the Executive Committee.
- 9.6 The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall be listed on the bank account of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer's signature, together with the signature of one of these officers, shall be required for withdrawals and other financial transactions.
- 9.7 The Executive Committee is responsible for liaising with College offices. To this end, the President shall nominate the officers who shall attend relevant meetings in the interest of the Society, including the Domestic Affairs meeting and the Finance and Estates meeting, subject to the provisions made in the College statutes and bylaws.

- 9.8 The Executive Committee shall have the power to propose the creation of additional offices, as may be necessary for the business of the Society. The Executive Committee shall determine whether such additional officers shall be elected in terms of Part V of this Constitution, or nominated by the Executive Committee. Additional officers shall not be members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may invite any such members to attend any meeting but they shall not have a vote at its meetings. The Executive Committee may also abolish additional offices.

Article 10 THE PRESIDENT

- 10.1 The President shall take the chair at all meetings of the Society. They shall call meetings as and when necessary or at the written request of six or more ordinary members. In addition the President shall call a general meeting before the end of the Sixth Week of each term, which shall include an AGM before the end of the Sixth Week of each Trinity Term.
- 10.2 The President shall have the power to delegate and reallocate duties in the interest of the Society to other members of the Executive Committee.
- 10.3 The President shall make an annual report listing affiliations and fees paid during the current academic year to external organizations, including Oxford SU and NUS, and shall submit it to the AGM and the Home Bursar before the end of the Sixth Week of Trinity Term for the approval of the governing body. The President shall arrange for the Society to determine affiliation to external organizations for the following year at the AGM.
- 10.4 At the start of Michaelmas term, recommend any candidates for the Quarrell-Read (final year) and Peter Street prizes to the Sub-Rector for the previous academic year.
- 10.5 Endeavour to set up termly meetings with the JCR president to ensure relevant events and issues are communicated.

Article 11 THE VICE-PRESIDENT

- 11.1 The Vice-President shall assume the President's responsibilities if the President is indisposed or absent.
- 11.2 The incumbent Vice-President shall be the returning officer for the elections to the Executive Committee. In the event of their absence or their standing for election, they shall appoint a deputy.
- 11.3 The Vice-President shall keep appropriate records of the Society, including the minutes of Executive Committee meetings and general meetings, and shall pass them to their successor.
- 11.4 The Vice-President is responsible for maintaining communication between the Executive Committee and the Society via e-mail, pigeon post and the Society website.

- 11.5 The Vice-President is responsible for maintaining and updating electronic and paper lists for all members of the Society including the associate and honorary members. Each term the Vice-President shall report to the Domestic Bursar the names and addresses of all those who have become or remain associate members of the Society during that term.
- 11.6 The Vice-President shall acquaint themselves with the Constitution and shall ensure that it is adhered to in the running of the Society and the Executive Committee.

Article 12 THE TREASURER

- 12.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the apportionment of funds at the disposal of the Society.
- 12.2 The Treasurer requires the approval of the Society for the Executive Committee to spend more than £100 on any one item or more than £300 on any event unless such expenditure has been approved by a meeting of the Society.
- 12.3 The Treasurer shall give a written financial statement, including a list of donations made and the external organisations benefiting from those donations, in November to both the members of the Society and the Domestic Bursar.
- 12.4 The Treasurer shall give a provisional yearly account of the Society's income and expenditure at the AGM. They shall place a typed copy of this account on the MCR notice board, and shall submit a copy of it to the Home Bursar before the end of the Sixth Week of Trinity Term, for the approval of the Finance and Estates Committee.
- 12.5 The Treasurer, along with the Treasurer-Elect, shall present a draft budget for the forthcoming financial year, which shall run from the 1st August to 31st July, to the Finance and Estates Committee in June of each year.
- 12.6 The Treasurer's term shall run according to the college financial year, 1st August to 31st July. The Treasurer-Elect shall take over responsibility for the funds of the Society on 1st August. The incumbent Treasurer shall relinquish this responsibility, and conclude their term by reconciling the Account for the previous college financial year, no later than 30th September. During the interim period between the election and the change of power, the incumbent Treasurer and the Treasurer-Elect will work congruently to facilitate a fluid handover.

Article 13 THE SOCIAL SECRETARIES

- 13.1 There shall be three Social Secretaries.
- 13.2 The Social Secretaries shall organise social events and activities for members of the Society throughout the year.
- 13.3 The Social Secretaries shall produce and distribute a term card at the beginning of each term to notify members of the Society's events.
- 13.4 The Social Secretaries shall have the assistance of other members of the Executive Committee, as well as other members of the Society, in carrying out events.
- 13.5 The Social Secretaries shall liaise with the Welfare Officers to ensure that appropriate events are organised to further the aims of the Society.

