

CONSTITUTION OF THE DUBLIN UNIVERSITY LAURENTIAN SOCIETY

Article I – Interpretation

In this Constitution—

“AGM” means an annual general meeting of the Society, and shall be construed in accordance with article VII;

“Catholic” means Roman Catholic, and “Catholicism” shall be construed accordingly;

“Chairperson” shall be construed in accordance with article IV;

“College” means the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin and, save where the context otherwise requires, shall be taken to include the University of Dublin;

“Committee”, save where the context otherwise requires, means the executive committee of the Society established by article IV;

“CSC” means the Central Societies Committee of College;

“EGM” means an extraordinary general meeting of the Society, and shall be construed in accordance with article VII;

“established member”, in relation to a meeting of the Society, means a member who has attended no less than two meetings of the Society (exclusive of the meeting of the Society in question) prior to the meeting of the Society in question;

“member”, save where the context otherwise requires, means a member of the Society and shall be construed in accordance with article III, and “membership” shall be construed accordingly;

“office”, save where the context otherwise requires, means any of the named capacities in which a member may be a member of the Committee set out in clause 2 of article IV;

“officer” means a member who in accordance with this Constitution is for the time being a member of the Committee;

“Secretary” shall be construed in accordance with article IV;

“senior officer” means the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer for the time being;

“Society” means the Dublin University Laurentian Society established by article II;

“Treasurer” shall be construed in accordance with article IV.

Article II – Establishment and objects

1. There shall stand established a Society, to be known as the Dublin University Laurentian Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be—
 - (a) to contribute to the cultural and social enrichment of College,
 - (b) to provide a forum for the exposition and discussion of historical and contemporary issues pertaining to Catholic culture from a Catholic perspective,

- (c) to educate interested members of the College community on aspects of Catholicism, including in particular the teachings of the Catholic Church.
3. For the avoidance of doubt and without prejudice to clause 2, it is not a requirement of this Constitution that any member or officer of the Society be a member of the Catholic Church or hold any particular status therein or hold any particular religious belief or beliefs.

Article III – Membership

1. Membership in the Society shall be open to all students, staff and graduates of College.
2. The classes of membership shall be as follows—
- (a) ordinary membership, which shall be open to students and staff of College who have paid an annual subscription of €2;
 - (b) associate membership, which shall be open to graduates of College who have paid an annual subscription of €2;
 - (c) life membership, which shall be open to those otherwise eligible for ordinary or associate membership who have paid a lifetime subscription of €10;
 - (d) honorary membership, which may be awarded to a member or former member for life in recognition of service to the Society by a vote of established members eligible to vote at meetings of the Society under clause 6 present at an AGM, voting by secret ballot, on a motion to that effect proposed by the Committee; provided always that the Committee may not propose a motion calling for the award of honorary membership to an officer.

3. Honorary members shall not be required to pay any subscription.
4. Members may be known as “Laurentians”.
5. A member may not indicate the fact of his or her membership when signing external publications or communications (such as letters to or articles in national or College newspapers) without the authorisation of a senior officer (other than that member).
6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, no person shall be entitled to vote on any matter at any meeting of the Society unless such person is either an ordinary member or a life member who is a student or member of staff of College.

Article IV – Officers

1. There shall be an executive committee of the Society, which shall be elected in accordance with article VIII and which, subject to clause 2 of article VI, shall manage the Society’s affairs.
2. Subject to clauses 13 and 15 of article VIII, the Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Librarian and General Officer.
3. The Chairperson—
 - (a) shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the activities of the Society and for the management of the Committee;

- (b) shall be an *ex officio* member of any sub-committee of the Committee which may be established by the Committee to facilitate its work;
- (c) shall have a second or casting vote in the event of a tie when the Committee or any sub-committee thereof votes on any matter;
- (d) shall set the agenda for each meeting of the Committee, unless he or she shall have delegated this function to another officer;
- (e) shall interpret any provision of this Constitution whose meaning may be disputed, and in so doing may seek to obtain consensus among the members of the Committee.

4. The Secretary—

- (a) shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Society which does not fall directly within the duties of the other officers, and shall keep a record of the same;
- (b) shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the Committee;
- (c) shall provide the Secretary of the CSC with a record of the Society's activities during his or her term of office not later than the date set by the CSC for submission of this report;
- (d) shall execute the functions of the Chairperson or the Treasurer or the Librarian referred to in clause 2 during a vacancy in any such office.

5. The Treasurer—

- (a) shall be responsible for all the finances of the Society, including the collection of subscriptions and the maintenance of accounts;
- (b) shall conduct routine communications with the CSC on financial matters including the provision of estimates for expenditure;

- (c) shall close his or her accounts on the last day of February of each year, shall thereafter as soon as it is practicable to do so arrange for the said accounts to be audited as provided by the CSC, and shall present the said accounts to the Committee of the Society and the CSC for approval.

