

COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LAWS OF THE SOCIETY

Chapter I

Fundamental Regulations

The following shall be considered the fundamental regulations of the College Historical Society and no Law or resolution in anywise contradicting, suspending or repealing them, or any part of them, shall be valid without the consent of the Board.

1. All persons paying the capital levy shall be eligible for the ordinary Membership of the Society.
2. Topics of religious controversy and present party politics shall be prohibited at the meetings of the Society.
3. Every meeting of the Society shall terminate not later than twelve o'clock by College time.
4. No person can be elected an Officer of the Historical Society without the sanction of the Board unless he be either officially connected with the University or be a member of the Society. This law shall not apply to the election of Vice-Presidents.

Chapter II

Annual Members

1. The amount of the annual subscription shall be determined by the General Committee in advance of the first of October of each session.
2. All persons who are eligible shall become Annual Members immediately upon paying their annual subscription.
3. The membership of every Annual Member shall lapse at the end of the sixth week of Michaelmas Term in the session following that in which his annual subscription was last paid. Every person whose membership shall have so lapsed shall be re-admissible on payment of the annual subscription.
4. Any member who is neither indebted to the Society in any amount, nor has in his possession any book from the Society's Library, nor has any key belonging to the Society may resign from membership of the Society on notifying in writing the Record Secretary of his wish to do so. The Record Secretary shall, at the earliest possible moment after the receipt thereof, lay such member's resignation before the General Committee, who may, on being satisfied that the above conditions are fulfilled, instruct the Record Secretary to inform such Member that his resignation has been accepted. The Record Secretary shall do so in Form A. Resignations shall take effect from the date of the Committee Meeting at which they were accepted.
5. Any Member communicating with the Board as to any proceedings of the Society without previously giving notice of his intention at a meeting of the Society ceases *ipso facto* to be a Member.

6. The General Committee alone shall have the power of expelling any member in the Society; but the Society may, at any time, by motion on notice restore that member, and may likewise, by further motion on notice declare his expulsion to have been groundless. Members of Committee shall have the right of voting on such motion or motions.
7. The expulsion of a Member shall in all cases be effected by a decision of the Committee entitled to vote, and by the subsequent reading aloud of the following declaration by the Auditor at the next meeting, or next but one, after the Committee's decision:

“We hereby certify that it has been decided by a clear majority of the General Committee of the Historical Society that Mr. A.B. shall be expelled from the Society”

Chapter III

Honorary Members and Life Members

1. No person shall be added to the list of Honorary Members until his name shall have been submitted to a meeting of the Society and a motion for his election passed with two-thirds of the voters voting for the motion, the vote to be taken by ballot. No Member shall be eligible to vote on such motion who shall not have been a Member of the Society during some session in which the candidate proposed shall have satisfied the requirements of the following law, where it applied to him.
2. Except as hereinafter provided for, no person shall be eligible for election to Honorary Membership who shall not have been an Officer and obtained the Marked Thanks of the Society, or who shall not have been awarded a medal in the Society; nor shall any person be so qualified if more than two years have elapsed since his ceasing to be a member of the Society, nor shall the name of any person be voted on more than three times in total, nor more than twice in any session.
3. Honorary Members shall be admitted to the full privilege and subject to the same responsibilities as Annual Members, with the following restrictions, which shall not take effect in the same session in which they are elected to Honorary Membership:
 - i. They shall not hold any office in the Society;
 - ii. They shall not sit on General Committee;
 - iii. They shall not obtain any medal or other distinction.
4. Honorary Members shall be free from further annual subscription.
5. Every person elected an Honorary Member of the Society shall pay the amount of any debts due by him to the Society immediately after receiving notification of the same from the Treasurer.
6. All Members of the Speculative Society of Edinburgh, the Oxford Union Society, the Cambridge Union Society, the Durham Union Society and the Glasgow Union Society shall have the privileges of Honorary Membership and shall be subject to all the Laws of the Society. All Members of the above Societies claiming the privileges under this Law shall, if required, produce evidence of membership of their respective Societies to the satisfaction of the Record Secretary.

7. All Fellows of the Trinity College, Dublin, shall be eligible for election as Honorary Members and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of Honorary Members elected in pursuance of Law 2, except that of taking part in the Private Business of the Society.
8. Any person who has been for four sessions a Member of the Society may, with the permission of the General Committee, when his name is no longer on College Books, or when he has obtained M.A. standing, become a life member, and may have full use of the Society's Rooms and take part in Public or Private Business, subject to the payment of a Life Membership subscription of five times the sum of the annual subscription. He shall not be able to act as a proposer or seconder of a motion in Private Business, hold any Office in the Society, sit on the General Committee or obtain any Medal or other distinction.

Chapter IV

The President and Vice-Presidents

1. The President and Vice-Presidents of the Society shall be elected by resolution, and not by ballot.
2. They shall hold their respective Offices for life, or until removed, and shall be removable by resolution passed after fourteen days' notice thereof at an Ordinary Meeting of the Society, consisting of not less than twenty-four Members, such resolution to be carried by at least five-sixths of the Members present at such meeting.
3. All persons proposed for any of the above Offices shall be proposed and seconded by two Members of the Society, and a notice in writing of the intention to propose such persons, with the names of the proposer and the seconder, shall be given to the Record Secretary and read by him at two consecutive meetings of the Society next preceding that at which the election is to take place; and such notice shall remain on the notice-board from the day after the first reading-out of the same until the night of such election.
4. The election to the said Offices shall take place by resolution passed at an ordinary meeting of not less than twenty Members.
5. The President shall be elected by the majority of the Members present at such a meeting, providing that no person shall be declared unless a clear majority of the Members present, consisting of not less than eleven Members, shall have voted for such person.
6. In the event of there being three or more persons proposed for the above Office, and in case a clear majority shall not vote for one of such persons, then the name of the person for whom the smallest number of votes shall have been recorded shall be struck off, and the names of the remaining persons shall again be submitted to the meeting, and so in succession until a clear majority composed of not less than eleven Members shall vote for one person, whereupon such person shall be duly declared elected.
7. The Vice-Presidents shall likewise be elected by resolution provided that no person shall be declared elected a Vice-President of the Society unless at least three-fourths of the Members present at a meeting consisting of not less than twenty Members shall have voted in favour of such person.

