MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY CLUB / SOCIETY CONSTITUTION 2026/2027

Maynooth University

Debating Society

Constitution

Date Passed: 20 / 11 / 2026

1. Name of Club/Society:

1. The name of the Club/Society shall be the "MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY Debating Society", hereafter referred as "the Society".

2. Aims and Objectives:

The aims and objectives of the Club/Society shall be as follows:

2.1 To encourage all students of Maynooth University to become members of the Society ("Members") and engage with the art of debating.

2.2 To maintain a welcoming and progressive society that respects all, and to foster a positive and accepting atmosphere within the Society.

2.3 To develop and maintain strong links with the community, in both the local and wider sense, through collaborations with community groups, secondary schools, third-level institutions, and other such relevant parties.

2.4 To promote the training and development of Members who wish to improve their expertise and talent in the fields of public speaking and debating.

3. Membership:

3.1 Full membership of the Club/Society shall be open to all registered students of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth (MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY); St.Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM); the Pontifical University and National Seminary of Ireland upon payment of a subscription fee as set by the Governing Executive Committee of the Club/Society and in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Clubs and Societies Committee. As indicated - Committee Resources - MU Life Clubs & Societies

3.2 Full members of the Club/Society shall be:

i) Entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Club/Society
ii) Eligible for election to the Club/Society's Governing Executive Committee

3.3 All members shall be bound by this constitution and guidance documents (resources on MU Life) and decisions of MU C&S Committee

4. Governing Executive Committee

4.1 The Club/Society shall have a Governing Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as the "the committee") which shall be elected annually by the membership.

4.2 The committee shall run and direct the ongoing activities of the Club/Society on behalf of its members and in accordance with the aims and objectives.

4.3 Although decisions should be arrived at by the consensus of the committee (where possible), committee decisions shall be decided by majority voting.

4.4 A quorum for committee meetings shall be two thirds of committee members.

4.5 The Committee shall consist of :

i) Chairperson
ii) Vice Chairperson
iii) Secretary
iv) Treasurer
v) Public Relations Officer

vi) A number of other Members, e.g. Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Equipment Officer, Ordinary Committee Members, etc.

4.6 Assistant positions shall be filled by co-option by the committee as the need arises.

4.7 Sub-committees may be co-opted where the need arises and at the discretion of the committee.

4.8 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one year running from 1st July until the 30th June of the following year.

4.9 A person shall not hold the same office for more than 2 successive years.

5. Election of the Governing Executive Committee

5.1 The committee members shall be democratically elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Club/Society.

5.2 Club/Society AGM's and committee elections, where possible, should be held before the end of semester 2 of a given academic year in accordance with Clubs and Societies Committee rules.

5.3 To seek election to the committee, each candidate must have 2 nominations by current members of the Club/Society.

6. Duties of Governing Executive Committee

6.1.1 The Chairperson shall be the chief officer of the Club/Society whose functions include chairing all meetings of the committee and officiating at meetings of the Club/Society.

6.1.2 The Chair of any meeting shall have an ordinary vote at committee meetings and meetings of the Club/Society. In the event of a tied vote on any matter she / he shall have the casting vote.

6.2.1 The Vice Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in all their duties.

6.2.2 The Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson (unless otherwise directed by a general meeting of the Club/Society) in the event that the Chairperson is absent or is unable to perform their duties.

6.3.1 The Secretary's function shall be to deal with all correspondence and records of the Club/Society.

6.3.2 The Secretary keep minutes of all committee meetings, of all general meetings, of the Annual General Meeting or any other meetings relating to the business of the Club/Society when requested by the committee.

6.3.3 The Secretary may keep a record of authorisation of expenditure.

6.3.4 The Secretary shall give notice to all members of the Clubs/Society's meetings, events and functions.

6.3.5 The Secretary shall assist the Public Relations Officer to organise fund raising events and sponsorship where necessary.

6.4.1 The Treasurer's function shall be to administer the funds of the Club/Society and to maintain accounts and budgets.

6.4.2 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decisions of the committee in compliance with the regulations set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee.

6.4.3 The Treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the Club/Society. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorised various expenditures and shall issue receipts.