- 6. The Public Relations Officer referred to in clause 2 shall co-operate with the Chairperson in the planning, co-ordination and execution of the Society's events.

- 7. The Librarian referred to in clause 2—
 - (a) shall be responsible for the maintenance of the library of the Society;
 - (b) may lend items forming part of the library of the Society to members if authorised to do so by the Committee, on such conditions as the Committee may authorise him or her to impose;
 - (c) shall keep an accurate record of all items forming part of the library of the Society on loan to members for the time being, and shall be responsible for the collection and return of the same;
 - (d) shall have primary responsibility for recommending to the Committee the addition of items to the library of the Society, and for conducting research with a view to such addition.

- 8. Officers shall abide by this Constitution and shall diligently carry out the duties imposed on them thereby, in addition to any other duties which may from time to time be delegated to or imposed on them by the Chairperson as the Chairperson sees fit.

- 9. The Committee may, by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of its members, make standing orders binding on it and all subsequent Committees, which standing orders may only be altered or repealed by

another resolution made in like manner; provided always that this power shall not be used to make orders contrary to this Constitution.

Article V – Removal of officers

1. Officers may only be removed from office for gross negligence or wilful disregard of this Constitution, and then only in accordance with the provisions of this article.
2. Upon receipt of a petition for removal of an officer alleging that the officer has engaged in misconduct of the type referred to in clause 1 submitted to him or her by not less than ten members, the Chairperson shall appoint a Special Committee on Conduct consisting of two members nominated by the Chairperson, one member nominated by the petitioners and one member nominated by the officer the subject of the petition, and the Chairperson shall call an EGM to be held not later than three weeks following such submission.
3. That Special Committee on Conduct shall investigate the allegations in that petition, and shall report its findings (including any dissenting opinions) to the Society at that EGM, and if after the making of such report a motion for removal is supported by not less than two-thirds of the members eligible to vote at meetings of the Society under clause 6 of article III present at the said EGM then the officer the subject of the petition shall be removed from office, but shall not cease to be a member of the Society.
4. If the officer the subject of the petition referred to in clause 2 is the Chairperson, then all references to the Chairperson in that clause shall be read as references to the Treasurer, and any function which would have otherwise been performed by the Chairperson (whether by virtue of this Constitution, or any order or orders made under clause 9 of article IV of this Constitution, or the practice of the Society or the Committee) in respect

of any matter referred to in this article shall be performed instead by the Treasurer.

Article VI – Finances of the Society

1. All cheques drawn on and withdrawal forms from the Society's bank account shall be signed by two officers, of whom not less than one shall be a senior officer.
2. The Treasurer shall regulate the financial affairs of the Society.
3. Officers shall co-operate with any inquiry by the CSC into the finances of the Society, shall be subject to all rules of the CSC and of College concerning the misuse of funds, and shall accept the consequences of the application of those rules.

Article VII – Meetings

1. There shall be no fewer than two meetings of the Committee during each teaching term of College.
2. The Committee may call private business meetings of the Society as it sees fit at times convenient to the members of the Society.
3. Meetings of the Society shall be chaired by the Chairperson, or another duly appointed person.

4.
 - (a) An AGM shall be held each year at a time not earlier than the beginning of teaching week 5 and not later than the end of teaching week 12 of College's Hilary Term.
 - (b) Notice of the date and time of an AGM, along with notice of the fact that elections to the Committee shall take place thereat, shall be issued by the Secretary to all members not less than five days before that AGM.
 - (c) No business other than the election of officers shall be considered at an AGM unless notice thereof shall have been conveyed to the Secretary at least three days before the holding of that AGM.
5.
 - (a) The Secretary shall call an EGM on receipt of a request to that effect from the Chairperson or the Committee, or a petition in writing to that effect from not less than twenty members of the Society.
 - (b) The maker or makers of the request or petition referred to in paragraph (a) shall specify in that request or petition the business to be considered at the EGM the subject of that request or petition, and no other business shall be considered at that EGM.
 - (c) Notice of the date and time of an EGM (and, if it is proposed that elections to the Committee should take place thereat, notice of that fact) shall be issued by the Secretary to all members not less than five days before that EGM.

Article VIII – Elections to the Committee

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for the conduct of all elections, which shall be conducted by secret ballot.