Chapter V

Election of the Officers and General Committee

1. The Officers of the Society shall be the Auditor, the Treasurer, the Correspondence Secretary, the Record Secretary, the Censor and the Librarian.
2. The General Committee of the Society shall consist of the President of the Society, the ex-Auditor and the Officers of the session, *ex-officio*, together with six other Members of the Society.
3. The Officers and General Committee of the Society shall be elected for the ensuing session during the seven days immediately preceding the last ordinary meeting in each session, and shall enter upon Office one day after the last sessional meeting. They shall hold office for one session. The session shall begin the day after the last ordinary meeting of Trinity Term. At the close of each session, every Officer and Member of Committee shall vacate his Office or place on Committee.
4. No member shall be qualified to vote at the annual election of Officers and Committee Members who shall not have attended, within the current session previously to the night of nomination, at least three of the Society's ordinary weekly meetings, exclusive of the Opening Meeting, or who shall stand indebted to the Society.
5. All candidates for Office in the Society or seat on the General Committee in the annual elections must be proposed and seconded at least one fortnight previous to the last ordinary meeting of the session. Each candidate or his proposer must on the night of the nomination hand in to the Record Secretary a paper setting forth the full name, and addition (i.e. B.A. etc.), if any, of the candidate, with his proposer and seconder. No member need be present on the night of his nomination.
6. Each candidate for Office in the Society shall before the day of election give in to the Record Secretary a statement in writing in accordance with Form D. It shall be considered a breach of faith with the Society either to solicit votes for or promise votes in favour of any candidates for Office in the Society. The statements, signed by the candidates, shall be open for inspection on the night of election.
7.
 - i. On the night of nominations, an Electoral Sub-Committee shall be constituted, consisting of all Officers and Committee Members not themselves nominated, together with one member by each candidate for the two most senior contested offices, and two Members nominated by the Auditor. The Sub-Committee shall choose a Chairman from amongst its Members.
 - ii. The Electoral Sub-Committee shall be responsible for the preparations for and conduct of the general election, and shall ensure that all laws relating to the election are observed. In particular, the Electoral Sub-Committee shall fix the date, time and place of balloting and shall, at least one week prior to the election deliver or cause to be delivered notification of these matters to each Member of the Society qualified to vote. It shall appoint Presiding Officers for the conduct of balloting, and shall provide a sealed box for the insertion of completed balloting papers.
 - iii. The Electoral Sub-Committee shall provide balloting papers, containing instructions to voters in accordance with Form B, together with the names of the candidates for each Office and

place on Committee in alphabetical order, and all information provided to the Record Secretary in accordance with Law 5 of this Chapter.

8.
 - i. The Electoral Sub-Committee shall obtain from the Librarian a list of Members who have attended, within the current session previous to the night of nomination, at least three of the Society's ordinary weekly meetings, exclusive of the Opening Meeting.
 - ii. The Electoral Sub-Committee shall obtain from the Treasurer memoranda of accounts due from each Member of the Society.
 - iii. The Electoral Sub-Committee shall post in the Conversation Room a copy of the list sent in by the Librarian, distinguishing thereon the names of those Members who stand indebted to the Society. If their debts be discharged before the time fixed for balloting shall have elapsed, such Members shall be eligible to vote.
9.
 - i. Throughout the time fixed for balloting, not less than two Presiding Officers shall be present in the place of balloting.
 - ii. Each Member wishing to vote shall present himself to the Presiding Officers who may require proof of identification.
 - iii. If the Member is qualified to vote, the Presiding Officers shall provide him with one - and only one - balloting paper, which shall be first marked with a distinctive stamp, and with an envelope, which shall be marked in the same fashion. They shall ensure that the balloting paper is marked by the Member in secret, and shall not allow it to be removed from the place of balloting.
 - iv. The Member shall mark the candidates for each Office and place on Committee with the numerals from 1 onwards in the order of his choice until the limit of his preferences or until the limit of the number of the candidates for that Office or place on Committee. He shall then fold the balloting paper so as to conceal his mark, and place it in the envelope provided, which he shall sign on the inside and seal. He shall then place the sealed envelope containing the marked balloting paper inside the sealed box provided for that purpose in the view of the Presiding Officer.
 - v. At any time before placing the sealed envelope in the box provided, the Member may return the envelope or the balloting paper to the Presiding Officers, who shall immediately destroy it, and provide him with another one.
10.
 - i. After the time fixed for balloting has elapsed, the sealed box shall be opened and the votes scrutinised by the Auditor, the ex-Auditor and the Record Secretary (who may jointly appoint substitutes, subject to the approbation of the Electoral Sub-Committee.
 - ii. The scrutineers shall declare the result of the election.
 - iii. On each balloting paper the candidate who has been marked with the numeral 1 shall be deemed to be the Member's first preference, the candidate who has been marked with the numeral 2 shall be deemed to be the Member's second preference, and so on. Where a ballot paper has been improperly marked, the scrutineers shall give effect to the Member's preferences in so far as they are clear to all the scrutineers from the marking.

iv. The first candidate for each Office to achieve a majority of votes after, if necessary, re-allocation of votes by the system of the single transferable vote shall be declared elected. But if only one candidate remains he shall be declared elected whether or not he shall have a majority of votes.

v. The first six candidates for a place on the General Committee to achieve more than one-seventh of the votes after, if necessary re-allocation of votes by the system of the single transferable vote shall be declared elected and for the purpose of the count each balloting paper shall be given the value of 1000 after the manner of electing Seanad Éireann. If the number of candidates remaining is equal to the number of vacancies remaining then those candidates shall be declared elected whether or not they shall have more than one-seventh of the votes.

vi. Whenever there shall be an equality of votes for two or more candidates, and it is necessary to eliminate one of them, then the candidate who achieved the least number of first preference votes shall be eliminated; if there be an equality of first preference votes, then the candidate who achieved the lowest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated, and so on. If there be an equality of second and subsequent preferences then the Office or place or places on Committee in question shall be declared vacant.

vii. No Member shall be declared elected to any Office or place on Committee who stands indebted to the Society.