6.4.4 The Treasurer shall sign all cheques and withdrawals forms from the Club/Society's bank account.

6.4.5 Where the Treasurer is decreed as unavailable, another designated person may sign cheques and withdrawal forms for the Club/Society on consultation with the Clubs and Societies Committee

6.5.1 The Equipment Officer shall be responsible for the fixed and current assets of the Club/Society in compliance with the regulations set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee.

6.5.2 The Equipment Officer shall maintain a record of all fixed and current assets belonging to the Club/Society and will report an inventory list to the committee at the start and end of the academic year.

6.6.1 The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) shall be responsible for the advertising of all functions of the Club/Society through all means possible.

6.6.2 The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) shall deal with external correspondence and maintain records of the contribution outside bodies have had for the Club/Society and to give notice to all members of these contributions.

7. Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members

7.1 No member of the committee shall be dismissed from office unless:

i) Written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal, signed by 10% of the members of the Club/Society is received 4 working days prior to a general meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated.
ii) Two thirds of the Governing Executive Committee may also call a meeting to debate the dismissal of another committee member.

7.2 A resolution to dismiss a committee member shall be passed by a simple majority voting at the relevant and quorate meeting.

7.3 A committee member wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing declaring that intention to resign to the Secretary, who will immediately inform the committee as a whole. The responsibilities of that person shall be delegated to other committee members(s)until a by-election can held to re-elect a new person to the position.

8. Meetings

8.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held each year.

8.2 The AGM shall be held no later than in the final month of the Academic year where the main committee members will be elected (where possible).

8.3 Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at this meeting.

8.4 A quorum of the meeting shall be 3 Governing Executive Committee members and 10% of the ordinary membership

8.5 The business of the AGM shall include elections of relevant Executive Governing Committee as well as any annual reports or handover documents from the outgoing Governing Executive Committee (which should include a Treasurer's report on the finances of the Club/Society).

8.6 An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if:

i) 10% of the ordinary membership of the Club/Society request such a meeting in writing.
ii) A quorum of the Governing Executive Committee requests such a meeting in writing.
iii) A vacancy on the current committee occurs and there is a need to elect a replacement.

8.7 Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at the AGM or EGM (where relevant).

8.8 Notice of all meetings shall be given to the membership at least 5 working days prior to the date of the meeting.

8.9 At a meeting, a member may propose a resolution relating to the business of the Club/Society. The resolution shall be voted on by a show of hands and a declaration of the President that the resolution is carried (unless a secret ballot is demanded by any 5 members) shall be conclusive evidence that the resolution has passed or failed.

8.10 In the event that the President's resolution (8.9) is challenged, a recount of the votes will be administered in which a number of appropriate people will be appointed by the committee as "tellers" to count the votes. The result will be announced by the President or the Vice-President (where requested by the general meeting).

8.11 No resolution may contravene Maynooth University policy or Clubs and Societies Committee policy.

9. General

9.1 There shall be an Honorary President of the Club/Society who shall be a staff member in compliance with the regulations set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee. The Honorary President's term of office shall be for one academic year. Honorary Presidents shall be entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Club/Society. Honorary President shall not have voting rights and are ineligible for election to the Club/Society's Governing Executive Committee. The rights of an Honorary President shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the Club/Society.

9.2 The membership fee for the Club/Society shall be in compliance with the conditions set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee

9.3 Each member of the Club/Society shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution, on demand, free of charge.

9.4 In the event of a clash with the Clubs and Societies Committee rule and regulations, the Clubs and Societies Committee rules and regulations shall take precedence above this constitution and is subject to Clubs and Societies Committee Policy at all times.

9.5 In joining the Club/Society, members agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Club/Society as laid down in this constitution and by the Governing Executive Committee. Members violating these rules and regulations shall be answerable to the committee and may have their membership revoked and no monies refunded, for persistent breaches or extremely serious breaches, as deemed by a majority of the committee. In the event that the committee

cannot resolve a dispute with a member(s), the Clubs and Societies Committee shall rule on the matter and it's decision shall be final.

10. Amendments to this Constitution

10.1 All amendments to this constitution need to be approved by the Clubs and Societies Committee in advance of notifying members. Notice of a proposal to seek an amendment to this Constitution shall be given to the members at least 4 working days prior to the meeting at which such a proposal shall be considered

10.2 A proposal to amend this Constitution must receive the approval of 2/3s of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.