



Maynooth University

Philosophy Society

Constitution

Date Passed: _____ / _____ / _____

1. Name of Society:

1. The name of the Society shall be the “MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY
Philosophy Society”, hereafter referred as “the Society”.

2. Aims and Objectives:

- 2.1 Foster critical thinking: Encourage analytical and critical thinking among members.
- 2.2 Promote philosophical discussion: create a space for all students where in-depth philosophical ideas can be discussed, in an informal manner.
- 2.3 Encourage committee and member communication, ensuring that the society reflects its members involved.
- 2.4 Facilitate academic development and community.
- 2.5 Interconnectivity and collaboration: Each role within outreach and academia closely collaborates, ensuring ideas and strategies are shared and developed across sections. Who works with who on any specific project depends on the function of the groups involved.

3. Membership:

- 3.1 Full membership of the 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 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 Society shall be:

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

3.3 The Society recognises the importance that staff and graduates of MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY and SPCM can play in the development and long-term success of a Society. It shall therefore endeavour to maintain contact with such former members who wish to retain their connection with the Society.

3.4 To this end the Governing Executive Committee of the Society shall be empowered to create a class of "Associate Member" of the Society.

3.5 Associate Membership shall be open to all staff and alumni of MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY and SPCM upon payment of a subscription fee as set by the Governing Executive Committee of the Society in consultation with the MU Clubs and Societies Committee. The associate membership fee shall not be less than the ordinary membership fee and no more than 10 times the ordinary membership fee.

3.6 Associate Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Society. Eligibility of Alumni to compete on behalf of Maynooth University/SPCM will be determined by the relevant National Governing Body.

3.7 Associate Members shall not have voting rights and are ineligible for election to the Society's Governing Executive Committee.

3.8 All other rights of Associate Members shall be determined by Maynooth University Clubs and Societies Committee.

3.9 The rights of an Associate Member shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the Society.

3.10 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 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 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) Ambassador
 - ii) Chairperson
 - iii) Academic Chairperson
 - iv) Secretary
 - v) Treasurer
 - vi) Public Relations Officer
 - vii) A number of other members: Events Officer, Academic Events Officer, Academic Communications Officer.
- 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 Society.
- 5.2** 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 Society.

6. Duties of Governing Executive Committee

6.1

- 6.1.1** The Ambassador shall act as a central communication hub.
- 6.1.2** They shall coordinate and facilitate committee meetings.
- 6.1.3** They shall have an ordinary vote at committee meetings and meetings of the Society but in the case of a tied vote on any matter, they shall have the deciding vote.
- 6.1.4** They shall act as a mediator: encouraging civil debate and remaining neutral by taking a backseat on society logistics.

6.2

- 6.2.1** The Chairperson shall oversee the initiatives regarding accessible events and promote outreach.
- 6.2.2** The Chairperson shall oversee delegation and shall support other committee members in their duties.
- 6.2.3** They shall plan and promote accessible events: focusing on collaborative events and coordinating guest speakers.

6.3

- 6.3.1** The Academic Chairperson shall spearhead academic affairs. They shall foster academic growth and collaboration. Delegate and support other committee members.
- 6.3.2** They shall lead academic discussions.
- 6.3.3** They shall aim to increase the engagement with academic topics in philosophy, whilst also ensuring a space for postgraduate students and others who aim to engage at that level of philosophical discussion.
- 6.3.4** They shall work closely with the chairperson to ensuring to incorporate ideas discussed from general events, to inform reading groups reading.
- 6.3.5** They shall oversee the plans for publications on the website.
- 6.3.6**

6.4

- 6.4.1** The Treasurer's function shall be to administer the funds of the 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 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 withdrawal forms from the 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 Society on consultation with the Capitation Committee

6.5

- 6.5.1** The Secretary shall handle general communications alongside academic communications officer.
- 6.5.2** They shall disseminate event information, and information that all committee members should know.
- 6.5.3** Take minutes at committee meetings.
- 6.5.4** Coordinate with PRO to ensure consistent communication with the society.
- 6.5.5** They shall oversee the society newsletter with Academic communications officer.

6.6

- 6.6.1** The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) shall be responsible for the advertising of all functions of the 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 Society and to give notice to all members of these contributions.

6.7

- 6.7.1** Academic Communications Officer shall be the primary communicator for academic activities.
- 6.7.2** They shall announce and advertise calls for academic papers.
- 6.7.3** They will be the primary overseer of the society website.
- 6.7.4** They shall act as a point of contact for academic event inquiries.

6.8

- 6.8.1** The events manager shall coordinate collaborations, coffee mornings and other regular events.
- 6.8.2** They shall organise venues and work out event details,
- 6.8.3** They will work to ensure that events promote outreach and accessibility.

6.9

- 6.9.1** The Academic Event Manager will ensure the facilitation and smooth running of academic events.
- 6.9.2** They shall work out logistics for academic events and book venues.
- 6.9.3** They shall coordinate with the Academic Chairperson to coordinate academic events.

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 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. The responsibilities of that person shall be delegated to other committee members(s) until a by-election can be 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 Society).

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

- i) 10% of the ordinary membership of the 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 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 If 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 a Honorary President of the 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 Society. Honorary President shall not have voting rights and are ineligible for election to the Society's Governing Executive Committee. The rights of an Honorary President shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the Society.

9.2 The membership fee for the Society shall follow the conditions set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee

9.3 Each member of the 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 always subject to Clubs and Societies Committee Policy.
- 9.5** In joining the Society, members agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the 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 its 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.