11. No objection against the validity of any election can be entertained unless a notice of motion impeaching such election be given at the last ordinary meeting of the session. Such motion shall be disposed of at an extraordinary meeting, to be held for that purpose, on the following Saturday.
12. If such motion shall be put on notice, the Office concerning which the question is raised shall be in abeyance and its functions discharged in compliance with the provisions of Chapter VI, Laws 4 and 5.
13. A bye-election shall be held for every vacancy in any Office or on the General Committee however arising, such vacancies to be announced at the meeting next after they arise, and nominations shall be take at the ordinary meeting next thereafter.
14. Bye-elections shall be conducted according to the Laws governing the annual elections, subject to the following exceptions:
 - i. (If the bye-election takes place before the sixth ordinary meeting of Michaelmas Term) no Member shall be qualified to vote who was not qualified to vote in the annual elections at the close of the preceding session, and Law 8 need not be observed. Members who were not qualified to vote in the annual elections only by virtue of their standing indebted to the Society shall become qualified if they discharge their debts before the time fixed for balloting in the bye-election shall have elapsed.
 - ii. The Electoral Sub-Committee may alter the words of Form B as appropriate to the number of Offices and places on Committee as are being contested.
 - iii. Where only one vacancy on the General Committee is being contested, the scrutineers in determining the result of the election shall treat the election as if it were an election to an Office.
 - iv. Where more than one vacancy on the General Committee is being contested, the candidates shall be required to receive, not one-seventh of the vote, but a quota, *i.e.* that number of votes

which, having regard to the total number of votes and the number of vacancies, is the lowest number of votes which is still so high that the number of candidates who might achieve this number on any count does not exceed the number of vacancies.

v. Law 11 shall not apply; no objection against the validity of any election can be entertained unless a notice of motion impeaching such election be given at the next night of meeting, and such motion be brought forward on the night of meeting next afterwards.

Chapter VI

Duties of the Auditor

1. No Member shall be eligible for this Office who shall not have fulfilled the following conditions:
 - i. He must have been a Member for one whole year;
 - ii. He must have attended at least one-half of the meetings of some one session, during which he shall also have spoken at least three times in the debates of the Society.
2. The Auditor shall deliver an Opening Address during the Michaelmas Term of the Session; and in case of his being unavoidably being prevented from doing so, the Committee shall appoint a substitute.
3. The senior ordinary Member of Committee or the substitute appointed in accordance with Law 4 of this Chapter shall, in the absence of the Auditor, perform all the functions of the Auditor as by law prescribed, as well in the Society's meetings as out of them, and shall be bound by the same duties and subject to the same penalties as the Auditor.
4. The Auditor shall be fined five times the sum of the Annual subscription if he shall be absent on any night of meeting without having given notice to the senior ordinary Member of Committee that he would not be able to attend. If the senior ordinary Member of Committee is unable to attend, the Auditor shall appoint a substitute from among the other Members of Committee. And if no ordinary Member of the Committee be available, he shall appoint a substitute from any of the Members of the Society who are or have been eligible for election to the Office of Auditor. If the Auditor and the senior ordinary Member of Committee be both absent, and the Auditor shall have omitted to appoint a substitute, the General Committee shall appoint a substitute from among the other ordinary Members of the Committee or the Members of the Society who are or have been eligible for election to the Office of Auditor.
5. If a successor to any Office - except that of Auditor - be not chosen at the legal time of election, the Auditor shall on the succeeding night of meeting, on the Chair being taken, nominate some member of the General Committee to fill the vacant Offices until the election shall have been concluded. Should any Officer, other than the Auditor, be absent from a meeting of the Society without having appointed a deputy, the Auditor shall appoint one.
6. The Auditor shall take care to record in a copy of the Laws to be kept by him any changes made in the Laws during his term of Office. He shall also take care that the Record Secretary shall enter any such change into his own copy of the Laws. It shall be the duty of the Auditor to compare these copies of the Laws not later than the second ordinary meeting of Trinity Term for the purposes of carrying out the foregoing provisions of this Law, and for any neglect of these provisions he shall be fined twice the sum of the annual subscription.

7. Any rulings made by the Auditor in writing on points of order shall be recorded by him before the next night of meeting in a book to be kept for that purpose.

Rulings by an Auditor on points of Law so recorded shall be binding as interpretations of the Laws but such rulings may be set aside during the current session by impeachment as provided for by Laws 37 and 38 of Chapter XIII, Part IV.

8. The Auditor shall appoint all tellers on divisions, whether of business or debate, and shall also declare all ballots open and closed.
9. If the Auditor has not been present at the Society's meetings for at least three-quarters of the nights of meeting, he shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks of the Society.

