



Glasgow University Tech Society

*Scientia imperium est*

Constitution

November 2020

# **1 Chapter I - Overview**

## **Article 1 - Name**

The name of the society shall be ‘Glasgow University Tech Society’ (hereafter referred to as ‘The Society’) and shall be abbreviated as GUTS.

## **Article 2 - Equal Opportunities**

The Society will comply with the University’s policies, including policies on equal opportunities. The Society shall promote equal opportunities, whatever a person’s race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, beliefs, political positions, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status, age, physical or mental disability, state of health, appearance, status, and family circumstances The Society will also be committed to accommodating those with special needs.

## **Article 3 - Objectives**

The Society’s objectives shall be:

Paragraph A - To offer students the opportunity to develop leadership and networking skills.

Paragraph B - To create a platform for software and hardware development, IT start-ups and tech enterprise.

Paragraph C - To broaden interest in Computing Science and related disciplines

Paragraph D - To introduce students to team programming and its management.

Paragraph E - To promote the open-source movement.

Paragraph F - To collaborate on technology related projects in areas such as web development, mobile development, open hardware,

scientific modelling, security and cryptography, and game development, among others.

#### **Article 4 - Activities**

The Society will ordinarily achieve its objectives and purposes through the following activities, which are open to all its members, and where appropriate, to the wider public:

Paragraph A - An annual Hackathon.

Paragraph B - An annual ball.

Paragraph C - Creating special interest groups to collaborate on technology-related projects.

Paragraph D - An annual introductory event for first year students.

Paragraph E - Events and projects in collaboration with other societies at the University of Glasgow.

## **2 Chapter II - Membership and Governance**

### **Article 5 - Membership**

Paragraph A - Full membership will be open to all registered students at the University of Glasgow. Full membership shall expire on the first day of the first semester following completion or termination of studies.

Paragraph B - Students registered at other universities or other individuals interested in The Society will be able to join as Associate Members if their application is approved by the Executive Board. Such a membership runs until revoked by the Executive Board.

Paragraph C - Every member is obliged to sign the Declaration of Responsibility as provided by The School of Computing Science in order to be allowed access to the School's facilities.

Paragraph D - Associate members shall not account for more than 20% of the total membership number.

### **Article 6 - Governance**

Paragraph A - The Society shall be under the control of the membership. As such, all full members of The Society shall have the right to elect their representatives for the available positions in the Executive Board.

Paragraph B - The Society shall have five office bearers, forming the Executive Board:  
President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and General Board Member.

Paragraph C - The Committee shall consist of the Executive Board of The Society, former members of the Executive Board, and the organising committee.

Paragraph D - The organising committee are those who help organise The Society's events.

Paragraph E - All members of the Committee shall either be registered students at the University of Glasgow, or alumni of the University of Glasgow. Only membership of the committee who are currently a registered student will qualify to run for the Executive Board.

## **Article 7 - Executive Board and Responsibilities**

Paragraph A - Concerning all members of the Executive Board:

- Members of the Executive Board shall decide who has the right to access The Society's bank account
- Members or the membership of The Society shall obtain previous approval from the Executive Board in order to use the name, resources and image of The Society.
- Members shall approve the creation of special interest groups based on critical mass, an indication of support for the group and checks on any ethical issues.
- The Executive Board shall decide annually which groups will persist into the new academic year based on attendance at meetings and evidence of progress.
- Members shall attend all Executive Board meetings. If a member is not able to attend the meeting, said member must notify the President or Vice President at least 24 hours in advance.
- Members are responsible for maintaining and improving the image of The Society through their actions and behaviour.
- A member's position in the Executive Board shall be taken into discussion at the Executive Board meeting if a member is absent for two consecutive Executive Board meetings or one AGM or EGM without prior approval of the President or the Vice President.
- A member's position in the Executive Board shall be taken into discussion if a member does not comply with their responsibilities or acts against the interests of The Society.
- Discussions concerning a member's position in the Executive Board must have a 50% plus one support from the rest of the Executive Board members and must be corroborated with at

least one of the above points regarding their responsibilities and actions.