Article 14 THE WELFARE OFFICERS

- 14.1 The Welfare Officers shall represent the general concerns of all members of the Society, particularly in the areas of accommodation, academic needs, welfare and personal security.
- 14.2 If appropriate training is available, the Welfare Officers shall complete such training, so as to ensure that they are able to carry out their duties effectively.
- 14.3 The Welfare Officers shall work to ensure an environment free of all forms of discrimination and harassment, on grounds such as race, age, religion, gender and sexual orientation, and shall represent the Society on any College committees that seek to address these issues.
- 14.4 The Welfare Officers shall raise any concerns of members of the Society at Executive Committee meetings and where necessary liaise with the Domestic Bursar or relevant responsible authority to resolve these concerns. They shall represent the Society's concerns and interests at College meetings, along with liaising with the Welfare Dean, Chaplain and Junior Deans.
- 14.5 The Welfare Officers shall work with the Social Secretaries to organise events to ensure the well-being of members of the Society and to ensure that all new members become involved and feel welcome in the Society.

Article 15 THE EXETER HOUSE PRESIDENT

- 15.1 The Exeter House President shall represent the interests of graduates resident at Exeter House to the College and MCR.
- 15.2 They shall liaise with the Domestic Bursar, Steward, Warden and other college staff in pursuit of the same.
- 15.3 Their term of office shall run from September to September and as such the election for this position shall take place by the end of Trinity Term of any academic year.
- 15.4 Use their allocated budget to organise a termly social event for all residents, this can be used as an opportunity to gather any issues held by residents to relay to College.

Article 16 The FRESHERS' WEEK REPRESENTATIVES

- 16.1 There shall be two Freshers' Week Representatives.
- 16.2 The Freshers' Week Representatives will be elected in Trinity Term of each academic year for a term enduring until the end of Freshers' Week in the following Michaelmas Term.
- 16.3 The Freshers' Week Representatives shall liaise with the faculty of the college, the MCR membership, and the rest of the MCR Executive Committee, in particular the Social Secretaries, to plan and carry out social events for incoming students during Freshers' Week.

Article 17 THE OXFORD SU REPRESENTATIVE

- 17.1 The Oxford SU Representative shall be elected at Hilary Term hustings, or in the event of a vacancy at the soonest TGM or EGM. In the latter case, the Oxford SU Representative will stand for the remainder of the term until the next Hilary hustings, where they must be re-elected if wishing to continue in the position.
- 17.2 The Oxford SU Representative shall liaise between the MCR and Oxford SU, attending Oxford SU meetings and MCR meetings. In so doing, the Oxford SU Representative will represent MCR interest to the Oxford SU and facilitate greater communication between Oxford SU and the MCR.

Article 18 THE EQUALITIES REPRESENTATIVE

- 18.1 The Equalities Officers, in addition to those duties set out in Article 9, shall:
 - 18.1.1 Promote equality opportunities within the MCR for all aspects of equality, including but not restricted to age, disability, gender, marital status, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation;
 - 18.1.2 Support the Welfare Officers in their duties, yet act as an independent body who can be approached with member concerns;
 - 18.1.3 Organise termly events promoting an aspect of equality within the MCR;
 - 18.1.4 Work with their equivalent in the JCR to organise events and promote equality within the College.
 - 18.1.5 There are two Equalities Officers.
 - 18.1.6 There is one Equalities Officer who, in addition to those duties set out in Article 18.1, is concerned with matters related to sexuality and gender identity.
 - 18.1.7 There is one Equalities Officer who, in addition to those duties set out in Article 18.1, is concerned with matters related to ethnic minorities.
- 18.2 The Equalities Officer for sexuality and gender identity matters shall:
 - 18.2.1 Raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues throughout the academic year;
 - 18.2.2 Liaise with other relevant officers in and out of college to provide welfare, information, and resources to the Society on LGBTQIA+ matters;
 - 18.2.3 Provide support on LGBTQIA+ matters and lobby for equality and correction of practices discriminatory towards LGBTQIA+ people to the relevant college authorities;
 - 18.2.4 Organise regular social events for LGBTQIA+ members of the Society;
 - 18.2.5 Act as an LGBTQIA+ representative in intercollegiate meetings;
 - 18.2.6 Be an individual who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and/or asexual, or an ally or strong supporter of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and/or asexual.
- 18.3 The Equalities Officer for ethnic minorities' matters shall:
 - 18.3.1 Raise awareness on ethnic minorities' matters through the academic year;
 - 18.3.2 Liaise with other relevant officers in and out of college to provide welfare, information, and resources to the Society on ethnic minorities' matters;
 - 18.3.3 Provide support on ethnic minorities' matters and lobby for equality and correction of practices discriminatory towards ethnic minorities to the relevant college authorities;
 - 18.3.4 Organise regular social events for ethnic minority members of the Society;