Chapter VII

Duties of the Treasurer

1. No member shall be eligible for this office who shall not have spoken at least five times in the debates of the Society.
2. The Treasurer shall receive the subscriptions and fines of the members and shall provide everything necessary for the use of the Society. He shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the property of the Society other than that which is entrusted to the care of any particular Officer, and shall take such steps as may be necessary to have any repairs of such property promptly executed.
3. He shall keep an account of the sums of money received and expended, mentioning from whom and when received, and upon what and when expended. He shall not, however, spend more than fifty pounds for any non-recurrent purpose without the sanction of General Committee, or more than five hundred pounds for any non-recurrent purpose, with the exception of repairs and decorations, without the sanction of the Society. An item of expenditure which has been incurred at least once in the previous two sessions shall be deemed to be recurrent. No part of the Society's funds shall be devoted to any public subscription without the sanction of the Society.
4. No Officer shall order anything whatever on account of the Society without having previously obtained the consent of the Treasurer or of the General Committee and any Officer violating this law shall be subject to a fine to be imposed at the discretion of the General Committee on complaint being made by the Treasurer.
5. On each night of meeting, the Treasurer shall read out a list of fines imposed. Each fine shall be read out on two occasions, and on the second reading of each fine the Auditor shall adjudicate the same and declare it absolute or not. If any fine is declared absolute it shall be competent for any Member other than the Member fined to move the remission of the fine. If a motion for the remission of a fine be carried the fine shall be deemed to be not absolute.
6. The Treasurer shall keep a book in which he shall record all fines.
7. The Treasurer shall ensure the proper auditing of the Society's accounts according to the directions of the General Committee.

8. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all debts due to or owed by the Society.
9. The Treasurer shall endeavour to secure sufficient income to finance the Society's activities according to the directions of the General Committee.
10. If the Treasurer has not been present at the Society's meeting's for at least three-quarters of the nights of meeting, he shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks of the Society.

Chapter VIII

Duties of the Correspondence Secretary

1. No member shall be eligible for this Office who shall not have spoken at least five times in the debates of the Society.
2. This Secretary shall carry on the general correspondence of the Society. He shall keep the correspondence received by him and copies of all letters sent by him.
3. This Secretary is the Officer authorised to issue public statements on behalf of the Society or the General Committee. No other Officer may issue any such statement unless the General Committee so directs.
4. This Secretary shall submit subjects for debate for the approval of the General Committee.
5. This Secretary shall, as soon as a subject for debate has been selected, make all exertions to procure a suitable Chairman for the meeting at which such subject will be discussed in time for publication and in case he shall not have procured a suitable Chairman in sufficient time he shall be fined five times the amount of the annual subscription.
6. This Secretary shall, as soon as a subject to debate has been selected, make all exertions to procure suitable guest speakers for the meeting at which such subject will be discussed in time for publication unless the General Committee otherwise direct and in case he shall not have procured suitable guest speakers in sufficient time he may be fined thrice the sum of the annual subscription.
7. This Secretary shall place upon the notice-board every subject for the discussion of which the General Committee shall have fixed a date.
8. At least two full days before each debate this Secretary shall place upon the notice-board an order paper so that Members wishing to speak in the debate may place their names thereon.
9. If this Secretary has not been present at the Society's meetings for at least three-quarters of the nights of meeting he shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks of the Society.

Chapter IX

Duties of the Record Secretary

1. No Member shall be eligible for this Office who shall not have spoken at least three times in the debates of the Society.
2.
 - i. This Secretary shall keep safe the Journals and other Records. He shall keep them in the Society's rooms and no one shall remove them without the permission of the Auditor, or of this Secretary under a penalty of thrice the amount of the annual subscription for the first offence and expulsion for the second.
 - ii. This Secretary shall, before the close of each session number and add to the catalogue of the records whatever books, documents or relics (other than books placed in the Society's Library) have been placed in the Record press or otherwise come into the custody of the Society during the session.
3.
 - i. This Secretary shall keep a copy of the Society's Laws into which he shall enter all changes made in the Laws during his tenure of Office. He shall compare this copy with the Auditor's copy not later than the second ordinary meeting of Trinity Term for the purpose of carrying out this duty.
 - ii. Before the first ordinary meeting of Michaelmas Term, this Secretary shall publish a notice of those amendments to the Laws adopted by the Society since the last reprinting of the Laws. Any member shall have a right to purchase a copy of such notice.
4.
 - i. This Secretary shall maintain a Register of all Annual, Honorary and Life Members of the Society, together with their addresses, for the accuracy of which he shall be responsible and which he shall exhibit to the Chairman, Auditor and other Officers, when called for by them.
 - ii. This Secretary shall place upon the Notice-board at the end of the sixth week of Michaelmas term a list of all Ordinary Members of the Society.
 - iii. This Secretary shall enter into the Record Book the names of the new Members in each year and the distinctions obtained by present and former Members, whether in the Society, the University or otherwise.
5. This Secretary shall preserve in the Records one typescript copy of any essay for which a Composition or a History Medal shall have been awarded by the Society.
6. This Secretary shall preserve in the Records one typescript copy of the Address made by the Auditor at the Opening Meeting.
7. This Secretary shall preserve in the Records two typescript copies of every Sub-Committee report, marking thereon such amendments as the Society may adopt.
8. This Secretary shall have book entitled '*Abstracts from the Journals*' into which he shall enter by the conclusion of the session in which he has held Office decisions upon important matters of procedure, Auditorial Rulings not inserted in the Rulings Book, decisions of the House (through the adoption of Sub-Committee reports and otherwise) in regard to matters of fundamental importance and all amendments to the Laws passed for the first time, together with a record of other principal occurrences during each session.
9. This Secretary shall have a book in which he shall place all press cuttings pertaining to the Society.