- Any member of the Executive Board can be removed from their position with the approval of two-thirds of the Executive Board.
- Any vacancy that may occur in an office shall be filled by an Extraordinary General Meeting, an eligible member shall be elected to serve the remainder of the term.

Paragraph B - **The President** shall:

- Be the spokesperson for The Society.
- Be the point of contact to the School of Computing Science.
- Convene and chair the meetings of the Executive Board and the Committee unless unavailable.
- Coordinate the work and activities of the Executive Board and the Committee.
- Provide directions to the activities of all Executive Board members.

Paragraph C - **The Vice President** shall:

- Assume the duties of the President should the office become vacant, or in the absence of the President.
- Assist other members of the Executive Board and the Committee in completing their jobs.
- Act as the parliamentarian for The Society.
- Provide feedback to The Society regarding its operations and functioning.
- Be the President's advisor in any important decisions.

Paragraph D - **The Secretary** shall:

- Keep minutes of AGMs, EGMs, and general Executive Board and Committee meetings.
- Notify the President of vacant board roles.

- Consider if the Executive Board is achieving the objectives defined in this constitution.
- Assist the Vice President in completing their job.

Paragraph E - **The Treasurer** shall:

- Maintain a record of the income and expenditure of The Society.
- Prepare the accounts and keep up to date bank statements.
- Prepare a detailed report of all financial activities of The Society and present it in all AGMs or upon request in an EGM or at an Executive Board meeting.
- Disburse money to other members of the Executive Board for authorised uses.

Paragraph F - **The General Board Member** shall:

- Overlook outreach of The Society.
- Make information regarding helping at events available.
- Assist other Executive Board members in their duties.

### **3 Chapter III - Meetings, Elections, and Constitutional Amendments**

#### **Article 8 - Meetings**

Paragraph A - Executive Board Meetings shall be held at least bimonthly and have a minimum of five days' notice.

Paragraph B - Committee Meetings shall be held at as deemed necessary by the President and have a minimum of three days' notice.

Paragraph C - Annual General Meetings (AGMs) shall:

- Take place in March every year.
- Enable members of the Executive Board to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and future direction of The Society.
- Enable members of the Executive Board to discuss the financial, marketing, communication and project reports of The Society.
- Have fourteen days' notice given by the Secretary.
- Allow membership to make comments and suggestions. To this end, the Secretary is responsible for engaging with the membership, collecting comments and suggestions, and presenting these to the Executive Board.
- Have a quorum of one half of the Executive Board.

Paragraph D - Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) shall:

- Be called either by the President, 50% of the Executive Board, or by submission of a formal written request by 10% of the membership.
- Have three days' notice given by the Secretary.
- Have a quorum of one half of the Executive Board.



## **Article 9 - Elections**

Paragraph A - Elections shall be held during the AGM, or at an EGM in the event of a vacant position within the Executive Board.

Paragraph B - Elections shall be held by a secret paper ballot or a digital equivalent. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Paragraph C - Voting is open to all full members of The Society. Associate members shall not have voting rights.

Paragraph D - All candidates running for an Executive Board position must be current Committee members. They also must fulfil any criteria set by bodies the Society is affiliated with.

Paragraph E - All candidates must complete an application form and submit it to the Executive Board at least one day before the election.

Paragraph F - In the event of a contested election, the candidate(s) that are not elected may run for any other open position.

Paragraph G - The term of office shall be two semesters for all positions. New office bearers shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Ball, or on 1st June should no ball be organised or should it take place before the AGM.

Paragraph H - The newly elected Executive Board members shall be formally introduced at the annual ball.

Paragraph I - Current Executive Board members may contest vacant Executive Board positions at an EGM without forgoing their current position. Should they be successful in achieving a new position, their former position shall become vacant, and an election for that position held immediately.

## **Article 10 - Constitutional Amendments**

Paragraph A - Constitutional amendments can only be made in AGMs or EGMs.

Paragraph B - A constitutional amendment can only be proposed by the submission of a formal written request by either 10% of the membership, 10% of the Committee, or a majority of the Executive Board.

Paragraph C - In order to pass, a constitutional amendment must be approved by either: two-thirds of Executive Board members present and voting and majority of members present and voting, or three quarters of members present and voting.