- 18.3.5 Act as an ethnic minorities' representative in intercollegiate meetings;
- 18.3.6 Be an individual who identifies as minority ethnic, or an ally or strong supporter of those who identify as minority ethnic.

Article 19 THE DOMESTIC OFFICER

- 19.1 The Domestic Officer shall ensure the facilities in the MCR are maintained. This includes ensuring damaged items are logged in the College Maintenance Book, propose items that would benefit the MCR and overseeing the MCR art and photograph collection.
- 19.2 The Domestic Officer shall oversee the provision and upkeep of the locker storage.

Article 20 THE SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE

- 20.1 The Sports Representative shall liaise with the JCR to promote the College Sporting activities.
- 20.2 The Sports Representative shall maintain MCR held sports equipment.

Article 21 THE LIBRARY OFFICER

- 21.1 The Library officer shall attend the meetings of the Library committee, supporting the concerns of the Graduate Students.

Article 22 THE IT OFFICER

- 22.1 The IT Officer shall act as the Webmaster for the MCR Website.
- 22.2 The IT Officer will ensure the MCR email lists are kept up to date.
- 22.3 The IT Officer shall assist the Returning Officer in the running of elections.

Article 23 THE ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS OFFICER

- 23.1 The Environment and Ethics officer has responsibility for assessing and managing MCR waste and shall liaise with college to improve sustainability and ethical responsibility.
- 23.2 The Environment and Ethics Officer shall raise awareness of environmental issues where relevant to the MCR.
- 23.3 The Environment and Ethics Officer shall liaise with city- and campus-wide sustainability initiatives where appropriate.

Article 24 THE COLLEGE EVENTS OFFICER

- 24.1 The College Events Officer shall be in charge of organising the three minute thesis competition, regular SCR/MCR events, other events linked with college alumni engagement and other academic events within the MCR with the appropriate college group.
- 24.2 The College Events Officer shall liaise with the Development Committee for alumni engagement events and facilitate the involvement of graduate students.

Article 25 THE APPLIANCE OFFICER

- 25.1 The Appliance Officer shall be responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of the coffee machine and for instructing MCR members on how to use the machine where necessary.
- 25.2 In the event that the position of Appliance Officer is unfilled, the MCR coffee machine under their remit will be out of use to avoid damage to the machine.

Article 26 Communications Officer

- 26.1 The Communications Officer shall maintain the Society's social media accounts and calendars, to apprise members and others of news and updates.
- 26.2 The Communications Officer shall fulfil their duties according to guidelines set out in Article 7.

Article 27 Access and Outreach Officer

- 27.1 The Access and Outreach Officer shall be involved in matters of widening access to higher education and to College.
- 27.2 The Access and Outreach Officer shall liaise with Access and Outreach offices of College, University, and Oxford SU to facilitate the involvement of members in relevant initiatives.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Article 28

- 28.1 Subject to Article 9.8, appointment of all officers shall be by free and fair election in a secret ballot in which only ordinary members shall be eligible to stand for ordinary office or vote and ordinary and associated members shall be eligible to stand for additional offices.
- 28.2 Subject to Article 11.2, the Vice-President shall be the Returning Officer for elections, a position that they shall hold until all positions available for election have been validly filled.

Article 29 TIMING OF ELECTIONS

- 29.1 Election of all officers, excluding the Exeter House President (see Article 15.3) and Freshers' Week Representative (see Article 16.2) shall take place each year by the end of Michaelmas Term, on a day determined by the Returning Officer. Officers elected at this time shall have a term of office running from First Week of Hilary Term, until the beginning of the succeeding Hilary Term.
- 29.2 Elections to fill casual vacancies shall take place in full term not more than fourteen days after the Executive Committee has declared an office vacant by way of notice in the MCR, counting only days of full term.