10. i. This Secretary shall prepare the Society's Annual Report relating to the proceedings of the preceding session within four months of the end of that session. This report shall contain an abstract of the Journals relating to the proceedings of the Opening Meeting, a similar abstract giving particulars of the Society's meetings during that session, particulars of any changes made in the Society's Laws in that session, a list of the Permanent Officers of the Society, a list of Officers and Members of both Committees for that session, a list of Honorary and Life Members of the Society and a summary of the result of the annual elections held at the close of the preceding session.
 - ii. These reports shall be published in excerpt or in full, at intervals to be determined by the General Committee, together with lists to be prepared by this Secretary of the Officers of the Society from its foundation, of Medallists from its foundation and of the titles of Auditorial Addresses from 1843 (with the names of the speakers to the Addresses).
 - iii. This Secretary shall, immediately on the publication of the Annual Reports forward a copy thereof, together with a copy of the Laws of the Society, to the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Members, Life Members and Medallists, and to each of the following Libraries and Societies: the National Library of Ireland; the College Library; the Library of University College, Dublin; the Library of University College, Cork; the Library of University College, Galway; the Library of Queen's University, Belfast; the Library of the Royal Dublin Society; King's Inns Library; the Public Library of St. Patrick's (commonly called Marsh's Library); the Library of the Royal Irish Academy; the Speculative Society of Edinburgh; the Oxford Union Society; the Cambridge Union Society and the Durham Union Society.
11. This Secretary shall register in the minute book within a week, a full account of the proceedings of the Society on the last night of meeting, including the name of the Chairman, the subject of debate, the speakers on each side, the names of speakers to motions in Private Business, all notices of motion in the order in which they were given and all rulings of the Auditor in accordance with the provisions of Law 27 of Chapter XIII, Part IV. On the day after each meeting of the Society this Secretary shall place a transcript of the above account on the Notice-board of the Society.
12. The duties of this Secretary at the Society's meetings shall be as follows: as soon as the Chair shall have been taken, he shall read the minutes of the last meeting and present them to the Chairman for his signature. At the time appointed for that purpose, he shall call upon the Members to bring forward their respective motions in their order, and in case of their failing to do so in person or by substitute (duly appointed by them in writing) he shall declare the motions lapsed. It shall likewise be his duty to receive notices of motion, and to distribute balloting papers.
13. This Secretary shall have entire control over the Notice-board of the Society.
14. This Secretary shall act as secretary to the General Committee.
15. If this Secretary has not been present at the Society's meetings for at least three-quarters of the nights of meeting, he shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks of the Society.

Chapter X

Duties of the Censor

1. No member shall be eligible for this Office who shall not have spoken at least three times in the debates of the Society.
2. The Censor shall publicise, both within and without College, the debates and other activities of the Society, subject to the directions of the General Committee.
3. The Censor shall be responsible for the Society's tape recordings. He shall keep a record of all speeches recorded with their positions on the reels, and shall mark recordings of special importance.
4. The Censor, subject to the directions of the General Committee, shall be chiefly responsible to the Society for the care and upkeep of the Billiard Room and game machines, and shall have the power to frame and to alter rules for the management of these facilities and generally to superintend their operation. In particular he may organise a Billiards or Snooker Competition.

All sums due to the Society for the use of these facilities shall be collected by the Censor and entered in a book to be kept by him for that purpose.

5. If the Censor has not been present at the Society's meetings for at least three-quarters of the night of meeting he shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks of the Society.

Chapter XI

Duties of the Librarian

1. No member shall be eligible for this Office who shall not have spoken at least three times in the debates of the Society.
2. It shall be the duty of the Librarian to maintain the Society's Library and to keep an accurate catalogue thereof. He shall facilitate the lending out to Members of books and ensure their safe return.
3. The Librarian shall have general charge of the Rooms, and in the event of any property being missing or wilfully damaged he shall immediately bring the matter under the notice of General Committee.
4. The Librarian shall be responsible for conducting the Schools' Debating Competition.
5. The Librarian shall keep an Attendance Book, in which he shall record the names of Officers and of substitutes appointed to discharge the duties of any Office, attending the meetings of the Society.
6. The Librarian shall provide for the recording of the names of all Members attending the meetings of the Society.
7. The Librarian shall prepare and distribute Oratory returns at meetings of the Society, taking care to ensure that no person receives or marks an Oratory return who is not a Member of the Society.

8. It shall be the Librarian's duty to provide everything necessary for the Society's place of meeting; and he shall act as chief steward at the Opening Meeting, and shall appoint as many stewards as he thinks proper to assist him. He shall have regard to the recommendations of any Sub-Committee appointed to consider arrangements for the Opening Meeting.
9. If the Librarian has not been present at the Society's meetings for at least three-quarters of the nights of meeting he shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks of the Society.

Chapter XII

Part I - Duties of General Committee

1. The General Committee shall meet regularly each week during the terms of Arts Lectures until the last sessional meeting at a time and on a day to be chosen by itself, but shall have the power to adjourn itself. While the Committee is sitting no Member who is not on the Committee shall be allowed to remain in the same room.
2. Three Members of the Committee shall be sufficient to form a quorum and the Chair shall be taken by the Ordinary Members of the Committee in rotation according to their seniority on Committee. The Chairman may exercise a casting vote in addition to his ordinary vote.

The seniority of the Ordinary Members of Committee shall be determined by the order of their election. Where two or more members are elected on the same count and with the same surplus, if any, their seniority shall be determined by College standing; and if College standing be equal, then the elder shall be senior.

3. The Committee shall have the general management of all the affairs of the Society which are not entrusted to a particular Officer, and for all purposes the property of the Society shall be deemed to be invested in it.
4. The Committee shall appoint the subjects for debate.
5. The Committee shall have power of imposing fines and remitting fines imposed by them without appeal from its decision.
6. The committee shall have the power of directing the Treasurer to expend any part of the Society's funds (not exceeding five hundred pounds) in any manner they think proper, and which may be consistent with the immediate objects of the Society.
7. The number of tickets to be issued for the Opening Meeting shall be decided by the Committee and all tickets on that occasion must be printed.
8. The Committee shall have the power of communicating with the Board on any subject they think proper.
9. The Record Secretary (or any Member of the Committee duly appointed by him in writing) shall be at liberty, with the concurrence (expressed in writing) of two other Members of the Committee, to call an extra Committee meeting on any day provided that one day's notice shall

be given to every Member of the Committee then resident in Dublin and two days notice shall be given to every Member of the Committee then resident elsewhere in Ireland.