2. No person may be elected to the Committee or vote in any election thereto unless he or she is an established member, and is eligible to vote at meetings of the Society under clause 6 of article III, and has been a member for not less than three months by the day of such election.
3. No person who is not a member of staff of College may be elected to the Committee unless he or she shall continue to be a student of College until the end of the period in which the AGM next following is required to be held by virtue of paragraph (a) of clause 4 of article VII.
4. Subject to the following provisions of this article, no person may be elected to an office unless the Secretary shall have received, not less than three days before the day of the election, a petition nominating that person for that office from another member eligible to vote in accordance with clause 2, and unless the person so nominated shall have assented to that nomination.
5. If, three days before an election is proposed to be held to an office, the Secretary shall have received only one nominating petition (to which the person the subject of the petition has assented) for that office within the meaning of clause 4, then the member the subject of that petition shall be deemed to be elected to that office without a vote at the meeting of the Society at which that election had been proposed to be held.
6. If at any meeting of the Society at which an election is proposed to be held to an office there are no eligible candidates for election to that office, any member who would have been eligible for such election but for the provisions of clause 4 may then be nominated for election to the office by another member eligible to vote in accordance with clause 2, and on assenting to that nomination shall become eligible for election to the office at that meeting.
7. If, in the circumstances to which clause 6 relates, only one nomination is made and assented to in accordance with that clause, then the member the

subject of that nomination shall be deemed to be elected without a vote to the office to which that nomination relates.

8. Where an election is proposed to be held in respect of an office and there are in accordance with the provisions of this article multiple candidates eligible for that office the Secretary shall prepare a ballot paper listing the names of all eligible candidates for the office in alphabetical order.
9. Each member eligible to vote in accordance with clause 2 shall then indicate on the ballot paper his or her preferred candidate for the office in question, whereupon the ballots shall be counted at the meeting in the presence of at least two officers, and the candidate receiving more votes than any other shall be elected to the office in question.
10. Each officer, unless he or she first resigns or is removed from office in accordance with article V, shall hold office until the AGM next following his or her election, and, subject to clause 15, elections to all offices shall be held at each AGM.
11. A vacancy in the office of Chairperson shall be filled at an EGM called for that purpose in accordance with clause 5 of article VII.
12. A vacancy in the office of Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled at a public meeting of the Society.
13. A vacancy in any office other than that of Chairperson or Secretary or Treasurer may with the assent of not less than two senior officers be filled at a public meeting of the Society.
14. Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 4, in respect of any election to which clause 12 or 13 relates the Secretary shall be deemed not to have

received any petitions of the type referred to in clause 4 (regardless of whether he or she in fact received any such petitions) and the provisions of clause 6 shall be deemed to apply.

15. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the senior officers may prior to the issuance by the Secretary of the notice referred to in paragraph (b) of clause 4 of article VII unanimously or by a majority of their number resolve that any or all of the offices of Public Relations Officer or Librarian or General Officer (referred to in clause 2 of article IV) shall not be filled at the AGM to which that notice relates, and the Secretary shall include the fact of the making of that resolution in that notice, and no election to the office or offices the subject of that resolution may then be held at that AGM, and, subject to clause 13, that office or those offices shall then be and remain vacant between the AGM to which that notice relates and the AGM next following that AGM.

Article IX – Amendment of this Constitution

1. This Constitution may only be amended at an AGM or EGM, and then only in accordance with the provisions of this article and after the communication to the Secretary of the text of the proposed amendments in accordance with paragraph (c) of clause 4 or paragraph (b) of clause 5, as the case may be, of article VII.
2. The Secretary shall include the text of all such proposed amendments in the notice issued to members in accordance with paragraph (b) of clause 4 or paragraph (c) of clause 5, as the case may be, of article VII.
3. Where multiple amendments to this Constitution are proposed at one meeting of the Society, they shall be the subject of a single vote unless the Secretary shall determine that any or all of them ought to be the subject of an individual vote; provided always that the Secretary must so determine

with regard to any amendment in respect of which he or she has received a request to that effect from a member eligible to vote at meetings of the Society under clause 6 of article III not less than 48 hours before the meeting of the Society in question.

4. An amendment to this Constitution shall have effect if and only if approved by not less than two-thirds of established members eligible to vote at meetings of the Society under clause 6 of article III present at the AGM or EGM at which that amendment was proposed in accordance with this article.
5. The Committee shall communicate the text of all amendments to this Constitution approved by the Society in accordance with clause 4 to the CSC for the CSC's approval.
6. The Committee shall make a copy of this Constitution available to any member of the Society on request.

Article X – Transitional provisions

1. This Constitution shall come into operation on the day on which it is approved by the CSC after having been adopted by the Society.
2. Every person who immediately prior to the coming into operation of this Constitution was a member shall continue to be a member of whichever of the classes referred to in clause 2 of article III most closely corresponds to his or her prior membership until such time (if any) as that prior membership would have expired.

3. Every person who immediately prior to the coming into operation of this Constitution was an officer shall continue to hold whichever office most closely corresponds to his or her prior office until the AGM next following the coming into operation of this Constitution or until he or she resigns or is removed in accordance with article V.

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