Article 30 PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURES

- 30.1 The Returning Officer shall give at least seven days' notice of forthcoming elections, by e-mail. The Sub-Rector shall be notified by letter.
- 30.2 The Returning Officer shall satisfy the Sub-Rector that the ballot shall be conducted at a place that has been reasonably publicised and is reasonably accessible to all those eligible to vote, and that the count shall be conducted in a fair and efficient manner.
- 30.3 Any person wishing to stand as a candidate shall so inform the Returning Officer or their deputy in writing no later than three days prior to the election date.
- 30.4 Having verified the status of a candidate as an ordinary member for ordinary offices and status as ordinary or associated member for additional offices, the Returning Officer shall place the candidate's name and the office for which they are standing on the notice board in the MCR once the nomination period has ended.
- 30.5 All candidates' names, juxtaposed with the offices for which they are standing, must be placed on the notice board in the MCR at least two days prior to the opening of the poll until the end of the day of election.
- 30.6 The Returning Officer shall communicate the candidates' names and the offices for which they are standing to all ordinary members via e-mail at least two days prior to the opening of the poll. If the role is not filled, nominations can be reopened for a further 24 hours.
- 30.7 Hustings shall be held on the afternoon prior to the election in the MCR at a time and date notified by the Returning Officer at least two days prior to the opening of the poll.

Article 31 ELECTION DAY PROCEDURES

- 31.1 The ballot box shall be kept open for a minimum of ten hours on the day of the election. These hours shall be determined and advertised by the Returning Officer.
- 31.2 On the day of the election, the Returning Officer, as well as members of the incumbent executive committee and additional officers who are not themselves standing as candidates, shall facilitate the free and fair conduct of the election by:
 - (a) verifying that all persons who proceed to vote are ordinary members;
 - (b) keeping a tally of all voters;
 - (c) ensuring that counting is conducted a fair and efficient manner;

- (d) ensuring that the results of the election are made known as soon as possible by notice in the MCR.
- 31.3 Ordinary members wishing to assist in the electoral process may do so provided that they are not standing in the election and have received permission from the Returning Officer.
- 31.4 The Returning Officer, and at least two other persons participating in the electoral process, shall conduct the counting of votes.
- 31.5 The Returning Officer shall declare invalid any vote that is blank, illegible or spoilt.

Article 32 THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

- 32.1 The ballot shall be conducted in terms of the Single Transferable Vote electoral system.
- 32.2 Each voter shall rank the candidates in preferential order, denoting with “1” their first choice, “2” their second choice, “3” their third choice, and so on. If a candidate scores more than 50% with a first-choice vote, they immediately win the election.
- 32.3 In the event of no candidate winning more than 50% of first choice votes, the votes shall be redistributed as follows:
 - (a) The candidate with the least number of first choice votes shall be eliminated;
 - (b) The elimination of candidates and distribution of their preferences will continue until either one candidate wins 50% of the vote plus one, or until all but two candidates have been eliminated, in which case the candidate with a plurality of the vote shall be deemed elected.
- 32.4 The election of multi-seat offices (i.e. The Social Secretaries) shall be conducted as follows:
 - (a) The total number of votes cast for the multi-seat constituency will be used to determine the quota of votes required for election. The formula used to determine the quota will be $(t/n+1)+1$, where n is the number of open seats, and t is the total number of votes cast.
 - (b) On the first count of votes, if any candidate receives more than the quota required for election, they will be declared elected, and their surplus votes will be distributed to the other candidates through the second preference.
 - (c) This process will continue until either all open seats are filled. If not enough candidates reach quota after the distribution of preferences, those with a plurality of the vote shall be declared elected.

- 32.5 The ballot paper shall include an option to “re-open nominations” (RON). In the event of RON winning 50% of the vote, the Returning Officer shall, within seven days of the election, re-open nominations for that position, and a new election shall be convened in accordance with the provisions of Part V of this Constitution.

Article 33 VALIDITY OF ELECTIONS

- 33.1 For an election to be valid at least 10% of ordinary members must vote.
- 33.2 Where fewer than 10% of members vote the Returning Officer shall immediately, and by reasonable notice to the Society, declare the election invalid and proclaim that a new election shall be held within seven days, subject to the provisions of Part V of this Constitution.
- 33.3 Where no person submits a candidacy for a given office the Returning Officer shall declare that election to that office is postponed, until no fewer than seven days after the election, at which point a new election for that office shall be held, subject to the provisions of Part V of this Constitution.