10. Every Member of the Committee shall enter all amendments to the Laws into their copies immediately on their adoption.
11. The General Committee may summon an extraordinary meeting of the Society whenever they may deem it necessary and may abandon an extraordinary meeting so summoned.
12. The General Committee shall have the power to accept or reject invitations from other Societies or from the convenors of debating competitions and, if necessary, to choose delegates in response to an invitation so accepted.
13. The General Committee may direct that any ordinary meeting of the Society be organised as a competitive debate upon such terms as they see fit provided always that standing orders shall not be raised otherwise than by privileged motion in the usual way.
14. If any Officer or Member of the General Committee shall absent himself from three successive meetings of the Society, or from three successive meetings of the General Committee, without leave he shall from the termination of the third such meeting be deemed to have vacated his place. On the next night of meeting, the Record Secretary shall report the vacancy immediately after the minutes have been signed. In the event of the Record Secretary so vacating his place it shall be the duty of the Librarian to give such notice. Failing such notice in either case, the Officer omitting to give such notice shall be fined the amount of the annual subscription.
15. Any Officer or Member of the General Committee may resign from his Office or place on the Committee on notifying in writing the Record Secretary of his wish to do so. The Record Secretary shall at the earliest possible moment after the receipt thereof lay such resignation before the General Committee who may instruct the Record Secretary to inform such Officer or Member of the General Committee. Resignations shall take effect from the date of the Committee meeting at which they were accepted, and the Office or place on the General Committee shall be deemed to be vacant.
16. No Member shall be eligible for the election to the General Committee unless he shall have attended at least three meetings in any one session and shall have spoken at least once in the debates of the Society.

Chapter 13

Standing Orders

Part 1 - The Opening Meeting

1. The General Committee shall elect the Chairman for the Opening Meeting.
2. The Order of Proceedings at the Opening Meeting shall be as follows: the chair having been taken, the Record Secretary shall read the minutes of the last public proceedings of the Society. The medals and certificates having been presented to the successful candidates, the Chairman

shall then call upon the Auditor to deliver his Address, after the delivery of which it shall be moved and seconded, that the best thanks of the Society are due to the Auditor for his Address, and the Society is worthy of support.

Part 2 - Public Business

3. A Public Business Meeting shall be held, unless the General Committee otherwise direct, on the Wednesday immediately preceding the beginning of the Michaelmas term of Arts Lectures, on each Wednesday during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms of Arts Lectures on the first four Wednesdays of the Trinity Term of Arts Lectures at approximately eight o'clock p.m. College Time.
4. The order of proceedings at each Public Business Meeting shall be as follows: after the chair has been taken, the Minutes of the last public proceedings of the Society shall be read by the Record Secretary and, after any objection to their accuracy has been decided upon, shall be signed by the Chairman. The debate shall then ensue, after the conclusion of which the question for debate shall be put from the Chair. The question having been decided, the Chairman may vacate the Chair in order to address the Society, during which time some other person shall take the Chair.
5. The question for debate shall be put in the form of a motion.
6.
 - i. Guest speakers may be appointed to support the debate without the suspension of standing orders, besides whom any other Member may address the Society upon the subject under consideration. The order in which the guest speakers and the Members speaker shall be determined by the Auditor.
 - ii. The General Committee may at its discretion appoint that at one meeting during the session an essay submitted for the preceding session's competition in History or Composition or a part thereof, not exceeding thirty minutes in length shall be read to the Society, whereafter the motion "*That this House Agrees with Mr.*" shall be debated in the usual fashion, save only that the essayist shall have the sole right of a concluding reply.
7. Any Member who is absent from his place in any debate in which he has undertaken to speak shall be named by the Correspondence Secretary to the Auditor at the next meeting and shall be fined the amount of the annual subscription by the Auditor.
8. The Auditor may limit the time for which Guest speakers and Members will be permitted to address the Society.
9. The question for debate shall be put not later than 11 p.m.

Part 3 - Private Business

10. A Private Business Meeting shall be held, unless the General Committee otherwise direct, on the Wednesday immediately preceding the beginning of Michaelmas Term of Arts Lectures, on each Wednesday during the Michaelmas and Hilary Terms of Arts Lectures and on the first four Wednesdays of the Trinity Term of Arts Lectures.
11.
 - i. The order of proceedings at each Private Business Meeting shall be as follows: after the Chair has been taken, the minutes of the last Private Business Meeting shall be read by the Record Secretary and, after any objection to their accuracy has been decided upon, shall be

signed by the Chairman. The Society shall then proceed to the items of business in the following order:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) Fines read out for the first time; | e) General Business; |
| b) Questions; | f) Motions to be Discussed; |
| c) Reports to be Read; | g) Fines read out for the second |
| d) Notices of Motion; | time. |

ii. The Auditor may suspend the proceedings at any stage thereof so that a Public Business Meeting may be held, at the conclusion of which the Private Business Meeting shall be reconvened, Oratory returns shall be taken and the proceedings shall continue from the stage at which they were suspended.

iii. Whenever a Private Business Meeting does not commence until after the conclusion of the Public Business Meeting, Oratory returns shall be taken after the minutes have been signed and before fines are read for the first time.

iv. Whenever a Private Business Meeting shall conclude before the Public Business Meeting, Oratory returns shall be taken from Members at the conclusion of the Public Business Meeting.

12. At question time the Members shall address their questions through the Chairman to some Officer of the Society. Each Member asking questions shall preface it with the words, "Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the...", mentioning the title of the Officer questioned.

The questions asked at question time shall be brief. They shall refer solely to the Society's business, shall not invite opinion and shall, in the case of each particular question be within the sphere of responsibility of the Officer questioned. Members desiring information upon matters not especially part of the duties of the Treasurer, the Secretaries, the Censor or the Librarian or on matters within the the competence of the General Committee shall question the Auditor.

Officers replying at question time shall do so briefly and shall preface their replies with the words "Mr. Chairman, in answer to the question asked by Mr....".

Not more than ten minutes shall be devoted to question time at any meeting of the Society, and it shall be the duty of the Librarian to inform the Chairman if and when ten minutes shall have elapsed since the asking of the first question so that the Society may proceed immediately to the next business.

13. No motion shall be entertained by the Society unless a week's previous notice shall have been given by the mover, excepting the following, which shall be privileged to be moved without such previous notice.

- i. Motions for adjournment to the usual night of meeting;
- ii. Suspension of Standing Orders (which must be carried unanimously);
- iii. Votes of thanks, sympathy, regret and congratulations;
- iv. Amendments to motions;
- v. Motions for extension of time to Sub-Committees;
- vi. Motions for leave of absence;
- vii. Motions for the remission of fines;
- viii. Motions for the appointment of Sub-Committee under any Law or Examiners.

14. The Motions numbered i to iv (inclusive) in the immediately preceding law shall be movable in Public as well as Private Business.

15. All notices of motion, whether given for the first time or renewed, must be read aloud by the Member giving or renewing them, or by his deputy duly appointed in writing, and then delivered to the Record Secretary in writing, with the names of the mover and seconder affixed and if this rule shall be not complied with the motion shall fall to the ground.
16. The Auditor shall have the right to reject any notice of motion which is obviously frivolous or improper.
17. If a Member who has given notice of motion be not present in person or by deputy duly appointed by him in writing when called upon by the Record Secretary to bring forward his motion such motion shall lapse.
18.
 - i. No alteration in the Laws of the Society shall be valid unless the motion proposing the alteration having been passed by the Society after at least one week's notice shall on the next night of meeting or at the earliest opportunity thereafter, be passed again, and without amendment.
 - ii. No alteration in the Laws of the Society shall come into force until the session next ensuing after that in which it is adopted by the Society unless a resolution be passed to the contrary effect be passed on the second reading of such alteration.

Part IV - Standing Orders of General Application

19. Eleven Members of the Society shall be sufficient to constitute a quorum.
20. The Chairman shall not address the Society on any subject while it is under discussion.
21. No motion shall be proposed after the hour of half-past eleven p.m. if any member present objects, unless it be a motion for the adjournment, or for the suspension of standing orders, or for the remission of fines.
22. Privileged motions, other than votes of thanks, motions for the suspension of standing orders and motions for the remission of fines shall, upon being moved, be handed to the Record Secretary in writing with the names of the mover and the seconder attached.
23. When a motion is before the House no other motion shall be proposed unless that secondly proposed be a motion for the adjournment, or a motion for the suspension of standing orders, or an amendment, or a vote of thanks, sympathy, regret or congratulations.
24. No motion, unless it be a motion for the adjournment or for the suspension of standing orders shall be proposed twice on the same night of meeting.
25. No amendment shall be proposed while another amendment is before the meeting.
26. No motion may be withdrawn without the unanimous consent of the meeting.
27. When making speeches, Members shall address the House with the words, "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Auditor, Ladies and Gentlemen of the College Historical Society". This form of address shall also preface all remarks addressed to the House under the heading of General Business and all reports read to the Society. The formal address to the House may also be made in the Irish language.

28. Any Member may speak to an amendment, although he may have previously addressed the Society upon the question to which the amendment is being proposed.
29. The mover and opposer of any motion shall, subject to the Auditor's discretion, have the privilege of replying to any speakers before that motion or amendment to it shall be put to the House. This privilege does not extend to the mover and opposer of an amendment.
30. No division on any motion shall take place until such motion be put from the Chair; but if a division be called for by any Member, the Society shall divide and tellers shall be immediately appointed, and in case of an equal division the Chairman shall decide the question.
31. No member shall be permitted to vote on any subject in which he is personally concerned (save as otherwise provided); and of this point the Auditor shall be judge. All individual members of the Committee shall be entitled to vote on any motion dealing with the conduct of the Committee as a whole.
32. When an amendment is adopted, the question as amended shall then be treated as a substantive question, and shall be subject to further amendment; but if no other amendment be proposed, then the Chairman shall, at the conclusion of the debate on the amended motion, put the amended motion to the vote.

When an amendment is rejected, the debate on the original motion may be resumed, after which the Chairman shall put the original motion to the vote, unless another amendment is proposed.

33. The Auditor shall be the sole interpreter of the Laws and judge of order for the night; and he shall have the power to fine any Officer or Member of the Society (including himself) for any neglect of duty or breach of the Laws or customs of the Society or for any act, wherever committed, which interferes with the order of its meetings.
34. When making points of order, Members shall address the Auditor with the words, "On a point of order, Mr. Auditor."
35. No point of order shall be raised when a previous point of order remains unanswered.
36. In ruling on points of order, the Auditor shall have regard to the customs of the Society; and of such customs the rulings of previous Auditors on the same or similar points shall be deemed to be the best evidence procurable.

Any ruling of the Auditor made in writing in pursuance of this and of Law 33 shall, at the request of any Member present, be taken down by the Record Secretary.

37. If the Auditor shall be found on impeachment to have misinterpreted the Laws or vexatiously called a Member to order he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding the amount of the annual subscription to be imposed on him by the General Committee.
38. No impeachment for a transaction shall be entertained by the Society unless notice of such impeachment be given within three weeks of the date of the transaction, or at the next ordinary meeting thereafter. No impeachment of the Auditor shall be carried unless supported by at least thirty votes. Any Member for a frivolous or vexatious impeachment of the Auditor in the discharge of his duty shall be liable to the utmost amount of the fine which the Auditor might have incurred in the case of conviction; the character of such impeachment to be decided by the votes of the Society.