Article 34 ELECTION APPEALS

- 34.1 Appeals against any aspect of the elections shall be lodged with the Sub-Rector in person no more than 24 hours after the official closing of the poll.
- 34.2 All appeals shall be jointly investigated by the Sub-Rector and the Returning Officer.
- 34.3 If the Sub-Rector finds that any appeal lodged concerns the returning officer’s performance of their duties, the Sub-Rector shall have the power to bar the Returning Officer from participating in the investigation process. In such event, the Sub-Rector acting on their own shall investigate those appeals that have been lodged.
- 34.4 The findings of the investigation shall be publicised by notice in the MCR.

Article 35 TERMS OF OFFICE

- 35.1 Each officer’s term of office shall run from the day following their election, or their nomination if appointed under Article 9.8, until the day of the next election.
- 35.2 No person shall hold the president’s office for more than one year.
- 35.3 Any member of the Executive who misses two consecutive scheduled meetings of the MCR, be they general or extraordinary, without good cause will have been deemed to have resigned their post. This includes meetings that have failed to reach quorum, or have been unable to convene for any other reason.

6. MEETINGS

Article 36 NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- 36.1 The President shall give notice of meetings via e-mail.
- 36.2 The notice shall include date, time and place of the meeting.
- 36.3 Notice of any meeting shall be given at least one week prior to the meeting. Notice of any motions shall be given no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Any resolution relating to a matter not included in the notice shall be void unless the all members present unanimously approve such resolution.
- 36.4 Notice of any proposed amendment to the constitution shall be given at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Article 37 ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 37.1 The order of business at general meetings shall be:
 - (a) Minutes of the previous meeting;
 - (b) Officers' reports;
 - (c) Matters arising;
 - (d) Constitutional motions;
 - (e) Financial motions;
 - (f) Ordinary motions;
 - (g) Any other business (AOB).

37.2 Constitutional motions may not be discussed under AOB

Article 38 QUORUM AND VOTING REQUIREMENTS

- 38.1 Subject to the provisions of section 36, a quorum at any meeting of the Society shall require the presence of at least 10% of the Society's members, or at least 20 ordinary members. If a quorum is not obtained, the meeting shall be adjourned. The President shall set a date on which the adjourned meeting shall be held, which shall be in full term, and not more than fourteen days later, counting only days of full term.
- 38.2 Subject to the requirements of Article 36, the affirmative vote of a simple majority of those present and voting shall be required to approve a motion.
- 38.3 The Chairperson shall, subject to Articles 9.1 and 10.1, be a member of the Executive Committee, and shall remain impartial in debate and not vote except in the case of a tie. They shall then have the casting vote.
- 38.4 Honorary members and associate members shall vote only on matters concerning the day-to-day running of the Society.
- 38.5 Any meeting at which a proposed amendment to the Constitution is to be discussed shall require a quorum of at least 15% of the Society's members, or at least 30 ordinary members. The affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting shall be required to approve a proposed amendment.

Article 39 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 39.1 Any members dissatisfied with the administration of the Society may propose a motion at any meeting of the Society.
- 39.2 If the complaint concerns alleges that any officer of the Executive Committee misused their authority, power or funds, or acted in a manner that was negligent, then the procedure for raising such a complaint, and for the adoption of any motion concerning the same, including removal of such officers, shall be the procedure required for a constitutional amendment.
- 39.3 If the complaint concerns allegations as to the conduct of any member, which is sufficiently serious to involve withdrawal or suspension or restrictions to membership, the procedure for raising the complaint, and the adoption of any motion concerning the same, shall be the procedure required for a constitutional amendment.

- 39.4 Any member whose complaint is not upheld, or is upheld but not effectively remedied, may appeal to the Sub-Rector, who may require the Society to provide a remedy.
- 39.5 If three members of the Executive Committee believe that the matters relating to misconduct in Articles 39.2 and 39.3 are not appropriate to be discussed at a general meeting, or require a more immediate remedy than Article 39.1, they may appeal to the Sub-Rector, who may require the society to provide a remedy.

Article 40 REGULATIONS

The Executive Committee shall be competent to propose regulations for running the Society. Such regulations shall be placed as a motion before a meeting of the Society.

Article 41 GENERAL

- 41.1 A copy of this Constitution shall be made available to each ordinary and associate member at the time of their joining the Society and shall also be posted on the MCR website. A copy shall be held by the Vice-President, and shall be open to inspection by any member, and by anyone qualified for ordinary membership. Another copy shall be deposited with the Sub-Rector.
- 41.2 Under the provisions of the Education Act (1994), the Governing Body shall review this Constitution not later than 2005, and at intervals of not more than five years thereafter.
- 41.3 Amendments made to the Constitution shall be subject to the consent of the Governing Body.