39. If any member, on being called to order by the Auditor, shall not submit he may be fined by the Auditor. If he shall still persist the Auditor shall direct him to make an apology, of the sufficiency of which the Chairman shall be judge. If the Member shall refuse to apologise, the Auditor shall suspend him for the night from exercising the privileges of a Member by writing a declaration in Form D, which the Chairman shall read aloud to the Society.
40. In case the suspension of any Member shall on any future night be pronounced by the Society to be undeserved, the Auditor shall immediately upon the Society's decision, or as soon after as possible, write an apology in Form E, which the Chairman shall read aloud to the Society.
41. When raising points of information, Members shall address the member speaking with the words, "On a point of information, Mr . . . ", and the speaker shall be at liberty to accept or reject the point of information.
42. When raising points of fact, Members shall address the Chairman with the words, "On a point of fact, Mr. Chairman." No Member shall raise a point of fact during the debate except to correct a misstatement of the views expressed by him in the debate, and no Member making such a correction shall introduce any new matter in order to render more clear the speech which he alleges to have been misunderstood.
43. The use in these Laws of a masculine form of words shall not exclude a feminine; in particular the prescription of the masculine title "Mr." shall not preclude in practice the use of an appropriate corresponding feminine title.
44. Speakers may address the house in either of the national languages.
45. Minutes and other Society documents may be written in Irish provided that an English translation be appended thereto.

Chapter XIV

Medals and Prizes

Part 1 - Oratory

1. The Society may award one gold and one silver medal to the best and next best speakers, a discretionary power being vested in the General Committee to award two gold or silver medals instead of one.
2. At the conclusion of every debate, except an impromptu debating competition, each Member shall mark and hand in when called upon a signed Oratory return, containing the names of the speakers whom he has heard, with numbers affixed expressing the degree of excellence - nine denoting the highest, and one the lowest degree of merit, but no Member shall be entitled to mark his own speech.
3. Any Member, on expressing a wish to that effect, may have his name excluded from the Oratory returns.
4. No speech made to a privileged motion shall be allowed to be marked.

5. As each Oratory return is given in, it shall be placed by the Librarian in an envelope, which is to be sealed, endorsed and dated by him and then, in the presence of the Society, placed in a locked box provided for the purpose, which box shall remain in the Auditor's charge until the Committee meeting for awarding medals, and the key of the said box shall be kept by the Treasurer.
7. The Committee shall adjudge the medals and certificates according to the following system:-
 - I. No Member shall obtain a medal or certificate unless he shall have spoken at least five times in the course of the Session.
 - II. The average mark of each speaker for each night shall first be determined by dividing the sum of all his marks for the night by the number of returns given in; but in case there shall be one mark, and only one, lower than any other mark for that night, it shall be excluded in computing the average for the said night. The five highest averages shall then be added together and divided by five, the quotient being the general average for the five best speeches of each Member. The general average shall be the mark determining the medals and prizes. The Committee shall have the power of rejecting any marking paper which is filled up in an obviously frivolous or unfair manner, provided the Members present be unanimously of opinion that such paper be rejected.
 - III. No Member shall obtain a gold medal who shall not have a general average of 6.25 or higher.
 - IV. No Member shall obtain a silver medal who shall not have a general average of 5.75 or higher.
 - V. No member shall obtain more than one gold medal and one silver medal in Oratory.
 - VI. Each member who shall have a general average of 5.25 or higher and who shall not have obtained a medal therefore shall obtain the Marked Thanks of the Society and may be presented with a Certificate at the Opening Meeting.
8. The Society may award one or more book token prizes to the Member or Members whose maiden speeches shall have received the highest average. Only members who are in their first year on the College Books shall be eligible, but a special prize may be awarded to a maiden speaker of higher College standing.
9. For the purposes of the foregoing Laws of this Chapter, the words general Committee and Committee shall refer to a joint Committee which shall consist of all the Members of the newly-elected Committee together with those members of the outgoing Committee who have not been re-elected. This joint Committee shall sit within seven days of the last debate of Trinity Term, and the Chair shall be taken by the Auditor.

Part II - History

10. The General Committee may direct the organisation of a competition on History among the Members of the Society for which a gold medal and a silver medal may be awarded to the best and second best candidates respectively, provided always that such medals shall not be awarded unless the examiners consider that sufficient positive merit has been shown.
11. No member shall have more than one gold and one silver medal in History.
12. The Record Secretary shall for the purposes of Law 5 of Chapter IX receive a copy of any essay for which a medal in History shall have been awarded.

Part III - Composition

13. The general Committee may direct the organisation of a competition in Composition for which the President may award a gold medal and the Society a silver medal to the authors of the best and second best essays respectively, provided always that such medals shall not be awarded unless the judge or judges consider that sufficient positive merit has been shown.
14. No Member shall have more than one gold and one silver medal in Composition.
15. The Record Secretary shall for the purpose of Law 5 of Chapter IX receive a copy of any essay for which a medal in Composition shall have been awarded.

Appendix

Form A

Sir,

I have been instructed by the Committee of the College Historical Society to inform you that at their meeting onthey decided to accept your resignation from Membership, which I laid before them.

Yours sincerely,

Record Secretary

Form B

Instructions to voters

1. Ensure that your balloting paper and your envelope have been stamped by the Presiding Officers.
2. Do not remove this balloting paper from the place of polling.
3. Mark the balloting paper in secret.
4. Number the candidates for each Office and place on Committee in the order of your choice unto the limit of the number of candidates or unto the limit of your preference.
5. Fold the balloting paper so as to conceal your vote.
6. Insert the balloting paper inside the envelope.
7. Sign your name clearly on the inside flap of the envelope.
8. Seal the envelope and place it in the ballot box.
9. Failure to observe these rules may result in the disqualification of your vote.

Form C

I,, hereby declare that it is my intention, if elected to the Office of . . . , to perform the duties of such Office for the whole of the period for which I am elected. I further declare that I have not myself, directly or indirectly, canvassed any Member of the Society for his vote, or directly or indirectly requested any other person to canvass on my behalf.

Name _____

Date _____

Form D

By the authority vested in me by Law 39, Chapter XIII, Part IV, I hereby suspend Mr from exercising the rights and privileges of a Member of the Historical Society for the remainder of this night.

Auditor

Form E

I hereby apologise to Mr for having suspended him from exercising the privileges of a Member on the . . . day of

Auditor

Ends.

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